

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Britain: support miners' fight against pit closures

BY PAUL GALLOWAY
AND TONY HUNT

SHEFFIELD, England — "Roy Lynk and Arthur Scargill should end their quarrel, get round a table, and call us all out on strike," explained a member of the Union of Democratic Miners (UDM) on his way to work at Thoresby Colliery in Nottinghamshire. He was reacting to the October 13 decision by British Coal (BC) to close 31 mines by March 1993 and throw 30,000 coal miners out of work. As a first step in the BC plan, six mines employing about 5,000 miners were to be closed October 16 and a further six by the end of the month. Roy Lynk is the leader of the UDM; Arthur Scargill is the president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

In response to this massive assault, miners are trying to figure out how to fight back. A miner at Kellingley in Yorkshire said, "I'd love to fight this but will we get the support of other unions? How will we deal with the courts?"

Meeting in Sheffield October 15, leaders of the NUM decided to mount a campaign to win "public support" against the mine closures. Arthur Scargill said, "we are urging miners and their families to take what action they possibly can to prevent the closure of their pits." They also decided to hold a strike ballot. "We will recommend that our members take strike action," Scargill explained, "but it will only be in the event that this government continues to refuse to accept the logical arguments that have been supported by a wide breadth of public opinion throughout the country."

Scargill described the campaign as one "to save the British coal industry and save jobs." In the NUM leader's view there was



Miners protest British Coal's announced layoffs, Birmingham, England, October 16.

no "economic basis for this pit closure programme" because "British deep-mined coal is the cheapest in the world."

Widespread anger among working people has greeted the closure announcement. Norman Willis, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), called for the decision to be postponed to allow time for a "debate" on the future of the coal industry.

Roy Lynk of the UDM, which split from

the NUM in opposition to the NUM-led 1984-85 national coal strike, staged a sit-in underground at Silverhill Colliery in Nottinghamshire, scheduled for closure Friday October 16. Neil Greatorex, a leader of the UDM in Nottinghamshire, had earlier in the

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James Warren denounces British coal layoffs

James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, was in Britain when British Coal announced its latest round of massive pit closures and job cuts. During a campaign tour stop in Sheffield, Warren issued the following statement.

I would like to extend my solidarity to the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and to all miners, their families, and supporters in Britain as they begin the fight to defend their jobs. Like coal miners in the United States, miners in Britain have a proud tradition of resistance. The 1984-85 strike against pit closures inspired tens of thousands of working people all over the world as an example of how to fight back.

The decision by the government and British Coal to close 31 mines and layoff 30,000 miners is a reflection of what the ruling rich are seeking to do to working people all over the world. The bosses today are moving to cut jobs and living standards regardless of the impact on the lives of millions of working people and their families. They make these decisions with only their interests and their needs in mind, not ours.

British Coal's decision is another example of why we as working people need to reach out to each other internationally, across national borders, and fight together to defend ourselves against the ravages of the capitalist system as it goes deeper into a worldwide depression.

The decision of the NUM to call for a strike vote in this fight is an important development. Whatever action is taken by miners in Britain to fight for their jobs should be supported by working people around the world.

Election won't change who runs country, says socialist

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Millions of workers, farmers, and young people have been watching the presidential debates hoping to make up their minds about who to vote for.

"One thing is for sure, whoever is elected president in the upcoming elections won't change who really runs the government of the United States," commented Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president Estelle DeBates in a recent interview. "Bush's campaign is in disarray and William Clinton seems likely to be the winner. But he's not offering anything fundamentally different. Clinton is today's lesser-evil candidate who is certain to become tomorrow's greater evil."

To bolster her point DeBates pointed to the October 19 *Wall Street Journal* editorial entitled "Read His Lips" that notes, "what

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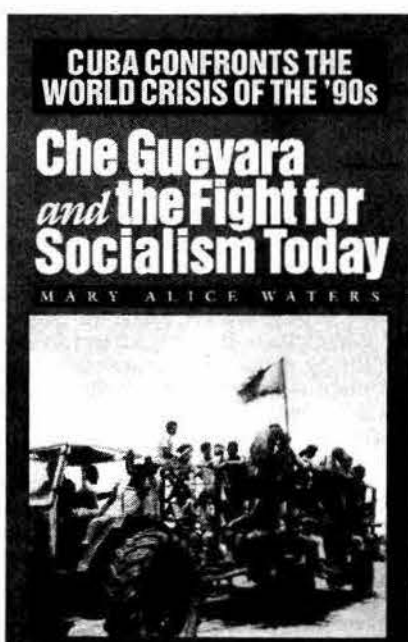
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by Mary-Alice Waters

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Millions strike in Italy

Workers across Italy joined in strikes and demonstrations October 13 to protest the government's economic austerity plan, which includes huge cuts in funds spent on social services and tax increases. The government also intends to dismantle the system of linking wages to inflation, known as indexation. Prime Minister Giuliano Amato insists that the tough austerity measures are necessary to rein in Italy's swollen budget deficit of \$134 billion. The labor action, estimated to have involved 10 million workers, was the latest in a wave of protests that have rocked Italy since September.

The system of indexed wages was abolished in July by mutual agreement among union leaders, the employers' confederation, and the government. "The agreement provoked a groundswell of protest against the union leadership," according to a report in the *Financial Times*. Union officials were forced to withdraw their support for the government measures as a result.

The Amato regime made limited concessions to the workers following the October 13 general strike. Pension payments are to be raised and health benefits will be assured for more families, although coverage for single people will be more limited.

Germany book fair bans Iranians

Iranian publishers were excluded from this year's Frankfurt Book Fair, the world's largest, when it opened on September 29. They have been banned from this fair since 1989 when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini declared *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie to be blasphemous to Islam and offered a reward for the death of the author.

A dozen Iranian publishers operating from the Netherlands applied for exhibit space but were denied.

Iliescu wins Romanian election

Ion Iliescu, the former high-ranking Communist Party official, was re-elected president of Romania October 11, after vowing to slow the pace of economic change in the country. "I voted for Iliescu because he said he was against savage cap-



Workers in Milan, Italy, vent their anger during a four-hour strike October 13.

italism, which unfortunately already exists here," said Nicolae Constantin, who works in the personnel office of a large state-owned factory.

Iliescu has managed to disassociate himself, in the eyes of many workers and farmers, from price hikes and other harsh economic measures by placing responsibility for them on the prime minister. Iliescu's Democratic National Salvation Front is expected to ally itself with the Chauvinist and Communist parties in Parliament, both of which lash out at ethnic minorities and the political opposition as scapegoats for Romania's troubles.

Fighting follows Angola elections

Heavy gunfire erupted in Luanda, capital of Angola, as government forces clashed with soldiers from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) in the wake of recently held elections. Preliminary results from the voting gave President José Eduardo dos Santos a decisive lead, but the government has delayed making them public. Elias Salupeto Pena, a central leader of Unita, stated that publication of what he called

fraudulent results showing a defeat for his group would lead to "immediate war."

Unita, led by Jonas Savimbi and backed by the U.S. government as well as South African troops, directed a guerilla war from 1975 to 1990 against the central government headed by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). A cease-fire was negotiated 18 months ago, following the defeat of the South African army by Cuban and Angolan soldiers at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1988.

De Klerk to uphold 'white rights'

In one of the most hard-line speeches of his presidency October 12, F.W. de Klerk vowed to never accept a new political order that did not safeguard regional and minority rights in South Africa. The president said his government would not allow an election for a constitution-writing body until several guarantees for the 'rights' of whites were agreed to.

Among de Klerk's preconditions are: power to be passed on to regional and local units of government; a two-chamber national parliament with a senate to represent regional interests; and a bill of rights to protect individual and property rights. Paul Taylor, writing for the *Washington Post* October 13 explained, "All of those conditions are seen as safeguards for white rights." The ANC responded that de Klerk had once again demonstrated "a remarkable inability to rise to an occasion."

Mozambique peace treaty signed

A pact to declare an end to the war in Mozambique was signed in Rome October 4 by President Joaquim Chissano, and Afonso Dhlakama, head of the Mozambique National Resistance, or Renamo, a guerilla group known for its methods of mass terror. The war in this southern African nation has lasted for more than 16 years, since the country won its independence from Portugal. More than a million people have been killed and 4.5 million have had to flee the fighting.

Founded by the military intelligence of

the former white-run regime of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Renamo in recent years has been financed and run by the apartheid regime in South Africa. Its goal has been to disrupt the economy through terrorist acts and to limit the Mozambique government's ability to aid the ANC of South Africa. Renamo focused its attacks on installations that represented the social progress made by the government, destroying nearly 1,000 clinics and 3,000 schools. The guerrillas kidnapped and murdered hundreds of teachers and health workers.

In addition to the destruction of the country caused by the long war, Mozambique is the most severely affected nation in southern Africa by the drought that has struck much of the continent.

Tuberculosis: a killer returns

What was once thought to be a nearly eradicated disease, tuberculosis, is now making a resurgence. Cases of the deadly lung disease have surged in major urban areas in the United States — from Los Angeles to New York City. Homelessness, drug addiction, and the near disappearance of preventive-health clinics have all contributed to the growth of TB.

The spread of the disease in New York, one of the most affected cities, comes after two decades of budget cuts in public-health programs. The last time New York City had 4,000 cases of TB — in 1967 — more than 1,000 beds in municipal hospitals were specifically assigned for tuberculosis patients. Today there are fewer than 75. There were 22 full-time chest clinics in the city in 1968, now there are 9.

"Tuberculosis remains primarily a disease of the poor," according to an article in the October 11 *New York Times*. "It occurs 14 times more frequently among blacks than whites, and much more often in the nation's largest cities than anywhere else. People with H.I.V. are particularly vulnerable. As many as 40 percent of AIDS patients have active TB."

Gypsies, sent back by Germany, face discrimination in Romania

In September Germany signed a treaty with Romania allowing Germany to deport thousands of refugees, mostly Gypsies, to Romania. Germany will pay \$21 million in "return and reintegration aid."

German Gypsy leader Romani Rose accused the German government of using Gypsy refugees politically "to divert attention from the real problems we have — high unemployment, housing shortages, health care."

An October 18 article in the *New York Times* gave examples of the kind of abuse and discrimination Gypsies face in Romania. In 1990 a mob of 1,000 burned down more than 30 homes in the Gypsy section of one town.

One Gypsy woman described being turned away from the local school when she went to register her nine-year-old child. The principal of the school responded that poor education is the Gypsies' fault, saying that, "they don't have a very serious conception of education." — PAUL MAILHOT

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

Terrorists based in Florida attack Cuban resort hotel

BY JOHN COX

A commando group belonging to a right-wing paramilitary organization based in Miami attacked a hotel on Cuba's northern shore on the night of October 7. Comandos L, an organization of counterrevolutionary Cuban exiles, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The commando group fired rifle shots at the hotel from a speedboat. There were no injuries from the attack. A Spanish tourist who was staying at the Melia Varadero hotel, a Spanish-Cuban joint venture that caters primarily to tourists, reported seeing bullet holes in an upper balcony following the shooting.

Comandos L, in a press release, described the hotel as a "military objective." Tony Cuesta, a leader of the terrorist outfit, explained that the raid was carried out by a four-man unit and that they returned safely by boat to their base. Cuesta's press release, which the rightists termed a "war communiqué," added that "these actions will continue until Cuba is liberated."

A representative of the Cuban Foreign Ministry said that the Cuban government strongly protested the "terrorist activities carried out from U.S. territory by persons supported by the U.S. government."

This was the latest in a series of terrorist attacks carried out by Comandos L or by other organizations of right-wing Cuban exiles based in southern Florida. It would be impossible for such operations to be conducted in this closely monitored region without the knowledge and complicity of the U.S. military. In July of this year, according to the *Miami Herald*, "a U.S. Coast Guard cutter ventured into Cuban waters to rescue four Comandos L members whose boat broke down during a secret mission to infiltrate Cuba."

U.S. shelves matter

In response to the Cuban government's protest over this latest raid, U.S. government agencies casually shelved the matter, as the following account in the *Miami Herald* makes clear:

"The State Department referred the complaint to the Justice Department, which will check whether U.S. neutrality laws were violated, State Department spokeswoman Julie Reside said. The Justice Department in turn asked the FBI to open an investigation. The FBI has been investigating Comandos L for months for earlier actions, but so far

has made no arrests. Cuesta said Tuesday [October 13] the FBI had not contacted him."

On December 29 of last year, three Cuban exiles were captured on Cuba's northwestern coast. They had been dropped off from a boat that then returned to the United States, and were caught with "various weapons of different types and calibers, as well as incendiary objects," according to spokespeople from the Cuban Ministry of the Interior.

The three, two of whom were members of a paramilitary group called the Nationalist Insurrectional Directorate, admitted that they planned to place bombs in movie theaters and recreation areas, as well as oil refineries, sugar mills, and other economic targets. They had been trained in southern Florida camps in the Everglades National Park. The leader of the attack, Eduardo Díaz, was a member of Comandos L.

In their trial, they stated that they had trained for an armed attack on Cuba with the knowledge of the U.S. government. As

with the most recent incident, the FBI said later that they were "looking into this matter" in order to "determine if there are any violations of any statutes."

Counterrevolutionary terrorist groups have been training openly in the Everglades and elsewhere in southern Florida for several years. For example, Alpha 66, a group that has also organized attacks on Cuba, "holds weekend combat training sessions in the Everglades," according to a January article in the *New York Times*.



Militant/Cindy Jacquith

Raiders attacking Cuba's shores have received help from U.S. Coast Guard. 1990 Cuban action (above) protested U.S. Coast Guard attack on Cuban trading ship 'Hermann.' Sign reads (in part) "Yankees, pirates of the 20th and 21st centuries."

Iran stakes claim to Gulf islands

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The Iranian government has made several moves in recent weeks aimed at strengthening its position in the Middle East. One of these steps has been the virtual annexation of Abu Musa, a strategically located island in the Persian Gulf.

Abu Musa is a small island that sits near the Strait of Hormuz, through which all oil tankers traveling in and out of the Gulf must pass. It has been jointly controlled by Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) since the early 1970s, along with two smaller islands, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. The Iranian regime expelled about 100 immigrants working for the UAE on Abu Musa in April, on the grounds that they did not have Iranian visas. In May a boat from the UAE was turned away from the island by Iranian authorities.

Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said these actions were dictated by security needs.

In September, the 21-member Arab League condemned the Iranian actions, calling them a threat to regional stability. The *Christian Science Monitor* quoted one Arab League diplomat as saying, "Iranian

officials say they don't have expansionary plans, but their deeds prove otherwise."

"The issue could become very serious if the Iranians were to decide to resort to force," said acting U.S. secretary of state Lawrence Eagleburger. He added that the dispute "should be settled peacefully."

The *Washington Post* described the Iranian government's claim of total sovereignty over Abu Musa as "eerily reminiscent of Iraq's pre-invasion claims against Kuwait in 1990."

"In the early 1970s the shah of Iran, Washington's close ally, annexed the islands and nobody opposed that," pointed out Ma'mud Shirvani, speaking at a September 19 Militant Labor Forum in Pittsburgh. "Now they are starting to complain that Iran has taken the islands. They're comparing it to Iraq and Kuwait and beating the war drums." Shirvani recently traveled to Iran and has been on a tour of the

United States, speaking about the current situation in Iran and the neighboring ex-Soviet republics.

Iran is striving to become a stronger force militarily, and economically, in the region. One reflection of this is that it has recently purchased three modern submarines from Russia. The Iranian government will be the first in the Persian Gulf to have submarines. Washington was strongly opposed to the sale and pressured the Russian government not to go through with it, but Moscow went ahead anyway.

The Iranian government has also been buying bombers from Russia, as well as spare parts for Iraqi planes. The planes were originally sent to Iran by the Saddam Hussein regime for safe keeping, during the U.S. assault on Iraq in 1991. Rather than send them back to Iraq, Iran has incorporated the planes into the Iranian Air force.

Pearl Chertov, longtime leader of socialist movement, dies

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Pearl Chertov, a founding member and longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party, died October 15 in Philadelphia of pancreatic cancer. She was 72 years old.

Pearl became active in politics at the age of 14. Born and raised in Philadelphia, she was very much affected by the workers' struggles of the 1930s to build industrial unions and organize the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations). As a result of her activities Chertov joined the Philadelphia chapter of the Young People's Socialist League (YPSL). In 1938 YPSL merged with two other organizations and formed the Socialist Workers Party.

In 1940 Pearl met Morris Chertov, also a member of the party. They were married and remained companions until his death in 1981.

After World War II Pearl and Morris moved to Connecticut where they helped to set up two branches of the Socialist Workers Party. During a big General Motors strike there they recruited the entire strike committee at one plant to the party.

When the anticommunist witch-hunt set in Morris was blacklisted from jobs, and in 1952 he and Pearl moved back to Philadelphia.

Pearl became well known in the city for her role in many struggles. She worked in the committees to defend victims of McCarthyism, including Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and Martin Sobell. In the 1960s Pearl helped to organize civil rights actions against Woolworth's segregated lunch counters. She also helped to found a Fair Play for Cuba Committee after the triumph of the Cuban revolution, and was a leader of a number of local coalitions that organized protests against the Vietnam War.

Pearl served on the National Committee



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Pearl Chertov in 1991

of the party for many years and moved to several cities to build the SWP. She was a branch organizer in Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans, Oakland, California, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles.

A future article in the *Militant* will feature Pearl's life and political accomplishments. Memorial meetings to celebrate her long years in the struggle for socialism will take place in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. The Philadelphia meeting will be on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 3 p.m.; the place is to be announced. Please call the Pathfinder Bookstores listed on page 12 for specific details of the meetings. Messages should be sent to Socialist Workers Party, 406 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Unionists rally in support of Staley workers' fight against concessions

BY PAT SMITH

DECATUR, Illinois — More than 1,000 members of Allied Industrial Workers (AIW) Local 837, their families, and supporters rallied September 30 in front of A.E. Staley Mfg. Co. here. Their contract expired at midnight and workers feared a lockout.

