

## Pathfinder Mural defaced; protests lodged

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — A bottle of bright red paint and one containing a yellow caustic substance were thrown at the Pathfinder Mural on the afternoon of March 17. The six-story mural adorns the south wall of the Pathfinder Building on Manhattan's west side.

The bottles shattered against the portrait of Cuban President Fidel Castro painted by Aldo Soler Avila, a noted Cuban artist who toured 12 U.S. cities in 1989. Soler is a member of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists. Other portraits were also damaged.

"This attack on the mural should be condemned by defenders of democratic rights everywhere," Meryl Lynn Farber, executive director of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, said in a statement to the press. "Tens of thousands of people from around the world have visited this landmark in the past year and think the Pathfinder Mural is an important piece of art." Supporters of freedom of expression and those opposed to censorship in the arts will be outraged by this attack, she said.

Prominent individuals and defenders of democratic rights have begun sending in messages to protest the attack.

"I am unalterably opposed to acts of vandalism," read a statement by Kitty Carlisle Hart, chairman of the New York State Council of the Arts.

"This note is to condemn the cowardly assault on the mural," Joel Schwartz, president of Civil Service Employees Association Local 446, said in a message. The mural, he said, "has been a real bright spot in the west side of Manhattan for many years."

Some messages referred to a similar attack on the mural in December 1989, a month after the work was unveiled.

"We are outraged that the mural on the Pathfinder Press building has once again been vandalized, and we join with others in calling upon city officials to launch a thorough investigation into this incident," read a statement by Leslie Cagan of the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East.

"It is critical that artistic expression be

Continued on Page 6

## U.S. steps up threats against Iraqi people

### Bush, Baker summit meetings press

### Washington's goals in Middle East.

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker completed separate rounds of meetings with heads of state from Arab and imperialist countries March 16. In the meetings they outlined and sought backing for Washington's goal of substantially altering the relationship of class forces in the Mideast to the benefit of U.S. imperialism.

Baker visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Israel, and Syria and met with leaders

of other countries from the Arab-Persian Gulf. Following a stop in the Soviet Union, Baker met with Turkish officials in Ankara.

In the wake of its brutal war against the Iraqi people, Washington is attempting to take advantage of the stated willingness of capitalist governments in the region to collaborate more deeply with U.S. imperialism.

Prior to the trip the Bush administration had stated it would seek to put in place a long-term military presence in the Arab-Persian Gulf, recognition of Israel by Arab governments in exchange for Israeli concessions of land to the Palestinian people, and a regional security arrangement with various Arab governments to protect imperialist interests in the Mideast.

"While I think we have to recognize that we have a long way to go, I am pleased that

the foundation has gelled as quickly as it has," Baker said March 16 in Ankara at the conclusion of his trip.

Responding to criticism that he was wrapping up his trip empty-handed, the secretary of state added, "It is a little bit premature to be suggesting that somehow there is no opportunity here because we have not had instant peace. Maybe the wheels will come off tomorrow but let's give it a chance."

Baker met with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad for seven hours on March 13. After the meeting, a Syrian government official reiterated Damascus' long-standing position in favor of implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions calling on Israel to withdraw from territories it occupied in 1967 in exchange for recognition of its borders.

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## Cops indicted, wider brutality exposed

BY ELIZABETH STONE

LOS ANGELES — Four of 15 cops involved in the brutal beating of construction worker Rodney King have been arrested and indicted on felony assault charges. The grand jury that handed down the indictments is still taking testimony and considering further charges.

The indictments are a result of the nationwide outcry and protests here after millions saw a videotaped recording of King being savagely kicked, clubbed more than 50 times by baton-wielding cops, and shocked with a stun gun March 3.

King is still hospitalized. He suffered a fractured skull in nine places, a shattered eye socket, a broken leg, a fractured cheekbone, a concussion, nerve injuries that left part of his face paralyzed, and burns from the stun gun.

The cops originally claimed King was stopped for driving 115 miles an hour while being chased and then resisted arrest. They now say King was driving 65 miles an hour. Two of the cops have been charged with falsifying their original report of the incident. All charges against King have been dropped.

King's lawyer Robert Rentzer said that two other people traveling in King's car were also subjected to abuse. The beating was

filmed by George Holliday, a plumber who witnessed the assault from his balcony across the street. The video shows the extent to which the cops carried out their acts with impunity. Cars driving by and local residents shouted at the police to stop the assault, but the cops ignored their pleas.

Responding to the pressure and looking for ways to dampen the protests, the Bush administration and Los Angeles Mayor Thomas Bradley are looking for ways, as a *Los Angeles Times* editorial put it, "to restore public confidence in the leadership" of the city's police.

Attorney General Richard Thornburgh an-

nounced March 14 that the U.S. Justice Department would begin reviewing about 15,000 complaints of police brutality lodged with the federal government over the last six years.

In a meeting with executives from the big-business media the following day, Thornburgh said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is also investigating the March 3 cop beating and his department is considering filing civil rights violation charges against the policemen involved.

Thousands of people have turned out for demonstrations and public meetings here

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The supplement contains two articles by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes, "Working-class campaign against the imperialist war drive: Fighting the employers' offensive at home and abroad" and "War and the communist movement."

Barnes outlines the imperialist character of the war against Iraq, the underlying economic and political considerations that drive Washington to war, the broader goals of U.S. imperialism in the Mideast, changes in the U.S. working class that make possible the resistance to the employers' offensive at home and war abroad, and the prospects for building the communist movement today.

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### International Socialist Review

#### Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive

Fighting the employers' offensive at home and abroad



Militant/Nelson Blackstock  
Protest outside Los Angeles police headquarters. "We regret what took place," Police Chief Daryl Gates claimed March 18, speaking about the March 3 police beating of 25-year-old Rodney King. "I hope he gets his life straightened out," Gates added. "Perhaps this will be the vehicle to move him down the road to a good life instead of the life he's been involved in for such a long time." Responding to calls for him to resign, Gates told reporters, "I will stay here and I will fight any attempt to get rid of me."



# Widespread protests force arrests of cops

Continued from front page  
to protest the beating.

Five hundred people packed a March 14 police commission hearing while hundreds more rallied outside. Speaker after speaker at the meeting returned to the same point: King's beating is not an exception — it has been happening for years.

Representatives of civil rights organizations, elected officials, working people from the area, and others attended the meeting.

Manuel Brule, 68, held up a newspaper clipping with a picture of himself after an encounter with police in 1956. The photo showed Brule with a swollen face and stitches below his left eye. The photo caption said, "Police Handiwork."

Ron Harmon, a fire fighter, talked of the many instances of police brutality he has witnessed over the years.

"Criminals with badges," is how Don Jackson described the cops. Jackson, a former policeman, has a case against the police for brutality. Cops pushing him through a plate-glass window was also captured on videotape.

Outside the hearing, pickets carried signs that read: "LAPD: Humans Need Not Apply"; "No Justice, No Peace"; "Taser Guns Should be Outlawed"; "Is This South Africa?"; and "Jobs & Housing, Not Police Brutality." A taser gun is the electric shock weapon used on King.

"We cannot express to you — it is impossible to command the words — the outrage we feel," said Urban League representative John Mack at the meeting. "We believe this is a pattern of brutality by some but not all police officers against African-American males in particular."

Other protests in the city include a March 12 demonstration by Samoan-Americans and their supporters to demand an investigation into the killing of two unarmed Samoan brothers last month by Compton police.

Weekly Saturday morning pickets at Parker Center, the central Los Angeles Police headquarters, continue. Vivian Hayes, a city worker and union member participating in the protest, said her 15-year-old son was a victim of police brutality. He had his head split open by the police several years ago and is now in a juvenile center. "I tried to file a

## Expansion fund nears halfway mark

BY JAMES HARRIS

More than \$900,000 has now been pledged to the one-year, \$1 million international Expansion Fund launched at the August 1990 convention of the Socialist Workers Party. According to Dave Prince, the fund director, of the \$900,880 pledged, more than half — \$473,400 — has been collected.

Building on this response, Prince said, the expansion fund is making a special effort to raise the final \$100,000 in pledges by June and to collect the entire fund as projected by August.

The fund makes possible a number of capital expenditures to upgrade printing and publishing technology and rebuild several floors of the Pathfinder Building in New York. The building houses the offices of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, two socialist periodicals, and of Pathfinder Press. Funds will also go toward remodeling the national offices of the Socialist Workers Party, located in the building as well.

The appeal to raise the final contributions and collect all outstanding pledges as rapidly as possible, Prince said, is to "ensure that the funds are on hand both to begin remodeling in early April and to carry the entire project through to completion." As the remodeling work begins, the process of upgrading the computer systems used by the editorial and business staffs and the party's leadership bodies will be completed. Upgrading presses and other equipment used to print Pathfinder books and the periodicals will follow. This will entail a special project to repair and reorganize the area of the building used by the print shop.

The fund was launched last August under the banner "Building the Communist Movement in the 1990s." It grows out of the need to respond to the increased openings and opportunities to circulate periodicals and books that educate today's fighters about their own history and orient them to meet today's political challenges.

The true face of imperialism shown in its brutal war against the Iraqi people and the continuing challenges and opportunities to build the communist movement in the 1990s underscore the importance of

meeting the fund's goals.

The fund appeals to people who are in a position to contribute \$1,000 or more. Contributions are not used to cover shortfalls in daily operating expenses but are exclusively used for major capital improvements that will have long-term benefits.

So far 62 people have made contributions ranging from \$1,000 to tens of thousands of dollars. Contributions and pledges have been made by workers and others who because of special circumstances — income from trusts, estates, and accident settlements — are in a position to make large contributions. The list of contributors also includes steelworkers, coal miners, and oil workers who have made pledges from bonuses built into union contracts.

Some of the funds raised have already

made it possible to complete the construction project on the party's leadership school in preparation for the school's next session. At the leadership school, workers involved in the day-to-day responsibilities of leading a revolutionary organization take several months out to study the works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels — the founders of scientific socialism and the modern communist movement.

"Being able to carry through the reconstruction project to the end will depend on the success of the special appeal," Prince said. "The enthusiastic response since the fund was launched shows that the goals can be met."

For more information about the fund write: The Expansion Fund, 406 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

## Socialist candidate for city council blasts beating by Los Angeles cops

The following is a March 6 statement by Eli Green, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council in District 10 in Los Angeles, in response to the brutal cop beating of Rodney King. Green is a member of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 1-28.

The most important way we can respond to the brutal beating of Rodney King is to support the street demonstrations and protests being organized to demand that every officer involved be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Police Chief Daryl Gates insists that the March 3 beating was an "aberration." He says one such incident shouldn't indict the entire police department. But, as Father Gregory Boyle of the Dolores Mission church put it, "the only thing isolated about this incident was the chance way it was captured on tape."

In every major city of this country there is a constant, institutionalized brutalization of Blacks, Latinos, immigrant workers, and working people as a whole. Not only this,

but the number of police attacks and killings are growing as the economic crisis deepens.

On February 16, I myself was victimized when eight cops came into a pharmacy where I was waiting for a prescription. One drew a gun on me. Claiming that my wallet "looked like a gun" they took me outside, threw me spread-eagle against the wall, and frisked me.

Here in Los Angeles there is no doubt that Daryl Gates' actions and statements have incited and emboldened the cops. He should be forced out of office as a sign that his public attacks on minorities, immigrant workers, women, and other working people will not be tolerated.

But the problem is much bigger than Gates. Mayor Tom Bradley and his administration must also be held accountable. Bradley launched "Operation Hammer" and other so-called antigang roundups. Such organized police assaults on the city's working people simply give a green light to daily cop violence.

By condoning such attacks Bradley is act-

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## Los Angeles police chief is notorious for his racist statements against Latinos and Blacks.

complaint," she said, "but I got nowhere."

Many protesters are demanding Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates be fired. The Los Angeles chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and some Democratic Party politicians have focused their efforts on forcing Gates out. "Gates must go!" is one of the most popular slogans chanted by protesters here.

Notorious for racist statements against Blacks, Latinos, and immigrant workers, Gates has refused to step down.

In 1978 Gates said Latino officers were not promoted because they were "lazy." Defending cops using the choke hold on their victims, he said that Blacks were more likely than "normal people" to die from it. Last September Gates told a Senate Judiciary Committee that casual drug use was "treason" and those using drugs "ought to be taken out and shot."

On March 6 Gates went to the White House for President George Bush's announcement of a package of laws assailing the rights of people accused of violating the law. At the meeting Bush called Gates one of "the all-American heroes."

"Daryl Gates is just the surface of it," said Renee Graham, a postal worker from Pomona, while picketing the police headquarters March 16. Graham said, "It's the whole system that is wrong and the police are part of it."

Another young person at the protest, 21-year-old Héctor Salazar, said "I was thinking of becoming a cop myself. I was concerned about drugs and thought maybe as a cop I could do something about it. Now I see," he said, "that's not the way to go."



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# Chicago socialists at high school teach-in

## Mayoral candidate Warren to students: 'War drive is not in your interest'

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

CHICAGO — James Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago, participated in a teach-in on the Mideast war at Niles West High School here March 8.

In the first presentation of the day-long event 200 students from early morning classes gathered to hear Warren speak on the topic "The war: its economic roots and reconstruction." Estelle DeBates and Eric Matheis, socialist candidates for city clerk and city treasurer, also spoke.

"This war drive is not being carried out in your interest," Warren said. "When Bush ordered the slaughter of Iraqi soldiers and civilians [to continue] even after Iraq announced its withdrawal from Kuwait — when what they callously called the 'turkey shoot' took place — you were not asked to take part in this decision.

"The Democratic and Republican parties backed Bush's every step toward war since last August. You were never asked if you agreed," the socialist candidate said. "Your brothers and sisters were ordered to go and sacrifice their lives for the interests of the crumbling system of world capitalism."

Warren encouraged the students to discuss and debate the issues posed in the war. He pointed out that Washington's war against the Iraqi people and events of similar world political importance in the future would have an impact on the lives of working people.

As resistance by workers and farmers to imperialist war and the economic crisis grows, millions will come to understand that they have different interests than the billionaire families that run the United States, the socialist candidate noted.

"There is no 'American way' of politically viewing or acting in the world," Warren said. "Either we are part of the forward march of humanity or we condone the U.S.-led assault against Iraq."

The mayoral candidate invited students to comment and ask questions during the discussion. A lively debate ensued. Many focused their remarks on Warren's comments about Cuba's role in opposing Washington's war moves.

### Cuba told the truth

"There is one government that raised its voice to speak out against the U.S.-led war drive and slaughter in Iraq. Revolutionary Cuba used its seat in the United Nations Security Council to tell the truth about the war and to mobilize opposition to it," Warren stated.

"This is not the first time Cuba has shown the world how a government of workers and farmers acts in international solidarity with other peoples under attack. When Angola was invaded by the South African armed forces, the government there asked for assistance from Cuba. The Cuban government and people did not hesitate. They sent thousands of volunteer troops and defeated the South African invasion," Warren continued.

"How can you support troops going to Angola but say the U.S. shouldn't be in Iraq? Aren't you being inconsistent?" one student asked.

"We have to look at the facts. We have to look at why the U.S.-led forces are in the Middle East and what they are doing there," the socialist candidate said. "Does their occupation advance the course of humanity in any way? I say no. The opposite is true of

the Angolan and Cuban fight against the invasion from South Africa."

The imperialist war was conducted through a massive killing machine and marked a blow to humanity, Warren stated. "It is a big setback for people everywhere."

"This slaughter was an affront to the humanity of every one of you, to every thinking human being in the world," Warren said. "For us not to react and not to organize in opposition would set the stage for Washington to do the same thing in the future."

"We should fight them on this," he said. "Young people played a role in preventing crimes like these. Young Cubans and Angolans defeated the South African invasion and opened the door to further victories in bringing down the apartheid regime of South Africa itself," Warren said.

A student took issue with Warren's praise of Cuba, saying his parents and grandfather had come from there. Another student asked, "Didn't the whole United Nations support the U.S. except Cuba?"

"This book contains the UN Security Council resolutions and the Cuban stand," Warren responded, holding up a copy of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, published by Pathfinder. "You should read it and get the facts for yourself. The United Nations is an undemocratic body — the majority of countries are excluded from the Security Council," Warren explained. "And only five countries have veto power in that body."

More than 200 copies of a campaign brochure issued by the socialist candidates were distributed during the teach-in. At the conclusion of the meeting students crowded around all three candidates and continued to



Militant/Jon Hillson  
James Warren, socialist candidate and United Steelworkers member said, "U.S. occupation of Iraq does not advance course of humanity."

ask questions and comment on the Mideast war, Cuba, and socialist ideas.

BY MAX MONCLAIR

GALESBURG, Illinois — Supporters of the Chicago Socialist Workers mayoral campaign, including members of the Young Socialist Alliance, joined 60 people at the Knox County courthouse March 9 to protest Washington's continued aggression against the Iraqi people.

Many protesters wanted to discuss the Mideast war and attacks on democratic rights in the United States with the socialist candidates.

Two Black students stayed for nearly an hour after the picket line ended to discuss the importance of Malcolm X and his contributions to uniting people of various races to combat racism and to fight for social justice. Both expressed interest in learning more about the Young Socialist Alliance.

At the end of the rally a local college professor invited the campaign supporters to send a candidate to speak to his class.

## Pathfinder book on Eastern strike due April 1

BY NANCY BROWN

Pathfinder has announced that a new book, *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists and Gains for the Labor Movement*, will be available April 1.

The 91-page book is the story of the International Association of Machinists victorious 22-month battle against the union-busting drive by Frank Lorenzo and Eastern Airlines. Members of the IAM went on strike against Eastern on March 4, 1989. Behind them was a decade and a half of concessions and givebacks to the company. Eastern owner Frank Lorenzo had demanded massive cuts in pay and safety standards at the airline. His goal was to bust the union and operate a profitable nonunion carrier.

