

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

IRA bombings
fuel debate in Britain

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Mandela: murder won't stop march to freedom in S. Africa

Millions strike to condemn killing of Chris Hani

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The assassination of Chris Hani, a central leader of the African National Congress and general secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP), has evoked massive protests by those fighting to advance the struggle for a democratic, nonracial, non-sexist republic in South Africa.

In one of the largest political protests in South African history, up to 90 percent of the country's 6 million Black workers took part in a one-day strike April 14 to protest Hani's assassination. The African National Congress (ANC) estimated that 1.5 million people also participated in 84 demonstrations and rallies around the country that day.

In the Black township of Soweto the police opened fire on a peaceful demonstration of 20,000. Five were killed, including the head of the local ANC branch, and more than 150 were injured. According to journalists and other witnesses, the crowd was preparing to disperse when about 30 policemen began firing tear gas, shotguns, and pistols. Around the country at least 17 people were killed, including 11 in Natal province, and hundreds more injured.

ANC leaders accused the police of "unprovoked brutality" in Soweto. The ANC called another march for April 17 and the funeral for Hani two days later. Demonstrations have also occurred in London, Montreal, New York, and other cities around the world. Many more are planned.

The murder of Hani occurred as impor-



Rally in Soweto, April 14, to protest the assassination of Chris Hani.

tant new progress was being registered in multiparty talks aimed at setting plans for the first-ever democratic elections to a constituent assembly to draw up a post-apartheid constitution. Forces hoping to derail these negotiations have recently carried out several massacres. The talks have now been postponed one week.

Hani is the highest ranking national ANC leader to have been assassinated in at least several decades. Not since Steven Biko died during a police interrogation in 1977 has such a leading anti-apartheid fighter been slain.

Hani, 50, was gunned down April 10 as he

stepped out of the car he had just parked in the driveway of his home in Boksburg, a racially mixed suburb of Johannesburg. After neighbors reported the license plate of the car driven by the assailant, police arrested Janusz Walus, a 40-year-old white man who had emigrated from Poland about 10 years ago.

According to the *Sunday Times* of Johannesburg, Walus has "close links" to a neo-Nazi white nationalist group, the Afrikaner Resistance Movement. The leader of this group, Eugene TerreBlanche, confirmed that Walus has been a member since 1986.

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ANC president urges disciplined protest actions

The following is the text of the address to the nation that ANC president Nelson Mandela delivered on South African television April 13, 1993 — three days after the assassination of ANC leader Chris Hani.

BY NELSON MANDELA

Tonight I am reaching out to every single South African, Black and white, from the very depths of my being.

A white man, full of prejudice and hate, came to our country and committed a deed so foul that our whole nation now teeters on the brink of disaster. A white woman, of Afrikaner origin, risked her life so that we may know, and bring to justice, this assassin.

The cold-blooded murder of Chris Hani has sent shock waves throughout the country and the world. Our grief and anger is tearing us apart. What has happened is a national tragedy that has touched millions of people, across the political and color divide.

Our shared grief and legitimate anger will find expression in nationwide commemorations that coincide with the funeral service.

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Abortion rights fighters outmobilize Operation Rescue at Florida clinic

BY THERESA KENDRICK AND LAURA GARZA

MELBOURNE, Florida — Supporters of abortion rights mobilized here April 10 to defend the Aware Woman Center for Choice. By 6:00 a.m. the sidewalk in front of the clinic in this central Florida town was filled with 250 pro-choice activists. They successfully defended access to the clinic and outmobilized Operation Rescue supporters, who had vowed to close it.

Among those who turned out were high school and college students; workers, young and old; veterans of previous clinic defense efforts; and many who were at their first abortion rights action. They came from all over central and south Florida.

Operation Rescue had announced an Easter weekend blitz at abortion clinics. The day before, cadres of the rightist group blockaded a clinic in nearby Fort Pierce, in violation of a court injunction. Police arrested 75 who took part in the blockade. The antiabortion activists succeeded in closing the clinic for more than an hour.

The next day, however, Operation Rescue's efforts failed. In Ft. Lauderdale more than 100 pro-choice activists met a handful of antiabortion pickets. Clinic defense was also organized in Orlando and Port St. Lucie. Clinic defenders traveled from Jacksonville, Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, and even Atlan-



Abortion rights activists defend clinic April 10 in Melbourne, Florida.

ta, Georgia. A group of 10 students drove several hours from the New College in Sarasota. The Florida International University-South Campus chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) organized several carloads to join the 30 people who drove up from Miami earlier.

Christopher Erwen, 22, a student at Brevard Community College, was one of those at the Melbourne clinic. He was joined by his grandmother. The young man began volunteering as a clinic escort several weeks ago after he heard Operation

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U.S. Congress shows tactical differences on Clinton's budget

BY GEORGE FYSON

The detailed budget issued by the White House April 8 differs little from the outline that was made public in mid-February. But while many in capitalist ruling circles warmly applauded President Bill Clinton's February speeches, which focused on the need for "shared sacrifice," their debate over various budget provisions has grown sharper in recent weeks.

In February Clinton made much of his plan to "jump-start" the economy, with fiscal measures that he claimed would create 500,000 jobs in 1993 and 1994. The proposal took the form of a \$21.4 billion tax break for companies purchasing new equipment and \$19.5 billion of special spending on public works.

Posturing as opponents of "big spending" by the Democratic administration, Senate Republicans organized a filibuster — an effort to block action by prolonging debate for days — to prevent passage of the spending portion of Clinton's so-called stimulus package. A number of leading Democrats have also announced that they oppose the tax credit to companies.

Whether or not Clinton's package is passed in its original form or in a modified version, it is more for show than for anything else. The measure will not make a serious dent in the level of unemployment. Today 9 million workers officially are unemployed, and at least another 8 million are

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U.S. jets bomb Iraq

Four U.S. Air Force fighter jets dropped cluster bombs on an Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery position over northern Iraq April 9. According to a Reuters report, at least one Iraqi soldier was wounded in the attack.

Washington claimed the Iraqis had fired anti-aircraft guns and directed radar at the U.S. planes. Baghdad denied these charges. This was the first U.S. assault since mid-January, when the outgoing Bush administration launched, and U.S. president Clinton continued, a series of bombings against Iraqi military positions in southern Iraq.

The U.S. government, with the support of French and British forces, has declared a "no-fly" zone over areas of southern and northern Iraq. U.S. warplanes maintain a regular military presence over Iraqi skies to enforce it. In late March Washington succeeded in winning support from the United Nations Security Council for extending the sanctions against Iraq for at least another 60 days. This move came shortly after the Clinton administration announced it was dropping its demand that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein must be ousted before economic sanctions would be lifted.

U.S. aircraft makers want ban on jet sales to Iran lifted

Facing increased competition from the European consortium Airbus Industrie, two leading U.S. aerospace manufacturers, Boeing and General Electric, are urging the Clinton administration to lift the U.S. ban on the sale of aircraft to Iran.

Iran Air plans to spend as much as \$7 billion this decade to replace aging airliners, including 25 Boeing jets dating back to 1968. Last year the company agreed to buy 16 new 737s from Boeing, but U.S. trade restrictions prevent the deal from going through. Airbus—a consortium of French, German, British, and Spanish companies—has begun to move into this profitable market.

"We lose as many sales because of our government's actions as we do because of foreign competition," complained Joel Johnson, international vice-president of the U.S. Aerospace Industries Association.

Iran seeks missiles from N. Korea

Iran is close to concluding a deal with North Korea to buy new intermediate-range



In Tokyo, striking medical workers rallied outside the Women's Medical College April 7, demanding higher wages and hiring of more nurses. The rally was part of a nationwide action by 170,000 nurses and other health employees.

missiles, according to an April 8 *New York Times* report. U.S. officials oppose steps Iran has been taking toward closer ties with North Korea. A 21-member delegation of Iranian officials is currently in North Korea, the fifth such delegation to visit Pyongyang in the past year.

Turkey threatens Armenia

Turkish president Turgut Ozal denounced the recent attacks by Armenian troops on Nagorno-Karabakh, the disputed majority-Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan. He stated that Turkey should have taken military action against Armenia long ago and called for the use of force to roll back the Armenian occupation of Kelbajar province in Azerbaijan. The Turkish foreign ministry also condemned the UN Security Council for not taking a stronger stand against Armenia's offensive against Azerbaijan.

Yeltsin promises less austerity

Despite calls by capitalist monetary institutions for stepped-up austerity measures in Russia, President Boris Yeltsin—in an effort to win the maximum number of votes in the upcoming April 25 referendum on his rule—is raising wages, increasing spending, and issuing low-cost credits to state-run industries. Yeltsin's latest measures include

linking interest on savings to inflation, raising benefits for the military, and maintaining price controls.

Bonn to join Bosnia NATO flights

A German constitutional court ruled 5-3 that German military personnel can participate in the NATO military flights to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia. The ruling backed the position of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, leader of the ruling Christian Democratic alliance. Kohl contends that German participation in this mission does not violate the country's 1949 constitution, which bars the use of German military forces abroad.

German personnel make up more than 30 percent of the 1,500 positions in the operations by NATO's E-3A Awaacs planes, which are based on German soil. Without German participation, NATO's flights over Bosnia would be severely limited. The operation, which involves about 70 fighter planes from the United States, France, the Netherlands, and Britain, marks NATO's first combat role since the alliance was formed in 1949.

As NATO jets began patrolling Bosnian skies April 12, Serbian forces unleashed intense artillery attacks on Sarajevo and Srebrenica. At least 56 civilians, including 15 children, were killed and 90 wounded in the Srebrenica attack. Meanwhile, at the urging of Moscow and with the support of the Clinton administration, the UN Security Council postponed voting on new economic sanctions against Serbia until after the April 25 referendum in Russia.

Macedonia admitted to UN

Macedonia, which declared its independence from Yugoslavia a year ago, was approved April 8 by the Security Council for UN membership. The government of Greece had opposed this move, claiming the name Macedonia implied territorial claims by the former Yugoslav republic on the northern Greek province of the same name.

In a compromise agreement, the Security Council agreed to admit Macedonia under the provisional name of "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia." Mace-

donia, however, will be the first member country banned from flying its national flag in front of the UN headquarters building. Washington and governments in the European Community are expected to recognize Macedonia soon.

France affirms ties to Germany

France's new prime minister, Edouard Balladur, called for prioritizing Paris's economic alliance with the government of Germany. He insisted that maintaining the French franc's exchange rate relationship to the German mark was "a national objective." France will soon establish an independent central bank similar to the Bundesbank of Germany, he said.

Balladur also pledged an extensive program of privatization of state industry, and said the money would be used to cut France's budget deficit.

U.S. in no hurry to leave Somalia

In a visit to U.S. forces still stationed in Somalia, Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated that the 12,000 U.S. troops there have accomplished their mission. He cautioned, however, "We're not in a hurry to get out of here" by the projected May 1 pullout date. The new UN envoy to Somalia, retired U.S. Navy admiral Jonathan Howe, said, "It's probably going to be a lot later than May 1."

Even after the majority of troops leave, the Pentagon plans to leave behind a "quick reaction force" of a few thousand U.S. soldiers. Powell said he envisions a "battalion-sized force" that might include both sea-based and ground troops, and could be increased in size if the conflict in Somalia escalates.

UNITA gains threaten Angola

Six months after having lost the elections in Angola, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by Jonas Savimbi, has expanded its control to nearly two-thirds of the country, the *New York Times* reported. In early March, after an eight-week battle in which at least 15,000 civilians died, UNITA took control of Huambo, Angola's second largest city. Recent news reports have cited dozens of cases of brutality by UNITA troops against fleeing civilians.

Milwaukee's water contaminated

Residents of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have been ordered not to drink tap water, use it to brush their teeth, or wash food unless they first boil it for five minutes to kill a parasite that has contaminated the water supply.

Hundreds and perhaps thousands of Milwaukee area residents have been stricken with a severe intestinal illness that causes diarrhea, abdominal cramps, fever, and vomiting. Officials speculate that the outbreak is the result of a high level of runoff from the area's dairy farms spilled into Lake Michigan from the Milwaukee River, near an intake pipe for the city's water supply, which serves 800,000 people.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Up-to-date coverage of the democratic revolution in South Africa

The 'Militant' provides weekly coverage on the latest developments in the struggle for a democratic, nonracist, nonsexist South Africa. You will find news about the multiparty talks paving the way for the election of a constituent assembly, the ANC's campaign rallies, the economic crisis facing working people there, the recent wave of violence by forces that want to derail negotiations, and much more. Don't miss a single issue!



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Pro-choice youth rally in Birmingham

BY TIM MAILHOT
AND DENISE McINERNEY

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Chanting pro-choice slogans and singing "we shall not be moved," 25 young men and women staged a counterdemonstration Saturday, April 3, at the Summit Medical Center here. This is one of the clinics providing abortion services in Birmingham that have had large antiabortion picket lines every Saturday for the past month.

Their aim is to discourage women seeking care at the clinic through harassment and intimidation. A court injunction prohibits the rightists from blocking the driveway into the clinic or entering the clinic property. Between 50 and 100 antiabortion protesters usually participate. A favorite chant since the murder of Dr. David Gunn has been, "You ain't seen nothin' yet."

An increasing number of young men and women have been showing up to defend the clinic and escort patients in response to the murder in Pensacola, Florida, as well. This was the first organized effort in a while to move out of the clinic parking lot and counter the antiabortion protesters on the street.

When asked why she was participating in the counterdemonstration, Morgan, 22, said, "It needs to be done. I'm not trying to

impose anything on anyone. But I don't want my rights taken away." She stressed that this was a peaceful counterdemonstration and that it was making the point that people support the right of women to have access to abortion when necessary. She counted 45 cars responding to a "Honk if you're pro-choice" sign.

Another young woman, who had been a patient at the clinic in the past year, said the antiabortion pickets had tried to pull her from the car when she drove in. "I believe in choice strongly," she said. "I've had only three hours sleep but I will be here all day."

She noted that women don't take abortion lightly. "Women think about it when they're one day late with their period. They don't just say, 'Oh, I'll go have an abortion.' The main problem [with the antiabortion pickets] is they harass the patients."

Another woman said that in high school she was antichoice. Her thinking began to change after she moved away from home. "I couldn't handle anyone telling me what to do with my body. What's needed is more legislation," she said. "People need to wake up to the religious right."

The enthusiasm of the counterdemonstration had a definite dampening effect on the antiabortionists. In past weeks, they had be-



Militant/Denise McInerney

Abortion rights supporters in Birmingham, Alabama, April 3.

come increasingly aggressive in their intimidation of patients and clinic escorts, continually singing, chanting, and praying, while massing around the entrance to the parking lot. This time every attempt they made to harass or preach to or engage in discussions

with the counterdemonstrators was met with even louder chants and singing.

Pro-choice activists exchanged names and phone numbers, and made plans to bring more friends out to help defend the clinic.

Operation Rescue outmobilized at Florida clinics

Continued from front page

Rescue was operating a 12-week training school near Melbourne with 22 full-time participants learning tactics to shut down clinics.

Erwen explained that he quickly learned about Operation Rescue's intimidation and harassment. Soon after beginning as an escort he received death threats by phone. The anonymous callers would say "We know you are alone," adding that his whole family would pay for his activity in defense of "the baby-killers."

A woman who works in a theme park in Orlando decided to get involved. "You reach a point you can't walk away from it," she said. "This is our right as women."

OR buys house across from clinic

Operation Rescue, which has blockaded clinics and organized harassment campaigns in many cities, bought the house across the street from the Melbourne clinic. Their sup-

porters began gathering there Saturday, April 8, at 8:00 a.m.

They faced a court injunction recently handed down that prohibits antiabortion protesters from being within 36 feet on three sides of the Aware Woman clinic. The injunction limits noise such as chanting, singing, or yelling during hours when abortions are being performed. Graphic pictures of fetuses are also barred from being shown or passed out to those entering the clinic.

Keith Tucci, a leader of Operation Rescue, noted in a rally of 500 right-wing activists the night before that the group had violated the injunction in front of the Melbourne clinic that day and would do so again the next day. He said it was an infringement on free speech.

Tucci, consciously defying the injunction, led about 45 of the 100 protesters gathered across the street onto the sidewalk in front of the Aware Women clinic where a

line of clinic defenders stood locked arm in arm. Tucci carried a child in his arms. Several others also had toddlers walking along as they began to picket and sing *Jesus Loves the Little Children*. Signs had been posted to warn that an injunction was in force and lines had been drawn to mark the end of the 36 foot limit.

For the next hour and a half, police arrested protesters, leading them one or two at a time to a van, placing those who went limp onto a padded stretcher. As cameras rolled, Tucci protested that his child was being manhandled and his rights violated. Tucci, like the others arrested, was able to hand his child over to others who were not violating the injunction.

In Fort Pierce the day before, Operation Rescue had blocked the entrance to the clinic. The protesters in Melbourne, on the other hand, never tried to blockade the clinic. Instead they repeated again and again that they were defending free speech and were simply praying on a public street.

Rightists pushed back in Melbourne

After pushing back Operation Rescue's efforts in Melbourne, many of the clinic defenders traveled to the Aware Woman clinic in Port St. Lucie, about an hour and a half south of here, where abortions are performed in the afternoon. It was expected that Operation Rescue might attempt another blockade there.

Dozens of disciplined clinic defenders repeatedly practiced making a corridor to protect the entrance and methods for keeping blockaders from crawling through the lines. Eventually a dozen right-wingers arrived and stood by the road far from the clinic entrance waving signs to passersby and praying.

The recent history of antiabortion protests marked by organized violence, intimidation, and harassment of clinic workers and women who visit the clinics. Many abortion rights supporters don't expect Operation Rescue will go away.

Patricia Baird-Windle, owner of the Aware Women Center for Choice here, said that since its opening in 1977 the clinic has become the focus of organized opposition by rightists. The harassment got considerably worse, she said, after the founding of Operation Rescue. In April 1989, several hundred people attempted to blockade the clinic. For 26 months Baird's house has been picketed daily.

There have been 18 other instances of home harassment where right-wingers attempt to terrorize clinic workers and supporters at their homes. They bang on doors and flash cameras and videos at whoever answers, screaming that they must stop "baby killing." In one instance a clinic

worker had left the house and her three children were subjected to pounding on the door and screams for more than an hour before help arrived. Using state and local agencies Operation Rescue supporters have filed many false complaints and malpractice claims against doctors associated with the clinic. Since February 7, more than 10,000 calls have been placed in an effort to jam the phone lines at the clinic and block access by those seeking service.