Staley wants to gut seniority rights, and is asking for "flexibility" on assigning shifts, strict limits on workers' right to bring grievances, subcontracting work, restructuring of holidays and vacations, insurance give-backs, and other concessions which would result in the loss of overtime pay and 150 union jobs. Staley workers continue to work without a contract.

"The company wants a dictatorship," stated AIW member Royal Plankenhorn. "They want to take back everything we've worked for, for 50 years." A.E. Staley, which makes sweeteners, is one of Decatur's major employers; some families have worked there for generations. The wealthy Staley family was one of the original financiers of the Chicago Bears, then called the "Staley Bears." Staley's is now owned by British conglomerate Tate and Lyle.

Those attending the protest included members of the United Rubber Workers, the United Auto Workers, and about a dozen other unions. Many in the crowd carried signs for Democratic presidential candidate William Clinton. Anti-British signs saying "lymies go home," and "protect American jobs" were also prominent. A contingent of UAW Local 751 members from Caterpillar

joined the rally after work.

AIW members have distributed 50,000 brochures throughout Decatur explaining how the atmosphere in the plant has become confrontational. "Employees are severely disciplined for minor infractions. Over 200 workers have been penalized with the loss of 5 to 8 days' pay... numerous workers have been reprimanded, with critical letters put in their files... and there have been 10 firings," states the brochure.

In 1991, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) levied safety-violations fines of \$1.6 million against Staley's Decatur operation.

Union members were to vote on a revised contract offer October 7 and 8 which management calls "a fair package." Union officials recommended a no vote because it will "destroy the union." "If this contract is approved, decertification of the union is only a few years away," said union president David Watts. The company claims that all changes proposed "are in place elsewhere in the grain-milling industry."

The Staley Workers' Campaign for Justice is asking supporters to write letters of protest to the company, publish articles in newsletters, distribute their brochure, and send contributions to AIW Local 837, AFL-CIO, 2882 N. Dineen, Decatur, IL 62526.

Pat Smith is a member of United Transportation Union Local 577 and is a brakeperson at the Chicago and North Western Railroad.

Four new titles from Pathfinder Press

The George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched in August at the International Socialist Conference in Oberlin, Ohio. Novack, who died July 30 at the age of 86, was a leader of the socialist movement in the United States for more than half a century.

The aim of the fund is to raise more than \$150,000 by December 1. The Novack Fund finances the reconstruction project currently taking place in New York's Pathfinder Building, which is pictured at the top of the graph to the right.

BY JOHN COX

In the next few weeks Pathfinder Press will be producing four publications that will be "an important addition to the Pathfinder arsenal" of books and pamphlets, according to Pathfinder representative Norton Sandler. These will include a book and a pamphlet on the Cuban revolution. The book is entitled *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold*

War' against Cuba Doesn't End, and contains speeches given at the United Nations by Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Che Guevara; the pamphlet is *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today* by Mary-Alice Waters.

"These titles on Cuba are extremely timely now, with the anniversaries this month of Guevara's murder by CIA-trained assassins in Bolivia and the Cuban missile crisis," Sandler said. He pointed to the recent television broadcast of a documentary on the activities of the right-wing Cuban American National Foundation as another indication of interest in Cuba. *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today* is being produced in English, French, and Spanish — the first time Pathfinder has introduced a new title simultaneously in all three languages.

Pathfinder is also producing two collections of speeches by Malcolm X. *February 1965: The Final Speeches* includes speeches from

the last month of the life of the revolutionary leader. The other collection is a new edition of *By Any Means Necessary*.

Advance sales for these new publications have exceeded 19,000, "the biggest pre-publication sale in our history," commented Michael Baumann, who organizes Pathfinder's editorial staff. He mentioned that the titles on Cuba and the Malcolm X books have gotten a "tremendous response" at regional booksellers' conferences in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Boston, Cleveland, and Minneapolis, as well as the recent book fair in Frankfurt, Germany, the largest book fair in the world. The new publications will be featured in Pathfinder's display in late October at the Tokyo book fair.

The long-term capacity of Pathfinder to publish these valuable political books depends largely on the success of the reconstruction project being carried out in the Pathfinder building by volunteers from five different countries. The reconstruction brigade is now confronting the task of rebuilding and modernizing the print shop, to bring it up to the standards that will enable it to meet the demand for revolutionary literature — the weapons that fighters will need in the years and decades ahead.

A total of \$7,154 was sent in to the fund last week, bringing the amount collected to \$40,915. There are now six and a half weeks remaining in the drive.

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CLEVELAND	4,200	1,300	31
DES MOINES	3,500	326	10
DETROIT	7,000	1,592	23
GREENSBORO	3,000	570	19
HOUSTON	6,000	580	10
LOS ANGELES	15,000	3,547	24
MIAMI	3,250	700	22
MORGANTOWN	3,000	670	23
NEW HAVEN	500	500	100
NEW YORK	15,000	2,204	15
NEWARK	12,000	1,735	15
PHILADELPHIA	4,000	1,031	26
PITTSBURGH	4,500	700	16
PORTLAND	750	0	0
ST. LOUIS	6,500	2,210	34
SALT LAKE CITY	6,500	2,006	34
SAN FRANCISCO	12,530	5,730	46
SEATTLE	6,000	1,105	19
TWIN CITIES	9,500	1,485	16
WASHINGTON, D.C.	4,950	1,250	26
U.S. TOTAL	154,680	33,881	22
AUSTRALIA			
650	388	60	
BELGIUM			
1,100	1,100	100	
BRITAIN			
1,860	300	16	
CANADA			
2,905	897	31	
FRANCE			
1,030	1,030	100	
GERMANY			
1,429	1,429	100	
NEW ZEALAND			
710	540	76	
PUERTO RICO			
100	100	100	
SWEDEN			
2,450	1,250	51	
TOTAL	\$166,914	\$40,915	25

Alabama strikers stand up to company thugs

BY DENISE McINERNEY

BESSEMER, Alabama — Striking workers at the Trinity Industries plant here scored a victory October 14 when a county judge ruled that the company could no longer use hired goons from Special Response Corporation or any other outside security company. The ruling came two days after hired thugs lobbed tear gas canisters onto the picket line. At the same time the judge also limited the number of strikers on the picket line to 10 at each of the 6 plant gates, and 30 at a lot across the street.

Members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226 have been on strike against Trinity since September 19. The major issues are health benefits and wages. Workers currently pay up to \$56 per week for health insurance. The company's last contract offer maintained the high costs of health benefits and offered only a 3 percent wage increase each year for three years. For most workers, the total raise would be

less than one dollar. The offer was overwhelmingly rejected by the union.

On October 12, several hundred strikers turned out on the picket line in response to the company's announcement to reopen the plant. Strikers gathered at the main gate when two vehicles filled with hired goons from Special Response Corp. of Maryland attempted to enter. Plant supervisors were lined up to follow them in. Eight guards from this outfit were already inside the gate, dressed in riot gear. When the strikers refused to allow the vehicles in, the guards inside the gate lobbed tear gas canisters into the crowd.

Workers hold the line

Several people were hit by the canisters and all of those present were affected by the gas. Some needed medical attention, including a striker who is four months pregnant.

With faces and throats burning and eyes tearing, the unionists remained in the drive-

way while local police watched from across the street. As some left the line overcome by gas, other unionists took their place.

After a 45-minute standoff the guards in the vehicles turned around and left, followed by the bosses. No scabs or supervisory personnel entered the plant that day.

Arnie Watts, chairman of the local's grievance committee, told the press, "Everything was peaceful when this happened. We were standing outside the gates and yelling our union chorus when the rental cops that they brought in from somewhere up North pulled out the tear gas and threw it at us."

Prior to going on strike, some workers were given the job of welding what they were told would be steel tool boxes. Strikers were incensed when they saw the real pur-

pose of these structures. The company set the "tool boxes" on stilts 12 feet above the ground and manned them with the hired thugs.

After being teargassed, outraged workers toppled the towers to the ground.

At the court hearing held two days later witnesses for the company accused the union of organizing violence, claiming strikers had set off a firebomb and shot at the guard towers prior to being gassed. But union attorney Jay Smith responded that "it was the throwing of the tear gas that set off a spontaneous response from strikers that included the toppling of the two observation towers."

Trinity's chief of security, Jerry Lunday, testified that while he saw some people

Continued on Page 11

'Your strike is our strike' says head of miners union to Trinity strikers

BY BETSY FARLEY

BESSEMER, Alabama — United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) president Richard Trumka visited the picket line of striking members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226 on Friday, October 16, to thank the Steelworkers for their support during the 1989 Pittston miners strike and extend the UMWA's solidarity with their fight against Trinity Industries.

"Your strike is our strike," Trumka told the steelworkers. "Your picket line is our picket line. We will support you morally; we will support you financially; and we will support you with members of the United Mine Workers."

"You're fighting for decent health care, which is a right of every worker," he continued. "They try to divide us by getting workers who are unemployed and hurting to cross our picket lines. But just like a UMWA president said in 1908, 'It's not Italian coal or Slavic coal or Irish coal. It's not black coal or white coal, it's just coal. And we're just workers.' We've got to stick together."

Four hundred union delegates at the Ala-

bama state AFL-CIO convention unanimously approved a resolution October 17 urging all affiliates to actively support the strike.

The resolution states in part "Whereas, the quiet courage, steadfast determination, and militant unity of the Trinity employees in the face of difficult circumstances is an example and inspiration to us all; and whereas, the bitter experiences of the last 12 years has conclusively shown that the only reliable strategy to resist and defeat a determined corporate offensive against workers and their unions is working class unity and solidarity; now therefore be it resolved that this special convention of the Alabama AFL-CIO go on record in support of the struggle of the striking Trinity workers for dignity and economic justice..."

Plans are underway for a united labor rally to support the striking Steelworkers. Autoworkers, miners, teachers, postal workers, and Steelworkers from other locals have already joined them on the picket line.

Betsy Farley is a member of USWA Local 2122 at USX Corp. Fairfield Works in Fairfield, Alabama.



Pickets surround strike-breakers' car and prevent it from entering the plant

'Family values': part of rulers' assault

BY DAVID SANDOR

ATLANTA — In a meeting at Emory University October 8, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates spoke about the "family values" theme being promoted by George Bush and William Clinton and echoed by middle class misleaders in the unions and women's rights organizations. The meeting was sponsored by the Political Awareness Forum.

DeBates explained that the family values slogan is intended to advance the U.S. rulers' assault on wages and living standards and their preparations for war.

"The Democrats and Republicans are trying to push the burden of the economic crisis onto the backs of working people, in order to put the U.S. ruling class in the strongest position to compete against their imperialist rivals," she said. "Under the guise of family values, they want us to take more responsibility for the care of children, the sick, and the elderly, rather than putting demands on the government and the employers. They say that the root of economic crisis and social decay is in the collapse of the traditional family, that it's because we don't have the right morals. This is simply a form of scapegoating, aimed at drawing attention away from the fact that capitalism is the cause of the crisis."

"It is also an attack on working women," the candidate continued. "It's not to drive women out of the workforce, where our low wages are a source of profit for the employers. Rather it is to get us to not think of ourselves as equals, and to accept second-class status on the job and in society. The rulers want women to view themselves not mainly as workers, but as mothers. We should really be at home taking care of the children. And it's our fault if we can't keep a man around to be a provider."

"They hammer on the theme of family values," DeBates added, "because they recognize that the gains women have made in recent decades are a step forward for the entire working class. They try to make it seem as though by demanding jobs, health care, and decent education, working

people are asking something for nothing, that we're parasites on society. But the capitalists are the real parasites. The fault lies with them and their drive for profits. They are not lying when they say there is a crisis. The question is who will pay for it, us or them?"

During her tour in Atlanta, DeBates also campaigned at the afternoon shift change at Snapper, a workplace organized by the United Steel Workers of America. She talked with members of the United Auto Workers union who work at Ford Motor Company at a house meeting organized by a campaign supporter in the plant.

Jerry Caldwell, a worker from Valley, Alabama, has been campaigning regularly with the socialists in Atlanta. At a rally held at the Pathfinder Bookstore, Caldwell explained why he has joined the socialist campaign. "In 1988 I supported the Democratic ticket because I believed it was the lesser of two evils. After watching the major party conventions this year, I decided they have nothing to offer except more of the same and getting worse. We need independent working class political action. We can support Bush or Clinton or we can support a campaign that really will make a difference."



Militant/George Chalmers
Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren and vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates have been reaching out to young workers and students with their campaign. DeBates spoke to sailors from the U.S.S. *Nimitz* in Seattle.

James Warren addresses Utah youth

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Socialist presidential candidate James Warren addressed three campaign meetings in this area September 26-30 that drew several dozen high school and college students. He spoke at the University of Utah, the Utah Valley Community College in the city of Provo, and the Pathfinder bookstore.

"The question is not whether working people and youth will resist what we have been suffering for the last 12 years," Warren explained. "We see examples of this resistance in the actions of the General Motors workers, the workers at Alaska Airlines in Seattle, and the drywall strikers in Los Angeles. We see it in the action of the abortion

clinic defenders throughout the country, and the fighters against Measure 9 in Oregon," he said, referring to an antigay rights measure on the ballot in that state.

"The problem is not whether millions will resist in the future. The problem is whether a leadership can be prepared that will be worthy of the fighting capacity of these millions, beginning now. What our campaign is about is reaching out to those who, through their own experiences in the struggles going on today, decide they want to be part of this kind of leadership."

About an hour of questions and discussion followed Warren's presentation. Questions were of a great variety. What is the solution to overproduction of goods in the

economy? What's the meaning of the rightist mobilizations in Germany? What about the budget deficit and taxes? How did the United States get out of the last depression? Didn't public ownership cause the collapse of the regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union? What does Ross Perot's campaign represent?

One question that came up in each meeting was about the crisis in health care. "Our health program is real simple," said Warren. "Open up the hospitals and clinics, which are already subsidized to the tune of \$83 billion a year." Applause broke out when Warren said, "it should be a criminal offense to turn anyone away from the best health care in the country."

A heated exchange of opinions broke out at Warren's University of Utah meeting, concerning the role of the police. "The New York police riot and the events in Los Angeles show how the police more and more claim they stand above the law. They insist that the law can't apply to them if they are going to carry out their job. The police will be the main base of support for any fascist movement," Warren said.

"Understanding the nature of the police is important," the candidate said. "They will play a more and more openly political role, and they are armed."

Twenty-five people purchased the *Militant* and one person subscribed to the socialist campaign newspaper at Warren's meeting at the University of Utah and a campus table before the event. Eight students who heard him there signed up to help out on campaign activities.

Capitalist Europe cannot unite, says DeBates

BY DAVID SANDOR

BALTIMORE — "The currency crisis shows that European unity is impossible, that there is no honor among thieves," stated Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for vice-president during a campaign visit to Baltimore. "The capitalist class in each country is acting increasingly in its own interests as depression conditions bring about the crumbling of the old world order that came out of World War II."

"They are cranking up their war machines and will use them to settle the conflicts. This generation will have the task of confronting the crisis and resolving it in the interests of working people and all the oppressed," said DeBates.

At Morgan State University in Baltimore one student asked DeBates, "given the kind of power they have, how can you be so optimistic about building a movement today? In America, people are confused and tend to identify with the oppressors rather than the oppressed."

DeBates pointed to the example of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. "Just a few years ago the apartheid regime might have looked invincible, but look where we are now in the fight against it. We need to do what the fighters in the African National Congress do, come to grips with the world as it is and fight uncompromisingly to change it. It's only through struggle that people can learn who are our friends and who are our enemies. It's only through struggle that we can overcome divisions among working people."

A worker from a garment shop, organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, who attended one of DeBates's meetings, contributed some of his experience from a fight that happened on the job when the employer tried to withhold pay. "It showed the potential for unity. Where I work, there are so many different languages and nationalities, and normally we don't talk to each other. But when we

need to fight, we started to talk and understand each other."

During a campaign swing through Pennsylvania, DeBates spoke at the University of Pittsburgh, where students organized a meeting on campus and a house meeting later that day. At the house meeting, nine students questioned DeBates about her views on world politics and her ideas on how to build a fighting movement of workers and youth. The discussion revealed diverse experiences that are making youth more open to a socialist perspective.

Randy Collins, a 20-year-old film student at the University of Pittsburgh, met socialist campaigners at a table on campus one week before the meeting. He had already registered to vote as a socialist after he learned about the Socialist Workers Party through his research for a school project. He and a friend, Kathleen, were active on the campus in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, organizing opposition to the Gulf War.

Fred Bernardin, a 25-year-old chemical engineering student at Carnegie Mellon University, had worked as a volunteer in the presidential campaign of Edmund Brown Jr. and attended the Democratic national convention. Describing his experience at the convention, Bernardin said, "Everything was controlled from the top. They really weren't talking about anything. There was no politics going on. It was a joke." Bernardin had found out about the socialist campaign one week before the meeting at a table set up on his campus.

Melissa Bloom, 21, is active in organizing relief for refugees in the former Yugoslavia. She learned about the socialist campaign when she visited the Pathfinder Bookstore in Pittsburgh about a month ago.

Some of the discussion was about U.S. intervention in Iraq and the challenges of organizing against the imperialist war drive. One student said, "I'm afraid at any minute the bombs can start flying in the gulf, and

during the war we learned that once that happens it's too late to stop it."

At the house meeting and again at a campaign rally in Pittsburgh, DeBates addressed students' questions about how to organize. "There is no substitute for the hard work of building a revolutionary movement," she explained. "You start where you are, by talking to your fellow students or your co-workers. You keep talking, answering their questions, arguing, and explaining a revolutionary perspective. And you go to the fights that are happening today, and convince them to go with you. That is how the fighters find each other and how we all learn together and move forward."