When Eastern Airlines closed its doors on Jan. 18, 1991, strikers had defeated every management and government attempt to achieve that goal. The strike gave warning to all bosses who want to create "a union-free environment" that workers will fight back.

The three chapters of the book tell the story of how the rank-and-file fighters utilized union power, review the victories scored in the fight, and present the broader political conjuncture in which the strike took place and the state of the labor movement.

In the first chapter of the book, Emie Mailhot says the strikers "faced Frank Lorenzo, the number-one union-buster in the United States. We faced government agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, that continually backed Eastern management in the face of massive union documentation of safety violations at the airline. . . . We faced the federal government and its proven track record of siding with big business."

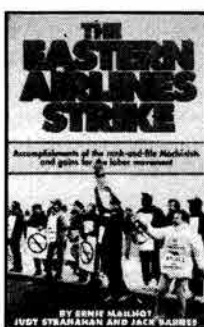
Mailhot was strike staff coordinator for Local Lodge 1018 of the Machinists union at New York's La Guardia Airport. His article sums up the victories by the rank-and-file unionists in their determined fight to stay out "one day longer."

The *Eastern Airlines Strike* also includes a narrative by Judy Stranahan, a staff writer for the *Militant*. Her article is drawn from firsthand reports of the strikers' activities, rallies, and picket lines. From Los Angeles to New York and Miami, and from Boston to Washington, D.C., and Atlanta, Stranahan's chapter brings to life the challenges the strikers

faced, the solidarity they received, and the range of actions they held during the fight.

The book also contains an article by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes entitled "Capitalism's march toward war and depression." The chapter explains the continued offensive by the employers and the government against working people at home and charts a course for labor in the fight against imperialist war abroad.

"The fighting machinists and our supporters accomplished huge things that go far



beyond the struggle for the jobs we had at Eastern," writes Mailhot. "We showed that unlike the Lorenzos and the rest of the boss class in this country, who are motivated by greed for profits, workers will step forward and put themselves on the line in the interests of workers everywhere."

*The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists and Gains for the Labor Movement* is a must for every unionist, working person, student, and young person fighting against the employer-government offensive at home and abroad. The book will be available at many bookstores, including the Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12. The cover price is \$8.95. Contact Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014 for bulk orders.

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# Bush and Baker meetings press U.S. goals

Continued from front page

The capitalist regime in Syria has been no friend of the Palestinian struggle. In the 1975-76 civil war in neighboring Lebanon, Assad sent in the Syrian army to prevent an alliance of Lebanese and Palestinian forces from overturning a reactionary government.

Assad announced on March 12 that he was freeing 4,000 to 5,000 Palestinians held in Syrian prisons since 1983. Most are supporters of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. The Syrian president wants to increase his influence in the PLO to bolster his position in negotiations with Washington, and perhaps in the future, with the Israeli government.

"I sensed a very serious intent on the part of the Syrian government to pursue an active peace process," Baker said after the meeting with Assad.

While Washington continues to threaten the Saddam Hussein regime militarily and enforce a blockade of Iraq, Baker said that "We and the rest of the coalition want to see the territorial integrity of Iraq maintained — we do not want to see a Lebanonization of Iraq. We do not want to see... a power vacuum develop there."

After talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Baker promised to put in a good word for Egypt with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Egypt has a foreign debt estimated at more than \$50 billion.

The day after Baker left Cairo, Mubarak told reporters he was opposed to convening an international peace conference on the Middle East "at the present time." Just three days earlier Egypt had endorsed a statement by the foreign ministers of eight Arab nations that called for such a conference. Washington

## Washington stands to make big profit off war against Iraq

BY JAMES HARRIS

The U.S. government stands to make a hefty profit from the war against the Iraqi people. If contributions to the imperialist effort from U.S. allies are paid, Washington could gain as much as \$11 billion.

The House Appropriations Committee estimates the total cost of Washington's war at \$42.6 billion. The Appropriations Committee figure includes \$650 million in military aid to Israel. The Bush administration has requested that Congress appropriate only \$15 billion toward the cost of the war. The rest of the money, and then some, is to be raised through contributions by many of Washington's junior partners in the anti-Baghdad coalition.

Washington pressured several governments into making pledges that total \$53.5 billion. About \$14.9 billion has already been collected. The pledges include: \$16.8 billion from Saudi Arabia, \$16 billion from Kuwait, \$3 billion from the United Arab Emirates, and \$385 million from South Korea. Most significantly, Washington forced its imperialist rivals to also pay huge sums to the war effort. The government of Germany has pledged \$6.5 billion and \$10.7 billion is promised from Japan.

The British government is in a similar position as Washington. Its costs are estimated at £2 billion (£1 = U.S. \$1.80). Nearly £1.5 billion have already been paid to Britain by the governments of Germany, Kuwait, and others. More is expected.

Some members of the U.S. Congress criticized delays in delivery of the funds. The House of Representatives voted to warn the contributing countries that they better make good on their pledges. The House approved a statement that said Congress "may consider appropriate action" if the commitments are not met.

In a related development March 13, Tokyo agreed to increase its support for U.S. military forces in Japan by \$269 million in fiscal year 1991, which begins April 1. Tokyo will pay \$3.3 billion toward the overall cost in fiscal 1991. This is an 8.3 percent increase over last year's contribution.

Responding to U.S. demands, the Japanese government agreed in December to raise its share of the cost of maintaining U.S. troops and bases there by 50 percent over a five-year period. Japan now pays almost 40 percent of the cost including rent, utilities, and wages for Japanese workers on U.S. bases.



and Tel Aviv are opposed to holding a conference. Egypt is still the only Arab government that recognizes Israel.

### No concessions from Israel

One problem Washington faces is that, even though regimes in Syria, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states are willing to improve their relations with Tel Aviv, the Israeli government is so far unwilling to give much in return.

Baker visited Israel before his meeting in Syria. Leading up to his visit Israeli officials were worried that Baker would demand concessions, such as returning to Syria the Golan Heights — conquered by Israel in the 1967 war. Washington has significant leverage over the Israeli government because Israel's economy and military are heavily subsidized by U.S. aid.

An example of the nervousness in Israeli ruling circles prior to the Baker visit was a cartoon in a Jerusalem newspaper showing "Sheriff George Bush," a six-gun at his side, pulling down a wanted poster of Saddam Hussein. The next poster under it showed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israeli officials expressed surprise when Baker did not apply any significant pressure. He did ask, however, that Shamir issue a statement saying Israel would not rule out the idea of discussing a trade of land for peace.

The Israeli government refused. Instead, government officials insisted that Arab governments must recognize Israel before any talks can begin.

"If the Arab states will come forward and recognize Israel, sit with us face to face, we

will negotiate without any preconditions," said Binyamin Begin, an official in the governing Likud party. "The Golan Heights is not on the discussion table," Israeli cabinet member David Magen stated.

### A hard line toward Palestinians

Tel Aviv took a hard line toward concessions to Palestinians. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said Israel would give political rights to Palestinians only "if they behave."

While in Jerusalem, Baker met with a delegation of Palestinians, led by Faisal Husseini. Baker bluntly told the delegation that Arafat's chairmanship of the PLO was an obstacle to renewed talks between U.S. and PLO officials, broken off in June 1990. He told the delegation that leaders of Arab governments were "sick" of Arafat.

"The PLO is our sole legitimate leadership and interlocutor, embodying the national identity and expressing the will of the Palestinian people everywhere," the delegation said in a document given to Baker.

"The stability and prosperity of the region can be achieved," the document added, by "recognition and pursuit of joint interests and rights." The delegation sought and received a reassurance from Baker that U.S. talks with the PLO had only been "suspended," not terminated, Husseini said.

Earlier in the week Arafat gave an interview to the Spanish daily *El País*. He lauded President Bush's March 6 speech to a joint session of the U.S. Congress calling for concessions from both the Israeli and Arab governments.

Arafat defended the PLO's position of

support to Iraqi President Hussein during the war.

"Saddam Hussein was the first person to establish a link between oil, the Islamic holy places, and Palestine," Arafat said. "Now everyone is forced to speak about [the Palestinian cause]. This is what Saddam has achieved."

The PLO leader, in an interview with the *New York Times*, said he was "ready to coordinate" with Jordanian King Hussein in responding to whatever proposals come from the Bush administration. King Hussein's "role is essential," Arafat said.

### Bush meetings

Bush began meetings March 13 with his counterparts in Ottawa, Paris, and London. Welcoming Bush to Canada, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney gave a long tribute to the U.S. president and the allied war against Iraq. Mulroney stated he was pleased that Canada was Bush's "first foreign trip since the end of the war."

Differences continued to emerge with the French government, however. Following the Ottawa talks, Bush met with French President François Mitterrand in the French colony of Martinique, an island off the coast of Venezuela.

Mitterrand took his distance from U.S. threats to stall on signing a permanent ceasefire because of Hussein's attempts to crush rebellions across Iraq. The French president also disagreed with U.S. policy toward the PLO. Paris continues to support calls for an international peace conference in spite of U.S. and Israeli opposition.

Arafat "remains, to my knowledge, the leader of the PLO and, to my knowledge, the PLO remains the representative organization," Mitterrand said.

Bush stated at a post-meeting press conference that "the position of the United States is that a Palestinian state is not the answer" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Mitterrand told reporters that "I have used the word 'state'" in reference to a solution to Palestinian demands for land, "and if you like, I can repeat it."

At a March 14 news conference Bush stated, "We simply have not come across or settled on one path, one single approach."

In the meetings with heads of other imperialist governments, Bush made it clear that he has not given up on forcing the removal of Iraqi President Hussein from power and establishing a protectorate in Iraq. It "is impossible to have normalized relations with Iraq while Saddam Hussein is in there," he stated.

U.S. forces continue to occupy 15 percent of Iraq and fly military aircraft over the rest of the country every day, U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney stated. According to the *New York Times*, there are presently 100,000 U.S. soldiers stationed in southern Iraq. No figures are available on areas occupied by other allied forces.

In the midst of a rebellion by Kurds in the north of Iraq and Shi'ite Muslims in the south, Washington has kept the pressure on by maintaining the economic blockade and threatening further military action. Bush has made it clear at the same time that he would not favor Hussein's replacement by these forces.

U.S. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, in a written message to Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, threatened to shoot down combat aircraft if the Iraqi government attempts flights anywhere in Iraq.

U.S. warplane flights over Iraq were increased and Schwarzkopf ordered tank units in U.S.-controlled southern Iraq to return to positions near the Euphrates River from which they had earlier withdrawn.

Following a March 16 meeting with British Prime Minister John Major in Bermuda, Bush said that "None of us want to move forces into Baghdad." The president said that the Iraqi regime knows "what the ground rules are and they ought to play by those rules."

Major outlined plans for a new resolution in the UN Security Council to set terms for a formal cease-fire. "It may be a quite substantial resolution," Major said. "There's quite a lot to get in it."

Bush and Major said the resolution would expand the current UN measures by demanding a supervised destruction of chemical and biological weapons in Iraq and stipulating a tax on the country's oil revenues for use toward massive war reparations. These measures would have to be met before the economic blockade would be eased or lifted.

## A BOOK FOR THE FACTS ON WASHINGTON'S MIDEAST WAR

*U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, also available in Spanish, is now in its third printing. It is an irreplaceable tool in learning and getting out the truth about the brutal U.S.-led war against the Iraqi people. An introduction by Mary-Alice Waters reviews the systematic buildup to war by Washington and the role played by Cuba at the United Nations.

Featured in the book are statements by Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcón and President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its unilateral acts of aggression. Unionists, GIs, veterans, students, and workers involved in struggles against the employers' offensive at home can use the facts and arguments in the book to educate about the imperialists' war. They can join in campaigning against the continued drive by Washington to punish the Iraqi people and dominate the region.

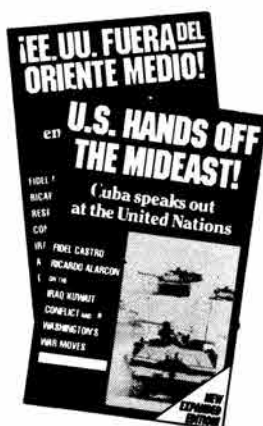
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# U.S. military threats against Iraq continue

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Washington continues its military threats against Baghdad and has demanded that the Iranian regime stay out of the internal affairs of Iraq.

These warnings take place as the government of Iraq battles with rebel forces across the country. The fighting began soon after Washington announced a provisional cease-fire that brought its brutal war against the Iraqi people to an end.

In a March 16 radio broadcast, Hussein said forces loyal to his government had "crushed the sedition in the cities of the south" and would "uproot the remnants of destruction and treason" in the north. Hussein also promised to "resume" the process of building a "democratic society" based on the "principle of political pluralism."

Reports from rebel groups and fleeing Iraqi refugees, however, tell of continued intensive fighting in cities both in the northern and southern parts of Iraq.

Fighting continues in Basra, a major city in southern Iraq, where Iraqi troops loyal to the central government "have increased the severity of the attacks in the last three days," according to an Iranian radio broadcast quoted in the March 18 *New York Times*.

According to a Reuters report, the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted refugees reporting fierce clashes between rebels and Iraq's Republican Guard in Abu Khasib and Zubair, near Basra. Rebel forces were said to have held the southern cities of Karbala and Hilla for nine days.

Iranian television broadcasts said rebel forces were engaged in fighting with loyalist troops in and around Kirkuk, a major provincial city 145 miles north of Baghdad.

Referring to reports that Hussein's troops were using helicopters to attack rebel forces, Bush demanded the "helicopters should not be used for combat purposes inside Iraq."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said the U.S. government had denied a request by the Iraqi government to be allowed to move its aircraft within Iraqi territory. A communiqué issued by the Central Command of the allied military forces said this would violate the cease-fire agreements set by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf following a March 17 meeting with Iraqi officers.

Rebel forces in the north are mainly led by Kurds, an oppressed national minority that for decades has waged a fight for national liberation. Kurdistan covers territory in northern Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and the Soviet Union. In the south the rebellions are among Shi'ite Muslims, who make up the majority of the Iraqi population, but have been historically cut off from participating in the government.

The Shi'ite rebels in the south have been getting support from the Iranian regime.

U.S. President George Bush told the Iranian regime not to aid rebel forces inside Iraq. "Iran must not and should not try to annex any territory of Iraq," said Bush.

## Iran makes gains in region

A government that did not take part in the murderous U.S.-led war against Iraq, Teheran has a voice and influence among the Shi'ite forces battling the Hussein regime inside Iraq.

In their syndicated column of March 15, the conservative reporting team of Rowland Evans and Robert Novak sounded the alarm on the "probable elevation of Iran, by far the largest Gulf power" in the region in the aftermath of the war.

Evans and Novak warned, "Iran regards the Persian Gulf as its own. . . . Thus a resurgent Iran would pose a threat to U.S. and Western interests, not limited to oil, surpassing last summer's threat when Saddam seized Kuwait."

While on the one hand Bush has threatened Iran, Washington has also made conciliatory moves toward the Teheran regime.

In an interview with Arab reporters March 8, Bush reiterated his interest in "better relations with Iran."

"We have no animosity," said Bush. "Sometimes, when you have deep divisions, it takes a little more time. So we're not pressing Iran on bilateral relations. But Iran is a big country. I don't think they should be treated forever as enemies by all countries in the region."

Washington broke diplomatic relations

with Teheran in 1979 following the Iranian revolution that toppled the U.S.-backed dictatorship of the shah.

In a congressional hearing on February 6 Baker praised Iran for conducting itself "in a very, very credible way throughout the crisis so far," and called the Teheran government "a major power in the Gulf" that could play an important role in "building a reinforced network of new and strengthened ties" in the region.

But, a U.S. government official warned, "We do not want to see Iranian troops stationed in Kuwait."

## Opposition calls for Hussein's ouster

In the meantime, opposition parties and leaders have been holding meetings to discuss the future of Iraq.

Some 300 delegates of Iraqi groups opposing the Iraqi government met in Beirut the week of March 11. Among the organizations represented were the al-Dawa and Majlis parties, both Islamic parties; the Kurdish Democratic Party; the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; splinter groups from the ruling Baathist party; members of the Iraqi Communist Party; former monarchists; and independents.

After three days of debate the delegates called for the ouster of Hussein. The March



Iraqi soldier killed by allied forces on outskirts of Kuwait City

16 *Economist* reported the opposition delegates discussed "but could not agree on, proposals to form a parliament-in-exile, and to appoint commanders to lead rebel forces inside Iraq."

"There's a great deal of anxiety about the position of the Americans," Samir Mansoor, a leader of one of the Iraqi opposition, said, referring to Washington's stance towards the groups and the rebellions in Iraq. "There is suspicion that Washington, having disarmed or drastically weakened Saddam, would prefer his survival to an unknown identity that would include Shi'ites and others who might

be radical. The 'devil you know' principle might apply," said Mansoor.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not meet with any of the opposition groups during his recent Mideast trip.

Interviewed on the ABC TV news program "This Week," Baker said Washington "would like to see a change" in the Iraqi government. "We've made no bones about it," he added.

But Baker said Washington and its allies in the region wanted to see "the territorial integrity of Iraq preserved" so that "a power vacuum did not occur."

# Emir returns to instability in Kuwait

BY JAMES HARRIS

Kuwaiti Emir Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah returned March 14 to a country that is in political and economic turmoil.

The emir's arrival two weeks after Iraqi troops left the city was marked by complaints from many Kuwaitis. The reluctance of the emir to return to the country and the fact that government officials are restoring electricity and water services for themselves instead of for the general population has highlighted the inequalities faced even by citizens of the tiny oil-rich kingdom.

Moreover, Kuwaiti officials are detaining, deporting, torturing, and killing Palestinian residents in the country under the eyes of a massive U.S. and allied military and administrative presence.