Baird-Windle said that many doctors have been scared off since David Gunn's murder in Pensacola. But she added that she was determined to keep her clinics open.

Baird-Windle stressed the importance of mobilizing to keep the clinics open to defend a woman's right to choose. "Without clinics there is no choice," she told an April 9 rally of abortion rights supporters. "And without you there is no clinic."

Debate on injunction

Also speaking at the April 9 rally was Eleanor Smeal, former president of NOW. Smeal noted the use of violence and intimidation that characterizes the tactics of groups like Operation Rescue and Rescue America, the outfit that was picketing the clinic in Pensacola when Gunn was murdered. For this reason, she stated, lawyers sought an injunction to prevent blockade attempts at the Melbourne clinic. The injunction issued by Judge Robert McGregor covers Brevard and Seminole counties. Smeal stated she hoped it could become an example and could be applied throughout Florida and elsewhere.

Some abortion rights supporters have criticized aspects of the injunction for infringing on free speech. The American Civil Liberties Union stated it supported efforts to narrow the scope of the injunction, which includes limits on passing out literature to those entering the clinic, and on the kinds of pictures on display, as well as noise limitations.

Many abortions rights supporters will now be gearing up for a May rally in Pensacola, scheduled for 1:00 p.m. at the Judicial Center. People will begin assembling in Pensacola for the action at 10:30 a.m.

The rally will be the next major organized response to Gunn's murder and the continued threats to blockade clinics in Florida. Many of those who participated in defending clinics April 10 plan to spread the word in the coming weeks to ensure a strong turnout and send a signal that Operation Rescue and Rescue America will be met wherever they go.

Those wishing more information on the May 8 events can call (904) 224-3883 or 477-0277.

Rescue America fails to shut abortion clinics in Britain

BY ANNALUCIA VERMUNT

LONDON — The arrival of antiabortion forces from the United States, Britain, and Ireland was met by protests organized by abortion rights activists. The rightists, organized by the U.S.-based group Rescue America, arrived in Britain March 27-28 to spearhead a campaign to shut down abortion clinics. But each time the antiabortion forces mobilized, abortion rights activists organized to keep the clinics open. Watches were set up at four London clinics and a phone tree organized to more rapidly mobilize forces for action.

Thirty defenders of a women's right to choose abortion gathered outside the International Planned Parenthood offices in Regents Park, London, March 30 in preparation for an antiabortion rally. Scores of policemen quickly arrested 18 of the prochoice activists on charges of failing to comply with an order to disperse. Twenty rightists showed up after the arrests and were allowed to hold their press conference.

On April 1, the antiabortion activists set up a picket line at the Buckhurst clinic, on the edge of London. Patients trying to keep appointments had to run a gauntlet to get into the facility. By April 3, however, abortion rights defenders had organized 30 activists to defend the clinic.

The same day, 16 antiabortion demonstrators went to a clinic in Birmingham. Six barricaded themselves inside while 10 oth-

ers lay down in the driveway. Seventy clinic defenders were quickly mobilized to keep the clinic open. While the rightists were able to close the front door to the clinic, the back door remained open and patients were escorted in to their appointments.

British police arrested Rescue America leader Don Treshman. Authorities served him with a deportation order after the attempted clinic blockade in London. The government said his presence was "not conducive to the public good." Treshman has been released on bail but must remain in Britain to appear at an appeals hearing.

A discussion has opened among defenders of a women's right to choose about the most effective way to beat back the antiabortion attack. At a March 31 meeting to organize a response to the rightists, some women recounted a similar effort made by antiabortion activists in the United States more than two years ago. They argued that, like then, the current campaign was simply "imported" and would soon go away.

Others pointed to the changing situation in Britain today, with the rise in racist attacks and other right-wing street actions. They argued that it is important to mobilize against the antiabortion forces and show the public support for a women's right to choose. There was also some debate on whether to support the deportation order against Treshman.

Iowa meeting shows progress in winning support for Curtis

BY MIKE GALATI
AND JOANNE MURPHY

DES MOINES, Iowa — Supporters of imprisoned unionist and political activist Mark Curtis rallied here April 9 to support his fight for justice and prepare for the next stage in the struggle to win his freedom.

Curtis is a former packinghouse worker who was framed up on charges of attempted rape and burglary in 1988. At the time he was participating in a fight with coworkers at the Swift/Monfort meatpacking plant in Des Moines against an attempt by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to illegally arrest and deport 17 immigrant workers from the factory.

The rally registered some of the progress that has been made, both in winning new forces to support Curtis's fight and in giving long-time supporters the confidence to politically challenge the pro-prosecution slander campaign being organized against Curtis and those who support him.

One of the first speakers at the meeting, which 75 people attended, was Andre Sledge, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 1149 who works at Monfort's Marshalltown, Iowa, plant. Sledge explained how he had been convinced to support Curtis's fight. "The whole thing is a cover-up," he said. "It's like in the packinghouse, they hide stuff. A guy gets his hand messed up, it's because he didn't sharpen his knife right."

"They're putting the image out to Blacks and Mexican-Americans that he is a racist, a fake, a phony," Sledge said, referring to the pro-cop campaign to keep Curtis in jail. "I don't believe that."

When coworker Maurice Williams first tried to introduce him to the Curtis case, Sledge said, "I had a blind side. He showed me literature and I said no, no, no. So he brought me a movie. When I saw that movie, I really changed." Sledge said he has since seen the video of Curtis's fight, produced by Hollywood Director Nick Castle, five times.

Another UFCW member from the Marshalltown plant addressed the rally in Spanish. "Like many other Latino workers in this country," Victor Díaz told the meeting, "I support the fight to free Mark Curtis. I think that it is true he is a dangerous man because he tried to unite all workers."

Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife and a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

(MCDC), pointed to the impact of immigrants arriving in the Midwest during the last ten years and how the packing companies try to divide workers who are from Mexico and southeast Asia from those born in the United States.

"I believe the fundamental reason why Mark was framed up was because of his defense of immigrant workers," she said. "This is a central question facing our class in the United States."

Kaku gave a detailed description of the events of the day Mark was arrested and beaten by Des Moines police. She described the unjust aspects of the trial where he was convicted of third-degree sexual assault and attempted burglary and sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Hazel Zimmerman, MCDC treasurer, chaired the program and read a letter of support from Curtis's lawyer, William Kutmus, who is preparing a federal appeal of Curtis's conviction. She also read from messages from Jake Edwards, second vice president of UFCW Local 179 in Cherokee, Iowa, and from the South African Prisoner's Organization for Human Rights (SAPOHR).

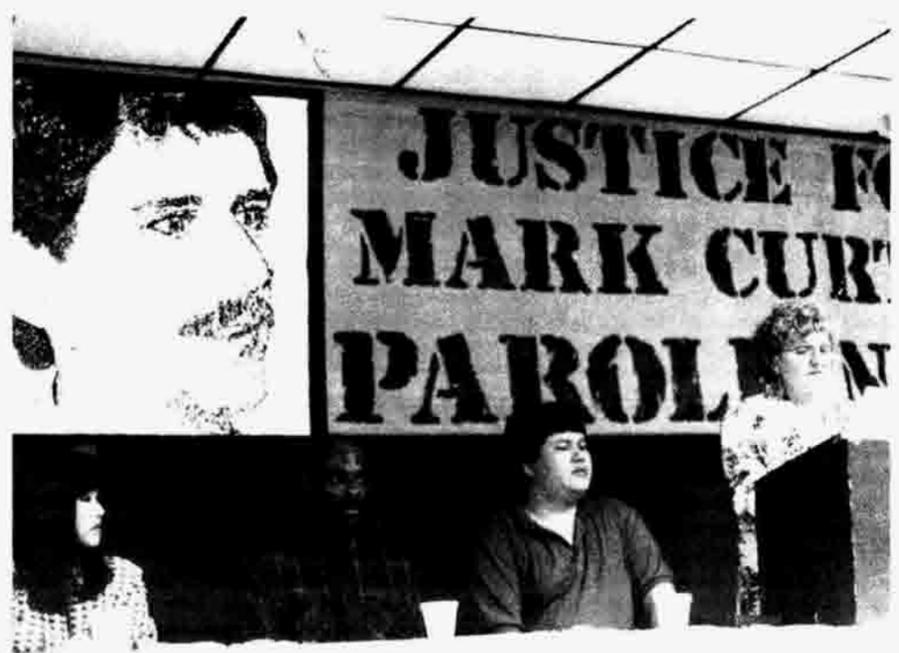
"On behalf of our membership SAPOHR expresses its support for the release of Mark Curtis from prison," the message from the South African prisoners group said. SAPOHR represents "the entire prisoners population in the region of approximately 120,000 sentenced so-called common law prisoners, 101,000 suspects, political prisoners, ex-prisoners [and] detainees," according to the message.

"His further stay in prison and the time he has already served is a transparent indication to us that keeping him any longer will not serve any good, either to him or society," the message said.

Norton Sandler, a National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party, which Curtis belongs to, called attention to these statements and others written recently in answer to pro-prosecution forces.

"These people are much more informed about what they are doing, where they stand on this, and where it fits into the world," he said. Because of the worldwide depression and attacks on workers' rights, youth and working people "take Mark's case more seriously today than before," he said.

"Never believe that prison has anything to do with rehabilitation," Sandler contin-



Militant/Chris Remple
Speakers at April 9 rally in Des Moines to win support for framed-up unionist Mark Curtis. From left: Kate Kaku, Andre Sledge, Victor Diaz, and Hazel Zimmerman.

ued, describing the Sexual Offender Treatment Program the Iowa prison system is attempting to force Curtis to enter as a condition for parole.

"You're supposed to relinquish any assertion that you're innocent," he said. "They want to degrade and humiliate you. We should oppose these kinds of programs as unconstitutional."

"When the police and state prosecutors put Mark in jail, they had some very distinct goals," Sandler said. "They wanted to do damage to Mark's party. They wanted to damage the confidence of fighting workers. They wanted to break Mark as a fighting worker, as a communist."

Reach out to new forces

Describing the political work Mark continues to do in prison, Sandler concluded, "They haven't succeeded in what they set out to do to Mark or his party." Curtis continues to be an example to fighting workers, Sandler added. He urged supporters at the rally to reach out to introduce the Curtis case to fighting coal miners and other unionists; to youth and others involved in activities in support of the South African freedom struggle; to defend the Cuban revolution; and fight to defend women's right to choose abortion.

Lorenzo Ervin, president of Concerned Citizens for Justice in Chattanooga, Tennessee, spoke from his experience of being a political prisoner for 15 years after fighting for Black rights in the 1960s.

"Part of this thing about Mark being forced to confess his sins comes from behavior modification," Ervin said. "Of course, if he confesses, that means he justifies his beating, he justifies his frame-up and he more or less spits on the labor movement. That's what they'd like to have happen."

"They haven't broken him yet and I don't think they will," he added.

"How long Mark Curtis stays in prison does not depend on the authorities," Ervin said. "It's in the hands of those of us who support Mark Curtis and what we do to fight for the freedom of Mark Curtis."

"The state doesn't want to let him go," he continued. "But I'm living proof that he can be free. I did 15 years, but then I had two life sentences plus 15 years." Ervin was paroled in 1983 after a long international campaign on his behalf.

A pro-cop campaign

"They're trying to keep him in prison and justify why he's there," Ervin said. "This is no accident, this is disinformation. This is a pro-cop campaign. This is one of those things you've got to beat down on the way to beating down the prison doors and releasing Mark Curtis," he said. "And I think we can do this."

Michael Tucker of the Communist League of New Zealand reported that supporters there are circulating literature produced by pro-prosecution forces, along with MCDC material. "We're confident that the facts in Mark's case speak for themselves and will win out," he said.

"In recent months, Curtis supporters in the Pacific have been to Japan, India, and the Philippines, as well as campuses and union gatherings in New Zealand and Australia," Tucker reported. With unions, and wages and safety under attack, especially in the big meatpacking industry in New Zealand, "It's little wonder many workers identify with Mark and what he did in the union," Tucker said.

Other speakers included Edna Griffin, longtime fighter for Black rights in Des Moines; Robert Rothig, longtime supporter who is a member of the Dubuque, Iowa, chapter of the NAACP; and Melanie Zimmer, a mechanic at Northwest Airlines in St. Paul and International Association of Machinists member. Zimmer read a message of support from Native American film producer Chris Spotted Eagle.

Participants contributed \$1,650 at the meeting to help fund the ongoing campaign to win justice and freedom for Mark Curtis.

Mike Galati is a member of UFCW Local 1149. He works on the kill floor at Monfort's Marshalltown meatpacking plant.

Labor news in the Militant

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

SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN IN THE NEWS

LOS ANGELES TIMES

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1993 ★

Let the Working Class Take Charge

■ **Mayor's race:** Our problems stem from a global crisis in the capitalist system; the solutions lie in global unity of workers.

By KIM ALLEN

What residents of Los Angeles face is a local expression of an economic crisis that is engulfing economies from Germany to Japan, from Mexico to Zaire—it is the crisis of the capitalist system worldwide. It is only in a world framework that we can begin to understand the causes of the problems we face and forge a way forward. There are no local solutions to the ravages of an international system in decline.

What the other candidates for mayor propose are measures that would advance the interests of the ruling rich at the expense of workers and youth. We are being told that immigrants are the problem and that the cops are the solution. We are being asked to accept the deepening attacks on our standard of living as our "patriotic" contribution to rebuilding Los Angeles.

When confronted with the brutal beating of Rodney King, institutionalized racism and the lack of justice for workers and especially those who are Latino or black—the other candidates for mayor respond



L.A. '93:
THE RACE
FOR MAYOR

The Times invited all the city's mayoral candidates to describe their ideas for Los Angeles. Their articles will continue to run on this page in the days to come.

■ Today, Kim Allen

only by calling for more police.

In the quest to increase their rate of profits, the ruling rich are compelled to drive back the gains made by working people in the social struggles of the past—the labor battles of the 1930s and '40s, the civil-rights movement, the women's movement and the mass mobilizations against the Vietnam War. It was through these struggles that working people won the rights and standard of living that exists today. Social Security, public education, unemployment benefits—these are some of the victories of our class that

are now under attack.

The xenophobic anti-immigrant campaign being advanced in this race stems from the need of the capitalists to deepen the divisions between workers and find a scapegoat for the crisis faced by all. Any solutions that start with "we Americans" or "we citizens" versus "them" is an attempt to tie down working people to the capitalists who are responsible for exploitation of our class worldwide.

The unity of working people across national boundaries is key to mounting effective fights against police brutality and wars and for defending union and democratic rights.

To have jobs for all, we propose a reduction in the work week with no reduction in pay, combined with a massive public-works program. In order to overcome the divisions the rulers impose, we must defend and extend affirmative action. No more cutbacks in education, health care and social services. Instead of immigrant bashing we need unity behind struggles like the drywallers' strike. We support the right of immigrants to vote.

We point to the only way out of the current crisis: The working class itself has to organize society, not the wealthy few who control things now.

Kim Allen, a railroad worker, is the Socialist Workers Party's candidate.

'Curtis wasn't tried for crime of rape but for cause of justice for the oppressed'

Supporters of jailed Iowa unionist speak out against police frame-up

We reproduce below excerpts of some of the recent letters sent by supporters of Mark Curtis's fight for justice to his defense committee.

These letters answer attempts, made by those who claim Curtis is guilty, to pressure endorsers of his case to end their backing of the defense effort. A political activist and union fighter, Curtis was framed up on false charges of sexual assault and burglary in March 1988. He was convicted of those charges later that year and is now serving a 25-year prison sentence.

* * *

Jake Edwards

Vice-president, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 179, Cherokee, Iowa

I'm writing to inform you of my continuing support of Mark Curtis' release from prison and hopefully his being exonerated of guilt in the crime of which he's been convicted.

The whole case against him has stunk from the get-go, and the fact that he hasn't been released to date in view of his prison record tells me that he's in the pen for being a unionist and a socialist.

Certainly we're all in trouble when the cops can fabricate such bullshit and thus manage to silence the advocates of working people.

Mark Curtis is my brother as I am 2nd vice-president of Local 179 UFCW in Cherokee. Please forward my sentiments of solidarity.

Miguel Orozco Oscar Carcamo

Recently won victory against Immigration and Naturalization Service, Seattle, Washington

We, Miguel A. Orozco and Oscar Carcamo are aware of the very sensitive issue of the sexual assault charges brought to Mark Curtis and finally the conviction of such charges. Despite the fact that he was found guilty by the jury members, it does not mean he committed that crime. We are convinced that there are political motivations behind these actions, against people like Mr. Curtis who in spite of origin or color are defending people's rights, especially the rights of Latin American immigrants in this country.

We are aware of how the United States' legal system works. We, personally, were victims of such a system. We do understand it, we just recently lived through it! We think that Mr. Curtis deserves to be treated as a productive member of our society; he deserves parole without accepting an acknowledgment of guilt.

John Mendez

Pastor, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

I have recently been informed of a counter-movement and effort being sponsored by the NAACP Boston Chapter, and some other groups who wish to uphold the conviction of Mr. Mark Curtis. I find this effort most disappointing and unfortunate because, as lovers of freedom, we have a responsibility to seek truth from facts because facts are indeed stubborn things. I, like many of you, have investigated the facts in this case. Even if Mr. Curtis was involved, his constitutional right to a fair trial, which would allow the facts and evidence to be examined, was grossly violated. Hence, you cannot [find] him to be guilty by hook and crook.

Yet, after reviewing the evidence in this case, I was convinced then, as I am now, that Mr. Mark Curtis is innocent and that he is being tried, not for the crime of rape, but for the cause of justice and equality on behalf of the poor and oppressed. There is nothing in his history or in his record to suggest that he is a rapist. But he does have a long track record that demonstrates Mr. Curtis is a very caring, com-



Militant/Linda Joyce
Pittston miners and their supporters sign Curtis defense petition at Camp Solidarity strike victory celebration in southwestern Virginia, April 21, 1990.

passionate and altruistic man. He is a fighter for freedom and fairness, trying to obtain justice for poor working people. It is tragic that the only way the system can try to retard that progress is by framing and fabricating charges against a person who made those with power and money feel uncomfortable with their greed and insensibility. I believe this is Mr. Curtis's real and only crime.

