

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Those in Cuba who fight are not alone'

— PAGES 8-9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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ANC calls mass actions to seek early elections

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The African National Congress and its allies in the democratic movement in South Africa are finalizing plans for a campaign of mass actions. The goal of the ongoing effort is to press for more rapid progress in the multiparty talks to set the date for the country's first democratic, nonracial elections and the installation of a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) to preside over this process.

ANC leader Oliver Tambo dies — page 3

This campaign follows the April 10 assassination of African National Congress (ANC) leader Chris Hani, which evoked two massive, nationwide one-day strikes, held April 14 and 19, and numerous protest actions throughout South Africa.

"Chris Hani's death has given impetus to the need for an urgent political settlement. We are living through a moment of grave danger, but also of real possibilities," explained an April 20 statement issued jointly by the ANC, the South African Communist Party, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

"From May 1 our national programme will unfold. Should the process not produce

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Gov't version of Waco massacre wears thinner

BY NAOMI CRAINE

What caused the inferno that took the lives of more than 80 men, women, and children near Waco, Texas? Did it have to happen? Police and government officials, starting with U.S. president Bill Clinton, continue to insist that they cannot be blamed for the deadly fire. But as more details emerge, the official version of events that day is wearing thin.

Just after noon on April 19, a fire broke out and quickly tore through the complex of wooden buildings housing the Branch Davidian religious sect. The blaze occurred 6 hours into a massive FBI assault against the compound. Tanks repeatedly rammed large holes in the walls to more easily pump tear gas inside. This onslaught was the culmination of a seven-week siege of the Texas farm by the FBI and other police agencies.

The cops immediately declared that the fire was started by those inside the compound in an act of mass suicide. Almost every government official and media reporter has stood by this claim. Several of the nine people who survived, however, deny there was a suicide pact and insist that the fire began when a tank knocked over a kerosene lantern, used for light. The FBI had cut off the electricity a few weeks earlier.

Millions who watched the conflagration on television were filled with revulsion and horror. The Justice Department was immediately flooded with thousands of phone calls and faxes, 10 to 1 against the government's actions.

Continued on Page 14

Miners' union prepares to resume strike battle

BY STU SINGER

ST. LOUIS — "President Trumka says the chance of getting a contract by May 3 is between slim and none. Prepare yourselves. We're finalizing our strike preparations in Washington. Take this message back to your mines: prepare yourselves to resume the strike."

This is how United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) union leader John Cox spoke to a rally here April 24 that drew about 200 miners and their families, and about 50 other union members from more than a dozen different unions in the St. Louis area. The rally was held in a downtown plaza near the office building housing Peabody Holdings Company's offices.

UMWA president Richard Trumka has not released any information on the negotiations in Washington, D.C., with Peabody and the other companies in the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA), the main coal industry bargaining group. The previous five-year contract expired February 1 and covered 60,000 UMWA members. In addition to Peabody, the BCOA includes: Consol Energy, which is owned by Rheinbraun AG of Germany and DuPont; Arch Mineral Corp., owned by Ashland Oil and the Hunt family of Dallas; Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal; Zeigler Coal Holding Co.; and Freeman Energy, a unit of General Dynamics.

Another industry bargaining group, the Independent Bituminous Coal Bargaining Alliance (IBCBA), which includes U.S. Steel, Jim Walter Resources, Drummond Co., and Westmoreland Coal, is also negotiating with the UMWA. That contract was extended until June 30.



Militant/Stu Singer

Miners, their families, and other unionists at April 24 UMWA-organized rally in St. Louis. Workers and coal bosses have both been readying for next stage of fight.

After the St. Louis rally, Cox, who is director of UMWA Region 3 and was one of the leaders of the Pittston strike, said in an interview that, barring a breakthrough in negotiations, the UMWA would probably call a strike over unfair labor practices against some or all of the mines of the BCOA companies on May 3, when the contract extension expires.

The UMWA had granted a 60-day extension after Peabody was forced by the strike to turn over to the union the financial records of its coal land-holdings and corporate structure.

That round of this contract battle required a final shove, when on March 1 the UMWA called out 1700 miners from five other com-

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Hundreds of thousands march in U.S. capital to oppose discrimination against gays

BY DEREK BRACEY AND PAT LEAMON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Supporters of civil liberties for gays and lesbians filled the streets here April 25 for the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. Marchers from every state and from several other countries marched to advance the right of gays and lesbians to lead lives free of discrimination.