The emir's luxurious furniture for his mansion arrived in the country March 4 — six days before the first emergency food distribution in Kuwait. The emir's palace has a 2-million-gallon reservoir and a huge fountain filled from Kuwait City's water supply. Other Kuwaiti residents must stand in long lines for water distribution.

Wayne Urbine, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is supervising the refurbishing of one of the emir's four palaces in Kuwait City. He told the *Wall Street Journal* that Asian laborers worked several all-nighters to get one mansion ready. This included details such as stringing crystal chandeliers and installing gold-plated toilet fixtures.

The country is also facing an environmental calamity. Thick soot from an estimated 500 oil-well fires has darkened the sky. The smoke is so heavy that people use their headlights while driving in the daytime. The temperature has dropped 10 degrees below normal.

Enormous clouds of soot emerging from the fires are creating an ecological disaster for the region as a whole. Acid-bearing clouds have showered black rain on Turkey and reached the western shore of the Black Sea, touching Bulgaria, Rumania, and the southern Soviet Union.

Kuwaiti soldiers are preventing residents from returning to the country if they are not citizens, and dumping others across the border in Iraq after beating and torturing them.

Before the Iraqi invasion, more than 60 percent of the 2 million people living in Kuwait were non-Kuwaiti. A substantial part of the population was made up of immigrants from Egypt, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and other Third World countries. Palestinians made up the largest group, with 400,000 living in the country. None had citizenship rights in Kuwait.

During the seven-month Iraqi occupation, an estimated two-thirds of the Kuwaiti population and about half the Palestinians left the country. Under the terms of the current martial law imposed by the Kuwaiti govern-

ment, the army can turn all non-Kuwaitis away at the border regardless of the amount of time they may have lived in the country in the past.

"Yes, there are human rights abuses," one U.S. official told the *Washington Post*, "but I'm astonished that there has not been a higher level of abuse."

Deportees interviewed by the *Post* described the torture they suffered at the hands of the Kuwaiti military. Ahmed Mahmoud, a 20-year-old Palestinian, told the *Post* that "I was beaten every morning for breakfast. One soldier would lift my head up from my hair; the other would slap me with his boot across the face. My

face had become a football for them."

Abdel Qader Bu Khadem, a 31-year-old Algerian, said he was worried about the fate of a friend left behind in Kuwait. "When they find out he is Palestinian, they will feast on him. When soldiers walk into the room, they ask, 'Any Palestinians here?' If someone dares say yes, they immediately start beating him."

Khadem said a U.S. doctor in military uniform worked in the torture facility where he was held. The doctor "would come at night every two or three days," said Khadem.

A relief official told *Post* reporters of an incident in which a Palestinian was tortured

Continued on Page 6

# Truth begins to surface about allied massacre of retreating Iraqi troops

BY SETH GALINSKY

More facts about the character and extent of the massacre carried out by U.S. and allied forces February 26 against Iraqi soldiers retreating from Kuwait have come to light.

At first, U.S. military briefers in Riyadh simply lied to the press. According to the *Washington Post*, five hours after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had announced the beginning of withdrawal from Kuwait and seven hours after allied aircraft began mercilessly pounding the fleeing vehicles, one briefing officer told reporters there was "no real evidence of any withdrawal at this time."

The officer acknowledged that U.S. planes were attacking Iraqi troops, but implied that this was directed at dug-in positions. "There's no significant Iraqi movement to the north," he stated.

As the truth began to come out from interviews with returning pilots who called the scene a "turkey shoot," U.S. spokespeople shifted their public-relations tactics. They admitted that Iraqi troops were leaving but insisted it was a "retreat," not a withdrawal, and that this justified the killings.

"By definition, a withdrawal is when you pull your forces back, not under pressure by the attacking forces," stated Brig. Gen. Richard Neal at a February 27 press conference. "Retreat is when you're required to pull your forces back as required by the action of the attacking forces. The Iraqi army is in full retreat."

The U.S. planes hit two main roads filled with fleeing Iraqi troops — a 100-mile stretch leading north from Kuwait City toward the Iraqi border, and a 50-mile section of a parallel road about 25 miles to the east. The planes first bombed the front and back of the convoys, trapping thousands of vehicles in what pilots called the "killing box."

The destruction was heaviest on a section

of the highway about 30 miles from Kuwait City. Unable to move, vehicles full of soldiers were trapped — 20 abreast, four miles in length — and picked off by U.S. and British bombers. U.S. Marine, Navy, and Air Force planes all joined in.

Pilots based on the U.S.S. *Ranger* aircraft carrier said they were unloading bombs on the convoys so fast that they reloaded with cluster bombs, missiles or whatever happened to be on hand, rather than wait for ordnance specifically chosen for the attack.

U.S. Marine and Army tanks moved in later for an attack that lasted five hours.

A marine captain described one small battle. "Some of the Iraqis left their vehicles and hid in a [tree] nursery," he said. "Two battalions went through and finished them. They didn't fight much but at least they died with their weapons in their hands."

No official figures are available on the number of dead, which could run into the thousands. A reporter for the London *Independent* who visited the site wrote, "I lost count of the Iraqi corpses crammed into the smoldering wreckage or slumped face down in the sand."

Among the dead were women and children who were trapped in the middle of the bombing.

On the main road out of Kuwait city, U.S. Army teams have buried many of the bodies. Some of the more than 1,500 vehicles were pushed off the road by bulldozers in the uncompleted cleanup.

But on the road to the east, as of March 10, dogs scavenged among the corpses scattered through the wreckage.

"No human being should be allowed to do this to another human being. No one," said a British soldier surveying the wreckage. "They didn't stand a chance."



# Britain's Birmingham Six win freedom

BY RICH PALSER

LONDON — Sixteen years after being falsely convicted and imprisoned for life, the Birmingham Six walked free March 14 when the British Court of Appeal quashed their convictions.

Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Patrick Hill, Gerald Hunter, Richard McKenny and William Power were framed for the 1974 bombings of two taverns in Birmingham. Twenty-one people died in the attack.

Five of the six were arrested on their way from Birmingham to the funeral of James McDade. A member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), McDade was from the same Catholic neighborhood in Belfast as the five, in the British-occupied north of Ireland.

At 3:30 p.m. Lord Justice Lloyd told the men, "In the light of the fresh evidence which has been made available since the last hearing in this court, your appeals will be allowed and you are free to go."

A determined defense campaign by relatives and supporters led to the discrediting of the state's evidence against the six and the exposure of the brutal frame-up methods of the police.

A roar of cheers went up as the men left the appeals court and spoke to hundreds of supporters in the streets outside the courthouse, the Old Bailey.

"They told us from the start that they knew we hadn't done it, that they didn't care who done it," Hill said of the cops. "They were going to frame us to keep the people in there happy," he said, pointing back at the court.

Power told the crowd there "are many more people, both Irish and English, still wrongfully behind prison bars, including the Tottenham Three, the Bridgewater Four, and a long list of others."

The Tottenham Three are three Black youth convicted of murdering a policeman solely on the basis of confessions forced out

of them while in police custody.

"Irish people have never had justice in this country," Labour Party Member of Parliament (MP) Jeremy Corbyn said in an interview. "The release of the Birmingham Six is a victory for all who have been fighting for justice." At a rally against the imperialist war in the Arab-Persian Gulf the evening of the release, Corbyn called on the audience to celebrate the victory.

In endorsing the call MP Bernie Grant said, "Now we've got the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six out, we've got to get the Tottenham Three out."

The Guildford Four were released in 1989 when it was shown that the police fabricated evidence against them. This including inventing confessions, when beating or threatening the prisoners failed to force admission of guilt.

Framed up on charges of carrying out IRA bombings, the collapse of the case against the Guildford Four helped to spotlight the continued injustices against the Birmingham Six.

Gerard Conlon, one of the Guildford Four, said in an interview he was "absolutely thrilled" about the release of the six, "the more so to hear Paddy Hill tell the truth about British justice."

A statement issued by prospective parliamentary candidates of the Communist League hailed the release as ranking alongside that of "the Guildford Four and of Nelson Mandela. It has been achieved, not because the 'justice system finally worked,' but because of a relentless campaign that drew in organizations of working people, human rights movements, political representatives, and thousands of individuals around the world."

"Every prisoner unjustly incarcerated will take heart from the freeing of the six," it said.

## Royal Commission formed

Thirty minutes after the six walked free the British government announced the formation of a Royal Commission. The commission is to carry out a two-year review of the "criminal justice" system to "minimize as far as possible the likelihood of such events happening again."

Supporting the move the *Guardian* newspaper commented the next day: "Only eighteen months ago not a single IRA terrorist conviction had been overturned. Today all the convictions in the three biggest terrorist cases Britain has staged — the Guildford Four, Maguire Seven and the Birmingham Six — lie in ruins. The only thing left in the dock last night was the justice system itself."

In all three cases Irish people living in Britain were framed and convicted at "high security" trials. Hard on the heels of the Birmingham pub bombings the Government introduced the Prevention of Terrorism Act containing sweeping new powers of detention and arrest.

Aimed at countering the growing movement for an end to internment and the withdrawal of British troops from the north of Ireland, these measures particularly targeted Irish people living in Britain who joined the protests.

As in the other frame-ups, the appeal of the Birmingham Six centered on the inaccuracy of forensic evidence and confessions extracted while the defendants were in police custody. In the appeal hearing the prosecution accepted that tests used in 1974 to identify traces of nitroglycerine on the hands of two

of the six could have shown a positive result because the scientist involved washed his hands with liquid soap halfway through the procedure.

The prosecution also admitted in pre-appeal hearings that the same tests were carried out on two other men traveling to Ireland on the night of the bombings, but disregarded positive results because the men had handled adhesive tape. At the original trial the prosecution denied defense evidence that the test could show a positive result due to handling substances other than nitroglycerine.

Evidence was presented that showed the police fabricated and rewrote notes on alleged interrogations of the six. Four of the six supposedly confessed; the Birmingham Six maintain this was a result of police beatings. The prosecution claimed that the men were beaten by prison wardens after leaving police custody.

In 1976 the prison officers were all found not guilty of this charge. The Birmingham Six then began a civil suit against the police. Lord Denning ruled in 1980 that the case could not proceed because if the six won, it would mean "that the police were guilty of perjury, that they were guilty of violence and threats, that the confessions were involuntary and were improperly admitted in evidence, and that the convictions were erroneous."

Noting that this would either lead to a pardon or a fresh appeal, he concluded, "This is such an appalling vista that every sensible person in the land would say 'it cannot be right that these actions go any further.'"

It was not until 1990 that the defense campaign was able to win a re-examination of the original police notes, resulting in the ordering of a new appeal.

## Artists, others protest March 17 attack on six-story Pathfinder Mural

Continued from Page 1

allowed to flourish," Cagan said. "We hope that those who committed this vandalism will be found, and that steps will be taken to insure that such activities are not tolerated."

Robert Coane, an artist who painted the portrait of Puerto Rican independence fighter Lolita Lebrón and other portraits on the mural, said he believed the attack was the work of opponents of the Cuban revolution. "Like the last attack, their aim, I believe, was the portrait of Castro," he said. Coane inspected the mural the day after the defacement and discussed with other mural supporters the best way to remove the paint. "I think the red blotch should be left where it is as an example of 'U.S. democracy,'" he said.

Coane will be one of the speakers at a March 20 press conference called by Friends of the Pathfinder Mural to protest the attack.

Friends of the Pathfinder Mural was launched soon after the mural was completed to support its maintenance, defense, and promotion.

The huge work of public art is the collective effort of 80 artists from 20 countries who joined in the two-year-long effort to produce the mural. The artwork features portraits of working-class and revolutionary leaders from the United States and around the world, a press statement by Friends of the Pathfinder Mural explained.

The mural's main portraits include those whose works have been published by Pathfinder. Among them are Ernesto Che Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution; Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso; Maurice Bishop of Grenada; and Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, founders of the communist movement.

Nicaraguan artist Arnaldo Guillén painted the portraits of the Nicaraguan leaders Augusto Sandino and Carlos Fonseca. Carole Byard, a U.S. artist, did the portrait of U.S. revolutionary leader Malcolm X. South African leader Nelson Mandela was painted by Dumile Feni, a South African artist. Soler also painted Karl Marx.

The portraits circle a huge printing press and are themselves surrounded by the oppressed and exploited of the world. Among this great mass of people are other leading fighters.

Since its production was completed, the mural has been a focus of attention and



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Defaced section of mural. Paint struck left side of portrait of Cuban President Fidel Castro, and others.

debate. Shortly after its unveiling, two New York dailies, the *New York Post* and the *Daily News*, ran editorials condemning the mural and calling for its removal. A few weeks later the mural was vandalized when paint-filled bottles were thrown against it.

"This latest attack has been reported to the New York City Police Department," Farber explained in a phone interview. "We urge all those who defend democratic rights to send protest letters to New York Mayor David Dinkins to demand a speedy and thorough investigation, and the prosecution of those responsible for the defacement of the mural."

Protest letters should be sent to: David Dinkins, City Hall, New York, N.Y. 10007. The mayor's fax number is (212) 791-9628. Copies should be sent to Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, 191 7th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.

## Emir returns to instability in Kuwait

Continued from Page 5

at the Salmiya Girls' Secondary School. The Palestinian said men in uniform burned him with a cattle brand, beat him, and later dumped him by a roadside. Relief officials discovered that a U.S. Special Forces captain and sergeant worked at the school.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister Saad Abdullah Sabah dismissed reports of mistreatment of Palestinians: "I would like to make clear and put on the record — I deny all such rumors and urge you not to believe what is being rumored in this direction."

## Socialist trade unionists to hold national meetings

Socialist Workers Party members who are members of industrial trade unions will hold a series of national meetings during the next three weeks. The unionists will assess their work as the party campaigned against the U.S.-led imperialist war in the Mideast. They will also discuss the current state of the labor movement.

A central part of the gatherings will be Saturday evening public forums where leaders of the SWP will speak on the world political situation. These events will promote the upcoming issue of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. The issue will focus on imperialism and its wars.

The dates and locations of the meetings are listed below.

**March 30-31: Cleveland** — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, **Houston** — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, **St. Louis** — United Auto Workers, **Pittsburgh** — United Mine Workers of America.

**April 6-7: Boston** — International Union of Electronic Workers, **Des Moines, Iowa** — United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

**April 13-14: San Francisco** — International Association of Machinists, **New York** — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, **Chicago** — United Steelworkers of America, **Atlanta** — United Transportation Union.

In addition, a Utah state meeting of SWP members will be held April 6-7 in Price. Cindy Jaquith, the business and promotions director of *New International*, will be the featured speaker at a forum on "Opening Guns of World War III," the lead section in the upcoming issue of *New International*.



# Union members' sales drive a success

BY RONI McCANN

Throughout the course of the U.S.-led war against Iraq, members of 10 industrial unions waged a war of their own — a war to get out the truth about Washington's imperialist aims in the Mideast and explain why working people should stand opposed to the rulers' actions.

Among fellow unionists, striking workers, GLs, reservists, and veterans, the socialists campaigned aggressively for nine weeks with the *Militant*, the *International Socialist Review* supplement, and the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

Their sales effort, the first of its kind, was a big success: 1,381 workers bought copies of the *International Socialist Review* — 107 percent of the goal; 429 workers purchased the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* book; and 241 unionists subscribed to the *Militant* or Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*. The socialists placed sales of the *International Socialist Review* supplement at the center of the drive.

"We accomplished a lot through this campaign by setting goals and pushing to meet them," said Meryl Lynn Farber, a member of the *International Union of Electronic Workers* (IUE). Members of IUE sold 167 copies of the publications, achieving 108 percent of their goal.

"We carried out the campaign at a difficult point during the war drive," said Farber. She cited the stepped-up security measures that some companies instituted and flag-waving campaigns the bosses initiated to whip up support for the war. "These were aimed partially at freezing political discussion, debate, and action on the part of workers."

"We stood our ground in the plants we work in and as a result helped promote discussion and debate on the war," Farber said.

## Grand Totals

Of the three publications, *United Auto*

*Workers* (UAW) members sold 237 out of their goal of 250; *International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union* (ILGWU) members sold 131 out of their targeted 141; *International Association of Machinists* (IAM) members sold 501 out of their goal of 640, including 330 *International Socialist Reviews* — 130 copies over and above the Machinists original goal.

In the nine-week effort *United Mine Workers of America* (UMWA) members sold 73 of the socialist publications out of their goal of 95; members of the *United Transportation Workers* (UTU) sold 227 out of 309; garment workers organized by the *Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union* (ACTWU) sold 104 out of a goal of 146; *United Food and Commercial Workers* (UFCW) unionists sold 219 out of 318; *United Steelworkers of America* (USWA) members got out 208 copies out of a targeted 338; and *Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union* (OCAW) members sold 184 of a goal of 300 — including 104 copies of the *International Socialist Review*.

## Achievements of the Week

Sales of the *International Socialist Review* to hundreds and hundreds of workers was the highlight of the union members' effort. Members of the IAM in five cities sold more than double the goals taken for the supplement. In the San Francisco Bay Area IAM members surpassed all three goals they set selling 15 *Militant* subscriptions, 63 copies of the *International Socialist Review*, and 26 *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* books — a total of 208 percent of the goal!

## From Our Mail Bag

The success of the sales campaign among industrial workers illustrates the continued

opportunities socialists have to win new readers among fellow workers.

This past week 23 union members subscribed to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial* including two UMWA members who sent in for renewals and three OCAW members.

At present 16 percent of subscribers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *L'Internationale* in the United States identify themselves as union members. This includes six IAM members and a UMWA member who read *L'Internationale*; 109 IAM members who subscribe to the *Militant*, and 17 ACTWU-organized workers who signed up for *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Many of the unionists who bought copies of the *International Socialist Review* will be interested in getting the upcoming issue of *New International* magazine which will feature an article about the imperialist war drive against Iraq and the world the battle takes place in.