This case rises or falls on whether or not you believe the police will lie and engage in misconduct by abusing their power and office. For the past ten years, I have worked for the release of Mr. Darryl Eugene Hunt, a Black man who was accused of a sexist crime of rape and murder. He was awarded a new trial based on po-

lice misconduct, intimidation of witnesses, and mishandling and destruction of evidence. The police along with the District Attorney violated all of the constitutional rights of Mr. Hunt. The mishandling of cases like Mr. Hunt's and Mr. Curtis's threatens our democracy. None of us is safe as long as this kind of flagrant misconduct is allowed to go unchallenged. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." My support for Mr. Curtis remains strong and I join others who have committed themselves to work for the release of Mark Curtis, a man of the people, and a champion for justice. It is imperative we make sure we are on the progressive and fair side of history. We may not always be right; we are ob-

ligated to be fair. Let us all be fair to Mark Curtis.

Todd Garland

Executive Coordinator, Catholic Committee of Appalachia, Whitesburg, Kentucky

On behalf of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, I am writing to express our continued support for Mark Curtis and his struggle to be exonerated of his false conviction. Every day Mark Curtis remains in prison amplifies our belief that justice is not available for political activists who commit their lives to improve the plight of the worker. If Mark Curtis can be framed for his activist endeavors, so can any of us.

The ongoing slander campaign is added evidence of a concerted effort to further malign not only Mark Curtis but also people who speak out in his support. We will not back down from a few hurled epithets. We are however deeply disappointed that individuals and organizations are casting aspersions, rather than gathering facts.

Physical evidence demonstrates that Mark Curtis had no contact with the alleged victim. Testimony demonstrates that Mark Curtis was with friends at the time the attack reportedly happened. Finally, the young woman's description of her assailant in no way resembles Mark Curtis. Justice has been denied Mark Curtis. But worst of all, the institution responsible for providing justice orchestrated this travesty, has continued to hold Mark Curtis for an inordinate amount of time and continues to deny him parole.

We add our voices to all those concerned with true justice. "Take these shackles from Mark Curtis, and set him free!"

* * *

Letters in support of Mark Curtis's fight for justice should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Fax (515) 243-9869.

N.J. socialist: Stop attacks on immigrants

BY JAY RESSLER

NEWARK, New Jersey — Speaking in Spanish, garment worker William Coy introduced Mark Rahn, the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of New Jersey, to a March 27 rally launching his election campaign. Coy recounted Rahn's record as a political activist and working-class fighter and explained that like Rahn, he believes fundamental social change is needed to defend the interests of working people. Coy and Rahn work at a garment factory organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

Nearly 40 people participated in the meeting, which wrapped up a full day of campaigning. Supporters of the socialist campaign gathered more than 300 signatures that day on street corners in New Brunswick, Irvington, and Newark to place the Socialist Workers slate on the ballot.

In his speech to the rally, Rahn said working people need to overcome national and racial divisions and stand together to resist the antilabor offensive by the bosses and the government who demand more concessions from unions and cuts in social benefits.

"The anti-immigrant campaign being whipped up by the government and big-business media in the aftermath of the World Trade Center bombing," Rahn said, "poses a threat to democratic rights."

Rahn reported on his participation the previous weekend in a protest of nearly a thousand people against anti-Muslim attacks in Jersey City, New Jersey, following the bombing.

Also speaking at the rally was Nancy Boyasko, the Socialist Workers candidate for a state assembly seat in the 28th District, which encompasses north Newark, East Orange, and Irvington. A large number of Haitian and Spanish-speaking immigrants live in these communities.

Boyasko discussed the growing public health crisis in the United States. She noted that New Jersey, home to 10 of the 18 largest pharmaceutical companies, is the medicine chest of the United States. Yet some cities in this state, including Newark, lead the country in incidents of preventable infectious diseases like tuberculosis.

"This is an outrageous situation," she said. "There is no reason for anyone to suffer from TB, not only here, but anywhere in the world. The labor movement needs to organize and

fight for health care as an entitlement for all."

Steve Marshall, Socialist Workers candidate for central Newark's 29th assembly district, and Marilee Taylor, who is running on the socialist ticket for the second open seat in the 29th District, also addressed the meeting. Nan Bailey, socialist candidate for state senate in the 28th District, and Dan Furman, running for the state senate in the 17th District, were also introduced.

Participants at the meeting donated or pledged \$1,200 to the socialist campaign.

Socialists win ballot spot in Texas

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

AUSTIN, Texas — "We have made it possible for a socialist voice against war, racism, and economic depression to appear on the Texas ballot," said Rose Floyd, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate.

On March 31, Floyd filed 7,459 signatures to win a slot on the ballot. Within hours, the Texas secretary of state's office notified her that she had been placed on the ballot for the May 1 election.

This is the first time in more than a decade the Socialist Workers Party will be on the ballot in a statewide election in Texas.

A team of volunteers from around the country joined Floyd's supporters here in the massive petitioning effort. "I'd like to thank the many volunteers and the thousands of working people and youth who signed my petitions," Floyd said.

State law requires either a \$4,000 filing fee or 5,000 signatures with voter registration numbers to achieve ballot status. Floyd condemned these requirements, saying, "They bolster the undemocratic monopoly on the elections held by the Democrats,

Republicans, and other candidates who represent the wealthy."

Floyd is one of 24 candidates who will be on the ballot. She was one of only two candidates to file petitions for that status instead of paying the fee.

During the six-week petitioning drive, campaign volunteers spoke to tens of thousands of working people and youth at shopping centers, plant gates, and college campuses.

"We campaigned against the government's preparations for war in Bosnia and North Korea," Floyd said, "and for the defense of the rights of working people — against the death penalty, in support of abortion rights, in solidarity with the coal miners' fight for a decent contract. The response has been tremendous."

Floyd announced plans to continue a vigorous campaign in Texas. The candidate also plans to spend a week in the midwestern coalfields to bring solidarity to United Mine Workers of America members, learn from their struggle, and report back to workers here on this fight.

Israeli regime turns West Bank and Gaza into 'a massive prison' for Palestinians

BY STU SINGER

By closing off Gaza and the West Bank, the Israeli government is "transforming the entire occupied territories into a massive collective prison and increasing resentment and bitterness," said Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian leader from Ramallah in the West Bank. Ashrawi has been the spokesperson for Palestinian negotiators in the now-defunct Middle East peace talks.

The government sealed off the Israeli borders to Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza March 30. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the action was in response to the killings of 15 Israelis by Palestinians in the month of March. The Israeli action condemned 1.8 million Palestinians to an indefinite confinement in the occupied territories.

Cops and soldiers were authorized to shoot armed Palestinians on sight, whether or not they were using weapons. Right-wing Jewish settler groups called for opening fire on Palestinians who throw stones, "even when no lives are threatened." Government officials also called on Israeli Jews, including high school students, to arm themselves.

At the same time the Israeli army continued attacks in Lebanon. On April 1, Israeli gunboats and helicopters blasted what they said were two Palestinian guerrilla bases in northern Lebanon.

This is not the first time the entire Pales-

tinian population in the occupied territories has been virtually locked up by the Israeli regime. In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, Palestinians there were confined for six weeks to what amounted to house arrest through endless curfews.

The sealing of the border has inflicted serious hardships on Palestinians, who are cut off from jobs, schools, medical care, and basic supplies. Mohammed Jadallah, director of the Union of Health Care Committees, said, "In past closings of the occupied territories, people died because of their inability to come to [clinics and hospitals in] Jerusalem."

As many as 120,000 Palestinians from these areas, which were conquered by Tel Aviv in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, enter the previous boundaries of Israel every day. About 60,000 are construction workers and thousands more are agricultural laborers.

Closing off the West Bank and Gaza also hurts the Israeli economy. Nonetheless, some politicians and businessmen in Israel now argue in favor of permanently stopping Palestinians in the territories from working in Israel. Other Israeli capitalists object, however.

Within days of the closing of borders, many business owners convinced the government to make some exceptions. On April 4, the regime allowed in 1,200 Palestinian workers, and a few days later another 3,000. The government has also sent hundreds of

soldiers to work on farms. Prisoners may also be used. The Peace Now organization in Israel protested against the use of troops on private farms.

A recent article in the *Jerusalem Post* described the labor shortages the border closing has created in Israel. In the Gush Katif area 1,500 Palestinians worked on farms, the paper reported. After two Israelis were killed, farmers tried to boycott Palestinian labor and the government promised to provide 500 replacements. But only 350 replacement workers showed up. They had to be paid \$25 a day, compared to the minimum wage of \$15 a day Palestinians are paid. The government paid the difference. But the farmers needed more workers, so they called back 350 Palestinians.

Some farmers asked the government to bring in workers from Thailand. The government refused, citing the 11 percent unemployment rate in Israel.

Wave of violence

Since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza known as the *intifada* in December 1987, more than 1,200 Palestinians have been killed. Twenty-six Palestinians, mostly youth, were killed just in the month of March. The ongoing brutality of the occupying forces, as well as disagreements among the Palestinian lead-

ership over how to advance the fight for self-determination, has led to a new wave of violence against Israeli Jews, civilians as well as cops and soldiers.

On March 12 Israeli soldiers shot and killed Musa Heimoni, 15, during demonstrations in Hebron on the West Bank. They also wounded a 17-year-old Palestinian. The same day a Jewish woman in the Gaza Strip was killed with an ax and an Israeli soldier was shot to death outside Jerusalem. The Israeli cabinet then voted to add 2,000 police and offer incentives to Israeli employers to hire Jewish workers rather than Palestinians.

Four Palestinians were killed and 50 injured March 22 in clashes with Israeli security forces in Gaza. Among the dead were two children, 10 and 11 years old. The same day, a young Palestinian went into a vocational high school in Jerusalem and stabbed five Jewish students and a teacher. They all survived the attack.

Rabin has called for high school students to carry clubs. The prime minister complained that young Israelis are not as tough as his generation was.

On March 23 a Palestinian man was seized by two Israeli settlers in the West Bank and put in their jeep. He then allegedly stabbed and slightly injured one of them. The man was subdued, his hands and feet were tied, and the army was called. Before the army arrived another settler arrived on the scene and shot the 20-year-old Palestinian man eight times, killing him on the spot. The murderer was later arrested.

Two cops were killed March 30. The armed wing of Hamas, a Palestinian organization, claimed credit. Right-wing Jewish settlers responded by setting fire to a mosque and the government responded by closing off Gaza and the West Bank.

Hamas has carried out many armed attacks over the past six months against the occupying authorities and against Palestinians who they consider collaborators with the enemy. The group has become the dominant political force in Gaza. It attracts support using militant rhetoric and promising to fight to return land stolen from the Palestinians since the 1947 partition of Palestine. At the same time it advances a rightist program, seeking the expulsion of Jews from Palestine; equating democracy, socialism, and communism with "cultural imperialism;" calling for second-class status for women; and defending capitalism.

Right-wing protests against Palestinians in Israel forced Rabin to cut short meetings with President Bill Clinton in Washington at the end of March. Washington turned down Rabin's request for closer U.S.-Israeli ties. The Israeli proposals had included the freer flow of military technology from Washington to Tel Aviv and turning Haifa into a home port for the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet.

Clinton, however, backed the Israeli stand on the expulsion of 415 Palestinians, 396 of whom are still in a no-man's land in southern Lebanon after four months.

When Clinton met with Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak a week later he rejected Mubarak's suggestion to pressure Israel into retreating somewhat on the expulsions in order to encourage Palestinians to rejoin the peace talks. Mubarak is scheduled to meet with Rabin in April.

The recent wave of violence, combined with the economic crisis, has intensified political polarization in Israel. While attacks by rightist Jewish groups on Palestinians have risen, the number of Israelis opting for a negotiated settlement is also growing. A recent *Wall Street Journal* article described young Israeli soldiers in basic training arguing "that the Holocaust should make Israelis more sensitive to harassment of Palestinians." Another *Journal* article quoted an Israeli teenager working at a shopping mall who asked, "What does Rabin want from us?" He added that "kids in Israel are like kids in America, or anywhere else in the world. We like discos, playing basketball and going to the mall. We're not interested in learning hand-to-hand combat."

It is not clear whether the Mideast peace talks, which are supposed to begin April 20 in Washington will resume. Only the Israeli government has accepted so far to return to the negotiating table on this date, which was set by Washington and Moscow.

Cuban writer meets youth, workers in France

BY JEAN-LOUIS SALFATI

PARIS — "The Cuban revolution enables us in Cuba to achieve what capitalism has never been capable of anywhere in the world," said Cuban economist Carlos Tablada to 210 students at a meeting at the Jussieu university campus here. Everyone in Cuba has food, a home, the opportunity of education, and free health care. But the Cuban revolution has done much more than that. It has been and still is a revolution in ideas.

"What they called Marxism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe long ago ceased to be a revolutionary theory," Tablada continued. "It was turned into a theory justifying the privileges of the bureaucracy that rules those countries."

"The Cuban revolution enabled Marxism to regain its character as a revolutionary theory."

The meeting at Jussieu, one of several held in France, was the last stop of a European tour organized by Pathfinder Press. Before coming to France Tablada visited Sweden, Britain, and Belgium.

More than 850 people, youth and workers in their large majority, came to listen to and discuss with Tablada during his five days in Paris and Lyons.

The Cuban economist's visit to this country was marked by the launching of Pathfinder's French edition of his book, *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*.

"Tablada's book has been available in French since December 1992," reported Nat London, Pathfinder's representative in France. "By the end of the tour, 193 copies had been sold in French, English, and Spanish," he said. "To that we must add 95 copies of the pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, containing the introduction by Mary-Alice Waters to Tablada's book."

Tablada's meeting at Jussieu was sponsored by the three student unions and the African Student Solidarity Group. The head of the National Union of French Students on campus chaired the meeting. In addition to the students, dozens of professors came to listen and ask questions.

Students asked Tablada many questions. What are Che's ideas? Are human rights respected in Cuba? What is Cuba's electoral system — is it democratic?

At the GEC-Alsthom plant in Saint-Ouen, just outside Paris, Tablada was invited by the factory committee, led by the General Federation of Labor (CGT), to talk with workers during their lunch break. After dining with several union leaders in the factory canteen, Tablada went to the factory library and spent two hours with 70 workers answering questions.



Carlos Tablada (with sunglasses) with workers at Alsthom factory near Paris.

"What can we do to help Cuba?" asked a crane operator who is an immigrant from Algeria. He was also interested in the parallels between the Algerian and the Cuban revolutions. Others asked what made the Cuban people internationalist, what was the essence of Guevara's ideas, and whether the intensified agricultural production under way in Cuba couldn't endanger the environment. Eight workers bought copies of Tablada's book in the plant.

On March 11 the Cuban economist was invited to speak to the association *Bail et Clefs* (A Lease and a Key). This association was organized by the 237 families of African origin who have been involved in a major struggle for housing rights. For five months they lived in a tent city they started at the edge of Paris, until they were evacuated by the police at the end of October. Since then they have organized regular actions and demonstrations demanding decent housing. Fifty people came to hear Tablada.

Many of the questions centered on Cuba's role in Africa. Tablada was also asked how Cuba had dealt with the problem of housing after the revolution. He explained that after the revolution a law was passed limiting rent to a maximum of 10 percent of one's salary. New housing had been built by voluntary construction brigades between 1986 and 1989. Since the collapse of trade with the former Soviet Union, however, there is a severe shortage of materials. Construction for new housing has come to a halt. In spite of the serious economic crisis there were no homeless people in Cuba, Tablada said.

In Lyons, Carlos Tablada addressed 50

students at the University of Lyons and 120 people at a citywide meeting that evening.

At the final meeting of the tour, held March 13 in Paris, Tablada addressed an audience of 240 people and answered questions for more than three hours.

This meeting, organized by Pathfinder, was sponsored by 27 groups and associations. Among them were the French-Cuba Association; French-Latin America; and the National Antiapartheid Assembly, the main solidarity group in France supporting the democratic revolution in South Africa. Political organizations that supported the meeting included the Revolutionary Communist League, Communist Organizing Committee, Communist Party of Chile, Revolutionary Young Communists for Equality, and Vanguard Socialist Party of Morocco.

The French Communist Party and its youth organization did not endorse the event. Nonetheless, many members and activists of these two organizations took part in the various meetings with Tablada. Several helped to build the tour.

Tablada was interviewed by the world service of Radio France as well as two local radio stations. *Quotidien de Paris*, one of France's main newspapers, ran an interview with the Cuban author.

Jean-Louis Salfati is a member of the General Federation of Labor (CGT) at the Citroën auto plant in Aulnay, near Paris. Derek Jeffers, a member of the CGT at the GEC-Alsthom plant in Saint-Ouen, and Nat London, a CGT member at the Renault plant in Choisy-le-Roi, contributed to this article.

Step up sales for target week

BY NAOMI CRAINE

At the end of the second week in the international circulation campaign, supporters of the *Militant* and other socialist publications have fallen slightly behind their targets.

At this point, *Militant* subscription sales should be at 25 percent of the goal of 2,800; instead they are at 21 percent. Sales of the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* and the magazine *New International* are also behind schedule as well.

The *Militant* has set April 17-25 as a special target week to step up sales. An all-out effort during that period will provide *Militant* supporters around the world the opportunity to pick up the pace and get back on or ahead of schedule by April 25.

It will also be a chance to begin reaching out broadly with *New International*, a Marxist magazine that features in-depth articles on many issues covered in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Sales of *New International* have lagged from the beginning.

Los Angeles gets head start

Militant supporters in Los Angeles are getting a head start on this extra push. They began a special effort April 11 to take maximum advantage of the final days of a Socialist Workers mayoral campaign in that city. They will use this effort to build a Socialist Workers 1993 campaign rally, which will take place two days before the April 20 election.

Tim Elliot reports that *Militant* supporters in Los Angeles plan to

sell the socialist publications at numerous campaign speaking engagements, including "two forums for mayoral candidates, a magnet school, a meeting organized by stu-



Militant sales in Wellington, New Zealand.

dents at California State University's Dominguez Hills campus, and an oil refinery plant gate.

"Kim Allen, the Socialist Workers mayoral candidate, will also travel to the Arizona coalfields with campaign supporters," to get out the *Militant* and talk to miners there, Elliot writes.

Sales teams to coal-mining areas continue to be a great opportunity to engage in political discussions. Mary Nell Bockman, a garment worker from New York, reports that on a recent trip through southern West Virginia *Militant* supporters

sold 24 copies of the paper and one subscription to miners at Ashland Coal Co. who had walked off the job a few days earlier. The miners had been forced back to work by a court injunction, but were eager to discuss their fight and other labor struggles.

Workers in West Virginia liked the *Militant's* coverage on events in South Africa as well. Bockman said, "We ran into a woman who had bought a *Militant* subscription from a previous sales team. She said her teenage daughter had used the paper to prepare a report on South Africa for class. Her teacher was so impressed with the information that he asked her to bring the *Militant* to school so he could see it."