Estimates of the size of the march varied. The U.S. Park Police reported 300,000. March organizers said at least 500,000 and as many as a million took part. The marchers filled the park surrounding the Washington Monument before marching past the White House to the Mall area, three blocks from the U.S. Capitol.

"We wanted to let them know we are here," said Micki Yezbick, 22, from Ann Arbor, Michigan. Yezbick and three other women were driving to the demonstration when their car engine blew up in Pennsylvania. They were spotted by two others traveling to the march, who picked them up and brought them to Washington. That type of solidarity, Yezbick said, was in the spirit of the march.

Two women from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, rode for 32 hours in a van with 24 people to get to the march. "There was no way we were missing this," said one. Organizers of the Colorado contingent said 7,000 marchers came from that state.

Colorado is where Amendment 2, which



Militant/Yvonne Hayes

Demonstrators came from every state and several countries. Signs and T-shirts demanded more funding for AIDS research, an end to ban on gays in military, and abortion rights.

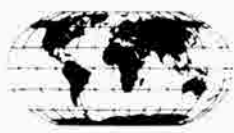
prohibits local antidiscrimination laws designed to protect gays and lesbians, was passed in a referendum last November. The contingent from the state was led by large black banners, saying, "Colorado Under Siege."

The overriding theme of the march was an appeal for acknowledgement of gays

and lesbians. Many looked to U.S. president Bill Clinton to play a major role in this. Clinton sent a statement to the march, which was read by U.S. representative Nancy Pelosi of California.

"The Pentagon has stopped asking recruits about their sexual orientation and I

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IN BRIEF

U.S.-EC trade war continues

The U.S. government said it will scale down threatened sanctions on telecommunications firms in Europe, despite the fact that it has not reached an agreement with the European Community (EC) on trade and contracts within that industry. Washington is demanding that EC members open up bidding for telecommunications contracts to U.S. companies. U.S. trade representative Mickey Kantor said the sanctions would be about half of the \$50 million originally planned, a step intended to avert an all-out trade war with its European rivals over telecommunications.

EC trade commissioner Leon Brittan replied, however, that the European Community reserves the right to retaliate once the sanctions take effect. The two sides granted each other concessions involving access to contracts for public utilities, but could not agree on access to each other's telephone markets.

U.S. pressures Japan on trade

The Clinton administration is pushing a public campaign to force the government of Japan to accept changes in the trade of certain products. Washington wants Tokyo to agree to specific targets for importing computers, semiconductors, autos, and other U.S. products.

At an April 16 press conference in Washington with visiting Japanese prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Clinton called on Tokyo to agree to buy specific amounts of U.S.-made goods, based on their market share in Japan. The following week U.S. secretary of commerce Ron Brown, during a three-day trip to Tokyo, said no other approach will work to resolve trade differences between the countries.

Japanese foreign ministry spokesperson Masamichi Hanabusa said Japan would flatly reject any proposal involving quantitative targets. Japanese officials called this approach "managed trade" and said it is impossible to agree to the purchase of certain amounts of goods without knowing the price and quality of the items.

Sexual abuse in U.S. Navy

The Pentagon's final report on the 1991 Tailhook Association convention of top Navy fliers, released April 23, revealed widespread sexual harassment within the U.S. military. The report said the sexual assaults and con-



United Nations soldiers in Sarajevo. As UN tightens economic sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro, many capitalist politicians and commentators around the world have called increasingly for military intervention in Bosnia.

duct of officers at the Tailhook meeting were not unusual and were widely condoned by the Navy's top brass.

According to the report, 83 women and 7 men were assaulted during three days of boozy parties at the convention. "Some victims were bitten by their assailants, others were knocked to the ground, and some had their clothes ripped or removed," the report said. Backing up the report are numerous photographs, including some of naval officers wearing T-shirts that say, "Women Are Property." As many as 175 officers may face disciplinary action as a result of their involvement in the 1991 incident. The report was completed in February but was withheld for nearly two months.

U.S. becoming more multilingual

Nearly 32 million people in the United States said in 1990 that they spoke a language other than English, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This is a dramatic rise from the 23 million reported in 1980, and represents 14 percent of the population of the country above the age of four years.