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Perot proposes austerity to 'solve' crisis

BY JOHN COX

When Ross Perot reentered the presidential race October 1, he stated that "neither political party has effectively addressed the issues" and, further, that the government "is a mess." This "mess" is illustrated by the inability of the government to effectively confront the economic and social crisis, Perot has stated over the last several months.

The Texas billionaire has formulated a set of economic proposals that are laid out in a book entitled *United We Stand: How We Can Take Back Our Country*. His program calls for drastic cuts in government spending, with the stated goal of balancing the federal budget.

He hopes to accomplish this by attacking the social wage — which includes such federally-funded programs as Medicare and Social Security that in a limited way alleviate some of the social ills wrought by capitalism. Many of these social programs were won by working people as a result of struggles waged over the last century.

Perot proposes an across-the-board 15 percent cut in federal spending. This will apply to programs other than debt costs, the military budget, and 'mandatory' programs, also called entitlement, which include Medicare, agricultural price supports, and food stamps. These entitlement programs though will be cut in other ways.

Among the programs that would be affected by this across-the-board reduction are the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children — a nutrition program for low-income families. Perot also suggests major cuts in mass transit and art programs. He proposes gutting farm subsidies by \$17 billion over the next five years. His program also advocates limiting the cost-of-living increase for federal retirees to two-thirds of inflation.

His program includes raising the amount of Social Security benefits subject to taxes from 50 percent to 85 percent for those making more than \$25,000 a year as individuals or \$35,000 per couple. Perot would also tax as income employer-paid health insurance plans with premiums of more than \$135 a month for individuals and \$335 for families. He proposes to save \$52.8 billion over five years by "containing" costs of Medicare and Medicaid, although his book does not specify how this would be done.

Perot advocates a number of regressive taxes, which disproportionately affect those with less income. His recommendations include a 50-cent hike in the gasoline tax over the next five years and a 200 percent increase in federal taxes on tobacco. Not surprisingly, his book also recommends a variety of tax breaks for the major corporations in order to "provide the proper incentives to industry and to the market."

United We Stand is filled with references to "our economy" and "our country." "You and I are the shareholders of this country," he states. "We own it." Perot may be correct on one count: as a billionaire, he is among the "shareholders" of this country. But he does not speak for the overwhelming majority of the population of the United States, who have no control over the economy and who own nothing beyond their personal possessions. His rhetoric about "our country" is calculated to convince the average working person that they have some interest in supporting his proposals, which amount to an

austerity program with the announced purpose of eliminating the federal deficit.

Perot attempts to camouflage his anti-working-class program with a few small measures against the wealthy, such as an increase in the income tax rate of the richest 4 percent of the population from 31 percent to 33 percent.

Significantly, neither George Bush nor William Clinton have distanced themselves from Perot's economic program.

Faced with a deepening depression of the

capitalist economic system, the United States government, representing the interests of the capitalist ruling class, will be compelled, as it attempts to shore up the system, to pursue the sort of austerity program that Perot espouses. This goes hand-in-hand with an acceleration of the offensive of the employers against the rights, working conditions, and living standard of working people, coupled with a continued drive toward war.

Clinton and Bush understand this and are prepared and willing to impose the sort of

draconian measures that Perot prescribes. While disagreeing with this or that specific proposal in Perot's economic program, they support his basic premise: the crisis of the capitalist economy will be paid for by those who are the primary victims of the crisis, the working class and working farmers. The degree to which they succeed in imposing austerity measures and further driving down wages and working conditions will depend on what kind of fightback can be waged by the working class and its allies.

Daniels campaign hopes to reform, not dismantle, capitalist system

BY DEREK BRACEY

I recently attended a rally to launch U.S. presidential candidate Ronald Daniels write-in campaign in New York. Running under the banner of the Campaign for a New Tomorrow, Daniels is on the ballot in ten states and is organizing write-in campaigns in several others.

Daniels is a former co-chair of the National Black Independent Political Party, which was formed in 1980 on a platform

AS I SEE IT

that called for a break with capitalist parties and for independent political action for Blacks. Later, in 1988, he abandoned that perspective and became a deputy campaign manager for Jesse Jackson's fight to win the Democratic Party nomination.

Daniels is now running a campaign based on what he describes as "a progressive vision for a new society." Although he seeks to win people away from trying to find a solution within the campaigns of the Democrats and Republicans, his campaign doesn't represent a way forward for working people.

Daniels says his campaign perspective is linked to the National Black Political Convention held in Gary, Indiana, in March 1972. In a May speech he said, "I want to quote a few passages from that convention's declaration, because it has been my Bible for the last twenty years: 'The crises we face as Black people are the crises of the entire society. . . . Any truly Black politics must begin with this truth: The American system does not work for the masses of our people. And it cannot be made to work without radical, fundamental change.'"

Daniels now says that campaigning within the Democratic Party is useless. Referring to Jesse Jackson, he said in an interview, "I respect what he has done and if he wants to struggle on the inside of the system, that's fine. But I think that's a futile proposition. . . . If you look at the last decade, with Reaganomics and Reaganism, the most brutal assault on the poor and working people was cosigned by the Democrats. They could have stood up and said no."

Daniels says his campaign goes beyond the elections, and is a vehicle that seeks to "more than anything else, build permanent organizations." He advocates using his cam-

paign to build a movement drawing together people involved in struggles throughout the country. He mentions the recent Caterpillar strike as an example of the potential to involve workers of whatever skin color into this fight.

"We don't have to accept violations of our basic rights," Daniels said in a speech. "We can become ungovernable if it is necessary in the interests of working people."

Daniels points to his campaign as part of a necessary struggle to win social gains and defend ourselves from attacks by the rich in this country. This new society can learn from Cuba, he says. Pointing to Cuba's free health care and lack of illiteracy, Daniels says, "They don't have much, but they sure divide up what they have."

His campaign calls for a national health care system, free education through college, and guaranteed jobs for everyone, using cuts to the military budget of at least 50 percent to help finance this program. He also calls for reparations for U.S. Blacks and Native Americans to compensate for slavery, violent land grabs, and other abuses suffered by these peoples.

However, Daniels's campaign does not represent a way forward for working people. His call for creating a new society is abstract. The system we live under, capitalism, does not need adjusting to be made to work for working people; it needs to be dismantled.

Daniels sums up his view of the problem with the current government by saying that it suffers from "flawed values and fatal vision." However, it is not the vision or perspective of those in political office that is causing the social crisis wreaking havoc on workers and farmers around the world. It is the natural functioning of the capitalist system, with its built-in crises of overproduction and declining profit rates, that is the basis of the assaults on labor that we are seeing throughout the world today.

Protection for workers

Daniels's program is a progressive version of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal or Lyndon Johnson's Great Society programs, where the government, under the pressure of an active workers' movement, enforces some measures to protect workers within this system.

But such reforms are not an option under this system, regardless of the "vision" of those who are running the government. The

crisis of capitalism necessitates more sacrifices by working people to survive. This means less medical care, less education, further declines in wages and living conditions. The capitalist class cannot solve their problems without breaking the backs of workers, and this is what they are preparing now. As they seek to advance their interests, national divisions will sharpen, which will lead to more trade wars and other conflicts. These in turn will result in a rise in military conflicts between the capitalist powers. It is these basic facts about politics today that Daniels's program ignores.

This course by the capitalists is not inevitable. Workers will resist these attempts to prop up the capitalist system by cutting us down. This resistance has already begun, and is visible in countries such as Italy, Greece, and Turkey, where massive strikes against austerity measures have occurred; and in Britain, where the National Union of Miners is organizing to combat the brutal assault by the British government on the jobs of thousands of coal miners.

In South Africa, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Venezuela, and Ecuador, growing numbers of workers and farmers are stepping forward to press for their interests against those of the governments of those countries.

This resistance can also be seen in the fights by General Motors workers to defend themselves against the company's assaults, as well as by airline workers, meat-packers, coal miners, those who form lines to defend abortion rights, and who are marching against police brutality.

Daniels does not point to any of these struggles taking place currently. As when he refers to Caterpillar workers, he refers to workers under attack as victims, not as the fighters who are the only ones who can block the plans of the capitalist class and their disastrous consequences for working people.

Instead of Daniels's perspective of progressives fighting for governments with better vision, those who are looking for a way out need to turn toward these fights and seek to become part of them and those like them. The only campaign that organizes its supporters to do this is the Socialist Workers campaign of James Warren and Estelle DeBates for president and vice-president.

Derek Bracey is one of the national chairpersons of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign.

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BY ERNIE MAILHOT, JUDY STRANAHAN, AND JACK BARNES

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— Jim Lyle
member, International
Association of Machinists
Lodge 141 in Detroit

Election won't change who runs U.S.

Continued from front page

Mr. Clinton is saying on the stump is a hopeful sign for the Clinton presidency."

What does the big-business newspaper find so encouraging? The *Journal* points approvingly to the recent ad the Clinton and Gore campaign has been running heavily in Republican strongholds.

According to the ad Clinton and Gore represent a new generation of Democrats who have "called for an end to welfare as we know it." It then switches to scenes of a rally with Clinton surrounded by police officers. "They've sent a strong signal to criminals by supporting the death penalty," the announcer proclaims.

"Clinton's balanced 12 budgets and they've proposed a new plan investing in people, detailing \$140 billion in spending cuts they'd make right now," the commercial goes on. It fails to mention, of course, that one of

the ways Clinton has balanced the budget in his own state has been to cut health-care benefits for poor people and payments to doctors in the Medicaid program.

"Many working people can only stomach voting for Clinton by talking about how bad the Bush administration has been," explained DeBates. "But the Clinton agenda that the *Wall Street Journal* finds so 'encouraging,' including his open hostility to Cuba and calls for more aggressive military action abroad, show that the rich have two parties — the Republicans and the Democrats.

"The most important choice working people and youth can make is the choice to fight the devastating economic and social conditions confronting the vast majority of people in the world today. That's the alternative that my campaign, along with Socialist Workers presidential candidate James Warren, is putting forward."

'Militant' sales target week will give momentum to drive

BY JOHN COX

For several months the *Militant* has been carrying news of the Socialist Workers campaign of James Warren for U.S. president and Estelle DeBates for vice-president. With less than two weeks remaining before the November 3 vote, campaign activists are going all out to take maximum advantage of the potential the campaign offers to reach working people, students, and others who are looking for an alternative to the deadend policies of the Democrats and Republicans.

The response the socialist candidates have received in these seven months indicates the attractiveness today of a fighting, working-class

the remainder of the seven-week campaign.

The subscription drive, which began on October 10, is now scheduled to end on November 28. It has been extended for one week beyond the original November 21 deadline, as a weekend of political activities in New York City November 7-8 (see advertisement on page 1) will take many *Militant* supporters from the northeastern United States out of sales for that period.

Sales to fighting airline workers

Several workers returning from the one-week strike at USAir have picked up subscriptions to the *Militant* and copies of the Pathfinder

literature. They have found a great deal of interest in books about the Minnesota Teamsters strikes of the 1930s, written by Farrell Dobbs, one of the central leaders of these battles. Dobbs was a leader of the revolutionary socialist movement for several decades.

In Montreal, as in Seattle, *Militant* supporters have found that distributing the socialist press comes easy when there are struggles to relate to. With a referendum on the Canadian constitution coming up on October 26, the question of how to fight the national oppression faced by the Native and Quebecois peoples has been a big topic of conversation among workers and youths. The constitutional "reforms" presented in the referendum continue to deny these peoples' right to self-determination.

'Nouvelle Internationale'

Rosemary Ray in Montreal reports selling two issues of *Nouvelle Internationale*, the French-language edition of the Marxist journal *New Internationalist*, to a coworker in the United Auto Workers (UAW) union. She writes that her coworker, "who is Quebecois, is among many in Quebec who intend to vote no on the federal government's new constitutional proposals because he thinks it is an insult to the rights of the Quebecois to decide their own future. The history of workers' and farmers' struggles in Canada explained in *Nouvelle No. 2* gives people like this coworker a helpful historical analysis to understand the struggles of the Quebecois and Natives today."

Socialist Workers campaigners from Miami traveled to Barbados during the first week of the subscription drive, demonstrating the international character of both the election campaign and the sales effort. Working with a supporter in Bridgetown, the capital city, they sold six subscriptions to the *Militant* and two copies of *New Internationalist*. Dan Fein, socialist candidate for U.S. Senate from Florida, appeared on television while in Barbados.

Back in Miami, 28 single issues of the *Militant* were sold at Kuppenheimer Clothes in the midst of a big debate in the plant about the Cuban revolution. Francisco Picado, a worker at Kuppenheimer, had helped organize an October 1 meeting for two youth leaders from Cuba—the first open, public meeting for Cuban revolutionaries in Miami in many years.

After Picado was seen in the television coverage of the meeting, a protest was organized at his plant to intimidate Picado and others from engaging in activities in support of Cuba. While some workers participated in the demonstration, others defended his political rights and opposed the attempts to harass him.

The announcement by British Coal that it intends to close 31 mines, with over 30,000 thrown out of work, has provoked a response from working people in Britain. (See article page 1). Miners and others attending a demonstration against the closures in Chesterfield bought 27 copies of the *Militant*. Another 22 *Militants* were sold off tables in London and Doncaster.

Contributing to this article were: Chris Hoepfner and Harvey McArthur in Seattle; Laura Garza in Miami; Chris Rayson in Morgantown; Joanne Kuniansky in Pittsburgh; Rob Higley and Marin Hill in London and Rosemary Ray in Montreal.



Selling *Militant* at a rally in Portland, Oregon, October 4 to oppose Measure 9, a reactionary anti-gay-rights referendum on November 3 ballot in Oregon. Socialist campaigners aim to use remaining days of election campaign to get out *Militant* as widely as possible.

perspective. Warren and DeBates have been welcomed on picket lines from Chicago to Birmingham, and have met students and other young people around the world who have gotten involved in the campaign. An example of this response was a meeting October 15 in Stockholm, Sweden, where Warren addressed a crowd of 300 high school students. There will be an article in next week's *Militant* on this event.

The best way to build on the success of the campaign over the coming weeks and months will be to place the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New Internationalist* in the hands of workers and young people by selling them subscriptions. The *Militant* will continue to be the best source of information and analysis on the revolution developing in South Africa; the crisis in the former Yugoslavia; and developments in the labor movement. The *Militant* also makes available the legacy and lessons of past struggles. Coming issues will feature material from the paper's coverage 30 years ago of the so-called Cuban missile crisis.

With this issue *Militant* supporters around the world are engaging in an international sales target week, which will run from October 24 to November 1. The goal of this special week, which coincides with the last days of the socialist election campaign, is for *Militant* supporters to get ahead of schedule in the subscription drive. This intense effort should help provide the momentum needed to remain ahead throughout

Press book, *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists*, report *Militant* supporters in Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. In Los Angeles, 21 subscriptions were sold in the past week to members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) at USAir, Alaska Airlines, United, and Northwest. Twelve copies of the Eastern strike book were also sold.

IAM-organized workers at Alaska Airlines on the west coast are preparing for a fight over concession demands. Socialist Workers candidates Mark Severs and Kathy Wheeler, along with several supporters, went up to Anchorage, Alaska, last week as part of a group of Alaska Airlines workers and others who joined an informational picket line there.

Severs was invited to address a post-picket line union open house, along with labor officials and a number of Democratic Party candidates. In his remarks, Severs, who works at Alaska Airlines in Seattle, stressed the importance of reading the *Militant* each week, and studying the Eastern strike book to get ready for this fight. Eight workers bought *Militant* subscriptions, and five copies of the Eastern book were sold.

Socialist Workers campaign teams in Seattle also report that three unionists employed at Alaska Airlines there have recently joined the Pathfinder Readers Club, which enables members to get a 15 percent discount on Pathfinder litera-

SUBSCRIPTION SCOREBOARD

AROUND THE WORLD

	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New International Single Issues	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL
UNITED STATES							
Twin Cities, MN	23	85	27%	1	13	0	30
Washington, DC	16	70	23%	2	20	1	35
Seattle	17	75	23%	0	23	0	35
Birmingham, AL	11	65	17%	0	3	0	35
San Francisco	16	95	17%	2	35	4	60
Miami	12	75	16%	3	20	4	40
Houston	9	65	14%	1	13	3	30
Los Angeles	17	125	14%	10	75	7	70
New Haven, CT	2	15	13%	1	1	1	6
Chicago	10	75	13%	0	19	3	35
Des Moines, IA	9	80	11%	0	16	0	40
Salt Lake City, UT	7	65	11%	0	13	1	20
St. Louis	8	80	10%	0	3	6	35
New York	17	175	10%	2	50	23	90
Detroit	7	75	9%	0	6	2	35
Pittsburgh	6	70	9%	0	3	4	35
Cleveland	5	60	8%	0	6	0	40
Greensboro, NC	3	65	5%	0	5	4	30
Cincinnati	1	25	4%	0	5	6	5
Newark, NJ	5	125	4%	3	35	9	65
Philadelphia	3	75	4%	1	13	4	35
Atlanta	2	65	3%	0	5	1	30
Morgantown, WV	1	50	2%	0	2	5	30
Baltimore	1	75	1%	0	6	0	25
Boston	0	90	0%	0	25	11	45
Portland, OR	0	12	0%	0	1	0	10
Santa Cruz, CA	0	0	0%	0	0	0	4
U.S. TOTAL	208	1,932	11%	26	416	99	950
AUSTRALIA	0	25	0%	0	6	7	15
BARBADOS	0	6	0%	0	0	0	5
BELGIUM	1	6	17%	0	4	3	10
BRITAIN							
London	7	45	16%	0	5	4	40
Manchester	3	35	9%	0	2	0	30
Sheffield	1	35	3%	0	3	0	20
BRITAIN TOTAL	11	115	10%	0	10	4	90
CANADA							
Montreal	5	50	10%	0	20	9	50
Toronto	3	50	6%	0	15	11	40
Vancouver	0	60	0%	0	10	6	20
CANADA TOTAL	8	160	5%	0	45	26	110
FRANCE	0	3	0%	0	2	1	10
ICELAND	0	15	0%	0	1	0	5
MEXICO	0	1	0%	0	5	0	3
NEW ZEALAND							
Christchurch	7	25	28%	0	1	2	8
Wellington	8	35	23%	1	1	1	10
Auckland	8	40	20%	0	3	1	8
N.Z. TOTAL	23	100	23%	1	5	4	26
PUERTO RICO	0	2	0%	1	5	2	4
SWEDEN	5	40	13%	0	15	6	20
TOTAL	255	2,393	11%	28	514	152	1,243
SHOULD BE		329	14%		63		168
DRIVE GOALS		2,350			450		1,200

IN THE UNIONS

Union	Militant/PM			NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD	GOAL	%SOLD	SOLD	GOAL
UNITED STATES					
UFCW	12	40	30%	0	15
IAM	28	110	25%	1	42
UTU	11	45	24%	0	15
UMWA	4	18	22%	0	6
UAW	13	80	16%	1	35
OCAW	6	50	12%	1	20
USWA	7	90	8%	0	30
ILGWU	2	32	6%	1	9
ACTWU	2	48	4%	1	26
U.S. TOTAL	85	513	17%	5	198
SHOULD BE	72		14%		
NEW ZEALAND					
MWU	1	2	50%	0	1
UFCW	1	5	20%	0	1
EU		5	0%	0	1
N.Z. TOTAL	2	12	17%	0	3
SHOULD BE	2		14%	0	
SWEDEN					
Food Workers	0	3	0%	0	1
Metal Workers	0	7	0%	0	2
SWEDEN TOTAL	0	10	0%	0	3
SHOULD BE	1		14%		

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; EU — Engineers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW (U.S.) — United Food and Commercial Workers; UFCW (New Zealand) — United Food and Chemical Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

Natives in Canada oppose new changes to constitution

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — Opposition among Canada's Native people to the so-called Charlottetown Agreement on Canadian constitutional amendments is growing rapidly.