After reading the excerpts from the new issue in this week's *Militant*, many workers will want to place early orders and some might pitch in a donation to the *New International* Fund Drive to help finance the publication of the Marxist magazine.

By waging the nine-week sales campaign, said IUE member Farber, "We met new people we never had the chance to talk with before, some of whom sought us out after hearing about our ideas." IUE member Lucille Robbins from Chicago reported that they and several of their coworkers have invited Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago, James Warren, to speak at a house meeting after a video showing on Malcolm X.

"We advanced a working-class point of view among a layer of fellow unionists," said Farber, "which is important preparation for the fights ahead."

# Publications fund drive launched in Canada

BY CAROLE CARON

MONTREAL — A 1991 Socialist Publications Fund was launched here at a meeting March 2, just days after the war ended in the Mideast following the brutal slaughter of Iraqi troops by invading allied forces. The fund goal is to raise \$23,000 (Canadian) by May 1.

"From the very beginning of their war preparations and with the full complicity of the media they control, the imperialists in Washington, London, and Ottawa have lied and hidden the scope of their assault against the workers and farmers in Iraq and the Middle East," Katy LeRougetel explained in her appeal for funds. LeRougetel is national director of the drive.

"The socialist weekly the *Militant*, the monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish; and the French-language quarterly *L'Internationale* were the only ones to tell the truth. Nobody other than you, their readers and supporters, can ensure that they continue to do so," she said.

In addition to helping finance these publications, \$5,000 will be earmarked for the New International Fund, to aid the production of several upcoming issues of the Marxist magazines *New International*, the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*, and the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional*.

Michel Prairie, editor of *L'Internationale* and *Nouvelle Internationale*, gave the keynote presentation at the Montréal launch attended by 45 people. Kick-off events were also held in Toronto, where Steve Penner, executive secretary of the Communist League and a contributing editor to *New International*, spoke, and in Vancouver.

The monies collected will help cover regular production costs of *L'Internationale*, which is edited in Montréal, as well as research and editorial expenses for *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* articles written in Canada. So far, \$19,200 has been pledged and \$7,278 collected, LeRougetel reported.

Over the past months, the socialist publications have formed the centerpiece of an international campaign by their supporters against imperialism and its war drive in the Middle East. At the fund launch events, numerous workers were attending socialist meetings for the first time. Many of them

had recently bought one of the socialist publications from fellow unionists.

High school students, workers with first-hand experience in anti-imperialist struggles in Haiti, Iran, Central America and other countries, as well as many others participated in lively exchanges with the speakers. Several participants made pledges to the fund. Donations of \$500, as well as one of \$1,000 and another of \$3,000 have been received.

Supporters report that contributions have

come from many different sources. In Vancouver, two readers kicked in \$40 between them when renewing their subscriptions. A United Steelworkers of America member in northern British Columbia mailed in \$20. In Toronto, a high school student has pledged \$20.

To make a contribution, send a check or money order payable to Société d'Éditions AGPP Inc., C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal (Québec), H2S 3M2, Canada.

# New Readers Club offer announced

BY JOHN RIDDELL

Pathfinder has announced a special Readers Club offer — a 25 percent discount on eight books related to the working-class struggle against imperialist war.

The offer, which will run from April 1 to May 31, is available to all members of the Pathfinder Readers Club.

"By studying these eight books," explained Pathfinder promotions director Helen Meyers, "working-class fighters can learn lessons of 75 years of struggle by communists against the imperialist system of oppression and war."

"These books take up struggles from the time of the Russian revolution to today," Meyers continued. "They show how revolutionaries responded to capitalist war and repression by rallying class-struggle forces against capitalist rule and by building the communist movement."

"Reading these books can help us meet the challenge of Washington's continuing brutalization of the people of Iraq and its ongoing drive toward militarism and war," said Meyers.

Among the titles included in this special offer is *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International*, a unique record of how the Bolsheviks built an international communist current under the fire of World War I.

Four books in the special offer take up aspects of the working-class struggle in the United States during World War II. One of them is *Fighting Racism in World War II*, an account of the struggle against Jim Crow discrimination as recorded in pages of the

*Militant*. This timely book has just been reprinted after being unavailable since mid-1990.

Also included in the special offer is *Out Now!*, in which Fred Halstead tells the story of the movement in the United States against the Vietnam War. Unavailable for many months, it will be reprinted in April with a new preface by Kate Kaku, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States.

The 25 percent price reduction is also available for *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* by Jack Barnes. This book discusses the relationship of a proletarian party to the trade unions in today's world of imperialist wars and mounting economic crisis.

Other titles included in the Readers Club special offer are *Teamster Bureaucracy* by Farrell Dobbs, *The Socialist Workers Party in World War II* and *Letters from Prison* by James P. Cannon, and *Revolutionary Strategy in the Fight against the Vietnam War*, an Education for Socialists bulletin.

A membership card in the Readers Club can be obtained for a fee of \$10 U.S. or £5 from any Pathfinder Bookstore. The card, good for one year in Pathfinder stores around the world, entitles members to a 15 percent discount on all of Pathfinder's more than 250 titles as well as even higher discounts on periodic special Readers Club offers.

Readers who have no Pathfinder bookstore in their area can join by sending \$10 to Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014, USA. Readers Club members may order books from this address.

# WORLD NEWS BRIEFS



## Tens of thousands press demands against Stalinist regime in Serbia

Tens of thousands intensified their protests March 13 against the Stalinist regime of the Serbian republic in Yugoslavia. They called for the resignation of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and his government.

Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic offered to resign to placate the protesters, but the regime's opponents continue to press their demands.

On March 12 Milosevic announced that he would bow to most demands raised by the protesters, who blocked the capital's downtown area for several days. The regime dismissed the directors of the television station and the editor of the leading daily who the protesters said squelched information and free speech. The government also released a prominent dissident, Vuk Draskovic.

Two people were killed and 76 were injured March 9 when police tried but failed to quell the protest with tear gas, water cannon, and gunfire. Serbia is the largest of the six Yugoslav republics.

## Washington to resume ties with Albania, as protests rock regime

Washington will resume diplomatic relations with Albania, severed 45 years ago. The initiative comes as the Stalinist regime in Tirana, Albania's capital, has been shaken by weeks of protests.

Albanian authorities declared an amnesty March 12 for all political prisoners and claimed that those in prison or reeducation centers had been released. Five hundred political prisoners have been pardoned since December, according to Reuter's news service.

The regime has already been forced to legalize opposition political parties, ease travel restrictions, and call for open legislative elections. Some 25,000 Albanians have recently fled to Italy. Thousands wanting to leave the country have besieged several embassies in Tirana.

Richard Boucher, a U.S. State Department spokesman, said the turmoil called for "greater engagement, not less" by the United States. Albania, with a population of more than 3 million, is situated on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea across from Italy, with Yugoslavia to the north and east and Greece to the south.

## Japanese government fails to reassure public about nukes

The Japanese government's attempts to reassure the public after the worst nuclear power accident in its history were undermined when details about the human and mechanical failures that led to the near-disaster surfaced.

According to government disclosures, workers kept the Mihama nuclear power plant north of Tokyo operating at maximum capacity despite several computer warnings. When they finally moved to shut the reactor down, their actions were ineffective. An emergency cooling system then kicked in to prevent a meltdown.

Two emergency valves for slowing leaks of radioactive water then failed, prompting workers to initiate risky procedures not in their operation manual.

News that there have been three more nuclear power accidents since the February 9 Mihama shutdown has stirred the public's ire, especially when details of at least one of the mishaps were withheld for days.

## Vietnam newspaper on Gulf

"The United States is going far beyond the limit set for the Gulf war by the UN Security Council," the February 2 Vietnamese Communist Party newspaper said. Washington is trying to "bring Iraq to her knees and affirm the sole superpower role of the United States in the world, decide global security, and put other nations in the U.S. orbit."

## Dominican doctors protest wages

A one-day strike by more than 5,000 doctors at public hospitals in the Dominican Republic was held to protest low wages and declining health services. The government's veto of wage increases sparked protests in Santo Domingo and provincial cities.



# Washington's third militarization

## Communists and the fight against imperialism and war

The following is a major excerpt from the article "Washington's Third Militarization Drive," by Mary-Alice Waters. The article will appear in the upcoming issue No. 7 of *New International*, the magazine of Marxist politics and theory. Waters is the editor of *New International*.

In the new issue, Waters' article appears as part of a section documenting how the vanguard of the working class in the United States has responded to the political challenges posed by the three militarization drives that have marked the last 50 years.

The article is based on a report by Waters to the August 1985 convention of the Socialist Workers Party. For presentation in *New International* a number of points in the talks have been more fully developed.

In August 1985 the U.S.-financed and organized contra war against the Nicaraguan government was still escalating. Washington was preparing to use U.S. military forces in Central America if necessary to bring down the government led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front.

Because of the accelerating war preparations and tactical divisions among U.S. ruling circles on how to bring about a change in the Nicaraguan government, there was political space for opponents of U.S. policy to build sizable actions against U.S. military intervention.

The report by Waters also assessed the fact that since 1980 the U.S. ruling class had succeeded in demobilizing opposition to renewed draft registration.

Included in the section of *New International* with Waters' article are "The Communist Antiwar Program of the Socialist Workers Party, 1940 to 1969," and "1945: When the GIs Said 'No!'" also by Waters.

For more information on *New International* No. 7 see the advertisement below. The article is copyright *New International* 1991 and reprinted by permission.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Militarist propaganda — wrapped in patriotic bunting — is a permanent feature of our epoch. Imperialist powers are always preparing for war.

In the United States, the emergence of modern militarism goes back to the period following the defeat of Radical Reconstruction<sup>1</sup> and is intertwined with the growing domination of industrial and banking capital. This period culminated in Washington's assault on Hawaii in 1893 and then on Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines in 1898 in the Spanish-American War — the first imperialist war waged by the North American colossus.

Within the imperialist epoch there are also particular militarization drives, and today, in 1985, we are in the midst of one. Because we have now been living with it, and fighting against it, for more than half a decade, it is easy to forget that this current militarization drive had a well-defined beginning. We need to look at it concretely so we can see what the ruling class has accomplished, and what it hasn't.

### Shift in ruling-class policy

The current militarization campaign was initiated at the beginning of 1980. In his State of the Union message in January 1980, President James Carter announced the decision to reinstate draft registration. At the time, we pointed to this as "the first real war speech of the Carter administration."

The president's pronouncement, and the political offensive it was part of, signaled a shift in ruling-class policy. It marked the end of the retreat following the 1973 defeat in Vietnam and the fallout from the Watergate crisis at home.<sup>2</sup> It took the rulers the better part of a decade after they began withdrawing U.S. forces from Vietnam in 1971 to get themselves back into position for a militarization offensive.

Between 1973 and 1980 toilers around the world dealt a number of body blows to imperialism on several battlefronts.

These included the revolutionary overthrow of the landlord-based monarchy in Ethiopia in 1974; the defeat of Portuguese colonial rule in Africa in 1974-75; the defeat of the capitalist-landlord regime of South Vietnam and reunification of the country in 1975-76, and the fall of U.S.-backed forces in Kampuchea [Cambodia] and Laos; the defeat of the South African invasion of Angola by Cuban and Angolan troops in 1976, and the impulse that gave to a new upsurge of struggles throughout southern Africa, including against the apartheid regime in South Africa itself; the defeat in 1977 of the U.S.-backed Somali invasion aimed at reversing the trajectory of the Ethiopian revolution; Zimbabwe's attainment of independence in 1980; the Iranian revolution of 1978-79; and the 1979 revolutions that led to the establishment of workers' and farmers' governments in Grenada and Nicaragua, along with the massive upsurge in El Salvador, advances in Guatemala, and the revolutionary boost these events gave to the fighting people of Cuba.

The 1980 Carter speech and draft registration announcement were timed to take advantage of two developments: in November 1979 U.S. embassy employees were taken hostage in Tehran; and in December 1979 Soviet military forces went into Afghanistan in the

midst of an escalating civil war.<sup>3</sup>

The U.S. ruling class seized on these events to beat the drums for their opening militarization moves with an outpouring of patriotic flag-waving and anticommunist propaganda.

The steps taken by the Carter administration were part of the systematic effort to counter the retreat imposed on Washington by its defeat in Vietnam and the erosion of public belief in the truthfulness of those who spoke for the institutions of capitalist government (broadly referred to as the Watergate crisis).

These moves were aimed at reducing past obstacles in the way of the U.S. rulers using their overwhelming military might to defend their class rule on a world scale. At the same time, Carter's actions were directed — as are all capitalist militarization measures — against working people, the oppressed na-

### The communist approach is 'Not one penny, not one person for the imperialist war machine!'

tionalities, women pressing to extend their rights, and the youth of this country — the mass candidates for cannon fodder.

The militarization campaign was an integral and necessary part of a stepped-up offensive to weaken our struggles against the employing class, erode our democratic rights, diminish our effective political space, and deepen divisions among us — the better to increase profits and strengthen the U.S. capitalists vis-à-vis their competitors in other countries.

This was summed up accurately in a Political Committee report presented by Andrea Morell that was adopted by the Socialist Workers Party National Committee in May 1980.

The current imperialist militarization drive, the report explained, is a "drive by the U.S. rulers to regain the political ability to use their military might as they deem necessary against the world revolution." That is exactly what was, and is, involved.

This current militarization drive is the third such campaign the U.S. rulers have undertaken since the late 1930s.

The first began with President Franklin Roosevelt's "quarantine the aggressor" speech in October 1937 in preparation for entry into the European war that was coming. This militarization drive lasted roughly

eight years, until the massive demobilization following U.S. imperialism's defeat of Japan in 1945.

The second occupied the long period that began in the spring of 1947 with President Truman's executive order launching the loyalty-oath program and witch-hunt. On the international front, Truman's "aid" program to Greece announced the accelerated war drive cloaked in anticommunist rhetoric.<sup>4</sup>

The second militarization drive continued through the Korean War and the first decade of the Cuban revolution, and ended only with the defeat of Washington in Vietnam. The early part of this period has become known — somewhat inaccurately — as the "Cold War."

The third militarization drive is the one we are discussing, which began in early 1980.

### A communist policy in wartime as in peacetime

When the capitalist class is organizing for war, and when it takes the decision to go to war, the working class must have its own policies to defend its interests and advance its struggles within those conditions imposed by the rulers. It is not enough to say that we reject imperialist militarism.

Until the workers are strong enough to break through that framework — that is, to reject it in struggle — we also have to chart our own proletarian course in face of that reality.

The communist answer to imperialist militarism is straightforward and simple. It has been established and tested in struggle over decades. In fact, the communist movement of the twentieth century was born in struggle against those who led millions of workers into World War I by betraying the principle of "Not one penny, not one person for the imperialist war machine!" That is our guidepost; without it we would be hopelessly lost.

But that slogan doesn't give us all the answers as we confront concrete propaganda and actions by the ruling class, as it drives forward its militarization and as it wages war. We are opposed to the imperialist draft. But if the working class is not strong enough to prevent a draft from being imposed, then we need a policy toward it.

We need a policy on military training for working people. We need a policy for workers and farmers in the armed forces — an approach aimed at deepening working-class consciousness and advancing the fight of workers and farmers to defend their constitutional rights and class interests as they face the class brutalities of the officer corps, racism, and restrictions on political dissent.

These policies must advance the struggle of our class and its allies to break from political dependence on the exploiters, the bosses' twin parties — Democrats and Republicans — and representatives, and the petty-bourgeois politicians of all varieties. Our policies must advance our class toward taking political power and establishing a workers' and farmers' government. Success in moving along that line of march is the true measure of any antiwar policy.

This is what the Socialist Workers Party

2. U.S. forces, first sent to Vietnam in 1950 as "advisers," eventually numbered 536,000 at their high point. In January 1973, after long negotiations, peace accords were signed in Paris. By March 1973 U.S. combat forces had been withdrawn.

The Watergate crisis that erupted later that year began with the public exposure of the fact that the White House under President Richard Nixon had utilized burglaries and wiretaps and authorized FBI operations against even Democratic Party political opponents. Such methods had long been used against working-class organizations and the Black movement.

The ensuing political crisis, rooted in deep divisions within the ruling class over Washington's defeat in Vietnam, led to the forced resignation of Nixon in 1974. Widely publicized congressional hearings in 1975-76 — during which many more facts became known about the murderous operations of the FBI, CIA, and other political police agencies, both in the United States and abroad — further undermined public confidence in the truthfulness of those who spoke for U.S. government institutions.

COMING SOON!

## New International No. 7

### Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III

Three articles by Jack Barnes

Also includes:

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- Washington's Third Militarization Drive
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has always referred to as our proletarian military policy, a perspective for the working class in response to the militarization policies of the capitalist rulers in the imperialist epoch.

It begins not with military questions but with the proletariat. It presents a line of action to defend the class interests of workers and farmers in face of the militarization drives and imperialist wars that continued capitalist rule will inevitably bring.

It begins with the concrete conditions in the class struggle, the level of consciousness and organization of the working class, and the relationship of forces between the exploited and exploiting classes.

It begins with the intertwining of imperialism and war, not war in the abstract. It begins with the reality of class struggle, not the utopian search for class peace.

It begins with "we," the workers and their toiling allies, counterposed to "them," the employers, their political representatives, and their aggression abroad.

The section of the Transitional Program entitled, "The picket line, defense guards, workers' militia, the arming of the proletariat" summarizes the trajectory.<sup>5</sup>

This section of the 1938 founding program of the SWP describes the necessary development of the workers' movement that begins with the organization of picket lines to enforce strike action; proceeds to the creation of workers' groups for self-defense against the anti-labor, fascist, and racist gangs the employers will resort to as the class confrontation intensifies; and goes from there to the preparation for a workers' militia, which will be "the one serious guarantee for the inviolability of workers' organizations, meetings, and press" under sharpening conditions of class warfare.