Spanish is the most common language other than English, with 17.3 million speakers. Following Spanish is French, with 1.7 million speakers; German, 1.5 million; Italian, 1.3 million; and Chinese, 1.2 million. New Mexico has the largest percentage of non-English language speakers, with 35 percent. It is followed by California, with 31 percent; Texas and Hawaii, 25 percent; New York, 23 percent; and Arizona, 21 percent.

UN may discuss Cuba storm aid

E. Besley Maycock, Barbados's representative to the United Nations and president of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Nations, proposed March 31 that the United Nations discuss emergency aid to Cuba. A proposed resolution would call on the secretary-general of the body to direct UN resources to aid storm victims on the island.

A storm struck the island March 12, causing \$1 billion in damage. The storm devastated crops and other vital Cuban food supplies.

Strikes sweep Venezuela

Some 230,000 Venezuelan teachers went on strike April 26, affecting classes for 6 million students. They are demanding an immediate pay raise of 120 percent, which would bring monthly salaries to between \$350 and \$500.

The teachers' action is the latest in a wave of strikes in Venezuela since the beginning of the year. Bus drivers in Caracas, the capital, as well as health-care workers, oil workers, and court employees have held strikes in recent weeks.

Italian premier resigns

Italian prime minister Giuliano Amato resigned April 22, three days after a referendum in which voters decided overwhelmingly for changes in the electoral law. Amato announced he would not seek to form an-

other government.

After days of horse-trading, he was replaced by central bank chief Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who is not publicly identified with any political party. All four parties in Amato's ruling coalition have been wracked by scandal in an investigation exposing bribery and kickback schemes.

Slovak workers rally

More than 4,500 Slovak workers rallied April 16 in front of the headquarters of the Slovak Confederation of Trade Unions in the capital city of Bratislava. Union leaders denounced the policies of Slovak premier Vladimir Meciar for not coping with the country's rapidly deteriorating economy.

The labor action was the largest since the formal split of Czechoslovakia on January 1. Unemployment in the Slovak republic is expected to reach 20 percent this year.

UN tightens Yugoslavia sanctions

New trade and financial sanctions approved by the United Nations went into effect April 26 against Serbia and Montenegro, after the so-called Bosnian Serb parliament rejected once again the UN plan for partition of Bosnia along ethnic lines. The new measures include seizure of overseas assets and an end to the shipment of goods through Yugoslavia to other countries. Many supplies had entered the country by this method.

In a separate move, a meeting of European Community ministers declined to back a proposal for air strikes against Serbian military positions in Bosnia. U.S. president Bill Clinton announced April 23 that the White House is giving "serious consideration" to air strikes against Serbian positions.

Russia referendum

An April 25 referendum in Russia revealed that many people have little confidence in either President Boris Yeltsin or his opponents in the Russian Parliament to solve the economic and social problems of the country. Turnout was estimated at about 65 percent of registered voters. According to results reported by the president's own press office, 59 percent of those who cast ballots gave a vote of confidence to Yeltsin. Vice-president Aleksandr Rutshoi said Yeltsin had failed to win a popular mandate.

The referendum is nonbinding, meaning there is no resolution in sight to the conflict between competing sections of the ruling bureaucracy.

India rally: No to rightist attacks

Seventy thousand people rallied April 14 in Delhi, India, to call for an end to the rightist attacks that have killed thousands in the country since the destruction of a mosque in Ayodhya last December. Speakers at the rally, called by 13 political parties, denounced the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of exploiting the religious loyalties of India's Hindus for its own agenda.

The BJP organized the destruction of the Ayodhya mosque. In the months following the attack, nearly 2,000 people were killed in riots in several cities, many shot by police.

—DEREK BRACEY

THE MILITANT

News on labor resistance to employers' attacks

With reporting teams throughout the coalfields, the 'Militant' provides on-the-scene coverage of the battle by the United Mine Workers of America for a contract. The 'Militant' has unique coverage of labor struggles from Germany to Venezuela. It tells the truth and presents the working-class point of view. Don't miss a single issue.



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ANC calls mass actions to push for elections

Continued from front page

results by the end of May, our programme of rolling mass action will enter a new phase," the statement continued. "Above all, disciplined mass involvement is our only guarantee that today's widespread sense of urgency will not be dissipated tomorrow."

Responding to this pressure, South African president and National Party leader F. W. de Klerk stated April 26, "I am confident that within about six weeks we can make the breakthrough that we need... and then proceed with speed with all the steps towards an election to install a new government."