Mohawks in Akwesasne, Kahnawake, and Kanesatake say they plan to boycott the October 26 national referendum on the accord, and to bar Quebec enumerators from drawing up voters' lists on their lands.

Scores of Indian band chiefs are taking their distance from the deal. Manitoba's 61 band chiefs voted overwhelmingly October 8 against the proposed constitutional amendments, many of which affect Native people. Alberta's chiefs are split evenly and the Union of British Columbia Chiefs, one of two provincial organizations, opposes the deal.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) chiefs, representing 635 bands, refused to take any vote in support of the accord at their general meeting on the constitution October 16. Ottawa and AFN Grand Chief Ovide Mercredi had expected majority support.

Michel Prairie, Communist League candidate in the November 1 St-Jacques provincial by-election in Montreal is campaigning for a 'No' vote on the referendum, arguing that the accord represents no progress for Native and Quebec rights and is a basis for continuing violations of their right to self-determination.

Prairie states: "Quebec's national rights cannot be defended without defending Native rights, and Native rights cannot be won in opposition to Quebec's national rights."

"We can unite the working class to pursue our common interests to win jobs, and defend our unions and living standards only by all workers joining the fight for affirmative action in jobs and national rights for the oppressed nationalities in Canada."

Opposition by the Indian chiefs reflects growing dissatisfaction among the Native population as a whole with the constitutional package.

The Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs issued a statement explaining how the constitutional package denies Native's right to self-determination. "The Charlottetown Agreement is not a recognition . . . of our distinct Nations, with rights to protect and use our territories and control of our destinies." Many Indians argue that the agreement does not restore a single inch of stolen Indian lands.

Growing Native opposition to the accord is having a discernable impact among other layers of the population in Canada, many of whom initially favored the deal only because they believed it supported Native rights.

1990 mobilizations

Canada's rulers were forced to pay lip service to Native demands in this round of constitutional talks because of the mobilizations of tens of thousands of Natives over the past decade to win their national rights and improve their social conditions.

These mobilizations reached a peak in 1990 when Natives joined with Quebecois to stop an earlier constitutional proposal, the Meech Lake Accord. This was followed weeks later by massive actions in solidarity with two Mohawk communities near Montreal that were under siege for defending their land.

Canada's rulers have touted the proposals in the deal as a historic step forward. Provisions in the accord call for constitutional recognition of "the inherent right of self-government" of aboriginal peoples in Canada and creation of an aboriginal "third order of government" in addition to the provincial and federal governments.

The accord, however, assigns no specific content or powers to self-government. This is to be negotiated with Ottawa and the provinces over the next five years and after that, if agreement is not reached, the courts will decide the limits of "self-government." The so-called "inherent" right actually remains under the control of capitalist state institutions.

Indians, Metis — people of mixed Native

and white ancestry who for decades have lived in their own communities, often adjacent to Indian communities — and Inuit in the far north live in the most poverty-stricken conditions in Canada. Unemployment rates on the reserves are disastrously high, often between 50 percent and 90 percent. Life expectancy for Natives is eight years less than the national average. They have the lowest income levels and the highest suicide rates in Canada.

Bantustan-like reserves

Indians who live on reserves whose isolation from economic life compares to the apartheid-created Bantustans in South Africa are governed by the Department of Indian Affairs through a system of band councils, which are nominally elected on the reserves. These are totally funded and controlled by Ottawa. The department regularly overturns or prohibits any band initiative not to its liking. The department and the oppressive Indian Act are to remain in force while negotiations proceed.

Manitoba chiefs, in turning thumbs down on the accord, cited the potential weakening of historic treaty rights and the provisions allowing Ottawa and the provinces to override Native government actions to preserve "peace, order, and good government."

Many also argued that including Metis and non-status Indians in the agreement may weaken existing rights and living standards of status Indians since there is no provision to increase funding for Native social programs. Under the Indian Act, Ottawa gave itself the power to decide who is and is not an Indian. Tens of thousands of Indians and their children lost their Indian status, often through marriage with whites. Ottawa excludes non-status and Metis from its meager Native social programs.

Some Manitoba chiefs have stated that Quebec is being given too many rights. "This latest deal confirms Quebec's desire for superiority," said Philip Fontaine,



Militant/Cheryl Pruitt

1990 demonstration in Montreal backing Mohawks' defense of land rights

grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

The Native Women's Association of Canada opposes the deal as well. They seek to ensure that Canadian courts and the Canadian Charter of Rights — which are part of the 1982 constitution whose provisions were used to attack Quebec's national rights — will be able to override laws and actions of what they say are "male-dominated" band councils.

Native government administrators

The capitalist rulers of Canada envisage Native self-government as the transfer of administration of Native education, health, and other social programs to Native band councils, which would entail the creation of a broad layer of Native government administrators.

But many Indians in the cities and on the reserves see little chance for significant change in their living conditions or expectations with the Charlottetown Accord.

On the Commentary program on CBC Radio September 30, Danielle Woodward, an Indian activist in Saskatchewan explained, "The government through the . . . removal of our traditional leadership and the funding of provincial and national organizations has created an 'Aboriginal Middle Class.'"

Supporters renew campaign to win freedom for Philadelphia activist on death row

BY NANCY COLE

PHILADELPHIA — At a news conference and information forum here September 21, the Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal launched an international campaign to win new support for the release or retrial of Jamal, who now sits on death row at Huntingdon State Prison.

Journalist and activist Mumia Abu-Jamal was convicted for the 1982 killing of a policeman. At the time of his arrest, Jamal was president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists. He was particularly noted for his probing of the 1978 police assault on the home occupied by the MOVE organization, which left a police officer dead. Nine MOVE members were convicted of that killing and given 30 to 100-year sentences.

At the scene of the 1982 cop shooting, Jamal was also shot, although no trial witness ever claimed to have seen who shot him. The bullet came from the slain cop's gun.

While seriously wounded, Jamal was beaten by cops who arrived at the scene, and hospital personnel say he was again beaten for ten minutes on the waiting room floor. The police harassed nurses who treated Jamal, telling them, "You should let the son-of-a-bitch die."

Jamal had a court-appointed attorney forced on him who openly stated he had neither the training nor the time to handle the case. Only \$150 was allocated by the court for investigation.

Some of the prosecution witnesses at the trial had prior or pending charges against them at the time of their cooperative testimony. Even so, the testimonies were conflicting about who the cop's assailant was. The murder weapon was never found, and

Jamal's alleged confession was not included in reports made at the time, but only months later.

At the trial he was prosecuted as much for his political views as for murder, including for statements he supposedly made when he was 16 years old and a member of the Philadelphia Black Panther Party.

While all direct appeals have been rejected, noted defense attorney Leonard Weinglass is now handling his petition for a new hearing. Equal Justice USA — a project of the Quixote Center in Hyattsville, Maryland — is helping to organize and publicize the defense effort on a national level.

Speaking at the September 21 news conference was Hika Kleffner, a political activist from Germany, who said that Jamal is the best known U.S. political prisoner in Germany and across Europe. Supporters of Jamal in Germany have raised some \$23,000 for his defense. Recently they organized a newspaper ad campaign, gathering more than 1,000 signatures of prominent artists, writers, and politicians calling for the release of Jamal and for the end to capital punishment in the United States.

Kleffner linked this German solidarity with the organized activity in her country against racist and neo-Nazi attacks on refugees and immigrant workers.

Death row in Philadelphia

A series of recent articles in the daily *Philadelphia Inquirer* detail the startling context in which Jamal was convicted. Of the 145 people on death row in Pennsylvania, 80 are from Philadelphia. Of those Philadelphia death row inmates, 85 percent are Black. Almost all are poor.

City trial judges appoint defense attorneys for homicide cases, who are often,

"Our leaders drive new cars, live in the best houses . . . but band deficits run into the millions and there is no money for education, health, housing. . . . If our leaders are willing to give up control of the land, resources, and water, what will be left for us to govern — welfare?"

Mirroring the middle-class Native leadership's opposition to recognizing the national rights of Quebec is the furious opposition of some Quebec nationalist spokespeople, led by the capitalist Parti Quebecois (PQ), to Native rights.

PQ leader Jacques Parizeau has campaigned against the accord, claiming that the sections on Native rights threaten Quebec's national rights. Parizeau cites the need to defend Quebec's "territorial integrity" by rejecting Native land claims in Quebec and Native governments' autonomy from Quebec laws.

The leadership of the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ) completely echoes the line of the PQ in its anti-Native aspects. At a special October 2 convention on the constitutional referendum, the FTQ leadership circulated its position. In the section on Native rights, they warn, "The FTQ reiterates that part and parcel of the sovereignty of Quebec is its territorial integrity and the supremacy of its democratically elected National Assembly."

according to the *Inquirer*, "ward leaders, ward committeemen, failed politicians, the sons of judges and party leaders, and contributors to the judges' election campaigns." One ex-judge, who was removed from the bench for corruption, has handled 65 court-appointed homicide cases over the last two years.

Judge Albert Sabo, who presided over the trial of Mumia Abu-Jamal, has sentenced 26 people to die — 22 of them Black — more than any other judge in the United States.

Although no one has been executed in Pennsylvania in 20 years, Governor Robert Casey has signed 14 death warrants, including one on September 21, the day of the Jamal news conference. Casey is the Democrat who fought to bring his anti-abortion stance before the Democratic Party convention in New York this year.

Hakeem Ali, representing the Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, expressed optimism in closing the news conference and information forum. "We freed Nelson Mandela from the prisons of that ruthless system of apartheid," he said. "It took years, but we did it. We can do it with Mumia."

For more information, contact the Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, P.O. Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA. 19143 (215) 552-8985, or Equal Justice USA, P.O. Box 5206, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782 (301) 699-0042.

You can write Mumia Abu-Jamal at AM#8335, Drawer R, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Nancy Cole is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 1776 at USAir.

Che Guevara and the fight for socialism

New pamphlet from Pathfinder explains the relevance of Che's ideas today

The following is the preface to the new Pathfinder pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, by Mary-Alice Waters.

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

"Do you have any books by this Cuban guy, Che?" José, a worker at the Smithfield meat-packing plant in Landover, Maryland, asked me last September. He was driving his car out of the factory gate when he stopped to talk with a group of young people distributing campaign literature for James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president in the 1992 elections. José said he was interested in socialism and, although he hadn't yet read anything by Che, knew he was "one of the best socialists to ever come around."

The next day a team of young supporters of Warren and DeBates was campaigning at the University of Maryland. We found the same kind of interest among many students in books about the Cuban revolution, including those by and about Ernesto Che Guevara.

"Who was Che?" asked Robert, a student helping out at the campaign table for the first time. He had just taken part in several long discussions on Cuba with other students from Lebanon and Ethiopia. "Is it true there isn't a dictatorship in Cuba? Why did the Stalinist regimes shatter in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe? Won't the same thing happen in Cuba as in Russia?"

This pamphlet discusses the ideas of Che Guevara on how to organize workers and farmers to make the transition to socialism—and how to make sure that "the same thing" doesn't happen in Cuba, and all the future Cubas, as happened in Russia.

For Che, this was not a matter of arm-chair speculation. Che was an Argentine-born revolutionary who joined the struggle to overthrow the Batista dictatorship in Cuba in the mid 1950s and became one of the central leaders of the revolutionary government that triumphed in the Caribbean island in January 1959. He was killed by U.S.-trained troops in Bolivia in October 1967 while leading a guerrilla struggle whose goal was to overthrow the tyrannical regime there.

This pamphlet explains the current relevance of the perspectives Che lived and fought for to the challenges confronting the Cuban revolution in the world of the 1990s. These perspectives are important not only for the Cuban people—who are struggling through tremendous economic difficulties today—but for youth and working people the world over.

Will Cuba survive the economic problems it faces? Is socialism the cause of these difficulties? What about the thirty-plus-year U.S. trade embargo against Cuba? Is it still possible to fight for socialism today?

These and other questions discussed in this pamphlet by Mary-Alice Waters are ones I've been posed with time and again, not only as I've campaigned for the socialist alternative in the 1992 U.S. elections, but also as I've traveled to many countries over the last two years as a representative of the Young Socialist Alliance attending meetings sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and other organizations. I've found young people who've insisted on discussing these questions in Jerusalem and other towns in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; in Nicosia, Cyprus; Athens, Greece; Belgrade, Dubrovnik, and Sarajevo in the former Yugoslavia; and Mexico City, São Paulo, and other cities in Latin America.

The contents of this pamphlet first appeared as the introduction to the 1992 French-language edition, published by Pathfinder, of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Cuban economist Carlos Tablada. This is the companion volume to Pathfinder's English-language edition published in 1990; the Spanish-language edition was issued in Cuba in 1987. Pathfinder also publishes several works by Che Guevara, including *Socialism and Man in Cuba*—in English, Spanish, French, and several other languages; *Che Guevara Speaks*, first published in 1967, within weeks of Guevara's murder; and *Che Guevara and the Cuban*



Che Guevara (left) with Fidel Castro. New pamphlet discusses Guevara's ideas on how to organize workers and farmers to make the transition to socialism.

Revolution, the most comprehensive single-volume collection of his writings and speeches.

The author of this booklet, Mary-Alice Waters, is the editor of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* and of the recent Pathfinder book, *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*, a collection of four speeches by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara presented over a span of two decades before the United Nations.

* * *

Hundreds of thousands of workers, peasants, students, and others poured into the streets of São Paulo and other cities in Brazil in the fall of 1992 demanding the ouster of the country's corrupt president, Fernando Collor de Mello. University students led many of the marches, which were a factor in Collor's fall.

Should young people look to some other section of Brazil's "national bourgeoisie" for a way out of the economic and social catastrophe facing working people there? Can working people, by joining in the unfolding struggles, forge a revolutionary party that can lead them in taking power out of the hands of the capitalist class and establishing a workers' and peasants' government? Even if so, how can they then begin to build a society that will put human needs before profits that enrich only a tiny handful of already wealthy families? What can workers learn from the Cuban revolution? Why did Che so strongly oppose the economic policies of the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union?

These questions are being hotly debated at meetings, marches, and rallies not just in Brazil but throughout Latin America, which remains mired in an economic depression. The viewpoint explained in this pamphlet—based on the experience of thirty-three years of the Cuban revolution—is becoming more relevant than ever as working people resist the devastation of their livelihoods wrought by capitalism. More than seven hundred marches have taken place this year against the Venezuelan government's austerity measures, for example. Strikes and demonstrations erupted in Ecuador in September 1992 after the government devalued the currency by nearly 30 percent, causing prices of many basic goods to double.

Many topics Waters deals with here were those I heard discussed over and over during a June 1992 conference of political parties from the Americas held in Argentina. The meeting marked the sixty-fourth anniversary of Guevara's birth and was held in his native city, Rosario. Just after the conference, thousands of students demonstrated against government education cutbacks in the streets of Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital. Both in Rosario and at the student protests, dozens of young people and others bought copies of Pathfinder books with speeches by Guevara. Interest was particularly high in the exchange of views on "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism" in issue no. 8 of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

At a congress of the Communist youth of Colombia in Bogotá a few months later, participants purchased every copy we had brought with us of the Spanish-language edition of *New Internationalist* no. 8 off a Pathfinder literature table, as well as all the copies of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Che (and several more were ordered by mail). Afterwards, representatives of youth organizations from throughout the Americas affiliated with the World Federation of Democratic Youth met in Bogotá and decided to organize a continent-wide youth brigade to Cuba at the end of 1992. Brigadistas will work alongside Cuban volunteers as part of the effort by the Cuban people to achieve food self-sufficiency.

As discussed by Waters, this accelerated food program, involving hundreds of thousands of Cubans in voluntary work brigades, was launched by the government of Cuba in 1990 when trade with its former major trading partners—the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries—began to collapse. The youth leaders in Bogotá gave the internationalist brigade a fitting name: the Ernesto Che Guevara Youth of the Americas Brigade in Solidarity with Cuba.