This line of march culminates in the arming of the workers and farmers in the battle to defend themselves against the counterrevolutionary onslaughts and fascist terror that the capitalist class will unleash to defend its rule.

A proletarian military policy — a policy of the working class to confront imperialist militarism — is thus a necessary and integral part of working-class strategy as workers and farmers move toward establishing their own government.

In 1969, as the size and scope of actions against the Vietnam War were growing rapidly and we were playing an increasingly weighty role in their leadership, a convention of the Socialist Workers Party adopted a resolution outlining the party's policy toward that movement and within it. The resolution discussed the application of the party's proletarian military policy before, during, and after World War II and compared objective conditions then to those we faced at the outbreak of the Vietnam War in the mid-1960s.

The resolution noted that our political orientation and response to imperialist wars has little in common with the antimilitarism of the pacifists, or with the "socialist" antimilitarism promoted by Stalinists and social democrats as the "peace" component of their class-collaborationist policies.

"Military policy is an essential part of any transitional program of the revolutionary party in the imperialist epoch with its monstrous growth of capitalist militarism," the 1969 resolution notes.

3. Students, with the backing of the Iranian government, occupied the U.S. embassy in Tehran in November 1979 in protest of Washington's decision to invite the deposed shah to the United States. Soviet troops eventually numbering more than 100,000 intervened in Afghanistan in late December 1979.

4. Executive Order 9835, issued by Truman in March 1947, made "disloyalty" grounds for dismissal from government employment. The order defined disloyalty as association with any organization deemed "subversive" by the attorney general.

That same month the White House sent military advisers to bolster the reactionary government of Greece, then fighting a civil war against Communist Party-led partisans, and announced plans to send \$300 million in arms and economic aid.



Twenty thousand U.S. GIs demonstrate in Manila in 1946, demanding to go home after World War II had ended. U.S. rulers came out on top at conclusion of war, but found themselves confronted with disintegrating army.

"The naive outlook of the early socialist movement, which disregarded the military aspects of the class struggle, has long since become outmoded. The actual relations between nations, peoples, and classes compel every political tendency to take a position and work out a policy toward both imperialist and class warfare."

The concrete military policy adopted by the SWP in 1940, on the eve of U.S. entry into the Second World War, was part of our communist continuity and part of a revolutionary perspective designed to promote the struggles of workers and farmers against the capitalists under the given wartime conditions.

The resolution explains that young workers and farmers drafted to fight in the U.S. imperialist army in World War II were "imbued with a mixture of anti-Hitler, antifascist, defensist, democratic, and patriotic sentiments."

U.S. involvement in World War II was almost universally — if often grudgingly — accepted among working people, under the illusion that it was a progressive fight against fascism. Many workers and farmers felt that the fight for union rights, for farmers' needs, and against Jim Crow segregation and lynch-law terror against Blacks in the South would be advanced by the war against the Nazi regime in Germany and its allies.

Under these conditions, with U.S. entry into World War II approaching, the party unconditionally opposed the capitalist draft that went into effect in 1940 — the first peacetime draft in U.S. history. This was simply a continuation of the long-standing communist policy against imperialist conscription.

But we also took into account that anti-fascist, as well as patriotic, sentiments of workers and farmers led them to favor organized universal military service. The SWP therefore counterposed to the capitalist draft the demand for conscription by workers' organizations; we advocated military training and officer selection under trade union control, financed by the government.

Members of the party who were drafted went into the army. They learned military skills and sought to conduct themselves as soldiers in a manner that would win the political confidence of fellow workers and farmers in uniform.

"Their participation as socialists in the military machine," the 1969 resolution says, "was viewed as a prerequisite for revolutionary action if a favorable turn of events made it possible to gain a majority to the idea of

5. The Transitional Program was one of the founding documents of the Socialist Workers Party. Written by Leon Trotsky in Mexico City after discussions with SWP leaders, it was adopted by the SWP following extensive discussion in 1938. For the section cited here, see Leon Trotsky, *The Transitional Program for Socialist Revolution* (New York: Pathfinder, 1977) pp. 123-126.

transforming the imperialist war into a struggle for workers' power and socialism."

## World War II: Several wars in one

Contrary to popular belief both then and now, World War II was not a war to stop fascism. It was much more complex than that; it was at least "three wars in one," as the SWP explained at the time.

- It was an interimperialist war in which the defeat by Washington and its allies of Germany, Japan, and Italy did nothing to eliminate the economic and social roots of fascism nor the causes of imperialist oppression. Fascism, the most virulent form of maintaining imperialist rule, will again attempt to raise its head in any period of deep capitalist crisis and accelerating class polarization and combat.

- It was a war to roll back the Russian revolution and reestablish capitalism in the Soviet Union. With enormous sacrifice the workers and peasants of the first, and at that time only, workers' state turned the tide against German imperialism's invading armies and prevented the imperialist powers from realizing this historic objective, which none of them have ever abandoned from October 1917 to this day.

- It was a multifront war for national liberation in which the colonized and oppressed nations of the world took good advantage of the interimperialist conflict to advance their interests — from India to China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Korea, the Middle East, Ireland, and Québec.

A fourth war also took shape as the imperialist bloodletting continued: the war carried out by resistance forces — many organized by the workers' movement — in the occupied countries of Europe. That was a war against the fascist dictatorships imposed by Hitler's national socialist movement.

It was also a war by the workers to create the most favorable possible conditions for the working classes in Europe to emerge victorious over their own bourgeoisies, whether fascist or "democratic imperialist," as the conflict unfolded.

## The Cold War: rebuilding the U.S. military machine

After Japan's surrender in August 1945, the U.S. rulers, who came out on top of the pile in 1945, found themselves confronted with a disintegrating army. Workers and farmers in uniform, particularly those in the Pacific theater, demanded to be brought home immediately. They saw no reason to stay in uniform once the war they were fighting, the war against fascism, had been won.

The rulers in Washington, however, wanted to reap the harvest of victory over their rivals by taking control of Asia. In particular, they aimed at keeping China under imperialist control. As GIs throughout Asia started demonstrating by the thousands, the Democrats and Republicans in Washington howled, "But we are losing China!"

The GIs answered, "You may be losing China. We are going home!" They simply refused to continue under arms. Demobilization was accelerated and go home they did, by the millions. The U.S. armed forces had ceased to be an effective fighting force for imperialist interests.

That's how the postwar period began in the United States: with a GI going-home movement that no class on earth could have stopped, as well as a massive strike wave that brought nearly two million workers — many of them newly returned vets — onto the picket lines demanding an immediate end to the wartime wage controls.

In response to the victory of the Soviet Union in World War II, the advance of the colonial revolution as the imperialist powers warred against each other, and the resulting shift in the international relationship of forces to the detriment of imperialism, Washington had to take steps to put back together a military force to use against struggles by workers and peasants around the world. With World War II barely over, the U.S. rulers needed a new militarization drive.

At the same time, the employers still had to housebreak the labor movement that had been born in the giant struggles of the rise of the CIO industrial union movement in the second half of the 1930s.

They also had to try to prevent a massive movement for Negro equality from arising on the basis of the civil rights militancy that had emerged during the war. The witch-hunt and anticommunist reaction of the end of the 1940s and the 1950s were aimed at accomplishing these goals.

The wartime conscription law was allowed to lapse in 1947, but the draft machinery was kept intact and the Selective Service Act was pushed through in 1948 as the new militarization drive began to roll. A "peacetime" draft, for the first in U.S. history, was institutionalized. With the growing use of deferment loopholes by bourgeois and middle-class youth, the postwar army became even more working-class in composition. Military spending soared, as Washington accelerated the nuclear arms race following the Soviet Union's development of an atomic bomb in 1949.

When the U.S. rulers held a monopoly on atomic weapons, they used the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, sacrificing the lives of more than two hundred thousand civilians in Japan. Their political aim in doing so was to demonstrate to the toilers of the world that Washington would not hesitate to unleash this weapon of mass horror to protect its empire.

The Korean War was launched in the midst of the witch-hunt at the end of the 1940s and early 1950s, but it was greeted in the U.S. with a marked decline in patriotic fervor compared with World War II. By no measure did it ever become a popular war. But there was little active opposition to the war aside from some socialist and pacifist organiza-

Continued on Page 10



# Washington's third militarization drive

Continued from Page 9

tions, which were rapidly declining in size and influence. (The social democrats at the time outspokenly supported the U.S. war against Korea.)

The housebreaking of the organized labor movement and its political retreat brought changed conditions that altered some elements of the SWP's response to the government's military policies. The party dropped the demand for military training under trade union control as a counterposition to the capitalist draft. Given the state of the union movement, this perspective no longer rang true to vanguard workers as a realistic way forward.

At the same time, of course, the party continued to oppose capitalist conscription. Individual party members continued to serve if drafted, and we fought against victimization of GIs for their antifascist, antiwar, antiracist, or socialist views.

We were part of the defensive battles in the labor movement against steps by the employers and the government to use the militarization drive to undermine the power of the unions in the war industries. In particular, we fought the introduction of the system of "security clearances" on a massive scale aimed at victimizing union activists and other militant workers and weakening union protection and safety conditions.

The party also continued to defend the right of workers on picket lines to protect themselves against bosses' thugs, and especially the right of Blacks to defend themselves against racist violence and terror.

## Vietnam, the Black struggle, and the antiwar movement

As the Vietnam War accelerated, almost a decade and a half after the Korean fighting, a historic change occurred. Popular support for that imperialist war eroded in the late 1960s and this was reflected in the attitudes of working people, including, in the final years of the war, those in the ranks of the armed forces.

Revulsion against the U.S.-organized carnage in Vietnam became intertwined with the economic and social changes wrought by 25 years of capitalist economic expansion that began in 1941. These changes and the heightened expectations they gave birth to were registered above all by the powerful mass actions of the civil rights movement that brought Jim Crow segregation to its knees by the mid-1960s.

When the U.S. government began to escalate the war against Vietnam, the decade of mass civil rights battles that destroyed the system of legal segregation in the South was coming to an end. The movement that began with the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955-56, took on new energy with the student-led sit-ins that began in 1960, followed by the Freedom Rides initiated in 1961.

Throughout the early 1960s a growing campaign of mass demonstrations made the names of cities like Selma, Birmingham, and Montgomery famous around the world. The 250,000 strong March on Washington in the summer of 1963 was followed by the 1964 Civil Rights Act that outlawed discrimination in public accommodations and employment. In 1965 the Voting Rights Act was passed, eliminating most of the state laws that had been used for decades to disenfranchise Blacks in the South.

As the battle for voting rights in the South

was pressed forward through continuing mass actions, the spontaneous uprisings in the northern ghettos began, simultaneous with the first escalation of the Vietnam War. Harlem exploded in the summer of 1964, only a few weeks before the Tonkin Gulf incident was staged and U.S. President Lyndon Johnson ordered the first bombing raids against North Vietnam.<sup>7</sup>

In February 1965 Malcolm X was assassinated. Then came Watts in August 1965. The summers of 1966 and 1967 brought rebellions in dozens of U.S. cities culminating in the uprisings in Newark and Detroit, which were put down by National Guard troops at the cost of more than sixty lives. In April 1968, outrage over the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and widespread conviction that the government was responsible, boiled into rebellions that swept the cities of the country.

Throughout the second half of the 1960s opposition to the escalating war in Vietnam paralleled and intertwined with the radicalization of the Black movement. "Black Power" became the rallying cry in U.S. cities and through the Caribbean. The struggle for Black rights became the central axis of politics inside the armed forces in Vietnam — the source of the class energy fueling dissent.

Growing doubts about the war among tens of millions of soldiers and civilians alike were reinforced. The lingering vestiges of the witch-hunt were submerged by the deepening radicalization that expressed itself in numerous mass phenomena, such as the rise of the women's liberation movement, the first

6. "Security clearances" can include a police "check" on an individual's background, associates, political views, and personal life. They have become a condition of employment at many U.S. plants with government contracts.



Black rebellion in streets of Washington, D.C., in 1968.

gay rights actions, growing support for Puerto Rican independence, and the Chicano Moratorium.<sup>8</sup>

The U.S. rulers, alarmed by growing tears in the bourgeois social consensus, escalated the scope and brutality of police operations at home as well, systematically targeting the leaders of Black organizations, the antiwar movement, and working-class political parties.

Although the details were not known until later, the fact that the government was conducting its Cointelpro operations was widely suspected and contributed to the decline in

public respect for U.S. government institutions — especially those supposedly dispensing justice.

The relationship between the struggle for Black rights, the broader social radicalization, and opposition to the Vietnam War in both the civilian population and among the U.S. troops sent to fight and die in Vietnam is important. Neither the depth of the working-class opposition to the war nor the dynamics of the antiwar movement and what happened inside the U.S. armed forces is understandable without that political context.

8. A broad coalition of forces, based on organizations of the oppressed nationality of Mexican origin, organized protests against the Vietnam War in 1970 under the name Chicano Moratorium. Local demonstrations in California, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado preceded a national Chicano Moratorium demonstration in Los Angeles, August 29, 1970.

The action, which drew 25,000 participants, was the largest protest against the war up to that time in Los Angeles and registered the confidence and political consciousness of a growing Chicano liberation movement.

## Canadian tour for Curtis case scores gains

BY COLLEEN LEVIS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee completed a successful tour by Lynda Little of several cities in Canada.

Little was part of an international delegation that traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, in February to attend a session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

"With the U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq and the attacks on the democratic rights of all working people that accompanied it, more support is being won for the fight to free Mark Curtis," Little said in an interview here at the conclusion of her tour.

Curtis is a framed-up union and political activist. He is currently serving a 25-year prison sentence in Fort Madison, Iowa.

"In Montréal," said Little, "I met with André Leclerc, international relations director of the Québec Federation of Labor (FTQ), and Elias Cabrera, chairperson of the International Committee of the Montréal Council of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN). The FTQ and several CSN bodies and leaders are sponsors of the international defense campaign for Curtis," she added.

At a February 17 meeting on democratic rights attended by 40 in Montréal, Little spoke about the progress the defense campaign registered during the UN meeting in Geneva. Many human rights activists and government representatives were informed of Curtis' case and the imprisoned unionist's fight was raised by several delegates.

Dale Dione, coordinator of the Mohawk Nation Office in nearby Kahnawake near Montréal, also spoke at the Montréal meeting. Dione said some 40 Mohawks currently face criminal charges stemming from last summer's battle by Natives defending their communities near Montréal from a siege by the police and the army.

"I understood that people are innocent until proven guilty," she said. "But not in Canada for Native people."

Hatem Salman of the Arab Coalition of Montréal described and denounced the harassment of Arabs by Canadian authorities since the beginning of the war drive against Iraq last August.

John Steele, an aircraft cleaner at Dor-

val airport and a member of the International Association of Machinists, described the attacks against his union by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. Over the past several months the CSIS has conducted numerous interrogations of workers like himself under the guise of security clearance.

"The bosses use their secret police," said Steele, "to attempt to prevent working people from discussing, organizing, and defending themselves from the employers' assaults."

In Ottawa, Little met supporters of Curtis from the leaderships of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) and the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers. CUPW has given the Curtis defense effort important support.

Little also went to Hamilton, Ontario, to see Bob Sutton of Local 1005 of the United Steelworkers of America at Stelco. He and other executive members of the union local endorsed the Curtis case. Stelco workers waged a three-month strike in three provinces last summer and fall.

Curtis supporters in Toronto organized a public meeting of 35 for Little on February 22. One of the speakers was Rick Russell, an executive committee member of Local 1967 of the Canadian Auto Workers at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft.

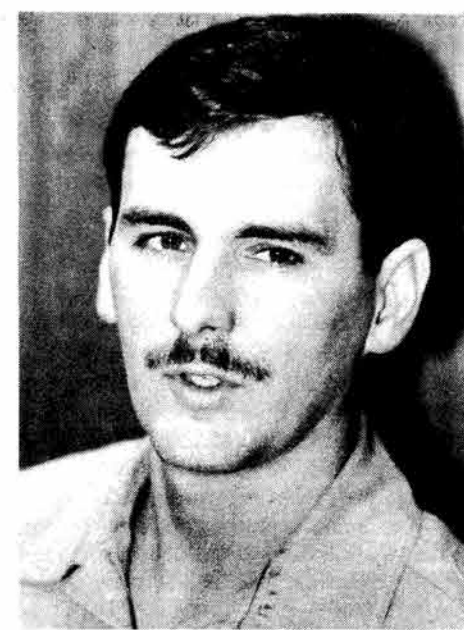
"It is important for unions to take up the fight for justice for Mark Curtis because an injury to one is an injury to all," he said.

Greetings were also read from André Kolompar, president of the Toronto local of CUPW; Carolyn Egan, a women's rights and antiwar activist; a representative of the General Union of Palestinian Students; and Dudley Laws of the Black Action Defense Committee.

Little was interviewed by two Toronto radio stations as well.

The final leg of her tour brought her home to Vancouver, where she met with Brad Lavigne, British Columbia chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students and a key organizer of student antiwar actions on February 21.

Little spoke at a public meeting organized by Curtis supporters on March 3. Greetings were sent from Jess Succamore, national secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Associa-



Militant/Luis Madrid  
Jailed unionist and political activist Mark Curtis.

tion of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers, and from Fred Wilson on behalf of the British Columbia Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Canada.

At the Vancouver meeting Frances McQueen, a member of Amnesty International, appealed for generous donations to the defense campaign. Bill Carr, an outspoken supporter of Curtis, did the same at the Toronto event.

As a result of mailings and phone calls to supporters throughout Canada, \$3,700 have been pledged to the current fund campaign of the defense committee. So far \$3,033 have been collected. To help finance the Geneva delegation and continuing expenses of the defense effort, the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, Iowa, is seeking to raise \$30,000 from supporters around the world.

One \$60 donation came from Grant McFarlane, a farmer from the province of Saskatchewan. "I'm proud to see you have not given up," he wrote. "This inspires me to help you help Mark."