'ANC's prestige enhanced'

Events in recent weeks have clearly placed the National Party government on the defensive. "The ANC has turned South Africa's latest crisis to its advantage in pressing for reforms," Patti Waldmeir wrote April 21 in the *London Financial Times*.

"Rather than completely derailing South Africa's attempt to find a path to majority rule," an article in the May 3 *Business Week* commented, "the slaying of Hani by an apparent white extremist on Apr. 10 may have enhanced the prestige of the ANC and its bid to rule. Amid the turbulence, it was ANC President Nelson Mandela who played the role of statesman."

The article added that "in contrast, President F.W. de Klerk has seemed ineffectual and small-minded." It remarked, "While the ANC does not hold the usual reins of power, it is already acting like a government."

Multiparty negotiations resumed April 26 after having been postponed for a week because of the Hani assassination. The 26 political groups represented at the constitutional talks adjourned until April 30 after delegates from the Conservative Party and several other small groups complained they had received a substantial report on key issues too late to study it.

Meanwhile the Inkatha Freedom Party, in an effort to stymie the talks, has been circulating a document saying that negotiations cannot go forward until the ANC agrees to disband its armed wing. One of the ANC's main demands in the talks is multiparty control over all armed forces in the country.

ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa condemned these delaying tactics, telling the delegates, "We are involved in a process that affects millions of people. We cannot be involved in monkey business." The chief government negotiator, Roelf Meyer, also condemned the Inkatha document.

The ANC Youth League has also put forward proposals for protest actions in the aftermath of the murder of Hani. "The assassination re-emphasized the need to intensify our struggle for freedom and ensure the integral connection between the youth in particular and the negotiations that are taking place," says a Youth League statement.

The Youth League program, to be launched May 15, will include "youth demonstrations, pickets, and occupation of National Party offices all over the country in demand for the establishment of a TEC and the setting of a date for non-racial elections."

"It is the view of the ANC Youth League," the statement continues, "that if a date for a democratic election is not set by the middle of May 1993, all democratic forces in the country should gear themselves for an extended national political strike, which should also include rent and consumer boycotts on a national scale."

ANC, Youth League joint statement

According to an April 22 press release issued by the ANC Department of Information and Publicity, "The ANC Secretary General, Cyril Ramaphosa, and representatives of the ANC Youth League, led by its Secretary General Rapu Molekane, issued a joint statement following a meeting earlier today between the two organisations."

"The meeting was held to discuss the implications of a chant, led by Peter Mokaba, President of the ANC Youth League, that has featured prominently in recent media reports."

At an April 17 rally near Cape Town, Mokaba led members of the crowd in chanting, "Kill the Boer, kill the farmer." Mokaba's remarks were filmed and later broadcast on South African television. The rally was also attended by Winnie Mandela.

Mokaba defended the chant four days later at another public rally. "They are complaining that in our songs, in our chants we

have been saying, 'Kill the Boer, the farmer,'" Mokaba said in comments broadcast over South African radio, "I repeat: kill the Boer, the farmer."

He continued, "Whether they like it or not, this is our chant. This is our song. This is our tradition. This is our culture.... I want to tell them today, whether or not they are going to charge us, myself and Comrade Winnie, we are telling them today they can go to hell."

According to the statement issued the following day by Ramaphosa and Molekane, "Both organizations agreed that the chant did not represent official ANC policy. Both the ANC Youth League and Mr. Ramaphosa reaffirmed the ANC policy of non-racialism."

The statement continued: "Mr. Ramaphosa said the ANC's policy on violence was both clear and well-known. The ANC had suspended armed struggle, and did not advocate the killing of anyone, black or white."

"Both the ANC Youth League and Mr. Ramaphosa said the chant... arose out of

the history of the ANC, which had included an armed struggle. Such a chant had served a mobilising purpose during that stage, and its use should be viewed within that context."

"However, Mr. Ramaphosa said, it would not be correct to say that the slogan, even at that time, was specifically intended to identify either white South Africans or farmers per se as targets for military action," the statement noted.

"The actions of Umkhonto we Sizwe [the ANC's military wing] had been directed at symbols of white power and the apartheid military machine and personnel, not civilians. The meeting agreed that the chant had become inappropriate in the present changed circumstances, and that its usage in public was being reassessed."

"Both organisations made an urgent appeal to all South Africa's youth, black and white, to not allow themselves to be used by dubious forces attempting to drive the country into a race war."