A member of the Canadian Auto Workers union at a Chrysler assembly plant near Toronto bought a copy of *New International* no. 5 so that he could read the article titled "The Coming Revolution in South Africa." He had already read a couple of articles by the *Militant's* recent reporting team in South Africa. He commented that a number of his friends think African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela is selling out the freedom struggle in South Africa, but he isn't so sure and wants to learn more.

A reminder to *Militant* distributors: the scoreboard is based on subscriptions received in the business office by the end of Monday each week. This is also the deadline for reports on *New International* sales.

Socialist conference in N. Carolina discusses world capitalist disorder

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — Talks and discussions, on topics such as South Africa and Cuba, the roots of women's oppression, and the challenges facing the labor movement today, were part of a busy weekend as nearly 100 people attended a socialist educational conference here April 9-11.

The conference also allowed the participants, who came from seven states, to exchange experiences in defending abortion clinics and visiting the coalfields, where miners are fighting for a decent contract. Steelworkers on strike at Trinity Industries in Bessemer, Alabama, added to the discussion, as did a group of young workers who took time from the conference to join students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who are fighting for an Afro-American cultural center.

The conference opened with a presentation by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, who went to Cuba in March to take part in a student conference at the University of Matanzas. She described the economic hardships in Cuba today and how the Cuban people are organizing to meet these challenges.

Waters called on participants in Greensboro to contribute to the Pathfinder Books for Cuba Fund. "What you do at this conference is important," she said. "Funds for books in Cuba today are virtually nonexistent." On the spot the audience donated more than \$350, which will go toward making donations of Pathfinder books and other works by revolutionary and working-class leaders to libraries in Cuba.

Young workers at the conference also began plans to join in a youth brigade to Cuba July 1-15, hosted by Cuba's Union of Young Communists.

Participants also organized to join in a May 8 action in Pensacola, Florida, to defend abortion rights. Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers candidate for city council in Birmingham, Alabama, opened the class on the roots of women's oppression by pointing to the example of hundreds of abortion rights defenders who were mobilizing April 10-11 in Melbourne, Florida, to keep the clinics there open.

A broad discussion followed the class, with questions ranging from women in combat to how to define when life begins and whether high school students should be pushed to take long-term contraceptives like Norplant. Marcus Royal, a young worker from North Carolina, explained why he thought affirmative action for women was important: "They have all the women at my job on the lowest-paid and hardest jobs, but they told me not to worry because I'm a man," he said.

Following the conference a group headed out on a *Militant* sales and reporting trip to the coalfields in Virginia where there are Westmoreland and Pittston mines. The *Militant* newspaper has earned respect as a valuable source of information for the miners, stated laid-off miner John Hawkins at the conference class on labor struggles today. He described how the miners didn't take down their shanties after winning a month-long strike against Peabody Coal Co.

Questions at that class were also directed toward Evan Roberts, a striker at Trinity who was able to join with 70,000 steelworkers from eastern and western Germany in Bonn March 26 to protest plans by the German steel industry to cut 30,000 jobs.

Sam Manuel, who recently attended an international anti-apartheid conference in South Africa organized by the African National Congress, led the class on South Africa. "The murder yesterday of Chris Hani, the general secretary of the South African Communist Party and a longtime leader of the ANC," Manuel said, "shows that the final mile is not a smooth road but a minefield."

At the Saturday night *Militant* Labor Forum, Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, spoke on the accelerating crisis of world capitalism and the expanding political opportunities for working people around the world. The audience donated \$9,000 to a special fund to help produce two new editions of the Marxist magazine *New International*. One of these will cover the Nicaraguan revolution and the other will deal with today's world political situation.

Also discussed at the conference was the upcoming demonstration in Washington, D.C., April 25 for gay and lesbian rights. Conference participants all spoke of plans being made to attend.

Vivian Sahner is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 6221 in Baltimore.

WHERE WE STAND

SOLD: 21% 586

SHOULD BE: 25% 700

END OF WEEK TWO

	The MILITANT		PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL		NEW INTERNATIONAL		
	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL	
UNITED STATES							
Salt Lake City	34	75	45%	3	15	11	35
Washington, DC	26	75	35%	4	25	10	40
Cleveland	22	65	34%	0	4	5	25
Portland	5	15	33%	0	2	0	10
Chicago	30	110	27%	5	25	0	35
Baltimore	20	75	27%	0	10	0	25
Atlanta	19	75	25%	2	10	0	20
Birmingham, AL	17	75	23%	3	10	2	20
Denver	1	5	20%	0	2	0	5
Detroit	16	80	20%	0	10	0	30
Houston	15	75	20%	2	20	8	25
New Haven, CT	2	10	20%	0	2	0	5
Philadelphia	17	85	20%	2	20	12	25
San Francisco	22	110	20%	3	30	3	30
New York	44	225	20%	16	75	0	95
Boston	21	110	19%	7	30	5	45
Morgantown, WV	12	65	18%	0	5	5	20
Miami	17	100	17%	13	35	12	50
Newark, NJ	21	135	16%	5	45	0	70
Pittsburgh	12	80	15%	5	3	3	25
Des Moines, Iowa	11	85	13%	3	30	0	40
Los Angeles	22	70	13%	25	85	6	95
Santa Cruz	1	8	13%	0	3	0	5
Seattle	10	80	13%	4	30	4	35
Twin Cities, MN	14	120	12%	1	15	0	30
St. Louis	10	90	11%	0	7	0	40
Greensboro, NC	6	65	9%	3	7	0	30
Cincinnati	0	10	0%	0	2	0	3
U.S. Total	447	2,273	20%	106	561	86	953
AUSTRALIA							
	6	30	20%	0	10	1	20
BRITAIN							
Sheffield	7	35	20%	0	3	1	15
Manchester	6	35	17%	0	1	0	20
London	5	60	8%	2	5	5	25
Britain Total	18	130	14%	2	9	6	60
CANADA							
Toronto	32	75	43%	2	15	12	45
Vancouver	23	70	33%	3	10	1	30
Montreal	18	65	28%	2	12	6	60
Quebec City	0	5	0%	0	0	0	2
Canada Total	73	215	34%	7	37	19	137
FRANCE							
	0	10	0%	0	3	0	10
GREECE							
	0	2	0%	0	0	0	2
ICELAND							
	3	10	30%	0	1	0	3
NEW ZEALAND							
Auckland	13	45	29%	0	1	1	10
Wellington	10	40	25%	0	1	1	10
Christchurch	3	25	12%	0	1	0	8
New Zealand Total	26	110	24%	0	3	2	28
PUERTO RICO							
	1	1	100%	1	10	0	10
SWEDEN							
	12	65	18%	4	20	7	20
TOTAL	586	2,854	21%	120	658	121	1,253
SHOULD BE	700		25%	150		300	

IN THE UNIONS

	The MILITANT		PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL		NEW INTERNATIONAL		
	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL	SOLD	GOAL	
UNITED STATES							
UMWA	9	15	60%	0	—	0	—
ACTWU	10	28	36%	5	12	0	20
UTU	25	80	31%	0	4	0	27
UAW	24	85	28%	1	4	1	25
USWA	22	85	26%	2	—	1	25
OCAW	8	30	16%	1	4	2	18
IAM	13	90	14%	0	25	4	35
UFCW	3	56	5%	3	35	0	26
ILGWU	1	20	5%	5	20	0	15
U.S. Total	115	489	24%	17	80	8	176
AUSTRALIA							
NUW	2	3	67%	0	0	0	0
AMEU	0	3	0%	0	0	0	1
FPU	0	3	0%	0	0	0	1
Australia Total	2	9	22%	0	0	0	2
BRITAIN							
TGWU	2	6	33%	0	—	0	3
AEEU	1	6	17%	0	—	0	6
RMT	2	12	17%	0	—	0	6
NUM	0	2	0%	0	—	0	2
Britain Total	5	26	19%	0	—	0	17
CANADA							
USWA	6	10	60%	0	2	0	2
ACTWU	0	2	0%	0	—	0	1
CAW	0	9	0%	1	—	1	4
IAM	0	6	0%	0	—	0	2
Canada Total	6	27	22%	1	2	1	9
NEW ZEALAND							
EU	2	5	40%	0	—	1	—
MWU	0	2	0%	0	—	1	1
UFBGWU	0	8	0%	0	—	1	2
New Zealand Total	2	15	13%	0	—	3	4
SWEDEN							
Food workers	0	6	0%	0	—	0	2
Metal workers	0	5	0%	0	—	0	1
Transport workers	0	2	0%	0	—	0	—
Sweden Total	0	13	0%	0	—	0	3

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEU — Amalgamated Engineering Union; AMEU — Automotive, Metal and Engineering Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; EU — Engineers Union; FPU — Food Preservers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; NUW — National Union of Workers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union

Life in a South African Black township

BY JOHN STEELE

SOWETO, South Africa — More than a million and a half people live in Soweto, a sprawling Black township southwest of Johannesburg that originated with the apartheid system in the late 1940s. Coloureds — those of mixed ancestry under apartheid's racist classification — and Indians were segregated in separate areas around Johannesburg.

It was the 1976 Soweto student uprising, in which even by official figures more than 100 young fighters were killed by South African cops, that signaled the beginning of the end of the apartheid regime.

Throughout the 1980s, Soweto's youth were in the forefront of mass action campaigns of workers and students. These mobilizations forced the regime in 1990 to unban the African National Congress and other anti-apartheid organizations, as well as to release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

In February and March of this year, teachers and students shut down Soweto's schools for two weeks to protest the conditions they face under the apartheid educational system.

Face of apartheid and capitalism

Soweto shows the real face of apartheid and capitalism in South Africa. It is made up of dozens of squatter communities composed of hundreds of thousands of one- and two-room tin and wooden shacks without electricity, toilets, or running water. There are also rows and rows of tiny three- and four-room cement block boxes,



Soweto shows true face of apartheid and capitalism in South Africa. Left: worker's home in Soweto.

Militant photos by John Steele

some with and some without electricity. Many Blacks must sleep on the floor in these dwellings because of overcrowding. Nobody has privacy.

In many areas the only "services" are overflowing portable toilets. Garbage collection is infrequent at best.

The most modern buildings are government offices and the police station.

Those who have jobs in nearby Johannesburg have to get up very early in the morning to get a seat on the privately owned minibuses that careen over the rutted, potholed, often unpaved roads. Others get rides or walk to the train stations to catch what are now called "killer trains," because of government-organized terrorist attacks on passengers that have taken place over the past couple of years.

Until the late 1980s, all Blacks, except those with authorized night passes for shift

work, had to leave Johannesburg by 7:00 p.m. to return to Soweto and the other Black townships around Johannesburg. Otherwise they were picked up and jailed.

There is scarcely any industry in Soweto. What little there is, such as cement block factories and other light industry, is owned by whites who live far from the township.

There are few supermarkets or drugstores. Most Soweto residents either purchase food daily from small corner stands, or in Johannesburg on the way home from work. Playgrounds, sportsfields, community centers, and cinemas are few and far between.

Education and health

There is only one hospital for all of Soweto, as well as a few clinics. The unemployed have to pay \$4 to see a doctor; the rates rise with income. It costs \$21 to spend

the night in the hospital. People sometimes wait up to an hour for an ambulance regardless of the seriousness of the illness or injury. Some doctors, out of necessity, have turned their houses into makeshift offices.

Soweto schools are grossly overcrowded, with 3,000 students in some secondary schools. They are ill-equipped; for example, there are no computers available for students. No school transportation exists. Young primary school students have to walk long distances through Soweto's streets and open fields to get to school.

Those without electricity use candles. Coal stoves for cooking are common. Some can afford batteries to run appliances. Those with electricity pay exorbitant rates for poor service, despite the proximity of the power station that services the entire Johannesburg area.

Local administration

Soweto is run by the Transvaal Provincial Association (TPA), an arm of the apartheid government. In addition to being a center of corruption, swallowing up land rent, taxes, water, and electricity payments, it promotes the apartheid policy of divide and rule, among the Soweto population. For example, government employees get apartments and other privileges.

Many people in Soweto have been organized since the mid-1970s. The struggles they have waged through demonstrations, marches, and boycotts of rent, school, and electricity payments have forced the regime to make concessions.

Some areas have won monthly electricity rates. In March, in response to a hard-fought boycott of TPA administration fees, a government committee recommended subsidizing up to 83 percent of these fees.

In a number of areas, residents have built community toilets, showers, and water taps over the opposition of TPA bureaucrats, and have forced the TPA to pipe water into these facilities.

In one area of Soweto, an association for the homeless was initiated by African National Congress (ANC) activists last year. The efforts of this organization have forced the TPA to provide toilets for each shack and to electrify the area.

Support for ANC

The ANC has wide support in Soweto and exists side by side with the civic organizations, the Congress of South African Students, and other groups. Many workers in Soweto are members of unions affiliated to the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

The government, through its apartheid agencies, has populated a number of migrant workers' hostels with anti-ANC forces, however. These hostels are reserved for migrants who have been organized by the Inkatha Freedom Party, a group that works closely with the apartheid regime and its cops. A number of shantytowns have been established for IFP-organized forces as well. It is from the hostels in particular that gangs, with the complicity of the state security forces, have carried out massacres in Soweto and on the trains to Johannesburg over the past few years.

The people of Soweto come from every region of South Africa and speak all languages of the country — Xhosa, Zulu, Tswana, and others. Unity in the struggle for a democratic, nonracial South Africa has characterized Soweto for nearly two decades since the 1976 upsurge.

This is why people here say, "When Soweto sneezes South Africa gets a cold." It is why the apartheid regime does everything it can to keep the lid in Soweto on the resistance it has never been able to extinguish.

ANC youth well received in Boston, Detroit

BY NEIL CALLENDER

BOSTON — Two dozen working-class youth from the multinational and economically depressed community of Chelsea, Massachusetts, near Boston, listened with rapt attention to Thabo Mzilikazi, a leader of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, describe his experience of imprisonment at the hands of the South African police.

Mzilikazi said he was arrested at the age of 13 on the basis of a false accusation by an informant that he knew someone who fled South Africa for exile in Zambia. He recounted that the police shot people in front of him, claiming they were his friends in order to terrorize him. He said that they tortured him by keeping him in total darkness for weeks at a time.

Mzilikazi said many children and young people who suffered these acts of barbarity became mentally disturbed.

For his part, he said, he made the decision to channel his anger into the struggle against apartheid.

At the end of the meeting, Mzilikazi and the two other representatives of the ANC Youth League touring Boston, Eldred de Klerk and Lundi Rasmeni, urged the organization of the Chelsea youth ROCA (rock in Spanish) to send at least one person to the international youth conference the ANC is projecting for June. The conference is part of the ANC campaign for a joint electoral front of all the democratic forces in the upcoming nonracial one-person, one-vote elections, the first in the history of South Africa.

The two-day tour through Boston, March 31–April 1, visited two high schools and four universities, including the University of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Suffolk University, and Tufts University. Some 350 people attended the meetings.

The Youth League leaders explained in each meeting the proposals of the ANC for elections to a constituent assembly, which will draft a new constitution, and for an interim government of national unity to include on a proportional basis all political

parties which receive at least 5 percent of the popular vote. They explained the need for what the ANC calls a "level playing field" for free and fair elections. That includes free political activity in the Bantustans, joint control over all the military forces in the country, equal access to the media, and a new electoral commission to ensure a fair registration and ballot-counting process.

The South African youth also described a campaign to enlist 230,000 volunteers to do voter education around the country and to explain the ANC's program. This is needed, they said, because 70 percent of the African population is functionally illiterate as a result of the racist apartheid education system.

The three Youth League leaders urged more collaboration between opponents of apartheid in the United States and fighters in South Africa. They emphasized that the fight against racial oppression is an international one. In an assembly of mostly African-American, Haitian, and Latino high school students, de Klerk said, "We honestly believe that we will not be truly free until you are also free."

BY DAVID ALVAREZ

DETROIT — "Nineteen ninety-three marks 81 years of struggle against racist rule in South Africa," said Clayton Lillienfeldt to 120 students at Community High School in Ann Arbor March 26. "It might also mark the year in which the first democratic elections will be held in South Africa."

That is how Lillienfeldt, a student leader and member of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, began a five-day tour here along with Lulu Johnson, the organization's deputy president. Their visit was part of the Student-to-Student Empowerment Tour, a nationwide tour of Youth League leaders.

The youth leaders spoke to about 500 people in the Detroit area and answered questions about the current stage of the struggle in South Africa at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Wayne State

University, and the University of Detroit. They also spoke at Community High School in Ann Arbor and McKenzie High School in Detroit.

The question-and-answer periods at all of the meetings were spirited and lively, reflecting the keen interest in the struggle in South Africa and how it relates to the problems facing working people living in the area.

One question asked over and over was about so-called Black-on-Black violence in South Africa. Answering such a question from a student at McKenzie High School, Lillienfeldt said, "The television in South Africa portrays Blacks in the United States as being rich and making their money off of crime. . . . In our country Black-on-Black violence is a myth, a product of the media whose purpose is to show that Blacks can't govern, trying to show that when the ANC takes power that South Africa will descend into a bloodbath of tribal warfare. In actuality, the violence is a product of the apartheid system and will not end until apartheid ends. You should look at 'Black-on-Black violence' in this country through the lens of our experience in South Africa."

A highlight of the tour was March 29, the day Johnson and Lillienfeldt spent at Wayne State University. Omega Psi Phi, a Black fraternity on campus, sponsored the day-long event, hosting two public forums along with a reception. A representative from Rep. John Conyers' office and a local official from the United Food and Commercial Workers union welcomed the youth leaders to Detroit during a press conference on campus.

As a result of this tour participants are discussing further ways to build support for the ANC, including possibly organizing local participation in voter education brigades in South Africa. "When the ANC takes power in South Africa, it will be a victory not only for the majority of people in South Africa, but for oppressed people everywhere," said Lillienfeldt.

David Alvarez is a member of the United Auto Workers in Detroit.

Mandela appeals for disciplined protests

Continued from front page

Tomorrow, in many towns and villages, there will be memorial services to pay homage to one of the greatest revolutionaries this country has ever known. Every service will open a Memorial Book for Freedom, in which all who want peace and democracy pledge their commitment.

Now is the time for all South Africans to stand together against those who, from any quarter, wish to destroy what Chris Hani gave his life for—the freedom of all of us.