To contribute to the fundraising effort send a donation to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

## Funds needed to publish 'New International'

The article you have been reading is one of several in *New International* No. 7 whose publication is being made possible by the New International Fund.

With a \$75,000 goal, the fund will help defray the costs of bringing out three issues of *New International* in the coming months, along with inaugural issues of *Nueva Internacional*, the magazine in Spanish, and *Nouvelle Internationale*, in French. Supporters in eight countries are organizing to make the fundraising drive a success.

Contributions may be sent to New International Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



# Federal bank fund in red as crisis grows

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) officials announced February 28 that the institution needs a \$30 billion infusion of funds in the face of the crisis of the banking system.

Because of an increase in bank failures, the insurance fund is expected to show a deficit of \$4 billion by the end of 1992.

The FDIC was created by the Banking Act of 1933 after the collapse of the banking system. The insurance fund has the authority to insure bank deposits in eligible banks against loss in the event of a bank failure. The FDIC also regulates certain banking practices. The fund's income comes from assessments on insured banks and from investments. The FDIC wants to borrow \$10 billion from the U.S. government or parts of the banking industry, and possibly increase its credit line from the Treasury Department by \$20 billion to guarantee the fund can continue to cover bank deposits.

Over the last several years attention has been focused on bankruptcies in the savings and loan industry. Increasingly, though, the crisis is hitting many small banks and some larger ones as well.

U.S. commercial banks carry out nearly \$2 trillion in transactions each day. Currently, the FDIC lists 1,046 banks that are vulnerable to failure. Federal regulators expect 180 to

producing states including Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, where there was a drastic drop in oil prices in 1986. Today, under the weakening commercial real estate market, the banking crunch is now shifting to the Northeast region.

During the first nine months of 1990, one in five Northeastern banks reported losses from real estate loans that became delinquent.

In many cases, bank examiners have concluded that bank loans backing real estate projects have declined in value along with the real estate itself. They have forced banks to write off many loans as a loss and build their reserves to cover future losses.

Thomas Hanley, an analyst at Salomon

Brothers, said recent increases in loan problems among larger banks "are especially alarming because they are showing up at the earliest stages of the recession but are already much greater than at the end of the 1981-82 recession."

Indeed, loans that were seriously delinquent equaled 2.65 percent of all bank assets in September 1990. Loans are considered delinquent when no payment is made in 90 days or full payment is no longer expected. At the end of the recession in 1982 the figure stood at 1.85 percent.

## 'Silent runs' protect big deposits

Big depositors who have access to information on the health of a bank protect their money by shifting their deposits from

one institution to another. "Depositors are looking at bank rankings and are going from weak banks to stronger banks," said James Moynihan, a bank analyst at Advest Inc. in Boston.

George Benston, an Emory University finance professor, explained to the *New York Times*, "The money stays in the banking system. Silent runs just redistribute money from risky to safe banks."

Federal government financial officials also emphasize they are mainly interested in saving the bigger banks. "There may be some banks, at some particular times, whose collapse and liquidation would be excessively disruptive to the financial system," Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, pointed out.

## Health-care cuts hit working-class poor

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Bush administration plans to cut billions of dollars from health-care programs will accelerate the deterioration of health care, especially among the poorest layer of the working class.

In New York State, for example, state and federal budget cuts planned for the coming year will lop off more than \$1 billion in Medicare and Medicaid funds from revenues of hospitals and nursing homes — a cutback of 5.5 percent.

Thousands of health-care workers will be laid off and patient services will be cut back. Some 220 private-nonprofit hospitals, 20 city hospitals, and 10 private hospitals, as well as 625 nursing homes, will be affected by the cuts.

The extent to which working people and the elderly rely on government health programs is shown by the fact that these hospitals get about two-thirds of their \$17 billion annual income from Medicare and Medicaid, while 80 to 90 percent of the nursing homes' revenues of \$3.8 billion come from Medicaid.

Hospital officials predict that some clinics and pharmacies will be closed, lines for treatment in emergency rooms and for hospital admission will get longer, plans to purchase new equipment will be abandoned, and some hospitals will be forced to file bankruptcy.

"These are the worst combined cuts we've ever seen," Kenneth Raske, president of the Greater New York Hospital Association, told a reporter.

### A brewing health catastrophe

The current cutbacks come on top of more than a decade of federal and state reductions in spending on health care. The results foreshadow a health catastrophe.

In the last three years health departments in a number of major cities have reported rising rates of tuberculosis, hepatitis A, syphilis, gonorrhea, measles, mumps, whooping cough, complicated ear infections, and AIDS.

Most of these diseases were considered virtually eradicated only five years ago after steady declines since the beginning of the century. Most do not appear in middle-class or wealthy neighborhoods.

In New York City, new cases of tuberculosis rose by more than 38 percent last year, almost four times the rate of increase in 1989. Central Harlem was hit hardest with a rate of new tuberculosis cases more than 23 times the national average.

According to the city's health department, homeless people account for 15 percent to 20 percent of the city's tuberculosis cases. Some researchers believe the rate is as high as 43 percent.

Blacks, 29 percent of the city's population, accounted for 58 percent of the cases last year. Tuberculosis struck 129 out of 100,000 Blacks. The rate for Hispanics was 71 per 100,000; for Asians 62; and for whites 15.

Newark, New Jersey, had a 35 percent annual increase in the number of new tuberculosis cases between 1988 and 1989. Since 1988, tuberculosis cases across the country have increased 15 percent.

The spread of AIDS among the most impoverished sections of the population has in part been responsible for the rising tuberculosis rate. The AIDS virus weakens the immune system, making individuals who carry it susceptible to tuberculosis and to spreading it.

Tuberculosis is caused by an airborne bacterium and is curable with medicines that are inexpensive. Failure to get treatment, however, can often be fatal. The disease went through a steady decline in the 1960s and 1970s, but cutbacks in programs to prevent it reversed the trend. It is now considered a nationwide health threat.

### Measles outbreak

Last year several hundred people were hospitalized in Los Angeles for measles. At least 30 people have died. The city has also had an outbreak of rubella, or German measles, which has left at least nine babies with serious birth defects.

There were no cases of measles in Philadelphia in 1988, but 266 cases in 1990, and 145 cases so far this year. New Jersey state officials declared a state of emergency at the beginning of February because 70 cases of measles had been reported.

A federal panel recently reported that a breakdown in the vaccination system caused what it called the country's "worst measles epidemic." More epidemics, the panel said, would occur unless changes are made.

Measles is a preventable disease, and was almost eradicated in 1983, when only 1,497 cases were reported. But seven years later, after budget cutbacks and the end of government monitoring of immunization programs, the number of measles cases soared to 30,000 and accounted for at least 60 deaths. The immunization rate among pre-school youth today may now be as low as 50 percent.

Washington, D.C., recently witnessed a three-year mumps outbreak. The city reported more than 200 cases in 1988 and 1989, after reporting less than a half a dozen cases a year for the previous 10 years.

More than 1,000 babies in New York City were born with congenital syphilis in 1988, the most recent year for which statistics are available. The number is up from only 16 in 1982.

## Ruling says undocumented workers covered by antidiscrimination laws

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

In a February 20 decision Federal District Judge Robert Coyle ruled that undocumented workers have the right to bring lawsuits against their employer for racial or sexual discrimination.

Coyle, of the Eastern District of California in Sacramento, said Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination by employers on the basis of race or sex, applies to workers who entered the country without papers.

The ruling is a result of an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission suit filed in 1987 on behalf of Alicia Castrejón, an undocumented worker from Mexico. Management at Tortillería La Mejor, a tortilla factory in California's San Joaquin Valley, had refused to reinstate her as promised after a pregnancy leave. Castrejón is seeking to get the return of her job along with back pay.

Company owners based their arguments on the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 which prohibits the employment of undocumented workers. The purposes of the

legislation would be undermined, they said, if workers were entitled to bring civil lawsuits under federal law charging discrimination in the workplace.

Judge Coyle said, however, that "Congress did not intend that the Immigration Act amend or repeal any of the previously legislated protections of the federal labor and employment laws accorded to aliens, documented or undocumented, including the protections of Title VII."

Responding to the victory for workers' rights, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) lawyer Douglas Farmer said, "Our investigators won't have to check the immigration status of every case that comes in the doors — be a mini-Immigration and Naturalization Service." The EEOC receives more than 100,000 complaints filed under Title VII each year.

Francisco García, a lawyer with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said the ruling appeared to cover all undocumented workers, not simply those applying for amnesty under the 1986 immigration law.



Cutbacks will mean thousands of health-care workers will be laid off. Funds for nursing homes, Medicare, and Medicaid will be cut.

## FDIC fund needs billions from U.S. government to guarantee deposits.

fail this year, but a *New York Times* study showed that 252 are of "serious concern." There are a total of 12,926 banks in the United States.

While the 10 largest banking companies, including Citicorp, BankAmerica, Chase Manhattan, Chemical Banking, and First Interstate Bancorp, continue to be rated "inherently sound," their stocks have dropped by 50 percent or more in the last 15 months. In addition, industry analysts point out that reserves of 8 of the 10 banking companies are lower than the possible loan losses the reserves are set aside to cover.

### 'Runs' on Bank of New England

When reports surfaced that the Bank of New England was failing in early January, depositors withdrew nearly a billion dollars over a two-day period. "Nobody could know what was going to happen when the Bank of New England started to shake. There were honest-to-goodness runs," said Paul Samuelson, a Nobel laureate in economics who was in downtown Boston when it became public the bank was insolvent.

As the sudden run on the bank started to spill over on other banks in New England, the FDIC granted a \$2.3 billion bailout to the Bank of New England and guaranteed all the bank's deposits, even ones that exceeded the FDIC's limit of \$100,000.

Also in January thousands of people in Rhode Island tried to withdraw their money from the 45 credit unions and banks covered by a private deposit insurance company that went bankrupt only to find the institutions closed and the deposits frozen. According to the March 6 *Wall Street Journal*, crowds of depositors formed outside the closed doors, while state troopers stood by to "maintain order."

About half of the Rhode Island institutions qualified for federal deposit insurance, and eventually reopened. But others remain shut down. More than \$1 billion in deposits is currently frozen.

### Harlem's Freedom National Bank

When the Freedom National Bank in Harlem headed for failure last November, the FDIC decided to liquidate the bank. Unlike the FDIC decision to pay in full Bank of New England's uninsured depositors, Freedom National bank's uninsured depositors received only 50 cents on the dollar from the fund.

While FDIC Chairman L. William Seidman attempts to dismiss any notion there is a banking crisis, he admits "in certain areas of the country there is real stress."

Past bank failures were centered in oil-



## ARIZONA

### Phoenix

**Los Mineros.** Video. The fight by Mexican copper miners in Arizona for a union and against discrimination. Speaker: Judy White, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers District 65. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**Discussion Series on the Fight against Imperialism and War. "The Cuban Revolution."** Wed., March 27, 6:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### San Francisco

**The Drought and the Government's Manipulation of the Water Shortage.** Speaker: Arnold Weissberg, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Sun., March 24, 6:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 451-6147.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Panama: One Year after the Invasion.** Speakers: Onofre Alphonse, former Panamanian diplomat; John Donohue, former Panamanian resident; John Votava, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308. Sat., March 23, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

**Socialist Workers Windup Campaign Rally.** Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sat., March 30, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**Recession: How Can Working People Confront the Layoffs, Cutbacks, and Other Effects of the Capitalist Economic Crisis?** Speaker: Glen Swanson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Baltimore city comptroller, member United Steelworkers. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Forum donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

**Current Stage in the Struggle against Apartheid in South Africa.** Panel discussion. Sat., March 30. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Forum donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**The New Stage of the U.S. War in the Middle East.** Speaker: Russell Davis, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

**The War at Home.** Speaker: Christopher Hedges, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Boston, member International Association of Machinists Local 1726. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

**Lessons for Today's Antiwar Fighters from Past Movements against War.** Class, discussion. Thurs., March 21, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

**Attacks on Democratic Rights in Times of War.** Speaker to be announced. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**Malcolm X Talks to Young People.** Discussion series. Every Wed. in March, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

## NEBRASKA

### Omaha

**Crisis in the Soviet Union and the Soviet Role in the Gulf War.** Speaker: George Chalmers, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council District 4, member United Food and Commercial Workers. Sat., March 23, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**After the Battle.** Video documentary on Cuba's role in defeating the South African apartheid regime's assault on Angola. Sun., March 24, 5:30 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**The Philadelphia Budget Crisis: Is There a Solution?** Speakers: Lance Haver, Consumer Party; Kathy Mickells, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

**The Struggle for Korean Unification. Explosive Fight for National Liberation.** Speaker: Doug Jenness, recently visited North and South Korea on *Militant* reporting trip; Nebraster Bowman, Korean War veteran, human rights activist. Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

### Pittsburgh

**Panama: One Year after the U.S. Invasion.** Video and speaker. Sat., March 23, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

**Help Poor Women Obtain Safe, Legal Abortions.** March and rally. Sun., April 21. Assembly: noon, Civic Arena; march: 1 p.m., Freedom Corner; rally: 2 p.m., Market Square. Sponsor: Women's Health Services. Tel: (412) 562-1900.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**The Roots of the War in the Middle East.** Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-591. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

**The Fight for Women's Rights Today.** Sat., March 30, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

## Price

**U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!** Speaker: Tony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council. Sat., March 23, 7 p.m. 253 E Main. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (801) 637-6294.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Morgantown

**War in the Gulf: Impact on World Politics.** Speakers: Clare Fraenzl, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Morgantown city council; Linda Joyce, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Charleston. Sat., March 23, reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

**Revolutionary Cuba Today: Cuba's Role in the Fight against the War in the Middle East.** Slideshow. Speaker: Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party, visited Cuba, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

**Trade Unions in the Era of Wars and Depression.** Speaker: Linda Harris, Communist League. Sat., March 23, 4 p.m. 19 Terry St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: 02-281 3297.

## BRITAIN

### London

**Birmingham Six: A Victory for Working People.** Speakers: Birmingham Six Campaign (invited); Families of Tottenham Three; Brian Grogan, Communist League prospective parliamentary candidate for Vauxhall and member Amalgamated Engineering Union. Fri., March 22, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: 071-401 2409.

# Socialist blasts beating

## Continued from Page 2

ing in the interests of the billionaire families whom he serves. More police repression is the response of the ruling rich here and nationally to the economic crisis of their system.

It is not by accident that President George Bush commended Daryl Gates as an "all-American hero" at a recent national meeting of cops.

Cop brutality here at home goes hand in hand with the massacre by U.S. forces of tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians and fleeing Iraqi troops ordered by Bush. It shows what is in store for working people as the crisis of capitalism deepens.

In his recent speech to Congress, Bush outlined his domestic program. At the top of his list: fighting crime. For working people this means more cops, more jails, more brutality, and attacks on democratic rights.

This is the response of the ruling rich to rising unemployment, social decay, and depression conditions in many working-class neighborhoods.

Their intention is to make us pay for the crisis of *their* system. They are attacking our

unions and cutting our wages. They are cutting funds for schools and community colleges. And they don't want us to fight back.

The increase in police brutality and the attacks on striking workers (such as the assault on striking janitors in Century City several months ago) are aimed at intimidating us and forcing us to submit to their assault.

What we need, and what I am campaigning for, are real solutions to this crisis: a public works program to put the unemployed to work, an end to cutbacks in social services, and implementing affirmative action programs with quotas.

We point to the need for a labor party — that is, a political party based on our unions. Such a party is an essential tool for working people to organize to fight in our own interests.

Working people need a united response to the attacks against us. We need to build solidarity with strikes against employer attacks. And we should have a united response to police attacks that have targeted Blacks, Chicanos, Samoans, youth, immigrants, and striking workers. The protests being organized now are a step in that direction.

## CANADA

### Montréal

**The Lessons of World War II for Today.** Speaker: Mary-Ellen Marcus, Communist League. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière/Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

### Toronto

**Anti-Free-Trade Campaign: A Nationalist Trap for Working People.** Speaker: Gary Kettner, Communist League, member United Steelworkers of America Local 8754. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

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**Report from South Africa. The Fight Against Apartheid Today.** Speaker: George Lai Thom, chairperson, British Columbia unit of African National Congress of South Africa. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

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**No comment** — The United States will be providing medical treatment for two children who were victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.



Harry Ring

clear disaster. Meanwhile, Cuba is providing medical treatment to 1,400 stricken Chernobyl children.

**Not to hurry** — The emir of Kuwait speculated to reporters that he might extend voting rights to women. "It's not in the constitu-

tion," he noted, "but there's always the possibility to think about it in the future."

**When accompanied by a grandparent?** — Currently, voting rights in Kuwait are restricted to those literate male adults who can prove Kuwaiti ancestry before 1920.

**The greening of Mexico City** — The air in Mexico City is among the world's most polluted and respiratory infections are the top cause of death. Now, 25 booths have been set up in the center of the city where, for one minute, residents can breathe pure oxygen. Only 25 booths for a huge city? Hey, no problem — the fee is just

under \$2, a good part of a day's pay for many Mexican workers.

**He sees your problem** — "Sometimes you lose your job, maybe you've got to sell your boat." — California's Sen. John Seymour.

**Just what they need** — Cashing in on a Soviet cigarette shortage, Philip Morris and RJR Nabisco will ship 34 billion of the coffin nails there this year. Philip Morris said they were answering "a call for help." Meanwhile, a Moscow cancer researcher reported that among those dying between ages 35-59, a third were tobacco-related.

**Them golden bars** — "A boom in prison construction, including a few privately owned. It's the only

part of the building industry that's doing really well." — The *Kiplinger* business letter.

**Aid to dependent Senators** — At Louisiana State University, the daughter of U.S. Senator John Breaux received a tuition waiver for each of the past three semesters. A school official said he's known the senator for years and felt he was in financial need. A senator scrapes by on \$95,000 a year, plus.