Meanwhile, the British *Independent* re-

ports that Clive Derby-Lewis, a leading member of South Africa's Conservative Party who was arrested as a suspect in the Hani assassination, "enjoys links with sectors of the British Conservative Party," and maintains contacts with ultrarightist groups around the world. Derby-Lewis is president of the London-based Western Goals Institute. His predecessor as president of this group was Salvadoran death squad leader Roberto D'Aubuisson, founder of ARENA, the current ruling party.

Western Goals describes itself as "a right-wing organisation devoted to the preservation of traditional Western values and European culture" and opposed to "communism, liberalism... and the 'Multicultural society.'"

According to the April 24 *Economist*, Derby-Lewis is also a founding member of the Stallard Foundation, described as "an organisation linking the Conservatives and the far right with racist movements in Europe and America."

Oliver Tambo, ANC national chairman, dies

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Oliver Tambo, a central leader of the African National Congress (ANC) for half a century, died of a stroke April 24 at the age of 75. He was the national chairman of the ANC.

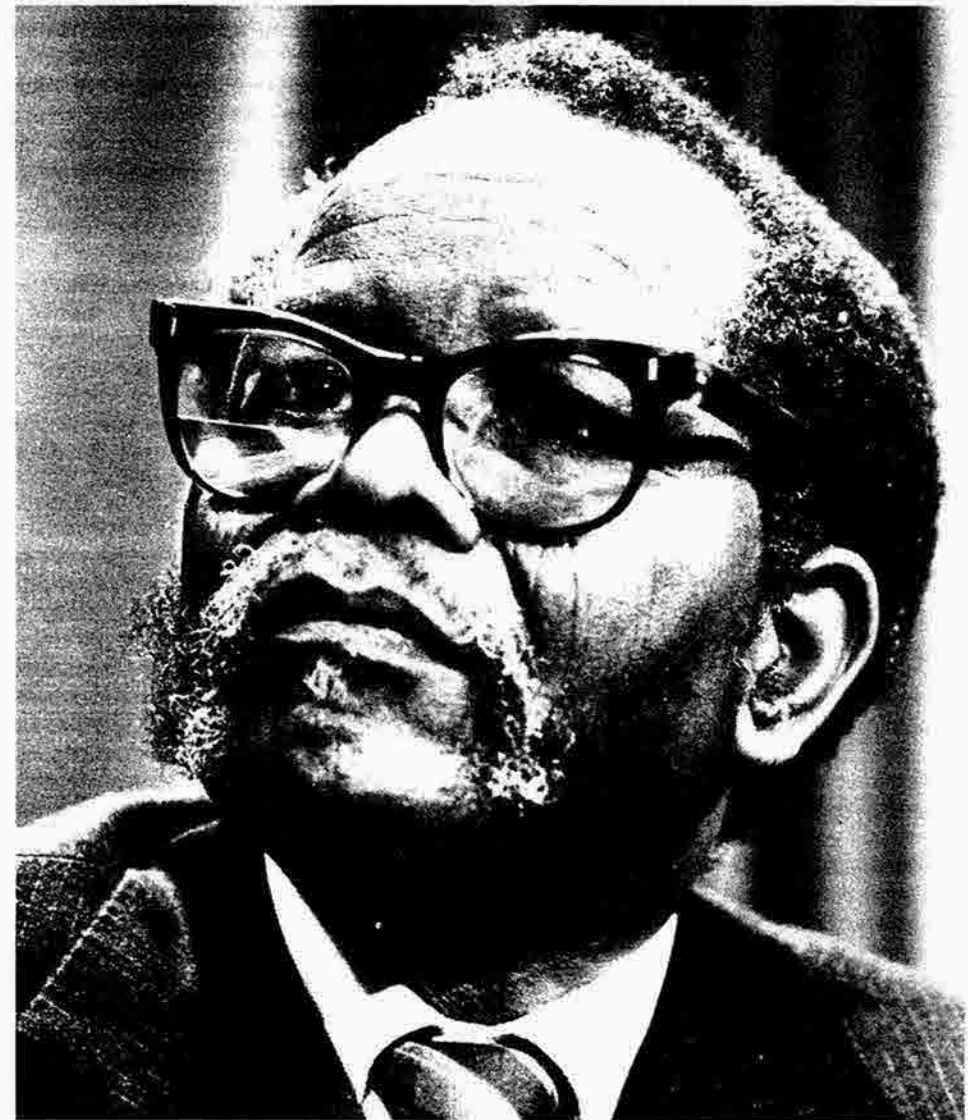
Along with Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, Tambo helped found the African National Congress Youth League in 1944. In 1952 he and Nelson Mandela were the first Africans to open a law partnership in South Africa. In 1956 the two ANC leaders were arrested and charged with treason. These charges were later dropped. Because of his political activities, Tambo was subjected to banning orders in 1954 and again in 1959, prohibiting him from attending public gatherings.