Guevara was the foremost proponent of voluntary work as a way working people can fight to cease being the objects of blind economic laws and begin instead to collectively shape their own living and working conditions and social relations, and change themselves in the process. Waters describes how the revival of the voluntary work move-

ment in Cuba in the mid-1980s was instrumental in beginning to reverse the political retreat going back a decade earlier when policies of planning and management copied from the Soviet Union were generalized throughout Cuba.

Further evidence of the interest in the challenges facing revolutionary Cuba today is the turnout for a fall 1992 U.S. speaking tour by Cuban youth leaders Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción Rangel. More than three thousand students and other young people attended campus and community meetings in ten U.S. cities. What's more, on October 1, for the first time in more than thirty years, an advertised public meeting for Cuban revolutionaries was held on a Miami, Florida, campus, where more than two hundred students and others hotly debated the same questions addressed in this booklet. It was a pleasure taking part in that meeting and offering books by Che Guevara for sale in English, Spanish, and French.

But it's not only in the Americas that I've discovered the attraction of—and the controversy around—Che Guevara and the Cuban revolution. Interest was also high among the more than one thousand students and workers at a summer 1992 conference of youth from the Balkans and other European countries called to protest military intervention in the former Yugoslavia by the U.S., German, and other imperialist governments. Following the conference, held in northern Greece at the border with Yugoslavia, I traveled to Belgrade, where knowledge of the Cuban revolution is minimal compared to neighboring capitalist countries. Nonetheless, several students at the University of Belgrade wanted to find out how Che's ideas were relevant to their fight to end the carnage in that country and to begin its genuine transformation into a truly human society.

The reach of Che's words, and the example of his deeds, extends to Asia, too. The Socialist Youth of Japan, for example, has undertaken to translate a number of Guevara's works into Japanese from the English-language Pathfinder editions.

During a U.S. speaking tour this year, Peter Mokaba, president of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, hailed revolutionary Cuba's consistent support for the South African freedom struggle. A victorious revolution in South Africa, Mokaba said, would mean, in a qualitative new way, that "Cuba is not alone"—the goal for which Che Guevara, too, was fighting when he was brutally murdered in Bolivia a quarter century ago.

October 8, 1992

'Militant' supporters launch campaign to sell new pamphlet

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Supporters of the *Militant* are going on a campaign to get the new Pathfinder pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today: Cuba Confronts the World Crisis of the '90s* into the hands of workers and young people who want to learn from the Cuban revolution.

The pamphlet contains Mary-Alice Waters's introduction to the new French-language edition of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada. The preface to the pamphlet appears above. In the pamphlet Waters explains how the communist course Guevara argued for and acted on is the way forward for Cuba's working people to meet the greatest challenges yet to confront the revolution. She explains how these lessons are crucial to the worldwide struggle for socialism.

The pamphlet addresses Guevara's belief that socialism can be built only by free men and women who transform themselves as they collectively change their conditions of life and work. Guevara's internationalist course is the opposite of the one imposed on working people by the bureaucratic regimes in the

former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China.

There is considerable interest among fighters for social justice in learning more about Cuba and the challenges facing the revolution today. This has been heightened by recent coverage in the media on the 30th anniversary of the "Cuban missile crisis."

The success in holding a public forum for Cuban youth leaders Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción Rangel at Florida International University in Miami, and the subsequent public debate it generated, is another indication of the increased openings to get out this pamphlet.

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today is available in English, French, and Spanish. *Militant* readers are encouraged to join the campaign and take a goal to sell the pamphlet to coworkers, students, and others. Those ordering five or more copies of the pamphlet in any language can receive a discount of 50 percent off the cover price of \$3.50.

In addition, anyone who buys a subscription to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial* can receive the pamphlet for \$2.50.

Cuban youth leaders meet Miami Haitians

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

MIAMI — "From the first slave revolt in Haiti two centuries ago working people in Cuba have felt deep identification with your struggle," said Ibis Alvisa González, addressing a meeting of 200 on October 2, organized by the Haitian community group Veye Yo.

Alvisa, a researcher for the Center of Studies of Youth in Havana, was on the last stop of a 10-city tour in the United States, along with José Antonio Concepción Ránel. The two Cuban youth leaders had spoken at a public forum at the Florida International University (FIU) south campus the day before, where an often-heated exchange took place with a number of Cuban-American students opposed to the Cuban revolution. News of the FIU event had been broadcast on the major Spanish-language television channels several times prior to the Veye Yo meeting.

"It was a big victory having the debate we did at FIU," Alvisa said. "Here, with you, I feel we can have a discussion among friends," she said to loud applause from the overwhelmingly working-class audience. Later in the program, Alvisa introduced Anthony Thomas, an usher at the FIU forum who was punched by right-wing student Marcel Felipe at the end of the event. Thomas asked for support for his fight to defend free speech and get Felipe prosecuted.

"We had the opportunity and honor to participate in a demonstration of 10,000 Haitian people in New York demanding the return of Aristide," Alvisa said.

The September 29 march to the United Nations demanded an end to the continued repression by the military rulers in Haiti and the return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the presidency. A similar demonstration of 5,000 took place in Miami the following day.

A lively discussion for more than one hour followed her brief presentation, which was simultaneously translated into Creole. "They say here in the media people don't have clothes or food in Cuba," said the first speaker from the audience. "Is that true? Will Cuba stop supporting Third World countries because of economic difficulties?"

'Your fight is our fight'

"Cuba continues to provide medical help, teachers, and other assistance to Third World countries," the Cuban youth leader said, "despite economic difficulties." She described her experience in Angola in 1988 where she joined thousands of volunteers to help the Angolan people defeat the South African invading armies.

Alvisa contrasted Washington's policy of

forcibly returning to Haiti tens of thousands of refugees fleeing repression, to that of the Cuban government. Haitian refugees are welcomed, housed, fed and provided with free medical care as long as they stay in Cuba. "Your fight is our fight. Internationalism is the soul of the Cuban revolution," Alvisa said, bringing a cheering audience to its feet.

There are shortages of basic goods, including meat and other foods, since Cuba's trade with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union came to a virtual halt, the Cuban youth leader said. "The economic hardships of what we call a special period in peacetime are aggravated by the 33-year U.S. blockade," she added.

Alvisa explained that more than 600,000 Cuban youth have volunteered in agricultural work brigades in the last few months and are fighting to achieve food self-sufficiency. "But unlike what you see throughout Latin America and in the streets of many cities I visited in this country," Alvisa said, "there are no homeless or people without clothes in Cuba."

At certain points the meeting sounded more like a rally. "Bush helped take Aristide down and he hates Cuba," commented somebody from the audience. "That's a good enough reason for me to defend the Cuban revolution," he said to applause and many people shouting "Yes!"

World youth federation will organize America-wide youth brigade to Cuba

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

BOGOTA, Colombia — "1992 is the most difficult year for the Cuban revolution," said Alejandro Aguilar, a leader of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) of Cuba. "At the same time most Cuban youth stand firmer than ever in their determination to defend the revolution."

He was speaking at a meeting of youth organizations from the Americas affiliated to the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY). The September 21-23 event was the second regional meeting of affiliates and friends of the youth federation in the continent this year.

Aguilar said that the economic difficulties stem from the tightening of the U.S. embargo against Cuba and the collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, which has led to "what we call a second blockade." In response, hundreds of thousands of young people have volunteered to take part in agricultural work brigades in an effort by the Cuban people to achieve food self-sufficiency.

"International solidarity has also grown," Aguilar said. Thousands of young people from around the world came to Cuba this summer and participated in 16 work brigades in the fields.

Participants at the WFDY meeting discussed how to step up solidarity with Cuba. They fleshed out plans to organize a continent-wide youth brigade to the Caribbean island at the end of the year.

More than 100 brigadistas from Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America will arrive in Havana between December 23 and 26. They will take part in the year-end celebrations of the 34th anniversary of the triumph of the revolutionary forces against Batista's dictatorship in 1959. They will then work with Cuban volunteers in the fields for two weeks. Brigade members will stay in Cuba for three weeks until January 15.

Representatives of the October 8 Revolutionary Youth (JR-8) and other WFDY affiliates in Brazil, and of the Communist Youth of Colombia will coordinate building and organizing this brigade from an office in São Paulo, Brazil. "The effort to build the brigade will go hand in hand with standing up to the 33-year U.S. embargo against Cuba," said Aguilar.

Youth leaders in Bogotá named the brigade the Ernesto Che Guevara Youth of the Americas Brigade in Solidarity with Cuba. Guevara was one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution. He advocated voluntary work as one of the major tools working



Alvisa (center) and Concepción (right) speak at meeting organized by Veye Yo. Militant/Theresa Kendrick

"Do you need a lot of money to go to the hospital?" another questioner asked. Concepción responded that universal free medical care, one of the central conquests of the revolution, as well as free education throughout the university level, remains the case even during the present period of economic difficulties.

"What will happen when Fidel Castro dies? The media here says that will be the end of the revolution," asked a fourth speaker from the audience. "Human beings

are not eternal but the revolution will last as long as working people are involved in the fight for socialism," Alvisa said. "Today millions of youth in Cuba would rather die than bow to the blackmail of U.S. imperialism," she said, causing a standing ovation from the audience. "That's where the future leadership of the revolution will come from."

Participants at the meeting donated \$215 towards the tour of the two Cuban youth leaders.

people can use to gain confidence in themselves and begin solving social problems during the transition to socialism.

Eleven organizations from 10 countries took part in the Bogotá gathering. They included leaders of the Communist Youth Federation of Argentina, JR-8 and the Union of Young Communists of Brazil, the Communist League youth of Canada, the Communist Youth (JUCO) of Colombia, the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) of the United States, and the Communist Youth of Venezuela.

The Union of Communist Youth of Spain and Komsomol from the former Soviet Union also sent observers. Komsomol was the youth organization affiliated to the Communist Party, which was declared illegal by

the Russian government of Boris Yeltsin after the August 1991 coup in Moscow. The majority of the leadership of Komsomol voted subsequently to dissolve the organization. A minority, which supported the leaders of the coup, refounded the group at a congress in May 1992.

Youth leaders in Bogotá also decided to step up solidarity with the unfolding revolution in South Africa. WFDY affiliates and friends will be organizing tours in their respective countries of representatives of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League. The ANC is leading the struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The next regional meeting of WFDY will take place in the Caribbean, early next year.

Student newspaper defends Cubans' right to speak at Miami campus

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"Who's afraid of free speech?" asked the headline of an October 14 editorial in the *Beacon*, the student newspaper at Florida International University (FIU) in Miami. The editorial is part of an unfolding discussion in the wake of the October 1 public forum at FIU where Cuban youth leaders Ibis Alvisa González and José Antonio Concepción Ránel spoke.

The editorial in the *Beacon* took a stand in defense of free speech. In part, it read:

"Free speech is something that most people would agree is their basic right. However, some of those same people who claim America is great because it is the land of the free, etc., have a problem when these basic rights apply to certain groups such as the Socialist party, Gay-rights activists, hate-mongering organizations, and now, in the Hispanic community, a pro-Castro youth group."

"Outraged by last week's pro-Castro lecture, the Hispanic media claim that the university should not have invited two Cuban youth leaders to speak."

"What they fail to realize, however, is that the university's primary objective is to provide a forum where a menagerie of ideas can be discussed and debated, not to endorse one view or another."

The *Beacon* concluded by saying, "don't dismiss different perspectives because you simply disagree with it. Opposing ideas not only make us think, but they keep our convictions from becoming stale, dogmatic propaganda."

A cartoon was printed in the same issue showing Cuban president Fidel Castro reading a newspaper with the headline "Students beaten because of their views" and saying, "So much for democracy."

The *Beacon* also printed a letter that explained, "At this meeting, students peacefully debated and questioned the two Cuban youths." The letter was signed by several individuals supporting the right of the meeting to take place, including three FIU graduate students and the local vice-president of the National Organization for Women. The letter appeared under the title "If you punch Tony, you assault the Constitution." This referred to the attempt by a group of right-wing Cubans to disrupt the meeting and prevent a free and open discussion from taking place. After the event ended, one of the disrupters, Marcel Felipe, punched Anthony Thomas, an usher at the meeting.

The letter went on to say, "Felipe claims that he was 'defending' himself against Thomas. Objective witnesses, campus security officers, and video tapes, including one shown on Channel 51, tell another story. Felipe was behind Thomas' back. . . . Felipe slugged Thomas from behind his back without provocation or explanation."

"We cannot tolerate this violent assault on our right to free speech and assembly. Marcel Felipe must be punished through full civil and university sanctions. We must oppose any reprisals that would limit Tony Thomas' participation in the FIU community."

—CALENDAR—

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Rally for the Socialist Alternative to the Two Parties of War, Racism, and Economic Depression. Speakers: Michigan Socialist Workers candidates for Congress and Detroit School Board. Sun., Nov. 1, 4 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

What Socialists Stand For: A Discussion on the Communist Manifesto. Wednesday Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Support the Socialist Alternative in 1992! Hear the Socialist Workers candidates: Mark Severs for U.S. Senate; David Warshawsky for Congress, 7th District; Kathleen Wheeler for Governor. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Translation to Spanish.

BRITAIN

London

Pathfinder Bookshop Invites You to an Open House. Video, slide show, special offers on Pathfinder titles, refreshments. Sat., Oct. 24, 4 p.m. —6:30 p.m. Followed by Militant Labor Forum celebrating the life of George Novack. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Tel: 71-928-7993.

China opens diplomatic ties with S. Korea

BY NAOMI CRAINE

China's rulers moved to cement their growing economic ties with South Korea by opening formal diplomatic relations on August 24. This step culminated a four-day summit meeting between South Korean president Roh Tae Woo and Chinese president Yang Shangkun September 27-30.

Trade between China and South Korea has been expanding. It amounted to \$5.8 billion in 1991, up from \$3.8 billion in 1990, and stands at \$6 billion for the first half of this year alone. South Korean investment in China currently totals some \$500 million and is growing, with plans to invest in a \$90 million joint-venture steel mill in Pudong.

South Korea's decision to recognize China meant ending relations with Taiwan since China does not maintain diplomatic ties with countries that recognize Taiwan.

Taiwan, an island off the coast of mainland China, was created as a separate country by the regime that ruled before the 1949 revolution in China and that still claims to be the legitimate government over all of China. The agreement between South Korea and China requires Taiwan to turn over its embassy in Seoul, worth some \$800 million, to Beijing.

Taiwan responded to the announcement by ending diplomatic ties with South Korea, as well as severing air links and withdrawing preferential trade agreements. "The gov-

ernment of Roh Tae Woo has violated the trust and trampled on international justice," said Taiwan's foreign minister, Fredrick Chien. Only 29 countries now give formal recognition to Taiwan.

North Korean foreign minister Kim Young Nam said on September 29 that his government was not worried by the agreement. He said that China and North Korea continue to exchange visits and "keep each other informed."

At the China-South Korea summit, Seoul obtained the agreement of the Chinese regime to pressure North Korea to allow more extensive inspection of its nuclear facilities. A representative of the Chinese foreign ministry said Beijing "is willing to make efforts to promote continued relaxation of the situation and stability on the Korean peninsula." Yang reportedly stressed that the Chinese government still prefers to use "persuasion, and not pressure," in its relations with North Korea.

In an address to the United Nations General Assembly on September 29, North Korean foreign minister Kim Young Nam said that Washington's refusal to allow North Korean inspections of U.S. military bases in South Korea is the main obstacle to improving North-South relations. A December 31 accord calls for mutual inspec-

tion of sites in North and South Korea "in order to verify the de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula." Washington and Seoul have long accused the North Korean government of working to develop nuclear weapons.

The North Korean government has said that it has no intention of building nuclear weapons. The International Atomic Energy Agency was permitted to inspect North Korea's nuclear facilities three times this year. Washington has said that is not enough.

It has long been an open secret that the U.S. has had hundreds of nuclear weapons stationed in South Korea. Last December, South Korean president Roh Tae Woo declared that all U.S. nuclear weapons had been withdrawn from Korean soil. There has never been an independent inspection to confirm that this has occurred, however. In addition, Roh himself has said that U.S. submarines armed with nuclear tipped missiles continue to patrol the waters around the Korean peninsula.

There are currently 37,400 U.S. troops based in South Korea. In a joint statement October 8, the U.S. and South Korean governments announced that no further reduction of U.S. forces on the peninsula would be made.

'Granma' is essential source of information about Cuba



At volunteer youth agricultural camp in Cuba. Recent issues of *Granma* have reported how Cuban working people are taking on battle to produce food and other basic needs in face of virtual cutoff in trade with Russia and Eastern Europe.

Militant/Seth Galinsky

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

As rulers in Washington step up pressure against the Cuban revolution and seek to deepen Cuba's economic isolation, more than ever it is important to know the truth about Cuba and the role the Cuban revolution plays in the world. One of the best ways to do this is through the pages of the weekly Cuban newspaper *Granma Internacional*.

Recent issues have reported on how Cuban working people are confronting the challenge of the "special period" — the battle to produce sufficient food, fiber, and manufactured goods in face of a virtual cutoff in trade and assistance from Cuba's former trading partners in Russia and Eastern Europe. How Cuba just produced 7 million tons of sugar, a vital export crop, with less than a third of the material resources of previous years is explained in the September 13 issue.

Granma Internacional also provides summaries and at times the full text of important political documents and speeches by Fidel Castro and other leaders of the Cuban revolution. A recent issue, for example, reports on Castro's speech September 5 in which he explained why Cuba has halted construction on the country's sole nuclear power plant.

Issues also include reports of political debates and developments, such as recent discussions in governmental bodies and economic agencies on what balance to strike between state ownership of the means of production and efforts to increase the number of foreign corporations that participate in joint economic ventures in Cuba. The July 19 *Granma Internacional*, for example, reports on the discussion and vote by the National Assembly of People's Power to eliminate the section of the constitution

mandating a state monopoly of foreign trade.