**So \$1 less** — Norwood Cooperative, a Boston-area bank, is charging patrons \$1 a question, up front. An official said tellers were wasting valuable time answering such non-productive questions as, "What's my balance?"

**Lifelike** — *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist Clark DeLeon reports that a Penn State prof organized a Monopoly game in which the students were staked with unequal amounts of money representing the distribution of wealth in society. Not unexpectedly, the rich garnered a hefty share of the property, the middle-class squeaked by and the poor got creamed.

**Thought for the week** — "If you leave your farm to your kids nowadays, they'll arrest you for child abuse." — Ed Hansen, a farmer at a demonstration at the Colorado state capitol protesting the desperate plight of farmers.

## Workers' protests sweep eastern part of Germany

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Protest strikes, factory occupations, and demonstrations swept the eastern part of Germany at the end of February as tens of thousands of workers demanded wage increases and protection against growing unemployment. The actions were called by IG Metall, the industrial union which includes engineers, machinists, auto workers, and steelworkers.

"We are not second-class citizens," said a banner at a rally in Frankfurt, where a large electronics plant faces shutdown. Some 20,000 workers launched short protest strikes in the northern states of Mecklenburg and Brandenburg. They demanded that wages in the east be increased to 65 percent of wage rates in the west.

Shipbuilding workers in Rostock held a day of protests. "Billions for war, but a kick in the rear for us," said a banner held aloft by workers. The Bonn government pledged \$11 billion to the U.S.-led war against Iraq, but has been reluctant to bail out failing nationalized industries in east Germany.

Rostock's five shipyards have been particularly hard hit ever since orders from the Soviet Union, accounting for 60 percent of their production, were canceled. The shipbuilding industry, like others in the east, has been unable to compete in the capitalist market for new orders and now faces collapse.

In Leipzig, Erfurt, and other cities more than 100,000 workers took part in the largest demonstrations since 1989, when massive mobilizations brought down the Stalinist-led regime. Leipzig was a center of that struggle.

Airline workers protested the planned March 8 shutdown of the state-owned airline Interflug in the east. The government was forced by the protests to postpone the closing of the carrier until later this year.

### Price increases and unemployment

On January 1, east Germans faced a doubling or more of the costs of daily necessities — rent, oil, and transit fares. But wages increased only 10 to 20 percent.

Unemployment caused by plant closures and industry cutbacks has reached 2.6 million, an increase of 200,000 in one month. Economics Minister Jürgen Möllemann predicted that if current trends continue, 3 million of eastern Germany's 8.9

million workers could lose their jobs this year.

The government-run trust that oversees nationalized industries in east Germany was forced to make concessions after the round of protests. Wages for many workers were increased to as much as 64 percent of the wages paid workers in the west. The government also guaranteed wage parity by 1994.

Germany was reunified in October 1990 after being divided into east and west for 45 years. Following World War II, allied powers — Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States — divided a defeated Germany. Germany's imperialist rivals occupied the west. Soviet troops occupied the east, where capitalist property relations were overturned and basic industry was nationalized.

In 1989, massive protests across East Germany shattered the Stalinist Communist Party, known as the Socialist Unity Party. The popular mobilizations broke down the police-state strictures imposed on working people by the regime for several decades. This victory opened the road to the reunification of Germany.

The prospect of reunification was heralded by the capitalist press and politicians as a victory for capitalism over socialism. With the changes in East Germany, they said, capitalism would quickly be reintroduced and produce the second *Wirtschaftswunder* (economic miracle) of the post-World War II era. The first, they claimed, was West Germany's economic recovery after the war.

In July 1990, monetary union was established with the West German mark becoming the common currency. Prices for many basic goods and food stuffs, previously subsidized by the East German government, rose dramatically, some to levels existing in the west. Workers' wages in the east, however, remained substantially lower than western wage rates.

The state-run trust to oversee nationalized industries in the east and sell them off to capitalist owners and corporations was established with reunification. The trust was also charged with dismantling factories and industries that could not be sold or could not compete in the capitalist market.

### Miracle fails to materialize

But the hoped-for economic miracle has



"The copper-silver smelting works must live or there will be 1,400 unemployed," reads sign.

failed to materialize. Capitalist property relations have not been restored in east Germany and few capitalists have been willing to invest in the region.

The economic crisis and impending collapse now unfolding in the east are not the result of the imposition of capitalism, but are the product of decades of bureaucratic mismanagement by the previous Stalinist regime. The collapse has been accelerated by the breakdown of trade with eastern Ger-

many's traditional trading partners, the Soviet Union and countries in Eastern Europe, whose economies are experiencing similar crises.

On February 12 Chancellor Helmut Kohl approved more than \$3 billion in emergency financial aid to the east. Leaders of the five eastern states had earlier gone to Bonn, the capital, to appeal to the federal government for massive subsidies. They warned of increased instability and civil unrest if funds were not forthcoming to subsidize heat, water, and oil. The five states are on the verge of bankruptcy and are expected to post a combined budget deficit of \$34 billion.

"We underestimated the dimension of the problems," Möllemann told the press. "Now, we have to act. Producing unified living conditions is going to last longer and be more difficult than some optimists, including myself, originally believed."

Two weeks later Kohl announced taxes on income and fuel would be increased to raise \$18 billion in large part to help subsidize the east's economy. The chancellor made it clear that the tax measure was necessary to head off an even greater wave of protests around July 1, when massive layoffs are expected in the east.

More than \$70 billion had already been allocated for 1991 for aiding the eastern part of the country. Some capitalist economists predict that Bonn will have to pour more than \$1 trillion in funds into the east over the next decade.

This financial drain is putting Germany's economy under strain. Much of the \$70 billion earmarked for the eastern region was borrowed on world capital markets. The Kohl government had originally hoped that large borrowing, together with yet-to-materialize heavy investment in east Germany by private businesses and corporations, would rescue the failing economy in the east.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People  
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LOS ANGELES — Another anguished cry of frustration and bitterness welled up from Watts March 15 and for a few tense hours the city seemed to teeter on the brink of a new uprising. Like the events of last August, the arrest of a Negro youth was the spark that ignited the tension-charged atmosphere of the ghetto. A chain reaction of shooting, burning, and beating followed. In six explosive hours two men were killed, 26 injured, nine businesses burned, and six homes set afire.

The Tuesday night explosion, however, was not a repetition of last August's massive uprising of the ghetto. No more than 600 mostly high school and out-of-school youth, surged into the streets. They were coming out of school when a boy was arrested, allegedly for throwing a rock at a white teacher's car. In the six hours of turmoil that followed the great mass of the Negro people stayed home.

Despite this evidence of restraint, city and state officials moved as though an insurrection were taking place. The National Guard

was alerted, and hundreds of police were rushed to Watts. Watts was barricaded off to all outsiders, and scores of squad cars cruised the streets, crammed with cops, shotguns protruding through the windows. Besides the uniformed police, men in civilian clothes stood about with deadly riot guns over their shoulders.

### THE MILITANT

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

March 29, 1941

The opening of the "Battle of the Atlantic" raises to the forefront the next step in U.S. war participation. Passage of the Lend-Lease Law and the seven billion dollar appropriations to give it effect brought this country to the point where the next step could easily be active involvement of the armed forces in the conflict. That next step may lie just ahead.

The newspapers are already preparing the ground and so is the Gallup Poll. This is obvious logic in the argument that if the country is going to spend seven billion dollars for war supplies it is not going to permit those supplies to be sent to the bottom by Hitler's sea raiders. This is simply the "logic" of the involvement of U.S. imperialism in the war.



Members of the IG Metall union block Berlin street



## End occupation of Iraq!

The United States government and its allies should immediately withdraw all forces from Iraqi territory and lift the devastating embargo they have imposed against the people of the country.

The presence of 100,000 U.S. troops in southern Iraq, the flights of military aircraft over Iraqi territory, the bullying threats against the Iraqi regime to force compliance with Washington's dictates, and the setting of harsh terms for a permanent cease-fire are all part of the U.S. government's merciless brutalization of the Iraqi people and gross violations of their national sovereignty.

The March 19 *New York Times* reported that the five permanent members the United Nations Security Council — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States — are working on a new resolution for a cease-fire with Iraq. The terms reportedly up the ante. It includes demands for massive reparations and that the United States be allowed to intervene in the internal affairs of Iraq under the cover of overseeing the destruction of Iraqi chemical and biological weapons.

Washington's public relations strategy has been to paint its moves as being aimed solely at Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. But the U.S. government's actions expose this charade and further reveal that Washington is an imperialist power that cold-bloodedly and mercilessly pursues its interests.

The Iraqi people are the main victims of the U.S. government's war and economic blockade. This has been true from the beginning, when the embargo that included food and medicine was imposed, when the massive bombing against civilian centers took place, when the slaughter of

tens of thousands of retreating Iraqi GIs was carried out, and today as epidemics and other social catastrophes erupt from the devastation rained on the country during the war.

The U.S. imperialist rulers have arrogantly and callously dismissed humanitarian aid. They have been forced to agree to minimal humanitarian gestures toward the Iraqi people.

Washington has done everything to make it as difficult as possible for Iraqi workers and peasants to assert and fight for their interests and self-determination. In many parts of Iraq people have been reduced to a struggle for a daily existence. This suits the U.S. rulers just fine, because they still hope to impose a subservient regime in Baghdad and establish a bastion to protect imperialist interests in the region.

The continued presence of U.S. and allied forces in the region also provides cover for the reactionary Kuwaiti monarchy to viciously victimize Palestinian workers trapped there. The bases in Saudi Arabia strengthen the hand of the Saudi royal family in their efforts to maintain their rule. The imperialist armadas in the Gulf are a club aimed at toilers in the region and their right to self-determination and freedom.

Working people in the United States and around the world need to reject Washington and its allies' lies and reach out in solidarity with the people of Iraq, the Palestinians, and working people throughout the region. The best way to do this is to demand that U.S. and allied forces get out of Iraq and the Middle East, and lift the embargo against the Iraqi people now.

## Mural attack hits free speech

The attack on the Pathfinder Mural in New York City is an assault on freedom of expression and should be widely condemned by working people and other supporters of democratic rights, opponents of censorship, and defenders of freedom of speech.

The six-story mural is a landmark work of art that belongs to not only the 80-some artists who participated in its creation, but working people the world over whose just struggles for emancipation the mural depicts. The giant mural highlights the revolutionary leaders of the working class that have emerged out of the battles it has engaged in for its liberation. Leaders such as Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Ernesto Che Guevara, Maurice Bishop, Karl Marx, and Frederick Engels.

The centerpiece of the mural is a quote by Cuban leader Fidel Castro: "The truth must not only be the truth, it must also be told." It was the portrait of Castro, painted by noted Cuban artist Aldo Soler Avila, that was most damaged in the attack.

And it is those words of Castro that best illustrate what Pathfinder is — a publishing house committed to getting out the truth, in the words of those who fight, about the international struggle of working people.

The intent of the attack on the Pathfinder Mural is to stop the truth from becoming known about the battles of workers and rural toilers against the employing class at home and abroad.

The assault is cut from the same cloth as attempts by the government to restrict the rights of working people during their bloody war against Iraq. Throughout the war Washington imposed press censorship to prevent the truth about their imperialist aims and brutal actions from being exposed to the scrutiny of millions of working people. At home, allied governments gave the green light to their secret police and spy departments to interrogate and intimidate Arabs, Arab-Americans, and others during the war drive.

## Reject German-bashing

The German-bashing whipped up by the imperialist ruling families in the United States and Britain during their war against Iraq is a danger to workers and farmers the world over. It should be decisively rejected.

The anti-German campaign, carried out by the big-business media as well, is aimed at further dividing the world's working people. It dehumanizes German workers and makes them appear different from workers and farmers in the United States, Britain, or Iraq, and it portrays them as our enemies.

Washington and London paint a picture of a Germany with no contending classes — no workers, farmers, or ruling rich — just Germans. This picture is as false in Germany as in any other imperialist country. A centerpiece of this campaign is promotion of the idea that there are so-called national German character traits. But what these character traits are changes with the needs of the ruling rich in the United States.

Before the U.S.-led war against Iraq, Germans were portrayed as warlike and aggressive; this reflected the fear of Germany's increasing economic power relative to the other imperialist powers. During the war, when Washington and London wished to extort as much money as possible from Germany to further their war aims, the Germans were pictured as penny-pinching cowards. The Israeli government got in on the act, calling Germans anti-Semitic and demanding compensation from Germany for Iraqi scud missile attacks.

German-bashing is promoted by Wall Street to enable it

Thus, some onus for the attack on the Pathfinder Mural must be placed on the government because of the rights-restricting probes and actions it undertakes.

The idea that Pathfinder continued to print the truth during the course of the imperialist war, continued to work to make available its books and pamphlets to as wide an audience as possible, and continued to get an enthusiastic response from young people, workers, farmers, GIs, and others is an idea that became intolerable to those who do not believe there should be freedom of debate and discussion.

It is precisely during imperialist war when printing the truth becomes ever more important. Pathfinder redoubled its efforts to rapidly make available in two languages the speeches of leaders of the Cuban government in the United Nations who consistently stood opposed to and exposed the aims of the U.S. government's aggression in the Mideast. First in pamphlet form, then as an expanded book, Pathfinder's *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* was published as Washington geared up for the invasion of Iraq. Pathfinder aggressively worked to distribute it widely.

The words of another outspoken internationalist and revolutionary working-class leader, Malcolm X, were also published in a new edition by Pathfinder during the war drive. The book *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* features a portrait of Malcolm X painted on the Pathfinder Mural by a well-known New York artist.

Because of the content of the Pathfinder Mural — the portrayal of the struggles of the working class against the oppressor class — the attack on the public work of art, aimed at those opposed to government policy, is a serious one with high stakes.

We call on all of our readers and other working people to join with others who are outraged at this assault and to condemn the attack on the Pathfinder Mural.

to utilize its enormous military advantage and compensate for its relative economic decline in relation to Berlin.

Many workers have learned to recognize this type of chauvinism when it is carried out against Japan. They see through the racist anti-Japanese propaganda that the imperialist bosses put forward. The goals with Germany are exactly the same.

The imperialists seek to make workers and farmers in the United States and Britain more open to the protectionist economic measures carried out by their own capitalist rulers against their German rivals, as the competition between the different imperialist powers deepens. These measures work against all working people.

The propaganda campaign also justifies the world cop role of the U.S. government as it seeks to maintain its imperial dominance and the right to intervene militarily wherever the U.S. rulers deem necessary.

Working people should not forget that thousands of U.S. troops remain stationed on German soil, and that it was these troops who helped to maintain the division of Germany.

All working people should recognize and reject the chauvinist anti-German campaign. It is aimed at strengthening the hand of the same capitalist families who are waging war on the standard of living and working conditions of workers at home. Workers and farmers have no interest in supporting them. Our stance should be in solidarity with working people in Germany and against the imperialist war makers.

## Building a party of communist workers

In this week's Learning About Socialism column we are reprinting excerpts from a report adopted at the 1985 convention of the Socialist Workers Party. Entitled "The Revolutionary Perspective and Leninist Continuity in the United States," the resolution is printed in *New International* no. 4.

The excerpts center on the building of a party of communist workers based in the industrial trade unions. A more complete record of the reports, discussions, and decisions on the SWP's turn to the industrial unions and the changes in world politics that necessitated shifts in its work, is available in *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*,

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

by Jack Barnes. The book examines the process of building a party of socialist workers in a world of imperialist war, economic crisis, and assaults on the unions. Both publications are available from Pathfinder, 410 West St. New York, NY 10014.

An essential part of the strategic line of march toward the establishment of a workers' and farmers' government in the United States is the fight for the transformation of the industrial unions — the most powerful existing organizations of the working class — into revolutionary instruments of class struggle for the interests of the exploited and oppressed.

During the long postwar period of capitalist expansion, political conditions in the United States stood in the way of effective revolutionary work by socialists in the industrial unions. The political and economic situation that opened in the mid-1970s made it possible once again for communists to advance this fight from within the industrial unions. This dictated a sharp turn. The SWP decided to get a large and stable majority of its members into the industrial unions and to build national fractions of its members in these unions.

The goal of the turn is a large majority of party members and leaders in industrial union jobs and effectively functioning national industrial union fractions. National fractions strengthen the party as a nationwide, politically centralized force. Party members who belong to each of these industrial unions meet together regularly as a fraction in the local area, and hold frequent meetings of the national fraction. Local industrial union fractions elect a fraction leadership. The party's goal is for all of the national industrial union fractions to be able to develop sufficient size, stability, and common experience for them to elect their own national leaderships. This process requires direct attention to the work of the fractions by the central leadership of the party, as well as continuing steps to advance the integration of comrades in the industrial union fractions into the leadership of the party's work as a whole.

From the beginning, building national fractions in the industrial unions has been linked to efforts to deepen the education of the party in our political continuity with the modern communist workers' movement — from its founding in the middle of the last century to its most recent qualitative strengthening with the emergence of the Cuban Marxist leadership, and its further reinforcement by the leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution and the team that was led by Maurice Bishop in Grenada.

Simultaneously with the turn, the party relaunched its leadership school, which focuses on studying the birth and development of the working-class political program and the efforts by Marx and Engels to build proletarian parties and a proletarian International. The party also projected the publication of a political magazine, *New International*, in collaboration with the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada. In 1981 the branches began organizing classes on the political works of Lenin as the central axis of our branch educational activities.

The increasingly multinational character of the working class in the United States, which is reflected in our own recruitment of more members whose first language is Spanish, has posed more sharply the need for the party as a whole to be able to function politically in Spanish as well as English. Circulation of *Perspectiva Mundial*, the biweekly Spanish-language voice of revolutionary Marxism in the United States, has become a regular aspect of sales on the job and at plant gates, as well as at political events and elsewhere. Learning Spanish is a daily part of the leadership school. Many branches have found ways to help us study and improve our ability to speak Spanish. Bilingual leaflets and translation of forums and election campaign meetings into Spanish have become regular features of party functioning in a number of branches.