Now is the time for our white compatriots, from whom messages of condolence continue to pour in, to reach out with an understanding of the grievous loss to our nation, to join in the memorial services and the funeral commemorations.

Now is the time for the police to act with sensitivity and restraint, to be real community policemen and women who serve the population as a whole. There must be no further loss of life at this tragic time.

This is a watershed moment for all of us. Our decisions and actions will determine whether we use our pain, our grief, and our outrage to move forward to what is the only

lasting solution for our country—an elected government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

We must not let the men who worship war, and who lust after blood, precipitate actions that will plunge our country into another Angola.

Chris Hani was a soldier. He believed in iron discipline. He carried out instructions to the letter. He practiced what he preached.

'Act with discipline'

Any lack of discipline is trampling on the values that Chris Hani stood for. Those who commit such acts serve only the interests of the assassins, and desecrate his memory. When we, as one people, act together decisively, with discipline and determination, nothing can stop us.

Let us honor this soldier for peace in a fitting manner. Let us rededicate ourselves to bringing about the democracy he fought for all his life; democracy that will bring real, tangible changes in the lives of the working people, the poor, the jobless, the landless.

Chris Hani is irreplaceable in the heart of our nation and people. When he first

returned to South Africa after three decades in exile, he said, "I have lived with death most of my life. I want to live in a free South Africa even if I have to lay down my life for it."

The body of Chris Hani will lie in state at the FNB Stadium, Soweto, from 12 noon on Sunday April 18, until the start of the vigil at 6 p.m. The funeral service will commence at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 19. The cortege will leave for Boksburg Cemetery, where the burial is scheduled for 1 p.m.

These funeral services and rallies must be conducted with dignity. We will give disciplined expression to our emotions at our pickets, prayer meetings, and gatherings, in our homes, our churches, and our schools. We will not be provoked into any rash actions. We are a nation in mourning.

To the youth of South Africa we have a special message: you have lost a great hero. You have repeatedly shown that your love of freedom is greater than that most precious gift, life itself. But you are the leaders of tomorrow. Your country, your people, your organization need you to act with wisdom. A particular responsibility



ANC leader Chris Hani

rests on your shoulders.

We pay tribute to all our people for the courage and restraint they have shown in the face of such extreme provocation. We are sure this same indomitable spirit will carry us through the difficult days ahead.

Chris Hani has made the supreme sacrifice. The greatest tribute we can pay to his life's work is to ensure we win that freedom for all our people.

Millions strike to condemn murder

Continued from front page

Nelson Mandela, who was out of the country at the time of the shooting, returned immediately and addressed the nation in a televised speech the evening of April 10. "The assassination of Chris Hani is a heinous crime against not only his person and his family, but also against the people of our country as a whole," said Mandela in a statement issued the same day. "[Hani] is a martyr to the cause of justice and peace. His death demands of us that we pursue that cause with even greater vigor and determination.

"During his very last days," the ANC president said, "he has been at the forefront of the campaign to end violence in the country and to encourage a spirit of tolerance among all our people and their political organisations.

"With all the authority at my command, I therefore appeal to all our people to remain calm and to honor the memory of Chris Hani by remaining a disciplined force for peace," said Mandela.

Leaders of the ANC, SACP, and Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) jointly reaffirmed their resolve to press ahead with the multiparty talks. They are demanding an international probe into Hani's assassination.

The ANC also denounced the police for refusing a written request several months earlier to provide police protection for Hani, who had survived two previous assassination attempts in the early 1980s.

Assassination hit list

The gun used to kill Hani was part of an arms consignment stolen from the South African air force headquarters in Pretoria in 1990, according to the police. They also reported finding a hit list in Walus's apartment naming "eight or nine" assassination targets, including leaders of the ANC,

SACP, and ruling National Party.

Hani had been a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee since 1975 and served as chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, from 1987-1992. The ANC suspended its armed struggle in 1990. Hani was one of the ANC's chief negotiators in talks with the government.

South African president and National Party leader F. W. de Klerk condemned the killing and called for "maximum restraint." In a television interview April 11 he said the emotions stirred by Hani's assassination could threaten efforts to schedule the country's first general election by universal suffrage within 12 months.

"I want to say without mincing any words that any suggestion of calling off the negotiating process is to play into the hands of the murderers," declared Joe Slovo, chairman of the SACP and a member of the ANC's negotiating team. "This is their purpose—to spike the negotiations."

Several rallies occurred April 12 in the Black townships around Johannesburg and Pretoria. In Soweto, police fired on a commemoration service for Hani, killing one man and wounding two women.

ANC leaders also issued a statement condemning revenge violence and racial attacks. "It is true that the person who pulled the trigger that killed Hani is white... equally true is that a white person informed the police of the registration and the colour of the car that his murderer used and led to his arrest. Therefore colour does not play a role in this instance," the statement said.

Progress in negotiations

Meanwhile, progress continues to be registered in multiparty talks aimed at scheduling democratic elections for a constituent assembly. The negotiating forum, attended by 26 political groups, convened

April 1 and rapidly moved through its agenda. Initially expected to last two days, the conference session was completed in just one.

"We in the ANC can safely say the negotiations process is firmly under way," stated ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa. "The process is now no longer about procedures, but now about more substantive issues, which will lead to a new constitution."

Pointing to one of the advances made at this session, Ramaphosa continued, "The question of violence can now be handled on a collective basis instead of just the ANC and the government."

In other news, more than 300 workers attending a March 26-28 COSATU conference resolved to place the union federation's full weight behind the ANC in the upcoming election campaign. "We will be embarking on our own voter education programme to ensure that as many workers go to the polls as possible," said a statement issued by the trade union organization.

On April 14, COSATU leaders plan to address meetings in thousands of COSATU-organized workplaces throughout the country. Plans are in the works to assist local affiliates in responding to attacks by employers on the central bargaining structures.

Marches are being planned for May 8 to support public sector workers in their fight for a decent living wage and against the government-mandated cuts in social services to various communities.

ANC magazine provides analysis of struggle in South Africa

One of the best sources of information on political developments in South Africa is the monthly magazine *Mayibuye*, published by the African National Congress. Now in its fourth year, *Mayibuye* began to circulate in South Africa after the ANC was unbanned in February 1990.

Among the topics covered in recent issues of the magazine are: an interview with ANC president Nelson Mandela on the current status of negotiations; discussions on the future of the Bantustan "homelands"; the ANC's land reform and regional policies; the education crisis in South Africa; ANC election campaign activities; and women's struggle for equality.

Printed in an attractive four-color format, *Mayibuye* provides news and analysis on South African politics not readily available in the big-business media. Subscriptions can be purchased from its offices in Marshalltown, South Africa (see ad below). Copies are available for \$3.50 at Pathfinder bookstores. — B.W.

SWP message to ANC president

The following message was sent April 10 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party, to Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress. Similar letters were also sent to the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress Youth League.

* * *

Dear Comrade Mandela,

The Socialist Workers Party of the United States expresses its solidarity with the African National Congress in face of the brutal and reactionary assassination of Comrade Chris Hani, a member of the ANC National Executive Committee and general secretary of the South African Communist Party, gunned down in front of his home earlier today.

This cold-blooded murder is a loss to your organization and a blow to the strug-

gle for a democratic, nonracial, and non-sexist republic in South Africa. It is part of the efforts by those in South Africa who are resorting to cowardly acts of terror as the South African people walk the final mile to freedom.

We join you in demanding the prosecution and punishment to the full extent of the law not only of the individual who pulled the trigger but also of those who planned and organized the crime.

In the United States, we pledge to redouble our efforts to work with others to win support and solidarity for the struggle for freedom in South Africa for which Chris Hani gave his life.

Fraternally,
s/Jack Barnes,
National Secretary,
for the National Committee
of the Socialist Workers Party

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How workers in Sweden won their rights

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON
STOCKHOLM, Sweden —
“We can’t afford our benefits,” was the headline of a recent article in the daily *Dagens Nyheter* by the former social democratic minister of finances.

“Everybody must sacrifice and pay because we all lived beyond our resources in the 80s,” he wrote, repeating a theme constantly pushed by most capitalist politicians in Sweden as well as in most capitalist countries, from Bill Clinton in the United States to Helmut Kohl in Germany.

These arguments are not new. At the turn of the century, when workers in Sweden demanded the right to organize in unions, the right to vote, the eight-hour day, health-care coverage, and economic protection against unemployment, the employers and their political parties said such rights would ruin Swedish commercial and industrial life. The employers’ association SAF, however, could afford to lock out hundreds of thousands of workers in the first decade of the century in its attempt to crush the rapid growth of industrial unions. The lockouts of those years produced enormous losses for the Swedish capitalist class. But they were considered necessary because they helped drive Sweden into World War I on the side of Germany. If Germany won the war, rich possibilities for investment and profits would open up for the Swedish capitalists, both in eastern and central Europe.

The war didn’t turn out that way, however. Both the German and Russian rulers were defeated. A workers’ and peasants’ revolution brought the Bolsheviks to power in Russia in 1917. A revolutionary upsurge followed throughout Europe.

The capitalist class in Sweden, confronting the possibility it might meet the same fate as its Russian counterparts and lose its hold on power, was forced to meet some of the demands of labor — the eight-hour day, the right to vote, and some protection for elderly and sick workers.

The reforms the SAF and the bourgeois parties had said earlier would lead to the ruin of Swedish commercial and industrial life were now adopted under the threat of losing power to the workers and farmers, not only in Sweden but throughout Europe. The Russian revolution had changed the relationship of class forces to the advantage of the workers and farmers.

In Russia, where workers and farmers actually took power, they extended these rights even further. In addition to the eight-hour day and the right to vote, the revolutionary government enacted a radical land reform giving land titles to millions of peasants. Women won the right to abortion and divorce.

Throughout the 1920s and early 1930s there were frequent strikes and lockouts in Sweden. Unemployment, hovered between 10 and 20 percent in the 1920s and increased in the early 1930s. The unions demanded unemployment insurance and public works at union wages. They fought the employers’ efforts to lower wages through the threat of unemployment.



Lars Kjellander/Internationalen
Auto workers protest in front of Saab-Scania plant outside Stockholm in 1989. Workers in Sweden, and internationally, have won social rights through struggles over the course of this century.

In 1933, the newly elected social democratic government approved unemployment insurance and public works programs. But workers had to have worked a certain amount of time on the job and belong to a union in order to receive any benefits.

In 1937, following a strike wave in Sweden as well as in many other European countries, the labor movement won more rights, including two-week vacations, subsidized school lunches, and dental care for children under 15.

The biggest strike in Sweden this century began in February 1945 following the end of World War II. Some 125,000 metalworkers struck for five months. This strike and the radicalization in the labor movement forced changes in the Social Democratic Party’s postwar program.

This program advocated that the state take more responsibility for the protection of the unemployed, the sick, and the elderly. These benefits allowed workers to be free from the hated charity and relief agencies. Many retired, unemployed, and sick workers have previously been forced to seek relief through such charity institutions.

Access to free and quality medical care and relatively inexpensive housing were among the demands workers won along with the reduction of the workweek from 48 to 40 hours.

The labor struggles of the 1930s and 1940s established the right of all workers to these social rights. Workers would not depend on

charity “for the poorest.” That was the principle in the 1948 decision by the government to give monthly family allowances for every child, regardless of the parents’ income.

The social welfare system developed in Sweden and most other industrialized countries in Western Europe did not guarantee rights for everybody. Farmers, who in the 1950s comprised a big proportion of the population, women who worked at home; and unemployed youth were not covered or only partially covered by the social security system. In addition, the amount of benefits was tied to income, reinforcing the wage differentiation between different groups of workers, between workers and farmers, men and women, and young and old. The gap was very striking in the national pension plan and the sick leave payments, which are based on income.

A big proportion of the population still did not qualify for unemployment benefits. But the shortening of the workweek affected the entire working class.

This reform was completed by the end of the 1960s. Women’s massive entrance into the labor market and a new wave of fights for women’s rights worldwide led to reforms like childcare facilities, the right to abortion in 1975, and maternity and parental leave rights.

A new strike wave swept the country, from the miners’ strike of 1969–70 to the lumber-workers’ strike in 1974, workers

fought against piece-work and the employers’ drive to increase productivity. These strikes strengthened solidarity in the labor movement and helped forge links between unionized workers and other sections of the working class involved in broad social struggles, like the fight for women’s rights.

In the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, however, the employers began to attack and reverse some of these gains. Laws restricting the right to strike and strengthening seniority rights were adopted.

During the 1980s bourgeois politics in Sweden turned more sharply to the right. The capitalist postwar boom had come to an end and the argument that “we can’t afford any big reforms” became frequent in bourgeois political debates. Broad social reforms were put off the agenda. Only reforms directed toward the middle class and relatively privileged workers were even discussed.

State subsidies for medical coverage and child care were drastically reduced, affecting working people most of all.

Following the 1987 stock market crash, the Swedish rulers began to question openly all the social programs workers had won since World War II. Most capitalist politicians say they are no longer “affordable.” Social programs that constituted the “Swedish dream” in the past are being slashed or taken away all together.

History shows that workers and farmers in Sweden and internationally won these social rights through struggles over the course of this century. It was never primarily a question of whether or not the rulers could afford these reforms. Whether these rights could be won, defended, or even extended was always a question of the relationship of class forces. Naturally, the capitalist rulers could more easily make concessions such as social security reforms when the postwar boom and profit rates peaked than during the depression we are living through today. But, as history shows, when the capitalist class’s hold on political power is threatened, or when the employers meet concerted resistance by the labor movement, they have to make concessions — whether profits are up or down.

Carl-Erik Isacsson works at the Saab-Scania auto plant near Stockholm and is a member of the Metalworkers Union.

Stockholm brewery workers resist speedup

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — One year ago Pripps Breweries in Bromma outside this city launched a drive to increase productivity by 25 percent, blaming stiffened competition, mainly from abroad. This has led to attacks on the union, which workers are resisting.

Workers who wash dirty bottles — a back-breaking job in the basement of the plant — had their bonuses lowered. These bonuses used to be higher than for other production

workers because of the hard work involved.

More workers are being given temporary jobs. The company sends workers home and handpicks those coming back according to the ups and downs in beverage sales. A large percentage of the mechanics are contract workers sent in and out without notice and under constant pressure to work for less.

Extra bonuses like free beverages for work during weekends were taken away, given back after protests, only to be taken away again. Taxi trips given to workers who begin work very early have been reduced.

In one break room a sofa and comfortable chairs were replaced by hard uncomfortable chairs after a worker was found sleeping there during night shift.

In March the company raised the price of food in the canteen. Four unions representing workers in the plant wrote a protest letter that ended, “For the first time the company has done this unilaterally. Is this a sign of the times?”

Many workers boycotted the canteen for several days. But the protest dwindled and led to no change in prices. At about the same time the company informed one of the few immigrants in the shop that he would have to give up his job as a mechanic and start working washing bottles. The worker did not want to transfer, and went to the union office to ask for help. The president of the local told him the union could do nothing.

This sparked a big discussion. Many workers were upset at the treatment of a coworker and worried that the company could do this to anyone if they could get away with it. Workers asked the union president to meet with them in the break room. When he came more

than 25 workers had assembled. The president was asked why the company said it was transferring this worker. He replied that there was too little work and that the worker was not qualified enough.

This upset everyone. “Those are lies — there’s plenty of work. Look at how many contractors are working,” one said. “Several workers have retired recently and no one has replaced them. If they can do this to Istvan, they can do it to any one of us. He’s done a good job, he’s never been given any warnings and they’ve never complained about him before,” he continued.

Many other workers spoke. The union president promised to ask for negotiations.

In the meantime workers began to collect names on a petition. An overwhelming majority of mechanics, electricians, and other workers signed, 35 in all.

“I’m very glad we did something about this,” said a mechanic after the meeting. “We have to stick together now.”

A couple of weeks later negotiations took place. By then the union steering committee had also prepared leaflets for a meeting between the workers and the foremen on Monday of the following week. On the Thursday before, the president told the transferred mechanic there might be a solution.

The meeting was called off. At the beginning of the next week the worker was informed he would remain a mechanic. The company said it would pay him for a course in Swedish and some training.

Catharina Tirsén, is member of Swedish Foodworkers Union Local 4 at Pripps Breweries in Stockholm.

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IRA bombings fuel debate in Britain on fight for Irish self-determination

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

MANCHESTER, England — Two young children were killed and 55 people were injured March 20 when the Irish Republican Army (IRA) exploded two bombs in Warrington, 15 miles from here. This was the second bombing in Warrington in recent weeks. The first explosion took place February 26 when a gas storage tank was destroyed. The bombings are part of an ongoing campaign by the IRA on the British mainland.

Working people in factories, mines, and rail depots expressed their outrage at the bombings when they heard news of the casualties. At an engineering plant here, a worker who supports the fight for Irish self-determination said, "Such acts make more difficult the fight to get the troops out of Ireland." Another worker asked, "Why does the IRA target working people? What good can that possibly do?"

Opponents of the fight for Irish freedom were emboldened by the bombing to rail against "the bloody Irish." "I'd bomb the lot of them," a worker said. The BBC radio news reported an attack on an Irish club in Warrington.

Attempts by the governments in London and Dublin to whip up an atmosphere of hysteria have not worked, however. Another worker, who said she didn't have strong views about Ireland, condemned the Warrington bombing but found it "a bit much" that the British government was campaigning against bombs and what the government calls "men of violence." "They've dropped more bombs than the IRA," she said.

The family of Jonathan Ball, one of the children killed in the Warrington bombing, refused to allow representatives of the London and Dublin governments to attend his funeral.

Britain's war in Northern Ireland

For nearly 25 years London has waged a low-intensity war in Ireland, where it occupies the North. The Labour Party government first sent troops onto the streets of Northern Ireland in 1969, faced with a massive civil rights movement that demanded an end to discrimination against the Catholic minority in housing, education, and jobs. Since then, more than 3,000 people have lost their lives in the conflict.

The government has introduced anti-democratic laws, censorship, nonjury trials, and arrests without trial. Top British military officials were found to have ordered a shoot-to-kill policy. Some of London's agents have joined pro-British terror squads and carried out murders and other atrocities. Many Irish have been framed up by police, brutalized, and imprisoned.

Today discrimination against the Catholic minority in the North — 650,000 out of a population of 1.5 million — is as intense as ever. The government of the United Kingdom maintains a force of 18,500 troops in Northern Ireland, the highest troop deployment since 1979.

In the face of the military stalemate and seeming intractability of the conflict, a wide discussion is taking place on the future of Northern Ireland. Opinion polls consistently report a majority of people in Britain favor troop withdrawal.