The ANC leadership, suspecting that the organization would soon be outlawed, asked Tambo to leave South Africa and establish an ANC mission abroad. When the order banning the ANC and Pan Africanist Congress was made public in March 1960, Tambo left the country to lead the ANC in exile. In 1967, on the death of ANC president Albert Luthuli, Tambo became the organization's acting president. In 1977 he assumed the responsibilities of president-general.

From 1960 to 1990, when the ANC was outlawed in South Africa, Tambo directed the ANC's activities in exile.

Tambo suffered a debilitating stroke in 1989. He became ANC national chairman in July 1991 when Nelson Mandela was elected to the post of president.

ANC president Mandela called the deaths of Tambo and Chris Hani, coming so close together, a "serious blow" to the ANC. He said these events increased the urgency for an agreement to end white minority rule.



G.M. Cookson

African National Congress leader Oliver Tambo in 1986

SWP message honors Tambo's life

Following are excerpts from a message sent on April 24 to African National Congress president Nelson Mandela by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes on behalf of the party's National Committee.

* * *

The Socialist Workers Party in the United States joins you and your comrades in the African National Congress in honoring the life and enormous accomplishments of Oliver Reginald Tambo.... His death, like the cowardly murder of Chris Hani two weeks ago, is a blow not only to the ANC, but also to every fighter for human freedom and social revolution the world over. But because of the kind of revolutionary organization they and others in the ANC helped build over decades, these losses need not and will not postpone the next victories in the struggle.

The assassins of Comrade Hani sought to disrupt the South African people's accelerating march toward a democratic, nonracial, and nonsexist South Africa. But the massive and disciplined response by millions over the past two weeks, led by the ANC, doomed this murderous provo-

cation to failure. We know the pride and satisfaction Comrade Tambo and other ANC leaders and cadres must have felt to have been able to participate in these historic mobilizations to honor Comrade Hani and advance the cause to which he gave his life.

Like so many other supporters of your fight here in the United States, we join you in demanding that the date for elections to a constituent assembly be set by the end of May. We solidarize with your call for the immediate establishment of a multiparty Transitional Executive Committee to organize the elections and assume joint control over the police, armed forces, and other military formations. We will follow the progress of your expanding efforts to win these just demands and will do our utmost to make sure that word of these efforts becomes known by working people, democrats, and youth the world over.

Comrade Tambo willingly shouldered central executive responsibility of the ANC for nearly a quarter century in which your organization had been forced underground by the apartheid regime, when you and many others of his comrades were impris-

oned, and when much of the ANC's work had to be conducted from exile. But, as he said in his opening address to the ANC's International Solidarity Conference in Johannesburg last February, "It would perhaps have been right for us to meet in Pretoria, firmly to make the point that soon the country will be under new management."

The ANC, Comrade Tambo said, will emerge from the coming elections "as the largest political force in the country." It "carries with itself the people's aspirations for human dignity, underwritten by freedom from hunger, disease, joblessness, homelessness, and ignorance." And he called on conference participants to stay the course that "has inspired the ANC since its birth—the sacred undertaking that the cause we serve is the emancipation of all humanity."

We in the Socialist Workers Party can think of no more fitting tribute to Comrade Tambo than to redouble our commitment to join with all those, everywhere in the world, willing and able to take up this call and bring it to fruition.

Forward to an ANC election campaign worthy of the lifetime efforts of Comrade Tambo!