Granma Internacional offers a selection of news and features carried by the daily *Granma*, published by the Communist Party of Cuba. The weekly, published in English, Spanish, and French editions, is an essential source of information about Cuba and the Cuban revolution.

Subscriptions cost \$40 a year and can be obtained through Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Order yours now for news about the Cuban revolution you won't find anywhere else.

Alabama steel strike

Continued from Page 4

coughing after the gas was released, many people at the gate were unaffected by it. Arnie Watts then brought into the courtroom, as evidence, three canisters that had been thrown onto the picket line. Less than two minutes later the courtroom had to be cleared because everyone present, including Lunday, reacted to the stench of the gas.

After the judges' ruling strikers celebrated the strength of their picket line on October 12 as well as the injunction against the company's use of the security thugs. "They thought they could break us with that tear gas," said Alfonso, a welder at the plant. "They underestimated us. If we had run from it, the strike would have been over."

Striker Annie Ragland stated, "Every worker in this state is going to be watching what we do now. We have a responsibility to stay out as long as it takes to win and when we go back to work, it won't be like it was before. We'll be stronger."

Denise McInerney is a member of USWA Local 9226.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

BOB SCHWARZ

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders of the worldwide struggles against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

Pathfinder supporters around the United States report a good response from USAir and other airport workers to *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists and Gains for the Labor Movement*. Last week's *Militant* reported sales of 11 copies to airport workers in Los Angeles. The Pathfinder bookstore there has had to order another 15 copies to meet the demand. "The book is very relevant to what's on these workers' minds," according to Betsey Stone, who works for United Airlines. What interests them about this book, she continued, is that it demonstrates "the potential power of the rank and file when they get organized."

The Seattle Pathfinder Bookstore has also had to reorder. A team of Pathfinder backers from there traveled to Anchorage, Alaska, to participate in a picket line organized by Alaska Airlines workers, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), who are fighting for a new contract against company-demanded concessions. Four IAM members bought copies of the book, and another was bought by an airport worker in Seattle.

USAir workers in several other cities took advantage of the special \$5 offer for this book. Books were sold outside meetings to discuss the new contract in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Morgantown, and at New York's La Guardia airport to USAir workers picketing during the strike. Many of these workers are veterans of the Eastern Airlines strike as well, either as former Eastern workers or as workers who organized in solidarity with the Eastern strike. A USAir striker in Pittsburgh who bought one of the books had recently transferred from an Indiana airport where there had been Eastern flights but no unionized Eastern workers. The Eastern picket lines at this airport were maintained by a group of USAir workers during the March 1989-January 1991 strike.

Among more than 8,000 booths from 100 countries at the Frankfurt Book Fair earlier this month was Pathfinder Press. The booth was staffed by volunteers from

the United States, Britain, Sweden, and Germany. Big draws at the Pathfinder booth this year were speeches of Malcolm X and *Woman's Evolution*, Evelyn Reed's materialist explanation of women's role in the development of civilization. Importers and wholesalers from around the world stopped by the booth or were visited at their booths as part of the focus on expanding circulation of Pathfinder titles in bookstores around the world.

Book fair participants from many countries also visited the Pathfinder booth. A young Japanese student stopped to pick up a catalog for a friend back home who has already purchased Pathfinder titles. He was pleased to learn that Pathfinder books are now being sold in Japan. A number of young Germans who stopped by the booth were apparently attracted by the pictures of Malcolm X from some of the book covers.

Following the book fair, Pathfinder representatives Alan Harris from London and Bob Schwarz from New York visited bookstores in Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Munich, and Stuttgart. Ten stores placed orders for a total of 162 books. Managers in more than a dozen other stores took catalogs and were encouraged to order through wholesalers.

Malcolm X may now be available at your local K-Mart store. Seventy-three stores across the United States with Readers' Market book sections have ordered *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* and *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*. This is the first order by K-Mart of Pathfinder titles.

How are U.S. workers fighting the attacks on them? What do they think of the Democrats and Republicans? Why are U.S. trade union officials so pro-capitalist? These were among the questions asked at a Pathfinder table at the International Conference in Support of the Cuban People, held September 26 and 27 at the electrical workers' union hall in Mexico City. Trade union activists and leaders from Brazil, Canada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Mexico, and the United States attended the conference and many of the 300 participants were attracted to the Pathfinder table. Books and pamphlets in Spanish and French on Cuba, South Africa, and the U.S. labor movement were bought.

British miners to lose 30,000 jobs

Continued from front page
week called for a "general strike" to resist the closures.

While Kellingley has not been scheduled for closure, British Coal is calling for 400 redundancies there, which would be layoffs with no rights to be recalled. This is also true at Thoresby. For the first time redundancies will be compulsory if not enough miners volunteer to become unemployed. Selection for compulsory redundancy will be made on the basis of "attitude, ability and attendance," not seniority. The government has allocated £1 billion (£1 = \$1.65) for redundancy payments of up to £37,000 per miner depending on age and length of service. BC has warned that any miner participating in a fight to defend their job will forfeit these payments.

Some miners are tempted by the big payments. "My heart says stay but my head says go," one Kellingley miner commented. Others are looking for a way to fight back. "Its about time we got off our knees," was the view of another miner at Kellingley. Some NUM and UDM miners at Thoresby began singing "Here we go" — the anthem of the 1984-85 strike — on their way out of work October 16.

Jim Spaul, an NUM activist at Kellingley and veteran of the 1972, 1974 and 1984-85 coal strikes, pointed out that "because of their crisis the capitalist rulers in this country are determined to see through these closures and the only way they can be stopped is if we fight and if we fight together — both NUM and UDM miners." One delegate to the NUM meeting October 15 who was quoted in the *Financial Times* called for the union to "unashamedly" wrap itself in the Union Jack as it campaigned against pit closures. "That approach would be a disaster," said Spaul.

"We have to see this as part of an international fight," Spaul continued. "Workers in other countries are facing the same vicious attacks from the bosses as miners and others are here."

'No market for coal'

BC, which is owned by the government, claimed the mines had to close "because there was no market for the coal they mine." This follows a decision by the electricity generating and distribution companies, who buy most of BC's output, to shift towards using more imported coal and to build gas-fired power stations.

Conservative government minister Michael Heseltine claimed that it was no longer possible to subsidize the coal industry to the tune of £100 million a month and that the massive cuts were necessary to make British Coal "more competitive." The government is hoping to sell the company to private investors next year.

Since the 1984-85 strike there has been a sustained assault on miners' jobs and conditions, with over 150,000 jobs being cut while output per miner has more than doubled.

The recent decision to close pits comes as the British economy slides deeper into recession. The government announced October 15 an increase in the unemployment rate to 10 percent. Companies such as British Aerospace, Ford, and Lucas have announced substantial layoffs recently. A knock-on effect on industries related to mining is also expected. Robin Cook, Trade and Industry spokesperson for the Labour Party, estimated that an additional 70,000 jobs could be lost. This includes 5,000 rail-workers employed by British Rail to move coal from the mines to the power stations.

Reflecting the anger amongst working people, and the continuing crisis of the government, several conservative Members of Parliament (MPs) have been outspoken in their opposition to the pit closures. Winston Churchill described it as a "kick in the teeth." Elizabeth Peacock, MP for Batley and Spen near Leeds in Yorkshire, explained she was "totally opposed to the wholesale closure of British mines, particularly Yorkshire coal mines."

The NUM's campaign against the job losses is taking the form of demonstrations outside the mines scheduled for closure. The union has also called a demonstration and mass lobby of Parliament for October 21. The TUC has called a national demonstration for London October 25.

Paul Galloway is a member of the NUM at the Thoresby Colliery in Nottinghamshire.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Columbus, Capitalism, and the Conquest of the Indians. Speaker: Juan Villagómez, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Translation to Spanish.

San Francisco

Solidarity With the United Farm Workers Union. Speakers: David Martinez, national secretary-treasurer of United Farm Workers, just returned from tour of Singapore and Hong Kong to organize grape boycott; Ned Measel, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 2244. Sat., Oct. 24, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255. Translation to Spanish.

FLORIDA

Miami

Join the Fight to Defend Free Speech Today. Speakers: Anthony Thomas, Florida International University (FIU) graduate student who was punched while ushering a FIU forum with youth from Cuba; William Aviles, vice-president FIU National Organization for Women chapter, and president of Frontlash; Francisco Picado, Socialist Workers Party, and member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 694; others to be announced. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

From USAir to Caterpillar: Workers Resist the Employers' Offensive. Speakers: Fred Owens, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way at Amtrack; Edwin Fruit, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 846. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Come Hear About the Socialist Alternative in '92. Speaker: John Cox, *Militant* staff writer,

representative of Socialist Workers Campaign. Sat., Oct. 24. Dinner, 6 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

500 Years Since Columbus. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 727-8421

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Support the Socialist Alternative in 1992. Speakers: Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress. Sat., Oct. 24. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8196

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Aid To Somalia Now! Speaker: Margrethe Siem, Socialist Workers candidate for District of Columbia Council, Ward 2. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. S.E. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Columbus and the European Conquest of the Americas. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Mounting World Tensions and the Growth of Working Class Resistance. Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in California, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union. Wed., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

Columbus, the Americas and Capitalism: The Marxist View. Speaker: David Rosenfeld, Communist League. Sat., Oct. 31, 6 p.m. 66 Albion

UN council bans military flights over Bosnia

Continued from page 16

Beirut bombings and no Vietnams." Military intervention in Yugoslavia would not be a guaranteed success, so he is opposed to it. Powell reassured his critics that "whatever is decided" about military action in Yugoslavia, the "armed forces will be ready, willing and able to accomplish the mission."

Washington's allies also have reservations about direct military involvement. U.S. president George Bush had earlier called for a no-fly zone backed up by U.S. fighter planes. London and Paris objected to this, however. Both have troops in Bosnia as part of UN "peacekeeping forces," and expressed concern that these troops would be drawn into the fighting in Bosnia if the U.S. starts shooting down Serbian planes. The current resolution, which places "monitors" at airfields within the former Yugoslav republics to enforce the flight ban, is a compromise between Wash-

ington and its European imperialist rivals.

Strategic Bosnian city captured

In Bosnia, the Serbian rightist militias are continuing their drive to seize land and resources. Bosanski Brod, a strategic city on the border between Bosnia and Croatia, was captured by Serbian forces October 6. It had been the last major city in northern Bosnia to remain under the control of the Bosnian government.

The capture of Bosanski Brod opens completely the corridor of territory held by Serbian Democratic Party forces in Bosnia to the so-called "Serbian Republic of Krajina," a region in Croatia occupied by Radovan Karadzic's troops.

The not-so-openly-advocated goal of the Milosevic regime in Belgrade for a "Greater Serbia" encompassing the majority of Bosnian territory and chunks of Croatia is now an accomplished fact on the ground.

St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

BRITAIN

London

Celebrate the Life of George Novack. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Tel: 71-928-7993.

CANADA

Montreal

Solidarity with the Nationair Flight Attendants. Speakers: Micheline Durivage and Christian Duval, workers locked out by Nationair, members Canadian Union of Public Employees 4026; Annette Kouri, member International Association of Machinists Lodge 712. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$4. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Vancouver

The Socialist Alternative to War, Economic Depression, and the Oppression of Quebecois and Native People. Speaker: Michel Prairie, Communist League, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and editor of *Nouvelle Internationale*. Sat., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24 Ave). Donation: \$5. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Struggles of Workers and Youth in the U.S. Today. Speaker: Tom Fiske, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. Sat., Oct. 31, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Germany Two Years After Reunification: Eyewitness Report. Speakers: Carl-Eric Isacson, Maria Hamberg, and Dag Tirsén, *Militant* reporters who traveled to Germany. Sat., Oct. 24, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Internacional*.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079, 328-3314.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516. Tel: (203) 772-3375.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

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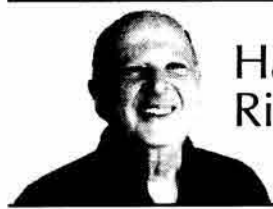
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Except when beating your head — At a press conference on the recent New York racist cop riot, the acting police commissioner declared



Harry Ring

that cops would be subject to firing for using racist epithets, "except under extreme emotional distress."

Parental types — Juan Carlos, king of Spain, said that he, Queen

Sofia, and President Felipe González met with Fidel Castro when the Cuban leader was in Spain last summer and that they had urged him to resign the Cuban presidency as a step toward "democracy." (Translation: "capitalism"). He said the queen spoke to Fidel "like a mother would talk to a son." But, like many a good son, Fidel said no.

Planned chaos? — Pundits are pondering the meaning of the new slogan of the Chinese government: the building of a "socialist market economy."

God canceled his credit card? — "While we don't understand

this, we know that God doesn't make mistakes." — Jerry Falwell, founder of the defunct Moral Majority, whose church/school empire is \$73 million in hock and, apparently, on the verge of collapse.

'Natural' disaster — A draft federal report said that poor design and substandard construction of housing contributed significantly to the massive damage from Hurricane Andrew. The damage was compounded, the report said, by a shortage of building inspectors, inspection supervisors, and poor training of inspectors.

They've got a point — Noting

that the Bush administration considers a fetus a person, a Florida couple has gone to court after being denied the right to deduct their unborn child on their federal tax return.

Still going wrong way — Frank Lorenzo, whose unsuccessful drive to smash the Eastern Airlines strike flushed the company down the tube, was stopped by a cop while driving the wrong way on a Houston, Texas, street. Lorenzo pleaded no contest to a drunk driving charge and took two years probation and a \$750 fine.

Green as a \$ bill — Ecosport, the environmental folk, offer clothing made from organically grown cotton.

Presidential timber — A Nevada outfit offered a 900 number which you could call for \$3 if you were for Perot and another, also \$3, if you weren't for him. And, 72 hours later, a third number to call for the poll results, also for \$3.

Proud legacy — The U.S. government hopes to bury 300,000 barrels of radioactive waste from nuclear weapons in New Mexico salt bed caverns. Since the waste will remain dangerous for 10,000 years and, realizing that current languages may be extinct by then, experts are pondering how to warn future generations of the contamination threat.

Clinic defenders back down anti-choice forces

BY JON HILLSON

ROBBINSDALE, Minnesota — For the first time since a court injunction was issued September 17, right-wing opponents of abortion complied with a Hennepin County restraining order prohibiting their "rescues" at a clinic performing abortions in this Minneapolis suburb.

On October 1, in the face of non-enforcement of the injunction by local cops, a Hennepin County judge rebuked police and threatened abortion foes with stiffer provisions of the court order should they continue to defy it.

The injunction, sought by administrators of the Robbinsdale Clinic, was issued September 17, following a spirited, militant clinic defense mounted by 450 abortion rights fighters on August 30.

The emergency action was called by clinic defense organizers to counter plans announced by antiabortion forces to mobilize 700 rightists to shut down the facility, long a central target of abortion foes in Minnesota.

The rightists mustered barely 100 would-be "rescuers."

The five hour confrontation ended with antiabortion forces dispersing, unable and unwilling to attempt to penetrate lines of predominantly young pro-choice marchers and the rows of yellow-shirted escorts who linked arms behind them and formed a second phalanx at the clinic doors.

The abortion rights activists ranged from area college and high school youths, who took major responsibility to publicize the action, to local unionists, a farm couple from southern Minnesota, and veteran clinic defenders from Fargo, North Dakota.

A huge banner reading "We kicked you out of Fargo, Buffalo, Houston and..." symbolized the experiences and determination of the clinic defenders.

The August action was the largest pro-choice mobilization since early June, when a similar declaration by Operation Rescue was met by 350 clinic defenders, who thwarted some 75 antiabortion rightists.

That mass defense marked a change in a longstanding clinic policy of discouraging pro-choice actions in front of the medical center.

In July, escorts physically removed rightists from the path of cars entering the clinic parking lot, and defended themselves against bodily attacks.

This prompted Robbinsdale cops, who routinely fraternize with the rightists, to limit the auto-blockade tactics of abortion foes, as well as the escorts' defense efforts.

But when a clinic security marshal was thrown by right-wingers onto the hood of a moving car that was leaving the lot and was hurled, stunned, to the pavement, nearby police refused to make an arrest.

The cops likewise turned a blind eye to antiabortion marchers when they massively

violated the new injunction on September 19, placing 75 people at the edge of clinic property.

The restraining order limits their sidewalk-only presence at the site to 12, with others kept at a block's distance.

The order also applies equally to pro-choice forces.

Kid-gloves treatment by cops

Cops informed clinic escorts that the rightists would be given "time to ponder" the injunction to allow it to sink in.

This kid-gloves treatment resulted in the token arrest of four rightist leaders, one of whom is a former Las Vegas, Nevada, policeman.

Robbinsdale cops then chauffeured one of the arrested Operation Rescue leaders to the clinic after his release.

On September 26, antiabortion forces appeared to comply with the order, maintaining a small picket. They were outnumbered by escorts on clinic grounds.

But at 12:00 noon, with most of the escorts gone, a newly gathered bloc of Lambs of Christ and Operation Rescue supporters marched down the street, encircling the edges of clinic property.

Police then disappeared for an hour.

The handful of escorts who held their

posts were jostled by the rightists, several of whom chased a pro-choice senior citizen two blocks until he ducked into a nursing home.

Arriving police refused to take the elderly man's complaint.

On October 2, antiabortion leaders at the clinic announced they'd rented an adjacent for-sale building. Because the building and its parking lot are "private property," provisions of the injunction limiting the size of protest gatherings do not apply.

Antiabortion ranks have been beefed up by veterans of continuing clinic sieges from Milwaukee to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, including thugs who have stalked the Robbinsdale facility in the evening.

These ultrarightists also organize the movement of a cadre of up to 15 teenagers from Mission to the Preborn who recently participated in clinic attacks in Milwaukee and Baton Rouge.