The rulers in Britain are seeking to pave the way for a new political initiative. In the context of economic depression they can ill afford the \$3 billion that the troop deployment costs. They are concerned less with maintaining the current constitutional arrangements than with establishing the best conditions to exploit labor.

When Ireland was partitioned in 1921, the key centers of industry were in the North, around Belfast. Today the key centers of profitability are in the south, which has a population of 3.5 million and where Britain faces stiff competition from its U.S. and German rivals.

London poses as force for peace

The government seized on the Warrington bomb to try to present itself as the force for peace, sow further divisions among working people along national and religious lines through scapegoating the Irish, and thereby pave the way for new constitutional talks on its terms.

Previous talks involving the London and



Victim of March 20 Warrington bombing

Dublin governments and other Irish political parties broke down in July 1992. The republican party Sinn Fein, which received one-third of the Catholic vote in Northern Ireland last November, was excluded from the talks. An objective of London's anti-IRA campaign is to win support for the continuing exclusion of Sinn Fein from any new talks.

Prime Minister John Major said of the Warrington bomb, "The wickedness of this act defies belief. News of this latest attack on men, women, children going innocently about their business on a spring Saturday will be met everywhere with sorrow and revulsion." Irish foreign minister Dick Spring said that "paramilitary violence is the biggest obstacle" to peace in Northern Ireland. Both governments have since called for reopening talks.

This propaganda campaign has been reinforced by the big-business media and capitalist politicians in other countries. Cardinal Basil Hume in Britain and Cardinal Cahal Daly in Ireland issued an unprecedented joint statement condemning such "outrageous acts perpetrated by a very small fraction."

Broadcasting authorities canceled the scheduled televising of a film, *Hidden Agenda*, which tells a fictional tale of police frame-ups of Irish republican activists.

New Consensus group

A campaign of public meetings and demonstrations for "peace" has been organized by a group called New Consensus. One such public meeting of 1,000 people was held March 24 at Trinity College, Dublin. A few days later, 10,000 people demonstrated in Dublin. There were similar marches of 2,000 in London and Belfast. The media claims these actions have been organized by a lone "37-year-old mother of three," Susan McHugh. McHugh has been lionized by the British press as the leader of a new peace movement, while she insists "I'm an ordinary mum, a housewife."

In fact, the New Consensus group, of which McHugh is a leader, was formed in 1989 on the initiative of the Workers Party, an organization that emerged from a split in the IRA in 1969-70 and which today campaigns against the Irish republican movement. New Consensus founding members include leaders of pro-British parties in Northern Ireland — the Ulster Unionist Party, Democratic Unionist Party, and Alliance Party — and of Fine Gael, which is today the principal opposition party in the Parliament of Ireland.

According to the republican newspaper *An Phoblacht*, New Consensus has received funding from the government in London. British prime minister John Major was a featured speaker at a New Consensus-organized memorial for the Warrington bomb victims in London. Irish president Mary Robinson was also on the platform.

U.S. president Bill Clinton sent a message condemning those who "support and perpetuate" violence.

The rallies and marches purportedly target all political violence in Ireland and Britain. Many participants have been attracted to the actions on this basis. But according to Sinn Fein's newspaper *An Phoblacht/Republican*

News, "Several participants at the 'Peace '93' rally in Dublin's O'Connell Street on Sunday, 28 March, were physically attacked because they carried posters in memory of civilians murdered by the British army and RUC [Royal Ulster Constabulary] in the Six Counties" of Northern Ireland.

"The Relatives for Justice organization," the paper continues, "were refused permission to address Sunday's rally on the grounds that it would be seen as 'political' and could cause embarrassment to the British government."

Violence by loyalist forces

In fact, there has been an escalation in recent months of sectarian violence by pro-British paramilitary groups against Catholics. On March 25 four Catholic workers in the seaside town of Castlerock were killed in a single attack by the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF). Two other Catholics were killed the same day in other attacks. A UFF spokesperson said, "It's been a good week so far — and it's only Thursday."

A Sinn Fein councillor, Patsy Groogan, said of the Castlerock killings, "These men were regularly stopped and harassed by the British forces. I have no doubt that this behavior played a part in targeting these men for assassination."

Another pro-British terrorist organization, the Ulster Defence Association, chose the same day to carry out firebomb attacks on the homes of Sinn Fein and Social Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) councillors. The London *Independent* reported March 26

that "the UDA stressed that it regards as the enemy not just republican organisations such as Sinn Fein and the IRA but also constitutional parties such as the SDLP, which it described as part of a 'pan-nationalist front.'" Terrorist attacks by pro-British organizations accounted for the majority of killings associated with the Irish conflict in 1992, the *Independent* reported.

As a result of such developments, there is growing support for Sinn Fein's demand that inclusive talks be convened immediately. The IRA is meeting with Gordon Wilson, a senator from the south of Ireland and the father of Marie Wilson, a victim of a previous IRA bombing at Enniskillen.

The Dublin government's justice minister, Maire Geoghegan-Quinn, welcomed this meeting. Maurice Manning of the opposition Fine Gael, known for its anti-republican rhetoric, also gave guarded support to the principle of talks with the republicans. The London daily *Guardian* has called for inclusive talks.

An alternative response has been put forward by columnist Conor Cruise O'Brien. Writing in the March 26 *Independent*, O'Brien called for the reintroduction of internment — detention without trial. The British government introduced internment in Northern Ireland in 1971 but was forced to abandon the measure after mass protests in Ireland and Britain. O'Brien said the government should not repeat the mistakes of this past experience but introduce "selective internment." To be effective, O'Brien said, internment would be needed on both sides of the Irish border.

Jonathan Silberman is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union in Manchester.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

BY PAT SMITH

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 in Iceland are making use of the recent publication of *Che Guevara og Baráttan Fyrir Sóssíalisma í Dag* (Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today) by Mary-Alice Waters with a campaign to sell 100 copies of the pamphlet by May 1. They have already sold 43 copies.

The publication of the pamphlet was celebrated at a meeting cosponsored by the International Forums Association and the Iceland-Cuba Friendship Association March 13. Five school libraries and two public libraries have so far purchased 12 copies of the pamphlet for their collections.

Pathfinder supporters in Iceland translated the work, prepared it for publication, and organized to have it printed locally.

The PEN American *Freedom-To-Write Bulletin* reported in its February/March issue on the literary association's letter to the government of Grenada protesting its continued ban on more than 80 Pathfinder books. The bulletin reports that PEN has since received a letter from the Organization of American States, which received a copy of the protest, saying it is considering the issue.

The ban and continued protests against it were also covered in the March 16 issue of the *Caribbean Times*, a weekly newspaper published in London.

The *Caribbean Times* explains that the battle against censorship in Grenada began in October 1988 when customs officials seized a shipment of books from a Pathfinder representative. In March 1989 another shipment of books was confis-

cated and Pathfinder director Steve Clark, who was in Grenada to attend a conference, was asked to leave the country. In April 1989, the government issued a decree banning 86 Pathfinder titles.

The *Times* lists some of the prohibited books, which include *The Communist Manifesto*, *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, and *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*.

Many professors attending the National Ethnic Studies Departments conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, in early March stopped by the display of Pathfinder titles there. Table staffers report they sold \$230 worth of books. Top sellers were books and pamphlets by Malcolm X and titles on women's liberation. Conference participants also purchased six copies of *Genocide Against the Indians* and three books by Che Guevara. Forty professors picked up copies of Pathfinder's catalog; some expressed interest in considering Pathfinder titles as part of the reading lists for courses they teach.

Seventy-five people attended an event at the Los Angeles Pathfinder bookstore March 27 to celebrate the publication of *Habla Malcolm X*, an extensive Spanish-language collection of speeches by Malcolm X, and *February 1965: The Final Speeches*, containing material from the revolutionary leader's last month.

Frank Greenwood, well known for a play he wrote about Malcolm X, saluted Pathfinder Press for its role in keeping Malcolm's speeches in print. Piri Thomas, a poet and supporter of Puerto Rican independence, flew in from Berkeley, California, to take part in the event. He recalled how the name of Malcolm X was spreading through the *barrio* when he got out of prison in 1957, an experience described in his book *Down These Mean Streets*.

L. A. cops mobilize huge force before King verdict

BY SANDRA PUCCI AND HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — As the *Militant* goes to press the verdict is not yet in on the charges against the four cops who beat Rodney King. Meanwhile, a massive show of force by the various police agencies was evident in Black and Latino areas of the city.

As the verdict neared, all reports indicated that most working people in the Black and Latino communities did not want a repeat of the antipolice riots that took place last year.

At the same time, the formidable mobilization of police forces made clear the determination of authorities to crack down with harsh force on any protests or expressions of outrage at an unjust verdict.

Governor Pete Wilson ordered 600 National Guard troops to county armories. He declared, "We intend to be ready to respond with whatever force is necessary." Similarly, Sheriff Sherman Block announced deployment of special platoons of deputies armed not only with their regular weapons, but also with tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, Taser guns, and other anti-riot gear.

The Los Angeles Police Department planned to have up to 6,500 cops out on 12-hour shifts before the verdict was announced.

A recent poll by the *Los Angeles Times* found that 50 percent of the city's residents felt there is great danger of cops "overreacting" and inciting violence.

A member of the United Auto Workers union who works at the big Alcoa plant here said that in conversations with coworkers, who are mainly Black and Latino, sentiment is "near unanimous" that they do not want to see a rerun of last year's outbreak. "They fear it will be costly," he said. "The fear is that actions by even a few individuals could trigger a police riot."

In the Latino community there is deep concern about police victimization and deportation roundups by immigration cops. During the riots last year, about 1,200 immigrants were arrested and deported.

Community figures met with Police Chief Willie Williams seeking assurance that the Immigration and Naturalization Service would not be brought into the picture this time. They received no such assurance.

Prosecution advanced pro-cop line

At the courthouse, in closing statements to the jury April 8, the prosecution continued to press a pro-cop line.

Prosecutor Steven Glymer declared, "Rodney King should have been arrested that night, and Rodney King should have gone to jail." He added, "If these defendants hadn't beaten him, that's exactly what would have happened."

Kim Allen and Kevin Jones, Socialist Workers Party candidates for mayor and city controller, took sharp issue with these statements.

"Rodney King did not avoid jail because he was beaten," Allen said. "He avoided it only because the beating was videotaped. If it weren't for that videotape, and the subsequent protests against police violence by thousands of working people, King would have been but one more of the countless unknown victims of brutality by the cops."

"What these cops did," Jones added, "is part of the daily work of a police department whose basic reason for existence is harassment and intimidation of working people through the use of force."

Meanwhile, authorities modified their plan for a media "no-fly" zone. Initially, police authorities asked the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to ban low-flying media helicopters and planes across Los Angeles County in the period following the verdict's announcement.

Responding to media protests, Police Chief Williams said such curbs would be requested of the FAA for only "small areas" of the city.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how best to advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Socialist Campaign Rally. Speaker: Elizabeth Lariscy, Socialist Workers candidate for Morgantown City Council, member, Amalgamated

Congress quarrels over Clinton's budget

Continued from front page underemployed.

The *New York Times* reported that among economists "the prevailing view is that the effect of a \$30 billion stimulus over two years in a \$6 trillion economy would be marginal." Even bosses of corporations that are expected to gain the most from the package said it was too small to make any difference to their businesses.

In another demagogic show, Senate Republicans earlier cast their minority vote in favor of eliminating a central piece of Clinton's budget, the proposal to raise taxes on the Social Security benefits of the most affluent retirees. Clinton hopes to raise an extra \$30 billion through this measure over the next five years.

Austerity program

Clinton's attack on Social Security was central to his February budget announcements, which amounted to the biggest austerity program since World War II. While his proposal to raise taxes on the wealthiest Social Security recipients was tied to other "tax the rich" rhetoric, the ultimate target of these measures is working people, who depend on Social Security for retirement.

Higher taxes on Social Security payments are one more step in the direction of "means testing" these entitlements, that is, having to submit to humiliating invasions of privacy to prove one is poor enough to have access to these benefits. Such measures would turn these benefits into a form of charity rather than a right.

Both Clinton and the Republicans have been courting Ross Perot, who has made budget cuts — in the name of "eliminating the deficit" — central to his campaigning both during and since the presidential race. Perot has also strongly advocated that wealthy people such as himself not be entitled to Social Security.

"I'd be more interested in why my eco-

nomist program — which is 85 percent what Ross Perot recommended in the campaign... — hasn't been endorsed [by Perot] since it's almost identical to the one he ran on," Clinton complained April 1.

Despite the president's efforts, Perot has sharply criticized the budget, stating that the "stimulus" package would create only temporary jobs. The tension between Clinton and Perot broke into the open in early April, halting "the tentative peace that Mr. Clinton and his aides had cultivated assiduously in hopes of attracting Mr. Perot's supporters," the *New York*

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Accelerating World Capitalist Disorder. Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League. Sat., April 24, 6 p.m. Surry Hills Neighborhood Centre, corner Collins St. and Norton St. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

South Africa: White Regime's Final Hour; Cuba Today: Challenges Facing the Working Class. Classes. Sun., April 25, 11:30 a.m. Surry Hills Neighborhood Centre, corner Collins St. and Norton St. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., April 24. Reception: 6 p.m., program: 7 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055. Translation to Spanish.

BRITAIN

Manchester

What's Happening in Russia Today? Speaker: Jonathan Silberman, contributing editor, *New Internationalist*. Sat., April 24, 6 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

What Malcolm X Means Today. Sat., April 24, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Wellington

Fiji Miners Strike against Emperor Gold Mine. Video. Sat., April 24, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Times reported.

Clinton accused Perot of "rumor mongering" about relations between the White House and the military. Perot responded that Clinton had no moral authority on this subject because he had "ducked" military service.

Senate Republican leader Robert Dole hoped his fight against Clinton's "stimulus package" would appeal to Perot supporters. "We believe our philosophy is pretty much what they voted for when they voted for Ross Perot last November," he said.

JUAN ANTONIO BLANCO TOUR ITINERARY

Blanco is a codirector of the Félix Varela Center in Havana. His tour in the United States is sponsored by Global Exchange. He has already visited Baltimore; Washington, D.C.; New York; and Boston. See article on page 16.

New England area

April 15 3:30 p.m. Class on U.S.-Cuba relations, Brown University, Providence, RI
8 p.m. Yale University, New Haven, CT

Chicago

April 16 12 noon Loyola University Public event (in Spanish, location to be announced)
April 17 7 p.m. Public talk (location to be announced)
April 19 10 a.m. De Paul University
3:30 p.m. Ctr. for Latin Am. Studies, University of Chicago

Portland area

April 21 Afternoon Lewis and Clark College
7 p.m. Portland State University
April 22 3 p.m. Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Seattle

April 23 12 noon Seattle University
4 p.m. University of Washington

Bay Area

April 26 12 noon Talk and press conference, California State University, Sacramento
7:30 p.m. Cal. State U., Sacramento
April 27 7 p.m. New College Theater, San Francisco
April 28 7 p.m. University of California, Berkeley
April 29 7 p.m. Thunderheart Bookstore, Monterey

Los Angeles

April 30 Afternoon or evening reception. (location to be announced)

For more information call: (415) 864-4561

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MICHIGAN: Detroit: 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

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Mexico City: Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico D.F.

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Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

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

Bet you think he's a racist — "A lot of Mexicans have bad foot speed. It's a genetic-type thing. They have a different body type."



Harry Ring

Most all have good hands and good rhythm. That's why they dance so well." — Fred Uhlman, Baltimore Orioles baseball scout.

America the Beautiful — Returning from Michigan to their Florida home and running low on cash, Mary Alice Waire, 69, and her husband stopped at a Tifton, Georgia, Wal-Mart and turned in a couple of items for a \$13 refund. Mrs. Waire was busted for allegedly giving a false address, an offense in Georgia when seeking a refund. She spent 44 days in jail and paid \$300 in fines and court costs. Meanwhile, the couple lost their car and apartment.

Housing stories (I) — European immigrants who became

shopkeepers often sought stores with living quarters in the rear, leading to the joke about the shopkeeper who became wealthy but turned down an opportunity to buy Macy's because there were no rooms in back. This came to mind when we read the obit for Andrew Goodman, owner of the plush New York department store Bergdorf Goodman. He had a penthouse on top.

Housing stories (II) — Turn-of-the-century steelworkers had it that early industrialist Andrew Carnegie built his mansion across

from his steel mill because he liked to hear the sound of money being made. (They also contended he never saw a blast furnace until he died.)

It figures — "WASHINGTON — More than \$1 million in bonuses were paid last year to 136 officials of the federal agency in charge of the savings and loan cleanup" — Associated Press.

That figures too — "WASHINGTON — More than 100 savings and loan defendants who escaped long prison terms in exchange for

making penalty payments have repaid less than a half-penny per dollar of the \$133.8 million they owe." — Associated Press.

Like squeezing out a bit more juice — The chief honcho at American Airlines said the company regularly consults with eminent restaurateurs on food preparation. One happy result: "Where we once offered freshly cut fruit salad... our fruit appetizers now consist of melon slices, which give our customers more fruit [?] — and save lots of cutting and peeling in the kitchen."

Australia Labor Party maintains hold on power

BY DAVID ADAMS

SYDNEY, Australia — The victory of the Australian Labor Party and the reelection of Prime Minister Paul Keating in the March 13 federal elections here stunned politicians and pundits alike. Most commentators had predicted a conservative victory.

"The unexpected result was important because of what was revealed about the mood of working people and politics in Australia today," said Ron Poulsen, Communist League candidate for Senate in New South Wales. Poulsen, a member of the Food Preservers' Union, spoke at an April 3 Militant Labor Forum in Sydney on the Australian elections.

The Australian Labor Party (ALP) has formed the federal government for the past 10 years, first with Bob Hawke as prime minister, then Paul Keating. But with official unemployment figures surging above 11 percent — more than 1 million people — in the deepest recession since the 1930s, most considered a defeat of the ALP by the conservative Liberal-National coalition virtually inevitable.

"The elections occurred during a world depression," Poulsen said. "Australian imperialism, as a middle-ranking power, is caught between the sharpening conflicts among the major capitalist powers, especially the United States, Germany, and Japan." The need for Australian capitalism to become more competitive against its trading rivals in Asia, Europe, and North America was a theme of both major parties during the election campaign.

Labor, Liberals: twin parties of capitalism

Poulsen said the Labor and Liberal parties "are the twin parties of capitalist rule. The Liberals are directly run and funded by the ruling class. The ALP is the party of the labor bureaucracy. While in office throughout the 1980s the ALP has proven that it is both a loyal servant of big business and a stable pillar of capitalist government."