The party's political work in the industrial unions takes as its starting point the world class struggle, the crisis of the international capitalist economy and imperialist world order, and their manifestations in this country. It is these forces that establish the conditions under which the struggle to defend, strengthen, and transform the unions takes place. It is only with this broader perspective — not the narrow framework of union politics — that the road can be charted toward constructing a class-struggle left wing in the labor movement, whose goal will be the transformation of the unions into instruments of revolutionary struggle against the employers and their government.



# 'I was swatting flames off my head,' says miner

This column is dedicated to reporting resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and

in flames," said Jerry Sandoval, describing an explosion at the Golden Eagle Coal Mine in southern Colorado February 27.

Peering through slits in a head bandage, and talking through another slit for his mouth, Sandoval told how he had to follow a plastic water pipe and rib line (mine wall)

citations for danger relating to combustibles. MSHA further revealed that compared to the 1990 national average of 15.99 injuries per 200,000 hours worked, the figure at the Golden Eagle was nearly twice that at 23.48.

Miners are unsure of the exact cause of this accident. Several said that the only way to have a safe mine is to depend on union-organized safety training plus "really staying on our toes in the face of the companies' push for production."

Unocal Corporation fired Aamer Sattar, a worker at Unocal Chemical in Rodeo, California, November 16.

Sattar moved to the United States from Sri Lanka with his family 12 years ago. Sattar is of Arab, Indian, and Pakistani descent. Since he began working at Unocal in March 1990 he has faced an incessant campaign of racist harassment led by his foreman, John Forbes. Forbes and some of Sattar's coworkers repeatedly charged him with being on drugs; called him stupid; a "rag-head"; a "camel jockey"; and other racist epithets. They refused to train him and interfered with him as he operated machinery.

The harassment of Sattar intensified as the U.S. began its war drive

against Iraq in early August.

On November 9 a worker threw a handful of petroleum coke in Sattar's face as he drove by on a water truck. Sattar defended himself. Both men were sent home. The attacker was suspended for three days for a "safety violation"; Sattar was fired for "fighting on the job."

Sattar's union, Local 528 of the International Association of Machinists, filed a grievance protesting the firing, saying Sattar was provoked. Stating that the problem does not exist, Unocal refused to discuss the issue of racist harassment. The U.S. government's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission told Sattar that they will not open an investigation of his case for at least two months.

Sattar has asked supporters of the effort to win back his job to write protest letters to Richard Stegemeier, Chairman, Unocal Corp., 1201 W. 5th St., Box 60455, Los Angeles, California 90060 and William Bowles, Unocal Chemical Contra Costa Plant, 2101 Franklin Canyon Rd., Rodeo, California 94572.

Picket lines went up February 15 at an industrial complex housing Argo-tech and Technautics, two military hardware plants in Euclid, Ohio. United Auto Workers Local

2262 organizes 800 workers at both facilities.

Argo-tech and Technautics manufacture parts for Sidewinder missiles and Mark 40 and 50 torpedoes. The plants are located just outside Cleveland.

"We want to get rid of the two-tier wage scale in our last contract," said Ira, a middle-aged Black striker. Workers hired under the second tier make about \$2 an hour less than those with more seniority. Under the contract second-tier workers never reach the higher pay scale.

The first morning of the strike management personnel were prevented from entering the plant by mass pickets blocking the entrances. Later that day, the companies obtained a restraining order that limited pickets to two at each gate. Strikers say the strike could be a long one.

The old contract expired two weeks before the walkout. A federal mediator participated in the negotiations.

The companies withdrew proposed takebacks in medical coverage after a spontaneous walkout a few days prior to the strike action.

Mike Keller from Trinidad, Colorado; Ruth Cheney and Jim Altemberg from San Francisco; and Margaret Husk from Cleveland contributed to this column.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

safety benefits. Unionists faced with steep takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves by the employers have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other Militant readers know what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that, too.

"I heard something loud like a slamming door and felt two gusts of air. The next thing I knew I was swatting flames off my head. I could see my hair and my skin going down

out of the mine in pitch black conditions after his head lamp was blown off.

Miners in the area say the Golden Eagle mine has a reputation for being a gassy mine, but they had felt reassured because inspectors had been around weekly and sometimes daily. The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) reported that while the mine produces 6,000 tons of coal a day, it releases 6 million cubic feet of methane gas at the same time.

Eleven miners were injured in the blast, four of them in serious to critical condition. One miner with possible chemical pneumonia remains on a respirator.

MSHA officials say there were 103 citations on record over the four and a half months that led up to the explosion. These include 11 incidents of ventilation hazards and 18

## LETTERS

### More on Egypt, Iran

I really liked the recent article on Turkey. I found it informative and useful.

I'd like to see more articles about the region. For example, on Egypt — why the U.S. gives so much aid to Egypt. Also on Iran. I'm curious about the political situation there and the basis for their behavior during the war.

S.F.  
San Francisco, California

### Cuba on Gulf

I'd like to see more union articles. Thanks for your coverage of the Cuban statements during the Persian Gulf crisis.

R.Q.  
Erie, Pennsylvania

### World thug

I resent and reject how international law has been used against Iraq.

What does international law say about the atrocities that America committed against the civilians of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? What does international law say about how the United States poisoned Southeast Asia with Agent Orange, the untold cancer which results from American-made chemicals, and the extermination of wildlife caused by the American genocide against nature?

The international outlaw is not Iraq. The world thug is the United States of America.

A reader  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

### For united Yugoslavia

Please write something on Yugoslavia.

I'm suggesting that all the Yugoslavian people — from Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Macedonia — should stay united in one nation which is called Yugoslavia. They were united in 1918 and in 1946, when a progressive government was established.

It is wrong for the federal premier to have followed for nearly two years a procapitalist policy of aligning the country with the Common Market, Germany in

particular. It has cost the workers dearly: an 18 percent decline in living standards and growth in unemployment.

By staying united, all the Yugoslavian people could establish a much better government, which would improve the standard of living for the whole working class of Yugoslavia.

Lewis Vukman  
San Gabriel, California

### Aid to Israel

Israel suffered little damage after a second Scud missile attack during the war against Iraq. Israel did, however, choose this very same day to ask Washington for \$13 billion. This amounts to extortion for tax money paid by the working people of the United States.

Israel announced that this money was needed for defense and resettlement of Russian Jewish immigrants. Only a few have asked the question: resettlement to where? The answer, of course, is to the homeland of the Palestinian people.

Israel is shameless in its demand for tax dollars paid by the workers of the U.S. to finance its war against the Palestinians and other Muslim peoples.

For more information, read the Pathfinder pamphlet *Israel's War Against the Palestinian People*.

Jonathan Walker  
Salt Lake City, Utah

### Ticker-tape parade

Please renew my subscription to the *only* publication I can rely on to honestly and fearlessly report the truth about all economic and political issues, particularly the ghastly situation in the Middle East.

I've just heard that in New York City in May there is to be "the biggest ticker-tape parade in the city's history to celebrate the glorious U.S. victory in Iraq and to cheer the heroism of Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell."

How I yearn to see the focus of that parade (unfortunately unpreventable) turn to mourning the dead and maimed and terrorized innocents of that abused region and the appalling destruction of the environment, which Bush the crusader began with

his command to "Bombard!"

Ruth Manning  
Westport, Connecticut

### 'Militant' clarifies

Keep up the struggle. It is increasingly important in these economically hard times to get the message out re: U.S. imperialism and working-class issues.

We rely on the *Militant* to clarify world events from historic and economic points of view. The article on why the Sandinistas lost the election in Nicaragua was excellent and much needed as we were very confused and disappointed.

A.H.  
Yellowknife, Canada

### Don't change format

I've enclosed payment for fifteen copies of the *Militant*. I am trying to sell them at a vigil protesting the war that takes place in downtown Charlottesville once a week on Friday afternoons. This past Friday I sold six copies.

For myself, I depend on the paper. A minor comment about format — don't change or experiment with it unless you have a very good reason to. The format is straightforward and consistent, reflecting the paper's integrity and reliability.

M. A.  
Charlottesville, Virginia

### French writer case

The French government is trying to prosecute writer Gilles Perrault, accusing him of calling for a "desertion" from the armed forces and advocating "sabotage of the French war machine."

Perrault is well known for his stand against the death penalty, his fight for human rights, and for the abolition of the Third World debt. The government made the charges against him after he made statements opposing the war on Iraq and French involvement in it at a January 24 news conference.

On January 25, the minister of justice called for an investigation of Perrault, based on an 1881 law against inciting disobedience in the armed forces. The penalty is



1 to 5 years in jail and up to a \$60,000 fine.

In his latest book, *Notre ami le Roi* [Our friend the king], Perrault denounced violations of human rights in Morocco and French government aid over the years to the regime in that country.

Since the opening of the war against Iraq, Perrault's efforts to speak on Morocco have been more and more blocked. On February 20, the mayor of Rouen denied the municipal hall for a meeting where the author was to speak about his book.

An appeal for solidarity with Perrault has been issued by various individuals and representatives of

political parties.  
Claude Daumas  
Paris, France

### Uses for radio show

Please send me the *Militant* as soon as possible. I use it for my radio show, on KVUU, in Denver and Colorado Springs.

R.S.  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

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.

## Militant Prisoner Fund

Enclosed is my contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray the costs of providing *Militant* subscriptions to prisoners.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



## W. Virginia steel strikers rally

1,200 Ravenswood Steelworkers and supporters gather, vow to stay strong

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — Four months after taking to the picket lines against Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation (RAC), 1,200 striking Steelworkers, family members, and supporters rallied here March 10. The cheering crowd voiced their determination to stay out "One day longer" than RAC management and win a contract.

Seventeen hundred members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 5668 were locked out Nov. 1, 1990, after rejecting major concessions in wages and work rules demanded by management. Two weeks later the company declared an impasse in negotiations, implemented their last offer, and began hiring "permanent replacement" workers. Some 900 scabs are now employed by RAC.

"This fight in Ravenswood is more than just a Ravenswood, Jackson County, West Virginia strike," Joe Powell, president of the state's AFL-CIO told the rally. "It is a strike for workers' rights all across this land."

Speakers at the rally included officials from Steelworkers District 23 and several USWA locals from the area. The crowd roared approval throughout the afternoon as the union battle at "Fort RAC" was recounted. A warm welcome was given to the president of USWA Local 12610 at Monsanto Chemical in Nitro, West Virginia, where 300 workers remain on the picket lines since they were locked out in October.

### Rolling roadblocks

"Rolling roadblocks" have become a feature of the unionists' fight against the company's union-busting drive. Since early February strikers and their supporters have formed slow-moving caravans of up to 200 cars on the five-mile road that leads to the plant. The wives and other women supporters of union members, known as "Blueshirts" for their distinctive union sweatshirts, maintain a vigil at RAC's main gate as the cars drive by.

RAC received backing from the courts to try and put a halt to the strikers' action. The company requested that the road be closed to all traffic not involved in business at the plant.

While not granting that request, Circuit Judge Fred Fox handed down a string of rulings against the union on February 8 and indicated he would be open to further moves if the strikers continued the rolling roadblocks.

Saying the union's tactics presented a "clear and present danger to the safety of the public in Jackson County," the judge ruled

## Palestinian journalist jailed by Israelis is released on bail

BY JAMES HARRIS

Palestinian journalist Taher Shriteh was freed on bail from an Israeli jail on March 7 after a international campaign for his release. Shriteh, who works for Reuters, *The New York Times*, BBC, the Voice of America, CBS and the *Financial Times of London*, was arrested January 28 without charge. Three weeks after Shriteh was arrested, a prosecutor said he was being held for faxing Palestinian leaflets to Reuters. According to the prosecutor at a hearing in a military court, this constituted "giving aid to an enemy organization."

While in jail, Shriteh was repeatedly questioned and ordered to reveal his sources. He was deprived of food and sleep for the first five days after his arrest.

On March 11 Shriteh was indicted on charges of aiding an illegal Arab group. He remains free on bail.



Earlier rally of Ravenswood Aluminum strikers and supporters in November 1990. "We've had excellent solidarity," said one Steelworker.

on February 8 that the West Virginia State Police could close the highway if they felt it necessary.

He said anyone not following his orders could be charged with obstruction of justice and contempt of court.

Fox also ordered the union to take down a picket shack at the company's construction gate; limit the number of pickets at the remaining two picket sites to four; and maintain lists of those on picket duty that must be available for review by the state police upon request.

On the same day two Jackson County magistrates — whose husbands are both members of Local 5668 — excused themselves from hearing any cases related to the strike after meeting with Circuit Court Judge Charles McCarty.

Mary Jane Jarrell's husband, a 37-year employee of RAC, had been featured in the *Charleston Gazette* after he halted traffic in front of the plant by sitting down in the road. The day before the meeting with McCarty, Jarrell had set bond for a RAC scab, arrested for brandishing a gun, at \$2,100.

Cliff Clay, a union member cited for impeding traffic, told the press that he would continue the fight. "I'm locked out. My father is locked out. My uncle is locked out," he said. "I have a brother in Saudi Arabia and I hear on TV how we're supposed to keep America going so those guys will have jobs to come back to."

### Consumer alert campaign

On March 11, 40 union members left in a caravan from Stamford, Connecticut, where the major shareholders of RAC are based. USWA officials spoke at a press conference send-off for the strikers. They announced plans for a "consumer alert" campaign focused on products that use aluminum from Ravenswood.

A union press release quoted USWA international vice-president George Becker and District 23 director Jim Bowen as saying the union intends "to escalate our efforts and resources on a national level to promote resolution of the lockout at Ravenswood Aluminum."

Handbills being used in the campaign show bloodstained Ravenswood aluminum cans, symbolizing the five union members who died at the plant in the 18 months since the current owners bought it. "Under previous owners," Bowen said,

"the plant had only two work-related deaths in 30 years."

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued more than 20 serious or willful violations and fined the company \$41,000 for four of the five deaths. In one of the most recent incidents, a replacement worker's leg was crushed and amputated in February.

Since the lockout began, Bowen said, RAC has "turned the hills of West Virginia

and the community around it into a fortified police state with a private security force and barbed wire."

### New talks set

Two days earlier RAC management agreed to meet with the union the week of March 18. Stepping up its offensive against the union, the company said it was adding more demands to expand the use of outside contractors, the right to restructure previously existing jobs, and the expansion of the company's right to assign jobs and functions without restrictions.

RAC is sitting tight on keeping the scabs it hired since the lockout began. "When this dispute began, we had no intention of permanently replacing the hourly work force," the company claimed. "The union's insistence on unreasonable economic demands forced us to take the emotionally difficult step of replacing the work force with new employees."

The statement reiterated RAC's determination to remain "loyal" to the scabs.

Support throughout the region is high for the Ravenswood strikers. Plantgate collections have brought in thousands of dollars for the union's assistance fund and food bank.

"Everybody is looking up and hanging tight," said striker Clinton Durst in a phone interview. "We've had excellent solidarity. All the local unions are helping us, giving us a lot of financial and moral support."

The striker urged wider backing for the fight. "Back in the 1980s we gave concession after concession to RAC when they said they weren't making money," he said. "Now that they are making money, all we are after is a fair contract."

The AFL-CIO has announced plans for the next solidarity action: a regional rally in Ravenswood on April 28. For information on the rally contact USWA Local 5668, Box 56, Ravenswood, WV, 26161. Phone: (304)273-9319.

## Steelworkers sign three-year USX pact; wage cuts restored

BY BETSY FARLEY AND HOLLY HARKNESS

Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) employed at USX Corporation approved a three-year contract March 13. The new contract covers more than 18,000 production, maintenance, office, and technical workers.

The agreement contains no major concessions and restores an 8 percent wage cut imposed on USX workers under the 1987 contract. Workers will also receive a \$1.50 an hour raise over the life of the three-year contract.

The pact contains improvements in retirement benefits. No new provisions giving USX the right to combine jobs were included, as was the case in previous contracts.

A "successorship clause" was added to the agreement. The clause guarantees union rights should USX sell all or part of its steel business.

The previous contract was signed in 1987 after a six-month lockout by the company and extensive concessions by the USWA. Pay increases under the new pact bring USX workers closer to the wages of other union workers in basic steel.

A major weakness in the new agreement is that the cost-of-living allowance (COLA), lost in the last contract, was not restored. Workers will instead receive lump-sum payments totaling \$2,500 over the next three years. Unlike the COLA, which is added to wages and counts toward vacation and overtime pay, these are one-time payments.

Workers will receive a \$750 bonus when the contract is signed. The agreement includes a "Quality Improvement Program"

that promises more bonuses for improved quality job performance.

Many steelworkers feared USX owners would demand concessions again this year. Last November, negotiations for the 1991 contract broke off after the union rejected a meager proposal from the company. The union then began to prepare for a strike. Later, an agreement was reached following two 24-hour extensions of a January 31 deadline.

Despite tough talk in last year's negotiations, USX owners decided not to press for additional concessions this time. USX made almost a billion dollars in profits in 1989 and over \$800 million in 1990. This is due in large part to massive concessions previously won by the company and the closing of steel mills and departments within some mills, resulting in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs. USX's Marathon Oil subsidiary also made big profits at the end of 1990.

USWA members voted 14,108 to 832 for the new contract. The high vote for the agreement reflected that wage and pension increases worked out between management and union officials were acceptable to most USX workers.

Most steelworkers feel the agreement represents an advance for the union. "It's not perfect, but the economy being what it is, it's probably the best we could get right now," commented one steelworker at USX's Fairfield Works in Fairfield, Alabama.

Betsy Farley is a member of USWA Local 1131 and works at USX in Fairfield, Alabama; Holly Harkness is a member of USWA Local 2227 and works at USX Irvin Works in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.