Some of the rightists are campaigning for James "Bo" Gritz, the presidential candidate of the Populist Party, a fascist group that distributes neo-Nazi and Ku Klux Klan literature.

And recently, rightist cadres have begun shouting "Christ killer" and "Judases" at clinic defenders they identify as Jewish.

— 30 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

The title of the "25 AND 50 YEARS AGO" column has temporarily changed, in order to focus on the *Militant's* response to the Cuba missile crisis 30 years ago.

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People
October 29, 1962 Price 10¢

President Kennedy's blockade of Cuba brands him as aggressor before the eyes of the world. He has violated the rights of Cuba, the Soviet Union and other countries. He has invited military retaliation in self-defense by his order to the armed forces to fire upon ships of other nations which refuse to submit to search and seizure.

Cuba is not a threat to the people of the United States in any way. All the Cubans want is to be left free from attack while they concentrate on completion of the social revolution in their country.

When the Cubans abolished capitalism they also put an end to exploitation of their country by American monopoly corporations. In putting human welfare above corporate profits, the Cuban revolutionists committed an unpardonable sin in the eyes of the capitalist rulers of the United States. The big capitalists, who run the United States through their Democratic and Republican puppets, are determined to smash the Cuban revolution.

They have long been trying to strangle Cuba with an economic embargo. Last year they used counter-revolutionaries for an invasion attempt that was beaten off by the Cuban masses.

Now the parties of Kennedy and Eisenhower, who share responsibility for the hostile acts that forced the Cubans to arm in self-defense, resort to a new smear campaign. They try to make defensive measures taken by a little country of seven million

people appear as a threat to the security of the powerful USA. They surround tiny Cuba with a mighty armada in preparation for further acts of aggression calculated to restore American capitalist domination over that island.

Support public demonstrations against the Cuban blockade!

Halt Kennedy's insane drive toward war!
Hands off Cuba!

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 31, 1942

A general strike of the workers of the textile city of Ahmedabad, where some 27 per cent of India's textile mills are concentrated, is still going on after ten weeks. The strike, a political one in protest against the arrest of the All-India Congress leaders, began on August 9, the day they were jailed by the British authorities.

We can be sure that the workers, with considerable experience of political and trade union struggle on returning to the villages become leaders in arousing the peasants to refuse to pay rents and taxes.

That the Stalinists have throughout been playing the role of strikebreakers is quite openly admitted in a dispatch mailed from Bombay and published in the Oct. 27 *Daily Worker*. It says:

"Now and then the owners of the factories manage to incite a strike in one or two mills.

"The next day or as soon as the mill gates open the Communists send the workers back to work for the country's defense and their own livelihood."

The reference to the strikes as "incited" by the owners is of course the merest subterfuge. The naked fact stands out - the workers go on strike and the Stalinists attempt to break the strike in the name of the "country's defense," i.e., in deference to British imperialism.

Socialist campaigners win victory for democratic rights in New Jersey

BY MARTY PETTIT

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey — City officials were forced to back off from their harassment of socialist campaigners here. In a victory for democratic rights, the New Jersey Socialist Workers campaign received a letter signed by acting corporation counsel of Jersey City Paul Mackey stating that campaigning is "protected by the First Amendment and cannot be regulated under peddler's licenses such as the one adopted by Jersey City... the Socialist Workers Campaign Committee is not required to maintain a peddler's license to conduct its activities on the streets of Jersey City."

Jane Harris, SWP candidate for Congress in the 13th District, and several of her supporters requested such a letter at the September 30 Jersey City council meeting, following the ticketing of two of her supporters September 20 on charges of violating the city's peddling ordinance.

Harris led a team of campaign volunteers to Jersey City's Asian Indian community September 20 after three men were finally indicted for violating federal civil rights laws in the brutal beating five years earlier of 28-year-old Dr. Kausal Sharan. The crime against Dr. Sharan came in the midst of a series of violent attacks against Asian Indians in the summer of 1987. Among the victims were Bharat Kanu-Bhai Patel, who was beaten by youths with a 10-pound aluminum rod; students Vikas Aggarwai and Syed Shukaib Hasan, who were attacked in Hoboken by teenagers wielding baseball bats; and Navroze Mody, who died of his injuries after being beaten on a Hoboken street.

The campaign volunteers passed out a statement issued in response to an escalation of police violence in neighboring Newark,

New Jersey. There was also quite a bit of discussion about the cop riot that had occurred in New York City a few days earlier.

Volunteers Devin Oldendick and Susan Zárate had been campaigning for about a half-hour when cops drove up and summarily wrote out two tickets. The tickets carry a fine of \$100 each.

The council was unanimous in supporting the socialist campaign's request for the letter confirming their right to distribute literature. Councilman Jaime Vazquez said, "We're dealing with something other than vending here... The police may not agree with what [the socialists] are saying, but [the socialists] have a right to their point of view." Vazquez was referring to the fact that the socialist campaign table posted a sign saying "Stop Police Brutality."

Assistant corporation counsel Thomas Fodice, who was present at the meeting, was forced to admit, "In general, political material is protected even if there is a charge for that material."

Carmen Mendiola of the city law department affirmed on October 1 that the police are "tearing up" the citations.

Jane Harris commented, "This is an unqualified victory. The American Civil Liberties Union had agreed to represent us in a civil liberties lawsuit. On the day of the city council meeting former Jersey City mayor Gerald McCann reported to prison to serve a sentence for corruption, so the city was not in a strong position to fight this. My campaign supporters plan to take full advantage of this opportunity to reach working people in Jersey City with the socialist alternative in the remaining weeks of the campaign."

An outrageous attack on Cuba

The attack that took place against the Melia Varadero Hotel was an outrageous affront to the sovereignty of Cuba and to the safety of its people and visitors to that country. This attack could only have taken place with the knowledge and complicity of U.S. government agencies.

The terrorist group that organized the attack, Comandos L, is based in Miami. In December of last year, a group of three terrorists from the same group were captured after landing in Cuba with arms, including a submachine gun, and explosives. During their trial, the three testified that they had prepared for an armed attack on Cuba with the knowledge of the U.S. government.

United States government officials have reacted nonchalantly to news of the October 7 attack on the hotel. But imagine the response of Washington if an armed group set out from Cuba, opened fire from speed boats on a luxury hotel on the coast of Florida, and returned safely to Cuba, where the government said it might look into the problem!

While maintaining its thinly-disguised charade, the United States government is fully aware of the activities of right-wing terrorist gangs like Comandos L and Alpha 66 that train in southern Florida. In some cases, government agencies have openly aided counterrevolutionary armed forces. In July, a group of Comandos L members whose boat broke down were "rescued" in Cuban water, by the U.S. Coast Guard and returned safely home.

Comandos L and other right-wing terrorist outfits above all find encouragement from the unrelenting bipartisan campaign of the U.S. government against Cuba. Demo-

cratic Party presidential candidate William Clinton promises to deepen this campaign if elected, criticizing the Bush administration for not taking strong enough measures against Cuba. Clinton endorsed the reactionary "Cuban Democracy Act," which will tighten the embargo against Cuba, six weeks before Bush threw his support behind it. Clinton has also gone out of his way to meet with and gain the support of ultra-right-wing Cuban exile leaders in Miami, who appreciate his position on Cuba, which is more openly aggressive than the current administration.

For his part, Bush hypocritically boasts of his role in "ending the cold war" but maintains and seeks to extend the U.S. blockade of Cuba — one of the most prolonged and vicious blockades in history — while insolently allowing "private" armed attacks against Cuba from U.S. shores. If left unchallenged, these probes pave the way for more serious attacks.

U.S. imperialism's undying hostility to Cuba stems from the fact that Cuban working people have made a social revolution that sets an example for the oppressed millions of Latin America and throughout the world. Cuba's uncompromising and internationalist foreign policy — defending Angola from South African invasions and denouncing the U.S.-led war against Iraq — has also earned it the hatred of the U.S. rulers.

Supporters of Cuba's right to live in peace and to sovereignty should loudly condemn the recent attacks and the role of the U.S. government in giving cover to them.

Lift ban on Iranian publishers!

The organizers of the Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany, the largest book fair in the world, have for the fourth consecutive year banned publishers from Iran from participating. This undemocratic ban is presented as a way of expressing opposition to the death warrant that was issued in February, 1989, by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and other top Iranian government officials against British novelist Salman Rushdie. Rushdie is the author of *The Satanic Verses*, a novel deemed "blasphemous" by the reactionary Iranian leaders.

But this ban against Iranian book publishers in no way advances the stated goal of combating the death warrant against Rushdie; quite the opposite. This move strengthens the hands of the censors and tyrants the world over by closing down democratic space to exchange ideas. It gives the Iranian capitalist regime, for example, an excuse to bar German publishers, or publishers from other countries, from events like the Tehran Book Fair that took place earlier this year. If this ban is allowed to pass without protest, publishers of working-class and revolutionary literature can expect to be targeted in the future.

The hypocrisy of the ban should also be exposed. Why ban Iranian publishers because of the policies of that

country's government? Why not ban U.S. publishers because of the role of Washington in organizing the slaughter in Iraq last year? Or publishers from Israel as punishment for that government's oppression of the Palestinians?

This ban comes in the context of a wave of right-wing attacks on foreign-born workers and asylum-seekers in Germany over the last two months. The Bonn government's answer to the violence is to push for a constitutional amendment making it easier to deport workers who come to Germany from other countries. The majority party in parliament, Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, campaigns with the slogan "No to false asylum-seekers!" The ban on Iranian publishers reinforces and promotes the xenophobia and nationalistic hysteria that have fueled these violent attacks.

All working people and supporters of democratic rights should oppose the reactionary move by the organizers of the Frankfurt Book Fair. Equally, the demand that the Iranian regime drop its reactionary campaign and its death threats against Salman Rushdie must be maintained. Any moves to close down political and democratic rights or to whip up racism and bigotry should be repudiated in the strongest manner.

Miners' fight is international

"You're fired!" That's what British Coal plans to tell 30,000 mine workers in the next few months. And not only miners will be affected when the government-owned coal industry closes 31 pits by March 1993. Many thousands of mine-machinery manufacturing workers and rail workers will be hit hard. Mining communities across Britain will be devastated.

Actions are being called in Britain to halt the pit closures. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has planned protests at the mines scheduled to be closed. The miners', union and the Trades Union Congress have also announced national actions in London to halt the government moves. Even leaders of the Union of Democratic Miners, who opposed the 1984-85 strike against pit closures, have voiced support for action. These protests deserve the support of working people throughout Britain and around the world.

The heroic struggles of mine workers in Britain and in other parts of the world have helped to elevate the conditions of the working class far beyond mining communities. The year-long battle against pit closures waged by the NUM in 1984-85 remains one of the most important examples of labor resistance in the past two decades.

The decision made by British Coal, without regard to the effects on miners, their families, and mining communities, is the same decision capitalist enterprises and the governments that represent them are making around the world. The capitalist system is in crisis and the only answer for the wealthy class that benefits from the exploitation of labor is to attack our living standards and lead us into war.

Commenting on the mine shutdowns, Michael Heseltine, the British cabinet minister responsible for coal, said, "the social and employment consequences cause me deep concern." But no statement could be more hypocritical.

The concern this government minister has is for the capitalist class he so slavishly represents. His only worry about coal miners is whether they will be able to wage a struggle strong enough to defeat the government's plans.

In that struggle miners can look to other workers in Britain as well as internationally for support. Mine workers in the United States, as in other countries, are also facing attacks from their bosses. At the same time as British Coal's pit closure plan is supposed to wind up in March 1993, miners in the U.S. will be facing off against the coal bosses as their national contract expires. What the British government is able to take away will certainly have an impact on the struggle of mine workers in other parts of the world.

The speed and magnitude of the job cuts in Britain have caused even some of the most conservative members of government to voice opposition. They fear the social upheaval that working people may organize to stop the pit closures. Conservative Party Member of Parliament Teddy Taylor expressed it this way, "If the government continues to show little sympathy but near contempt for people losing their jobs at a time of acute recession, they will simply lose the support and sympathy of the population."

Even before these announced pit closures Britain had entered into its 29th consecutive monthly rise in unemployment. Nearly 3 million workers are now without jobs. What the British rulers hope for is division among working people—what they deeply fear is the solidarity that can be organized among workers.

Supporting the actions of miners in Britain against pit closures and job losses is one of the most pressing matters not only for workers in Britain, but for workers around the world as well.

The 1987 stock market crash

October 19 marks the fifth anniversary of the 1987 stock market crash. The following excerpt from a Socialist Workers Party resolution adopted by the SWP convention in August 1988 outlines the scale of that event.

The October 19, 1987, crash on the New York Stock Exchange was the steepest plunge in stock prices in this century, a larger and faster drop than the 1929 crash that signaled the coming Great Depression. Between Wall Street's opening and closing bells October 19 there was a 23 percent plummet in average stock prices, resulting in roughly \$500 billion in losses. The Chicago stock futures market fell even more sharply, diving 36 percent in 10 hours over two days. The crash culminated a stock market slide that had begun in late August; overall, share prices fell by more than one-third over that period. This came on top of a collapse in the bond market, with prices of U.S. government securities falling 26 percent between late March and October 19.

Unlike the 1929 crash, the dive on Wall Street did not pause at the U. S. borders. With explosive computerized rapidity, it spread to every other stock market around the world over the next 24 hours. Hundreds of billions more dollars in paper values were destroyed. This reflected the tightening interlinkages, especially since World War II, of the U.S.-dominated imperialist world system of capitalist monetary relations, credit, production, and trade. Rather than buffering the shocks from the crash in New York, stock markets from London to Hong Kong, from Tokyo to Toronto, from Sydney to Mexico City helped drag each other down.

The most devastating decline hit the exchanges in semicolonial countries. The Hong Kong stock market ended trading altogether for a week. Shares on the Mexico City exchange dropped 75 percent in October, setting off a loss of nearly one-third of the peso's value and a capital flight of more than \$2 billion from Mexico over the next two months.

'Meltdown'

The October 19 crash verged on what business-page commentators, borrowing from the vocabulary of nuclear catastrophe, termed a "meltdown" of the capitalist world's stock exchanges. More importantly, given the degree to which trading on the stock, bond, commodities, and futures markets depends on massive infusions of borrowed funds, this meltdown threatened capitalism's international banking network as well. Major securities firms, suffering staggering losses as the day went on, borrowed frantically to buy up stocks in hopes of halting the free-fall of share prices and thus the cash value of their own assets. When this effort failed, the big Wall Street houses were left deeply in debt, with piles of devalued stocks. Major banks, suddenly finding themselves with mounting bad debts, began turning down requests for further credit. To head off disaster, the U.S. government directly intervened. The Federal Reserve Board flooded the banking system with money on October 20 and credit lines were prevented from squeezing shut. A complete collapse was narrowly averted. . . . Capitalists' confidence in the stability of the stock market has still not recovered. . . .

At the same time, however, the exploiters' ceaseless quest for the highest returns will eventually force them to pour money capital back into stocks, sending volumes and prices soaring once again. Under capitalism, the blind laws of the market are ultimately more powerful than the mightiest state in matters of values and prices. And in a world where almost everything is a commodity, that is powerful indeed.

Mountain of debt

The near meltdown on October 19 also further exposed the vulnerability of the capitalist world to the towering pile of government and private debt that has built up worldwide since the early 1970s. The indebtedness of the oppressed countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific accelerated at a dizzying pace in the 1980s as these nations suffered the combined blows of exploding interest rates at the opening of the decade; the deep 1981-82 recessions that rolled through the United States and several other capitalist countries; and the sharp drop in the prices of most raw materials and other commodities sold by Third World countries on the world market.

The total debt owed by the capitalists and governments of these countries to the wealthy families that own the major imperialist banks reached the almost unimaginable figure of \$1.2 trillion by the end of 1987, more than twelve times its level in 1973. Much as bankers in the United States goaded farmers into bigger and bigger debt loads throughout the 1970s, the massive borrowing that resulted in today's Third World debt was initiated, pushed, and sustained by finance capital, which stood to profit mightily off the interest payments.

Mounting international debt slavery has not only meant economic and social devastation for hundreds of millions of peasants and workers; it has also increased the instability of the entire imperialist banking system. The so-called Third World debt crisis is in fact a dance of death between the capitalists in the imperialist countries and those in the semicolonial world, in which the primary victims of an international monetary calamity will be the working people of both the oppressed and oppressor countries.

Striking Yellowknife gold miners fight frame-up

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

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

after 10:00 a.m.?

"Why has the NWT government refused to conduct an inquiry?"

"Why did Royal Oak Mines fly out all replacement workers who were not local residents, 44 hours after the blast?"

"Why have specialized forensic post-blast investigators not been summoned?"

"Why did the police announce the day after the blast, that it was 'delib-

nurses, hospital workers, and supporters rallied outside Christchurch Public Hospital.

The protesters marched to the central city. Banners included, "Health cuts don't heal," "Yes to unions," and "Reduce pay — no way."

In Wellington, 1,000 nurses and supporters marched through the city. The employers have "woken a sleeping tiger that will be hard to quiet," said nurses' delegate Jeanette Colins.

Contracts for nurses employed at public hospitals are being renegotiated region by region. Area health boards, which administer the hospitals, have been pressing demands for cutbacks in pay rates and conditions. A particular target has been penal rates (extra payments for working overtime, night-time shifts, weekends, or public holidays).

According to the Nurses Association, nurses' real incomes have fallen by 6 percent in the last three years.

In Wellington, the area health board had been seeking to extend work shifts from 8 to 10 hours, and to remove the Nurses Association from the contract as a party to negotiating future changes in working conditions.

During the first strike by nurses, in Taranaki in September, employers mounted a strikebreaking effort, transporting in several dozen nurses employed through an agency.

The striking nurses responded with militant picketing against the strikebreakers outside their hotel and at airports. Threats by other hospital boards to hire replacement staff during strike action were subsequently dropped.