Eighteen months before the election, the Liberal Party formulated a detailed program, projecting a broadside attack on the trade unions and the imposition of a 15 percent sales tax on good and services. Poulsen said the Liberals were deliberately not vague about their plans, unlike the norm for capitalist parties that stand in elections. "Confident of victory, the Liberals were determined to substantially shift bourgeois politics further to the right and secure a clear electoral mandate to carry out severe attack, on the working class," Poulsen explained.

Liberal leader John Hewson has attempted to explain his party's electoral defeat by claiming its policies were not well understood. "But the fact is most workers understood only too well," Poulsen continued, "especially as a major part of Hewson's program mirrored the policies implemented by the Liberal state government of Victoria."

Union mobilizations in Victoria

Those policies have provoked the biggest mobilizations of the trade union movement and other working people and youth in more than a decade. Two one-day general strikes across Victoria involving hundreds of thousands of workers, as well as rolling work stoppages and mass demonstrations of tens of thousands, have taken place there since last October's election of the Liberal Party government, headed by Jeff Kennett.

The Kennett government has outlawed or legally restricted many types of strikes, cut overtime and holiday pay rates, eliminated state awards (statewide union contracts covering workers throughout a given industry), laid off tens of thousands of state employees, closed 60 schools, and slapped a tax of \$100 a person on homeowners.

Poulsen said the resistance to the attacks in Victoria is the most significant development in the Australian class struggle in years, following more than a decade of labor demobilization under the "Accord." The Accord is a class-collaborationist social contract for industrial peace between national union officials and the Labor government.

Although the Labor Party government was extremely unpopular at the beginning of the election campaign, Poulsen said, "many working people looked at the Liberal Party's proposed 15 percent sales tax, cuts in health-care benefits and education, and attacks on the unions, and then voted for the Labor Party. Workers didn't trust the ALP to do anything for them but expected it would do less against them."

While 9 of 10 major daily newspapers across the country editorialized for a Liberal Party victory, the ruling class did not use its media to campaign against Labor as they have done in previous elections that led to ALP defeat. Many capitalist politicians felt that the successive Labor Party governments had been unable to make the necessary shift to step up the rulers' assaults on working people. Many in ruling-class circles, however, were worried that in the light of the labor upsurge in Victoria, the Liberals' policies could unnecessarily provoke widespread industrial confrontation that would be counterproductive to the capitalists' drive to increase productivity.

The media trumpeted the election result as a "mandate" for Prime Minister Keating to set his stamp on the government and its policies. Keating seized this opportunity to hand-pick a revamped cabinet that foreshadows a concerted shift to the right by the new government, coupled with the loyal collaboration of the trade union bureaucracy.

Prior to the elections, prominent economic commentator Max Walsh wrote in the *Sydney Morning Herald* that the incoming government, regardless of the party that won, would have to "do a Clinton," referring to the U.S. president's ditching of campaign promises, and turn to proposals to cut the social wage. Since Labor's reelection, the financial press has been insistently demanding that Keating and his treasurer, John Dawkins, take more drastic measures to "reduce the government deficit," that is, slash social welfare programs.

Ties with British monarchy

Keating's proposal before the election for Australia to dispense with formal ties to the British monarchy and move officially to an elected head of state by 2001, the centenary of Australia's federation, was relegated to a side issue in the elections. Apart from the



Prime minister Paul Keating

pointed to a statement, quoted in the *Business Review Weekly* and the *Sun-Herald* newspaper. An unnamed Labor govern-

ment staffer said, "We're going to make the centralized wage fixing system so irrelevant by the next election, the [Liberal-National Party] coalition won't have anything to hit us with."

"It is inevitable," Poulsen said, "that the rulers of Australia will come into more open trade clashes with their imperialist rivals around the world. Taking the lead from Washington they will embark on more wars. They will seek to 'solve' their problems by driving down wages, cutting social welfare, and changing work practices. But in this process they will meet growing resistance by the working class, which will have its chance to take state power out of the hands of the warmakers."

"To break with class collaborationism and seek a class-struggle alternative, workers will have to go through the experience of Labor governments administering the attacks of the ruling class. Masses of workers will discover what the Communist League election campaign explained: that the Labor Party is not a party for workers, but is an alternate party of the bosses that has no other program but capitalist war and depression."

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



NEW YORK — At the "Urban Crisis" CHOICE 68 panel at Columbia University on April 15, representatives of [Robert] Kennedy and [Eugene] McCarthy clashed with Derrick Morrison, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in New York's 20th congressional district.

State Senator Thompson of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Kennedy's representative, drew an analogy between Kennedy's program and Roosevelt's, which he said was designed to prevent "a revolution." This theme also dominated the talk by Robert Ginsberg, McCarthy's representative, who emphasized that what was needed to solve the crisis was to give black people "the feeling that they are Americans... the right to feel that they are governing themselves."

Morrison charged that the two Democrats had the viewpoint of the rulers, that their "main intent was to try to get the ghettos quiet." He said he had the viewpoint of the oppressed black people, who are trying to win self-determination, just as the Vietnamese are.

Senator Thompson asked Ginsberg where McCarthy intended to find the resources to pay for his minimum income program. Though neither Democrat could offer any new source, Morrison proposed two huge ones: the Vietnam war money that would be freed if the U.S. withdrew, and the tremendous corporate profits that would be freed by nationalization of industry.



April 24, 1943

A meeting held by Spanish refugees in Mexico City to commemorate the deaths of Carlo Tresca, Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich

[antifascist fighters, the first assassinated in New York, the others in the Soviet Union] was broken up by Stalinist thugs on April 1.

The noted refugee, Victor Serge, cabled a story from Mexico City to the *New Leader*, revealing that the GPU had inspired and directed the attack, in the course of which Julian Gorkin, a leader of the Spanish POUM, was stabbed and badly wounded in the head.

The meeting had been called by the Iberian-Mexican Cultural Center, organized and sponsored by Spanish anti-fascist refugees living in Mexico, and those speakers who were heard before the meeting was disrupted denounced the Stalinist terror against political opponents.

"At eight o'clock," says Serge, "a gang of about one hundred Communists laid siege to the hall, broke down the iron door, and burst into the Center looking for the speakers to beat them up."

"Armed with clubs and bits of broken furniture as well as knives and guns, they formed a strong-arm squad, evidently recruited off the streets, probably hired, and led by some Communist Party leaders who kept shouting, 'They are Germans, enemies of Mexico!'"

Serge also reports that some of the Stalinists telephoned the police at the height of the fighting and said that a body of workers was breaking up a fascist meeting which had begun with shouts of "Vive Hitler! Vive Franco! Vive Mussolini!"

Following the riot Gorkin named Antonio Mije, Juan Camerera, Julian Carillo and Carlos Contreras as instigators of the attack. Contreras is a notorious Stalinist GPU hatchet man who was an active leader in the terror against anti-Stalinist workers in Spain during the civil war.

This is the second time that Erlich and Alter memorial meetings have been attacked by the Mexican Stalinists. According to the *New Leader*, a Stalinist gang tried to violently break up a meeting held by Polish socialist refugees at the Jewish Center of Mexico three weeks ago. That time the attackers began the riot with the cry, "Death to the Nazi spies."

A watershed moment in S. Africa

"This is a watershed moment for all of us," said African National Congress president Nelson Mandela in his nationally televised April 13 address on the cold-blooded murder of ANC leader Chris Hani three days earlier.

"Our decisions and actions will determine whether we use our pain, our grief, and our outrage to move forward to what is the only lasting solution for our country — an elected government of the people, by the people, and for the people," he said.

"Now is the time for all South Africans to stand together against those who, from any quarter, wish to destroy what Chris Hani gave his life for — the freedom of all of us."

The murder of Hani is a provocation aimed at reversing important steps forward that have recently been made toward the first democratic elections ever in South Africa, based on one person, one vote.

The ANC is demanding elections to a constituent assembly and the establishment of a Transitional Executive Committee to preside over this process. In response to the most recent murderous efforts by reactionary forces to block this, millions of South African workers answered the ANC's call for a strike on April 14.

The killings of peaceful demonstrators and others by de Klerk's security forces during mass protests April 14 were an attempt by the discredited white regime to provoke further violence and derail negotiations. The ANC's reaction to Hani's murder, however, is making it hard for the tide of history to be turned back. Democratic-minded people the world over should demand that all those responsible for the April 14 killings be apprehended and prosecuted to the extent of the law.

For decades the apartheid system sought to keep the masses of South African people divided along race lines — whites, Indians, Coloureds, and Blacks. The Bantustan "homelands" were set up to further divide the Black majority along so-called tribal lines.

The ANC has been in the forefront of the fight against this system, putting forward and winning mass support for a nonracial perspective as the basis for the creation of a democratic republic in South Africa. This is a precondition for the South African working class to recognize its class interests and take its place at the head of the democratic movement on behalf of all the oppressed and exploited.

In the past year, this movement has taken major strides forward, symbolized by the participation of 26 political organizations in the latest round of multiparty talks, spanning the entire South African political spectrum, including for the first time the Conservative Party and the Pan Africanist Congress.

While Hani's assassination was a blow calculated to disrupt the fight for a democratic, nonracist, nonsexist South Africa, the campaign of mass actions being organized by the ANC can reverse the effects of this blow, by helping propel the struggle forward.

"We know that you will march this last mile with us, will work with us to win a resounding victory in these elections," Mandela told supporters from around the world gathered at the International Solidarity Conference in Johannesburg just two months ago. The challenges to the democratic revolution that is unfolding in South Africa today make organizing this kind of solidarity more important than ever.

Oppose attacks on social wage

President Clinton's detailed budget proposal, issued April 8, represents another step in the process the White House launched earlier this year to push through major cutbacks in the social wage. At stake in the quarrels among senators and congresspeople is how much they can take back from what working people have won through previous battles over decades.

Clinton's so-called stimulus package is nothing but an attempted facelift by the administration. Giving the impression he is fighting for jobs, Clinton is trying to convince working people to go along with his proposed sacrifices.

The tension is greater in this debate among capitalist politicians because the market system is now in an economic depression. High annual budget deficits present a problem for the capitalists, hobbling their ability to compete with rivals around the world in tighter markets. The accumulated debt from these deficits now adds up to more than half a single year's total production from the U.S. economy. The squeeze this puts on compels the U.S. rulers to push much harder to take more out of the hides of working people.

This is why Clinton was universally applauded in ruling circles for the pleas for "shared sacrifice" that he made when issuing his budget outline in February. Since that time many among the capitalist class have been pressing

to cut still more. From conservative Democrats to Ross Perot to the ultraright, they point out that even Clinton's "deficit cutting" proposals will, by 1997, only succeed in paring the deficit back to the point where some \$200 billion is added to the total debt every year. Only by making far more massive inroads in areas such as Social Security and Medicare can they move towards eliminating the annual deficit, let alone cutting back the debt itself.

These forces are demanding a total or partial cut in Clinton's "stimulus package," a minor part of the overall budget, representing about \$30 billion in tax breaks for business and expenditures on new projects. Clinton values this piece especially for its cosmetic effect, because it at least gives an appearance that he is waging a fight against unemployment.

Working people cannot tie ourselves to the framework of this debate concerning the budget, which links our future to the declining fortunes of capitalism. Especially at a time of a depression, we need extensions, not cutbacks, to Social Security, health care, and other entitlements.

The labor movement should resist the administration's assault on the social wage, and prepare for the coming battles in which far greater, and more disastrous, cutbacks in living standards and basic protections will be posed.

Sweden: austerity and resistance

"Swedish model leaves stage." "Sweden, Buffeted by Recession, Starts Trimming Welfare State." "Now Sweden faces being model of unemployment." These headlines, once considered shocking, are now commonplace.

Touted for decades as an example of a successful capitalist welfare state, Sweden has entered the vortex of the worldwide depression. Unemployment has skyrocketed from 3 percent in 1990 to 12 percent today. Major banks have collapsed. During last year's currency turmoil in Western Europe, the Swedish central bank raised interest rates to an unprecedented 500 percent in a vain attempt to defend the country's currency, which was finally devalued.

The capitalist rulers of Sweden have unleashed a series of vicious attacks against working people. Big corporations like Volvo and Saab have thrown thousands onto unemployment lines, while the employed are working longer hours. The government has stepped up attacks on workers' social wage, slashing benefits for the jobless, social security, pensions, welfare, sick leave payments, child support, and housing subsidies, as well as raising taxes. The social democratic opposition is aiding this austerity drive.

The government is also whipping up a chauvinist campaign against immigrants. At the same time, the Swedish rulers are defending their imperialist interests abroad, deploying troops in the former Yugoslavia as well as Somalia.

As the Swedish "dream" becomes a nightmare, these

attacks on workers and farmers are provoking resistance. Municipal workers have marched to protest layoffs and social cutbacks. Thousands have protested the anti-immigrant attacks. With the expiration of union contracts, workers are preparing for further fights against the employers' concession demands. These developments coincide with similar working-class struggles in Germany, Britain, Greece, and other parts of Europe.

For decades, misleaders of the labor movement worldwide had pointed to Sweden as a benign form of capitalism that workers should place their hopes in. But there is no such thing. Capitalism is showing its ugly face in Sweden as elsewhere, highlighting the universal crisis of the market system. The shattering of the illusion in the so-called Swedish model is one less obstacle for working people.

The labor resistance to capitalist austerity in Sweden is an example to workers everywhere. It underlines the fact that there is only one way to fight the bosses' never-ending demands for sacrifice: to forge a fighting labor movement that champions the common interests of all working people, beginning with the rights of the most oppressed, particularly immigrants. Through such experiences in struggle, working people can be won to the only real alternative to capitalism's wars, depressions, and racism: the perspective of replacing the rule of the rich with a government of workers and farmers.

Should U.S. debt be canceled?

Peter Buch, in his letter printed on the opposite page, raises a good question. If the U.S. government waves the budget deficit like a club to press for cuts in social spending, should working people demand the federal debt be canceled? After all, this debt is owed to bankers and rich bondholders who make a killing from the interest payments on those loans — payments that come out of the pockets of workers and farmers.

The answer is no. There is a big difference between the debt of the U.S. government and the debt forced on Third World nations by imperialist banks. Working people should join the international fight to cancel the Third World debt. But the U.S. government's debt is not our concern — it's the problem of the employers and their government.

Many union members are familiar with companies that plead poverty and even declare bankruptcy, saying they will go under unless workers make big concessions in wages and working conditions. Unionists learn through experience that the bosses' debt problems — whether real or exaggerated — are not the union's. They have no interest in calling for the cancellation of the company's debts to its corporate creditors, nor do they gain from getting involved in the employer's bankruptcy court pro-

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

ceedings. Why? Because it's the bosses' company, not ours. Their profits increase at the expense of our wages, and vice versa. Therefore, the labor movement's priority is to fight for the needs of union members and all working people, no matter how much the employers squeal about their financial woes.

Similarly, when the U.S. government — the richest in the world — cries about its budget deficit, working people should take the approach of Malcolm X, who pointed out that Black rights fighters aren't heard "talking about 'our' government is in trouble." They say, "The government is in trouble." When Bill Clinton or other servants of the rich appeal to workers and farmers to worry about how to balance the budget, working-class fighters reply: "Paying the bondholders and reducing the national debt is your concern; it's not our debt. We, on the other hand, fight to defend and expand entitlements like Social Security, Medicare, unemployment benefits, and other social gains our class won through past struggles, as well as championing the interests of working people internationally." The demand to cancel Washington's debt doesn't serve that goal.

The Third World debt to U.S., European, and Japanese bankers is a different matter. It's not a fair deal among equals, as in the case of a worker who lends a coworker some money. Instead, it represents an economic relationship between imperialist powers and semicolonial countries, between oppressors and oppressed. The world capitalist economy is marked by unequal terms of trade. Rich industrialized countries like the United States monopolize technology and control world markets and the distribution of goods. The prices they get for their industrial products keep increasing, while the prices that raw materials-producing countries like Mexico get for their products tend to decrease.

As a result of this exploitative relationship, semicolonial countries have been pushed into debt to imperialist bankers. These banks have sucked almost \$100 billion out of Latin America in interest payments over the past five years. Yet Latin America's foreign debt has actually increased — to \$390 billion this year.

The foreign debt plunder of Third World resources increases imperialist domination of those countries. It is an attack on their national sovereignty and it directly affects the standard of living of millions of working people. The peoples of oppressed nations have a stake in defending their national sovereignty. That struggle, which includes the struggle to cancel the Third World debt, gives working people more elbow room to fight for their class interests against the employers at home and abroad. The demand to cancel the foreign debt of Third World countries is also fundamental in forging unity among workers in the United States and other imperialist countries on the one hand and working people in the semicolonial world.

The international bankers say cancellation of the foreign debt will ruin them, arguing that working people will suffer the consequences. The answer to that argument is fundamentally political, not economic. When workers fought to reduce the workday to 10 hours and then to 8 hours, bosses wailed that this would push them to bankruptcy — maybe some bosses did go broke, but overall the successful struggle strengthened the working class. Likewise, the needs of working people justify canceling the Third World debt. How to bail out the bankers — by cuts in military spending or some other source — is for the imperialist governments to figure out.

If the bosses and bankers declare that providing decent living conditions for working people — here or abroad — is incompatible with maintaining their profits and their system, then it is simply further proof that they are unfit to govern. The solution is to replace their rule with the only kind of government that can run society in the interests of humanity — a government of workers and farmers.

— MARTÍN KOPPEL

Pennsylvania mushroom workers fight for union

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, 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

most were from Puerto Rico.

Kaolin co-owner John Pia refuses to negotiate with Gutiérrez or with the workers as long as they are on strike.

The many grievances of the Kaolin workers begin with wage cuts that occurred about a month ago of 50-75 cents an hour. New hires now make the minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour. A packer on the picket line

ment workers are not registered with the government as required by that law.

Union attorneys also charged violation of requirements that replacement workers be informed in writing in their native languages of the existence of a labor dispute. All the replacement workers are reportedly Cambodian and Vietnamese brought in from Philadelphia.

Charges of riot and criminal trespass were filed April 8 against Gutiérrez and 12 others. Gutiérrez is now barred from talking with pickets or even walking or driving near Kaolin.

A news conference was held April 9 in a park by the Kaolin plant — the only place Gutiérrez is allowed under the injunction.

Several unionists and officials from the United Steelworkers of America, International Union of Operating Engineers, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, and United Auto Workers expressed support.