Machinists at Boeing ratify new contract

A new contract covering 43,000 aerospace workers at Boeing Co. was voted up Oct. 2. The pact covers members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) working in the Seattle area; Portland, Oregon; and Wichita, Kansas.

Three years ago the IAM carried out a successful 48-day strike against Boeing that won new protection against forced overtime, and substantial wage increases. The gains won in the previous contract have been eroded by the new agreement.

The contract was approved by a 71-to-29 percent margin. Two

weeks earlier 96 percent of these machinists had voted to authorize a strike.

The new contract includes a one-year wage freeze after the payment of a 30 cent cost of living (COLA) adjustment. There are 3.5 percent pay increases in the second and third years.

There is also a lump-sum productivity bonus of 12 percent in the first year, to be paid just before Christmas.

Entry level wages for the lowest pay grade have been lowered from the current rate of \$11.39 per hour to \$9.72 per hour. The length of the pay progression steps have been increased from the present five years to seven and a half.

Most members were unaware of any of these takebacks until they arrived to vote. At the contract ratification meetings, the union leadership made no recommendation to the members on how to vote on the proposed contract. The new wage scales for new hires were not printed or explained in the eight-page contract summary handed out at the meetings.

"They don't recommend we accept it. They don't recommend we strike. Then what are we supposed to do? The offer is mediocre at best," stated Jack Johnson, an airplane structures mechanic. "At least we didn't lose our medical, our COLA, or get hit with a medical copayment."

"People are scared," said stores clerk Calvin Clegg. "They've got mortgages to pay, Boeing put a lot of money up front, 12 percent, to try to sell this contract."

Others felt differently. Dave Goldman from the Auburn, Washington plant voted against the offer. "There were two reasons. One was the wages — nothing in the first year. The second was what they did to the new hires. That alone was enough for me to vote against the contract."

Oil workers vote union at Philadelphia refinery

In September refinery workers employed by Chevron in Philadelphia won an important victory when they voted 276-154 to be represented by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW). This successful organizing drive was the fifth such try at the Chevron facility since 1980.

In April, two workers from the refinery approached OCAW Local 8-234 requesting help in organizing a union at Chevron. A core in-house committee of a dozen workers came together to lead the organizing drive. They recruited a large layer of workers on numerous crews and areas of the plant to help win others to the union.

"Management had taken advantage of everyone," said Denis Stefano, president of OCAW Local 8-234. "They had no regard for anyone's requests. They had a 'rule book' that they would just add and subtract from as they saw fit. Management was squeezing everyone."

Union supporters produced "One Voice," a newsletter where workers expressed their opinions on why they needed a union.

More than 30 issues of the newsletter were distributed at the plant gates from June through September by Chevron workers and other OCAW members. Meetings to discuss the union organizing drive were held twice a week.

By the last plant-gate distribution more than 75 workers demonstrated their support for the union.

The company filed objections to the union election claiming "unlawful conduct by the union before and during the election." They charged the union with marking yes sample ballots, and that "the general conduct of the union made free choice impossible." On September 25 when the company was to produce supporting evidence for these charges more than 100 workers were out in front of the refinery protesting the company's actions.

Chevron workers have continued to organize. As a unit of OCAW Local 8-234, they've established a "Committee for a Fair Contract," which has signed up 70 workers as members.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Ned Dmytryshyn, member of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 213 in Vancouver, Canada; Agnes Sullivan in Christchurch and Michael Tucker in Wellington, New Zealand; Bob Bruneau, member of IAM District 751 Local A in Renton, Washington; and Kathy Mickells, member OCAW Local 8-901, in Philadelphia.

ON THE PICKET LINE

about what is happening at your work place or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

"I feel that we don't have any constitutional rights in Yellowknife," explained Harry Seeton, president of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (NWT).

"The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) has been questioning our members and their wives about the September 18 explosion at Royal Oak's Giant mine that killed nine miners," continued Seeton. "The questions don't just deal with the explosion but deal with picket-line activity and reasons for the strike. They're trying hard to pin the blame on somebody. Who else are they questioning other than our union members?"

The 240 members of CASAW Local 4 have been on strike against Royal Oak's demand for concessions, and the use of replacement workers. The main issue in the strike is health and safety and an attempt by the company to gut seniority rights. One hundred and ten of the strikers face criminal charges for picket-line activity.

A hysterical frame-up campaign by the mine bosses that is promoted by the cops and the big-business media has, without a shred of evidence, blamed the striking miners for this tragedy.

A September 28 article in the *Vancouver Sun* poses some important unanswered questions that expose this frame-up:

"Why was the explosion at 8:35 a.m. only reported to police and the mine inspection and safety branch

erately set' when Ottawa RCMP Inspector Don Watson, head of the post-blast team, said he hadn't yet concluded it was intentionally set?"

"Why was almost 1,100 kilograms of blasting powder delivered to the same level of the mine where the blast occurred, an hour after the blast?"

"Why was the mine opened September 25 with so many questions unanswered?"

The CASAW Ladies Association for Strike Support (CLASS) has put out a call for organizations and union locals to adopt a striking family. Send messages of support and donations to CASAW Local 4, P.O. Box 1628, Yellowknife, NWT, X1A2P2.

New Zealand nurses take strike action

More than 5,500 nurses in the Wellington, Nelson-Marlborough, and Canterbury regions of New Zealand held 24-hour strikes on September 29 and October 1. In Canterbury, some 700 hospital workers — orderlies, cooks, and cleaners — also joined the strike action.

The nurses were protesting attempts by regional health boards to impose changes to their contracts that would mean reduced wages and longer hours.

Nurses in Wellington struck again October 6, but returned to work after employers agreed to a temporary contract maintaining existing conditions. Canterbury nurses settled their contract the following day.

During the one-day stoppages spirited pickets were set up outside public hospitals. On September 29, protest marches and rallies were also held.

In Christchurch, more than 500

LETTERS

Excellent coverage

Keep up the excellent coverage on events in Yugoslavia and the depth of the world recession. I would like to see more articles like the one on Swedish austerity and on how the coming depression socially affects working people in the developed countries and developing ones.

I regularly depend on the *Militant* to cut through all this bourgeois crap analysis of the economic recession.

G.K.
Bronx, New York

Do article on GATT

Can you do an article on GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade), a multilateral trade agreement that sets worldwide trade rules? From what I've read so far it sounds fascist and scary.

L.S.
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

South Africa massacre

The World Federation of Democratic Youth wishes to express its dismay over the remorseless perpetual killings in Bisho and other parts of South Africa.

We share the deep sorrow felt by

those who lost their relatives at this barbaric act. WFDY expresses its grief on the calamity that has befallen you. The callousness of the slaughters of mankind shall reach a definite end and banners of peace and progress shall fly high again. To the ANC supporters, your struggle is our struggle.

We wish to express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved comrades, relatives and friends. Yesterday Boipatong today Bisho. International public opinion is very much aware of the involvement of the South African regime in these inhuman activities. WFDY along with other peace loving forces all over the world are fast losing confidence in the commitment of Mr. F.W. de Klerk's government towards transforming South Africa into a nonracial democratic state.

Rasheed Khalafalla
vice president,
World Federation of Democratic Youth
Budapest, Hungary.

'People of the Pines'

In my review of the book *People of the Pines* published in the July 31 issue of the *Militant*, I explained that the book was available only in hardcover and that the publisher

had no plans for issuing a paperback edition. The publisher has just released the book in paperback and it retails for \$12.95 Canadian. It can be ordered from the publisher, Little Brown and Company, 148 Yorkville Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1C2.

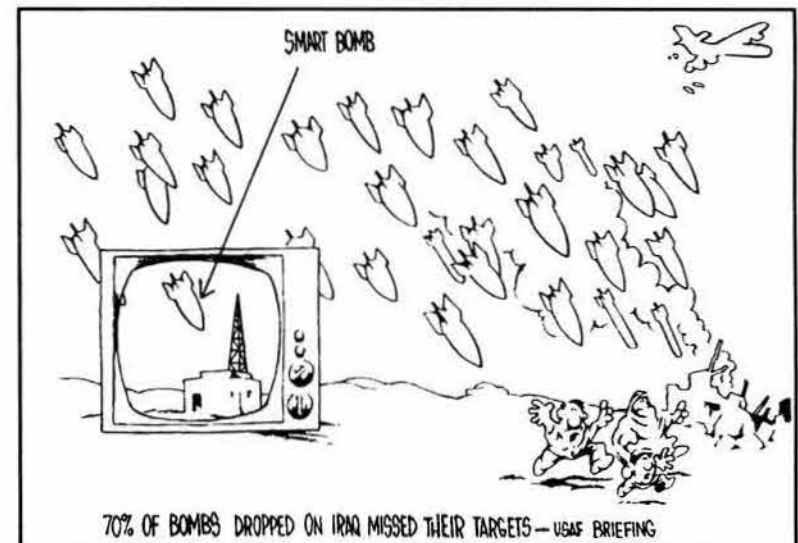
The book tells the story of the dramatic fight in 1990 of the Mohawk Indian people to defend their lands against violent attacks by the Canadian and Quebec governments.

Roger Annis
Montreal, Canada

Police harassment

At a recent meeting held in the Butetown area of Cardiff, reports were given of increased police activity against Black residents. A funeral procession was disturbed, houses were raided for spurious searches, and a member of The Cardiff Three campaign, Malik Abdullahi, was held by police for thirty hours.

This is in the context of an investigation into the South Wales police force for fabricating evidence in the Darvell case. The Darvell brothers were recently released from prison after six years protesting their innocence over the murder of a woman



in Swansea, South Wales.

The investigation into the police has some bearing on the case of The Cardiff Three. These are three men jailed for life for the murder of Lynette White in the Butetown area of Cardiff. The families of the three men are campaigning for their release and a judicial appeal is due to be heard on December 7.

Malik Abdullahi, as a spokesperson for the campaign, has come under increased police harassment.

At the meeting calls were made for action. Betty Campbell, a local

head teacher reported that when complaints were sent into the police they replied with a completely different account of the events, even when there were witnesses.

Helen Wilkins
Cardiff, England

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.

Hundreds in Minneapolis speak out against cop brutality and frame-up

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

MINNEAPOLIS — On October 10, more than 200 people rallied in North Minneapolis against police brutality and in defense of targets of a frame-up and slander campaign being organized by the Minneapolis Federation of Police.

Officer Jerome Haaf was shot in the back while on a coffee break September 25. The cops then unleashed a reign of terror in their search for suspects, all of whom are young Black men. No one has been charged in the shooting, but the police and their supporters claim, without offering a shred of evidence, that a coalition of gangs called "United For Peace" is linked to the killing.

The police department, which had worked with United For Peace over the last six months to patrol the streets, broke relations with the group. Four members of United For Peace were arrested for the murder, but then released for lack of evidence.

Some 600 people attended an October 9 "Rally for Public Safety and Peace" sponsored by the Minneapolis police federation. Among those speaking at this event were Minnesota governor Arne Carlson and Matthew Little, a leader of the Minneapolis NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).

The police are now selling T-shirts that read "United for Police" with a logo of Haaf's badge and the date of his murder.

"The federation and their allies are seeking to exploit the murder of officer Haaf to brand as criminals whole sections of the population in Minneapolis," stated Mel Reeves who chaired the October 10 rally against police brutality. "They seek to place anyone they label as a 'gang member' outside the bounds of equal protection under the law."

Thanking the crowd for turning out for the rally, Sharif Willis, president of United For Peace said, "This rally has been a means to bring people together to support each other — it's about every African-American and other person of color who walks the streets of Minneapolis."

Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress and a central leader of actions resisting the police crackdown following the murder of Haaf, responded to the assertion made by some speakers that Minneapolis had been turned into a police state and that fascism was at hand.

"If we were living under fascism, we wouldn't be here at this rally today," said

Nisan. "What we are engaged in is a struggle in which what working people and youth do will be decisive in determining whether the forces of reaction and racism triumph or not."

The week before on October 3, 200 people had packed the upstairs meeting room at the North Regional Public Library for a "Speak-out against police brutality."

The multiracial and multigenerational crowd at the library cheered Mel Reeves when he explained, "If there's one myth that's popped up in the local media in the last few days that we're going to put to rest today, it is the idea that the crackdown following the murder of Haaf is a question of 'minority perception' — that just like when you saw the Rodney King video — it was just your perception that he was being beat, right now it's just your perception that the cops are terrorizing people."

Democratic discussion

Speaking for the ad hoc committee that had pulled together the speak-out, Chris Nisan said, "We're going to do something today that many think ordinary working people can't do — have a democratic, civilized and sober discussion on police brutality — what it is

and what we can do to mobilize against it."

Nisan argued with the idea put forward by the press and a range of elected officials and Black community and religious groups that a race war is getting ready to ensue.

He explained, "Police brutality isn't a race problem. It's a human problem. It affects all working people — some, because they are members of oppressed nationalities, more than others. The composition of this meeting shows that people of all skin colors in Minneapolis are appalled at the police brutality we have witnessed in the last week and a half in this city."

An October 7 news conference announced that more than 50 Minneapolis groups had formed a "Stop the Violence" coalition and were demanding that within five days the police either apologize or formally charge United For Peace members for criminal activity.

The coalition, led by the Urban League, has set up two police brutality hotline numbers. They aim to meet immediately with police to find ways to help with what they call community-oriented policing. The police chief rejected the coalition's deadline out of hand.

California drywallers continue to build strike

BY CRAIG HONTS

LOS ANGELES — Four thousand drywall construction workers in southern California, who have been on strike for more than 125 days, continue to strengthen and advance their fight for justice. More work-sites have been shut down, as new workers join the struggle in spite of mass arrests and intimidation by the bosses and the police.

In response to mounting pressure from the strikers, a growing number of contractors have entered into negotiations with the drywallers. Eight of the contractors have now signed agreements. On September 23 the Pacific Rim Drywall Association, representing two dozen of the largest drywall subcontractors in southern California, announced that it had agreed to negotiate with the union to settle the four-month-old strike.

One center of strike activity has been Palmdale, located in the Mojave desert on the edge of the relentlessly expanding urban sprawl of southern California. Traveling teams of pickets ensure that housing tracts throughout the area have no drywalling work being done. Pickets show up at construction sites and are often able to get workers to walk off the job as a group, with some signing up as regular pickets. Some of the larger sites, however, have used a heavy police presence to intimidate workers and continue the construction work. On October 1, 500 drywall construction workers picketing one large site on Palmdale Boulevard were attacked by police, and 12 of them arrested.

Since the strike began in early June, there have been 150 arrests in Orange County, 100 in San Diego County, and 70 in Los Angeles County. Around 50 of the strikers have been detained by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and some 25 of those have been deported to Mexico.

Each and every one of the attempts to deport the strikers has been fought by the drywallers.

On September 23, 200 striking drywallers picketed the Federal Building in downtown Los Angeles where five strikers were facing deportation hearings after being arrested July 2 while picketing a site in Mission Viejo in Orange County. After making a mass arrest, the Orange County sheriff's department called the INS office in Westminster to see if they wanted to interrogate the workers.



Militant/Joel Britton

Drywall workers' picket line in front of Irvine Co. construction site.

Many of the strikers refused to talk to the INS. Others, after being held without food or sleep for 24 hours, were pressured into signing INS voluntary departure forms. One worker, Albert Maciel, was beaten by INS

officials who threatened to kill him if he didn't sign the form.

The fact that drywallers have aggressively fought INS attempts at intimidation has been important for the ability of the

strikers to continue to draw in new support. At the September 23 hearing, for instance, three of the strikers were released after refusing to answer INS questions on the grounds of the Fifth Amendment. Two others were deported however, in spite of protests by immigrant organizations defending the strikers who explained that the voluntary departure forms had only been signed under extreme pressure.

A campaign statement issued by Juan Villagómez, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 30th District, called for an end to the deportations and for dropping the charges against the striking workers, and stated the labor movement should join in this important struggle for union recognition and a living wage. Villagómez explained that "the attacks on these workers are an example of the assault by the bosses on the entire labor movement to lower our wages, our standard of living, and to restrict our rights. The fight of the drywall workers and other struggles around the world, like the heroic fight of working people in South Africa to end apartheid, is an inspiration for all of us and is part of a broad struggle of workers for justice."

Craig Honts is a rail worker and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1544.

UN council bans military flights over Bosnia

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The United Nations Security Council voted to ban military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina October 9. The resolution was negotiated between the governments of Britain, France, and the United States before being proposed. It states that if any planes do fly, the Security Council will "consider urgently the further measures necessary to enforce this ban." It does not call for military enforcement of the "no-fly" zone at this time.

The Security Council also voted October 6 to set up a war-crimes commission to investigate reports of atrocities throughout the former Yugoslavia. The commission was first proposed by Bush and is being compared to the Allied War Crimes Commission

set up in 1943 to investigate Nazi atrocities.

Debate on how far to go with military intervention in the Yugoslav carnage is continuing within ruling circles in the United States. In a September 27 interview with the *New York Times*, Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke against the United States intervening militarily in Yugoslavia. His reason was that the political objectives of such intervention are unclear and that the U.S. could get bogged down in a political and military fiasco. Powell argued that only the massive introduction of ground troops might bear fruit, something he does not consider politically advisable at the moment.

The *Times* responded in an October 4 editorial, calling for military involvement,

criticizing Powell, and complaining that "Americans" should "be getting more for their money than no-can-do." The *Washington Post* followed suit, saying that "in a context in which there is neither broad public support nor a comprehensive plan" for intervention, "a small step," like the no-fly zone, is a good move.

Powell answered these criticisms in a column printed in the October 8 *New York Times*. He pointed out his wholehearted support for many recent U.S. military actions, from the 1989 invasion of Panama to the murderous war on Iraq last year. He said, "all of these operations had one thing in common: they were successful. There have been no Bay of Pigs, failed desert raids,

Continued on Page 12