For information on how to support the strike, contact CATA at 215-444-9696. □

Timex strike in Scotland

More than 7,000 people participated in an April 12 demonstration called by the Scottish Trades Union Congress to support the strikers at the Timex plant in Dundee, Scotland. Another support demonstration is planned for May

Day weekend.

On Christmas Eve of 1992, the U.S.-owned company Timex laid off 170 of the 340 workers at the plant for what they were told would be six months. After a two-week strike, believing the layoff issue was resolved, workers returned to work.

Following that confrontation, management demanded a pay freeze and a 10 percent cut in benefits. After 94 percent of the workers voted in favor of action, management closed the gates. When workers reported for work they were met by police lines. A strike was called January 29 and was made official by the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU). Management responded by firing the whole work force. The company has since recruited 200 nonunion workers who are bused through the picket lines each morning wearing balaclava hats to conceal their identities.

Since 1979 the Tory government has enacted a series of antiunion laws that restrict the right to picket and hold solidarity actions. Other laws place responsibility on trade union officials to police their membership or face sequestration of union funds or imprisonment. Timex is demanding the police and courts use these laws against the strikers.

The Timex workers have maintained daily pickets and have mobilized for demonstrations and marches outside the gates. More than 5,000 people demonstrated there March 20.

On March 29 police used roadside checks to delay workers

solidarizing with the strike. These tactics were used during the 1984-85 coal miners' strike.

During the April 2 strike by miners and rail workers, Timex striker Sandra Wilson spoke at a rally in Manchester. She said that the mostly female work force at Timex wouldn't say boo to a goose before. "They've gone from lambs to lions and are now leading this dispute."

Linda McCabe explained in an interview that the Timex workers had discovered who "we" and who "they" are in the world and that the strikers are now "putting forward our case so it doesn't happen anywhere else."

"It's not just our fight; it's every worker's," she continued. "We are speaking up and down the country to shop stewards committees. We want to build mass meetings in factories to get out the truth about what has happened in Timex so all workers can get the lessons and we can build solidarity and stop management's attacks."

Messages of support should be sent to: Timex Strike Committee, AEEU, 2, Union Street, Dundee, Scotland. □

The following people contributed to this week's column: Nancy Cole and Roy Inglee from Philadelphia; and Helen Warnock, a member of the National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers, and Ann Fiander, a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, from Manchester, Britain.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

About 140 of the 210 workers at Kaolin Mushroom Farms walked off the job here April 1 in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, after the company — the largest mushroom producer in the state — refused to recognize their newly formed Kaolin Workers Union.

Kaolin workers approached the Farmworkers Support Committee (CATA) earlier this year with complaints about conditions and wages. CATA invited Ventura Gutiérrez to assist the organizing effort. Gutiérrez is from Organizing Without Borders, a group that has worked mainly in California, Arizona, and Mexico.

Most mushroom workers in the area are from Mexico, a change from more than a decade ago when

who has worked at Kaolin for eight years said his wages dropped from \$6.25 to \$5.50 an hour. Piece rates for pickers were also cut.

During the peak season from October through March, workers put in 60-65 hours a week. But during the summer, the hours drop as low as 3 or 4 hours a day.

"The boss never lays us off so that we can collect unemployment benefits," explained striker Luis Tlaseca.

On the second day of the strike, private security guards and state police in riot gear were dispatched to the picket line. That same day, a county judge signed an order restricting the number of pickets. The company charged strikers threatened nonstriking workers with violence.

On April 7 a federal judge accepted Kaolin's claims that the strikers are not covered by a federal law protecting seasonal agricultural workers. The union had argued that the agencies dispatching replace-

LETTERS

S. African 'Coloureds'

The reference to the so-called "Coloured" people of the western Cape Province of South Africa (April 12 *Militant*) omits most of the history of the origins of this group. It is misleading to describe this group merely as being of mixed white and African origin.

When a motley crew of white settlers from Holland, Portugal, Belgium, and Poland arrived under the auspices of the Dutch East Indies Company, the great African tribes were settled in the eastern part of the country, the nearest being the Xhosa.

The western region south of Angola was inhabited by the Khoikhoi pastoralists and the Batwa or San hunters and gatherers. These were the peoples whom the colonists attempted to exploit and from whom the first "mixed" offspring were born. The settlers had great difficulty trying to enslave these peoples and waged war against them to dispossess them of their lands. This, combined with imported disease, virtually exterminated them, driving the few remaining into the semidesert and desert regions of the northwest Cape, Namibia, and the Kalahari.

In 1657, the settlers took 250 slaves from a Portuguese ship coming from Angola. Thereafter, they imported slaves from what is now Indonesia, and from Madagascar and Mozambique. The Indonesian slaves, called "Cape Malays" constituted the largest number. They were Muslims who, to this day, form a substantial portion of the Coloured population, maintaining their religion and culture.

After imperialist wars, from the end of the 18th century to 1906, defeated the Xhosa, Zulu, and other tribes in the east, and whites took their land and penned them up in migratory labor reserves, it was virtually illegal for any but a very few Africans to come to the western Cape. These restrictions broke down and the first squatter camps emerged in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

The African National Congress (ANC), which set out to organize Africans in particular, did not organize

in the western Cape because there were very few Africans there. By the time the African population reached significant proportions, the ANC leadership was banned, jailed, banished, or driven into exile. The ANC itself was banned not long after.

Joyce Meissenheimer
Montreal, Quebec

Segregation in military

As Sara Lobman pointed out in her April 12 column, "Whether or not open gays in the military will weaken discipline is not our concern." But I don't agree that "segregation on the basis of color [in the military] was purely a product of racism. It had no objective basis."

Color segregation in the military was not a product of racist prejudice alone, but had an objective basis in the class struggle. It stemmed from defeats dealt workers and farmers after the Civil War and Reconstruction, and the rulers' objective need to deepen and institutionalize divisions and stratification among working people.

The segregated military helped serve this purpose, and was an effective instrument of imperialist terror and domination. All of U.S. imperialism's major military victories, from the war with Spain to World War II, were won by a basically Jim Crow segregated military.

The capitalist government ordered the military high command to end segregation after World War II, in the face of growing opposition to racist segregation. Military segregation had become politically (and therefore militarily) untenable in the changing balance of class forces.

Opposing the change, top generals voiced crass racist prejudice and fear that integrated armed forces would be a less reliable imperialist weapon.

Was their fear baseless? It would be hard to prove this one way or the other. The U.S. rulers haven't won a major war since World War II, but the reasons for this run far deeper and broader than just the ending of military Jim Crow.

Class-conscious workers fa-

vored ending military segregation to weaken Jim Crow segregation in the South and elsewhere, undermine racist divisions among working people, and increase the potential for united struggle.

The demand to end the ban on gays is basically a consequence of the destruction of Jim Crow by the civil rights movement in the 1960s. This inspired fights for women's rights and strengthened the hand of every victim of discrimination and prejudice.

As Lobman explained, the starting point for workers is not the conflicting estimates of the possible effect on the U.S. military of ending the ban. Opposing the ban is simply part of the working-class fight against the imperialists and their war machine.

Fred Feldman
Brooklyn, New York

Cancel the deficit

The recent article on "What Is the Deficit?" (March 19 *Militant*) was most welcome. It seems that the demand to lower the deficit is basically a demand to pay off the government debt to the banks and insurance companies. This is one "entitlement" that seems sacred and untouchable, while Clinton joins Perot in attacking the Social Security entitlements that working people have won.

The article concludes that the deficit is the problem of the employers and their government and that working people should resist their efforts to make us pay for it. I wonder if we could go further.

You have called for canceling the oppressive Third World debt, which the underdeveloped nations owe to the big banks and financiers of the rich industrial countries and which helps to keep them underdeveloped. The bankers naturally claim that canceling the debt would wipe



out the savings of widows and orphans and retired people whose money the banks invested in those countries. Fidel Castro has explained how the debt could be canceled without hurting people's savings, merely by reducing the insane level of armaments spending by the rich countries. How about demanding cancellation of the national debt, at least that part of it which represents debts to the rich?

Peter Buch
Oakland, California

Dr. Gunn's murder

The recent murder of Dr. Gunn in Florida reminded me of a similar incident some years ago, which might suggest tactics to employ in response to the current outrage. The incident was the murder of Mulugeta Seraw, an Ethiopian immigrant, in Oregon by Nazi skinheads affiliated with the White Aryan Resistance. After some deliberation, a federal court found the organization, and its führer, Tom Metzger, guilty of violating Mr. Seraw's civil rights by encouraging an atmosphere of anti-Black terror, which set the stage for the killing. The court fined them \$12.5 million, substantially hampering their operations.

In a similar vein, church fascists such as Operation Rescue, Rescue America, et al have for years carried out a scurrilous campaign of harassment aimed at abortion clinics,

and women who have abortions. Their acts of terror and intimidation, most notably distributing "Wanted" posters of abortion providers, set the stage for the murder of Dr. Gunn. Given the anti-choice forces' responsibility for his death, it seems appropriate for pro-choice forces to file suit against these groups with the intention of impounding their assets and impeding their operations.

We should have no illusions about the effectiveness of the bosses' courts; what ultimately happens will be the result of massive street actions, and the resulting balance of forces. This proposal is put forward as supplement to, not a substitute for, independent working-class politics; nonetheless, it remains a worthy goal for vanguard fighters. After all, if your paper can call for federal prosecution of the cops who beat Rodney King, you can certainly call for a federal suit against the ultrarightist thugs who murdered Dr. Gunn.

Jason Rambo
Claymont, Delaware

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.

Cuban author tours United States Appeals for emergency storm relief to Cuba, urges fight to end U.S. embargo

BY MARGRETHE SIEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The economic crisis in Cuba has been exacerbated as a result of the devastating impact of a hurricane-force storm that swept through that Caribbean island and the eastern coast of the United States last month.

This was the assessment of Juan Antonio Blanco, who was on a tour stop here and in Baltimore at the beginning of April. Blanco, cofounder in Cuba of the Félix Varela Center for the Study of Ethics, spoke on the challenges facing the Cuban people today, including the fight for food self-sufficiency. He also spoke out against Washington's 33-year embargo of the country.

Blanco is currently working on a book on the demise of the Soviet Union. He worked in Cuba's foreign ministry from 1977 to 1980, and at the United Nations with the Non-Aligned Movement until 1982.

Agriculture was hit especially hard by the storm. Blanco said. "One billion dollars invested in agriculture has been lost." The problems will be severe in Havana, a city of more than 2 million people, because the surrounding agricultural areas that supply the city's population with fruit and vegetables are largely destroyed.

Blanco spoke to 150 people at the Bethany United Methodist Church in Ellicott City, Maryland, and to students at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. He addressed meetings at the Institute for Policy Studies and at the Institute for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Blanco's tour is organized by Global Exchange, which has arranged visits of other academics from Cuba.

The storm aggravated existing shortages, said Blanco, adding that this was "a critical time in terms of vitamins and caloric intake.

But we are not starving. We have a socialist economy, so we share the crisis equally. We have thinner slices, but the slices go to everyone."

In the face of this situation, he said, "caused by the disappearance of the relations we had with the former Soviet Union and Eastern bloc," the big majority of the population has responded with "solidarity, helping to bring the country out of the crisis. But some have reacted with delinquency and prostitution."

Commenting on the repercussions of the Soviet Union's collapse, Blanco said, "Ideologically it had a beneficial impact on the Cuban revolution. One of the misfortunes we had for too many years was that we imported a certain brand of Marxism that was very dogmatic and narrowly defined. Today I am witnessing more possibilities and more tolerance for pluralistic points of view. There is a trend

of more open discussions.

"Incredibly enough," he added, "in this difficult moment the revolution is not following a logic of repression, it is following a logic of real democracy — not Western democracy, but democracy for the people."

Asked about the relevancy of the course advocated by Ernesto Che Guevara, an early leader of the revolution, Blanco replied, "If we didn't have Che's ideas, we wouldn't be able to handle the crisis."

Pointing to the course of voluntary labor advocated by Guevara, Blanco said that now "100,000 people in Havana volunteer to work in the countryside for one month each year. Only a moral principle, not material incentive, allows us to handle this crisis. We have a strong, high level of culture and education, and strong defenses."

The other reason for the shortages in Cuba, he said, is the U.S. embargo of the country. This is "an attempt to control the rest of the world's trade with Cuba," he stated.

Blanco commented on the February 24 elections in Cuba for the provincial and national assemblies, which he said he preferred to call a referendum, since the vote was "overwhelmingly for the socialist system that we have, in favor of the socialist option and national independence."

"We thought a referendum on the revolution at this critical moment was in order, to see if and how large a part of the people are with the revolution," Blanco explained. About 99 percent of the eligible voters cast a ballot. Of these ballots, only 7 percent were blank or spoiled. Politicians in Washington and right-wing Cuban-American groups had called for abstaining or spoiling ballots as a show of protest against the Cuban government.

Washington's hostility to Cuba is a result of the Cuban people's refusal to give up their sovereignty and independence from imperialism. The U.S. rulers "can't come to terms with the fact that they can't control and directly dominate a Latin American country. We represent not only the socialist option, but the right of countries to determine their own future," he said.

At every meeting Blanco asked his audience to demand that Washington end its embargo. "Your solidarity will help us get through this crisis," he stressed. Some \$1,500 was raised for medical aid to Cuba during the tour stop.

Margrethe Siem is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1470. Pat Leamon from Baltimore also contributed to this article.

Activists plan summer aid caravan to Cuba

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "We are ready to go," said Rev. Lucius Walker to the group of activists meeting here April 7 to plan the second Friendship to Cuba, a caravan that will transport humanitarian aid to the Caribbean island this July. Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), is the main spokesperson for this effort, which delivered 15 tons of medicine, food, and other aid to Cuba last year in protest of the U.S. trade embargo against that country. The Friendship is sponsored by the IFCO project Pastors for Peace.

"The caravan takes place at an important time," said Walker. On top of the hard economic situation in Cuba, "a typhoon hit the island in March and left thousands of homes damaged, destroyed crops, and seriously damaged the country's water systems," he said.

The group of about 35 activists at the meeting included many who had participated in the first caravan. Those who were part of that effort described how they drove vehicles carrying supplies from New York to Laredo, Texas, and then into Mexico, setting up meetings along the way to gain broader support and explain the criminal nature of Washington's more than 30-year embargo against Cuba. Most said they were surprised at the positive reception they got along the way.

"The first caravan involved 43 vehicles, Walker told participants at the meeting. This year we plan to send some 100 vehicles carrying about 100 tons of food." Two hundred drivers will be needed to get the convoy to Tampico, Mexico. The goods will be shipped to Cuba from there. The plan is to donate several buses, along with much-needed spare parts, to Cuba as well.

Walker pointed to the opportunity to build on the previous experience and involve more forces in each area including "local groups, student clubs, and local solidarity organizations." He stressed the need for the caravan to reflect an "inclusive, unitary effort [to] embrace people who have different political perspectives and different religious points of departure but have a commitment to ending the embargo." Walker said Friendship organizers will also attempt to involve people who "may not know much about Cuba, who have no history of political work."

The aid project is being organized in "every major city around the country," Walker said, with plans for vehicles to follow 11 different routes.

This time the project will be organized in Miami, where there are many forces willing to help, including "several Cuban-Americans with a strong commitment" to oppose the embargo, Walker said.

He suggested several ways supporters can promote the caravan, including through meetings set up in May for a visiting dele-

gation of religious leaders from Cuba. Efforts are already well underway in various cities to collect materials and money.

The first caravan, said Walker, "was a powerful experience, a way to share hope, and an inspiration to the Cuban people, who saw it not simply as aid but as a group of U.S. citizens who were willing to say no to

Washington's embargo."

Those who would like to find out more and get involved in this project can contact Pastors for Peace, 331 17th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Tel. (612) 378-0062; or Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), 402 W. 145th Street, New York, NY 10031. Tel. (212) 926-5757.



Militant/Joo Peterson

March 17 protest in Miami against U.S. embargo of Cuba. Friendship will be "inclusive unitary effort," Lucius Walker said. People from Miami will also take part.

Coal miners prepare for contract fight

BY STU SINGER

Members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) are waiting to hear results of negotiations on their new contract with companies belonging to the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, the main industry bargaining group. The contract extension agreed to by the union expires May 3.

At the same time, some important local fights by miners are unfolding in West Virginia and Indiana. The UMWA and other unions are continuing to publicize a Solidarity '93 Labor Rally, scheduled for April 24 in St. Louis, as part of the fight for a contract.

Miners at Buck Creek, the largest underground mine in Indiana, went on strike April 1 because of the company's failure to negotiate a contract with them. The Sullivan, Indiana, miners voted in October 1991 to join the UMWA. Since then, negotiations on a basic union contract have gone nowhere.

Two of Buck Creek's officials are former managers of the Pyro mine in western Kentucky. That mine exploded in 1989, killing 10 people. Pyro was recently fined \$3.75 million for safety violations. The two bosses

at Buck Creek are among the Pyro managers indicted on felony and misdemeanor charges for safety violations.

According to Buck Creek strike coordinator Rudy Riva, the 70 miners on strike are maintaining 24-hour picket lines. The 16 miners who have crossed the picket line are working along with management and producing some coal, which is trucked out.

The miners at the Ziegler Coal Company's Marrowbone complex in Mingo County, West Virginia, have won another round against the company in their fight to bring the union into their mine.

Four hundred workers there walked off the job March 24 after the company announced cuts in benefits and bonuses. Four miners were fired. The other workers then went on strike until April 2, when the company agreed to reverse the firings. In the meantime, almost 400 of the 435 miners signed union representation cards. The UMWA is pushing the National Labor Relations Board to hold an election quickly to certify the union.

On April 13 the company shut down the coal preparation plant for five hours for

meetings, where the workers heard a public relations firm try to convince them what a great benefits package they have. According to miner Joe Stanley, workers were not impressed by the presentation. They were, however, impressed by the company's willingness to take a \$35,000-an-hour loss in production in order to talk them out of the union organizing effort.

Meanwhile, the UMWA support rally in St. Louis is being publicized in coalfield communities and nearby cities. UMWA International Executive Board member Bill Brumfield from Illinois said, "We're expecting a large turnout from a number of unions. All workers have been forced to take concessions. Now it's time for us to stand up."

The rally will start at 11:30 a.m., on Saturday, April 24, at the May Amphitheater, Kiener Plaza, 7th and Market St. For more information call (217) 529-8301.

Elizabeth Lariscy, a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 347 in Morgantown, West Virginia, contributed to this article.