The truth about the conflict in Yugoslavia

Why working people should oppose military intervention in the Balkans

The following is the introduction to a new Pathfinder book entitled *The Truth about Yugoslavia: Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention*, by George Fyson, Argiris Malapanis, and Jonathan Silberman. It is scheduled for publication in May. The subheadings are by the *Militant*. Copyright © by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY GEORGE FYSON

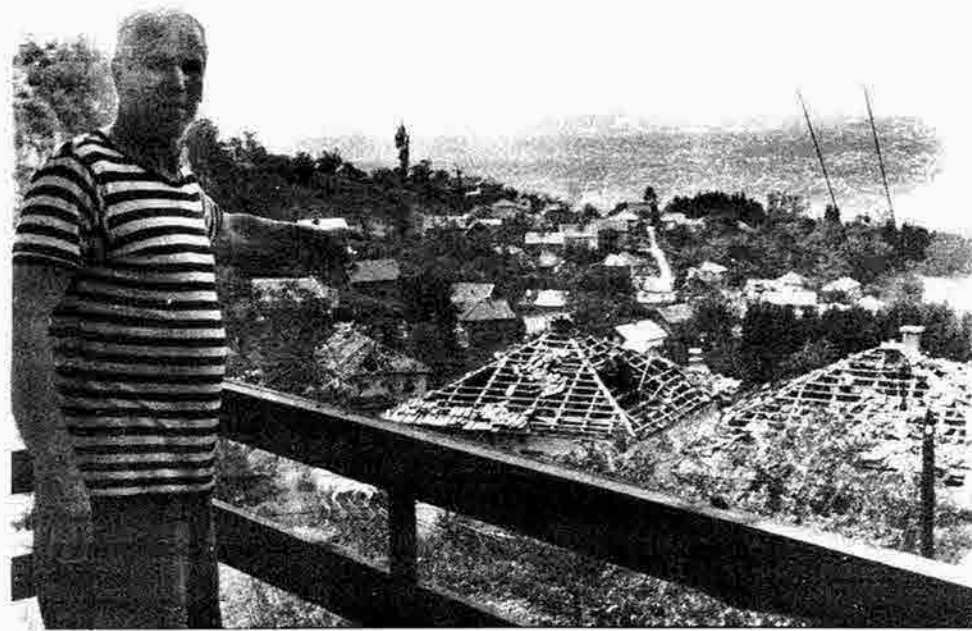
Two years after the beginning of the breakup of Yugoslavia in early 1991, the carnage in the region shows no sign of ending.

The authors of this book argue that the explanation for the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia lies not in "age-old animosities" between working people of Serbian origin, Croatian origin, Albanian origin, or of the Muslim faith. Instead, the driving force behind today's wars is the competition for territory and resources between rival gangs of Stalinist bureaucrats who rule in each region.

These ruling groups emerged directly from the former Yugoslav regime. As the Yugoslav state fell apart, the bureaucratic rulers, like their counterparts throughout the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, swiftly abandoned any pretense to communism and draped themselves in various nationalist flags in order to rally support in wars that are against the interests of all workers and farmers in Yugoslavia.

The roots of these conflicts had long been present within the previous central regime. For many years Yugoslavia's Stalinist rulers made use of capitalist market forces in an effort to wring greater productivity from the nationalized economy. Such policies encouraged competition rather than cooperation between the different state enterprises and republics. They sharpened existing regional jealousies within the various wings of the ruling bureaucratic layer. And they deepened economic and social imbalances between the different republics of Yugoslavia. When the ruling regime finally disintegrated, these centrifugal forces were given free rein.

The most prolonged and bloody of the battles has been in Bosnia where, under relentless bombardment, working people



Ramiz Beshlija, a shepherd living on the outskirts of Sarajevo, points to some of the destruction of the Bosnian capital from the balcony of his house in July 1992. "Tell America this is not an ethnic war," he said.

have been driven from the towns and villages their families had occupied for generations. While working people who are Muslim make up the great majority of the victims in Bosnia, workers and farmers of Croatian and Serbian origin have also been targets of this "ethnic cleansing."

By the end of 1992 the carnage had created some 3 million refugees, 1.7 million of these in Bosnia itself. The great majority of the refugees remain within the borders of the former Yugoslavia, as governments in Europe and the United States have resisted taking in more than a handful of those driven from their homes by the conflict.

Fighting in Croatia

Six months of fighting in Croatia in 1991 ended with 10,000 dead and a United Nations-brokered truce. Rightist forces, heavily armed by the former Yugoslav army, seized a third of Croatian territory, proclaiming it the "Serb republic of Krajina." In January 1993 the regime in Zagreb, Croatia, reignited the war with a new offensive into

a Serb-held area on the Dalmatian coast. As this preface is being completed, Croatian forces have also launched a drive for increased territory in central Bosnia.

Another volatile region in the former Yugoslavia is Kosovo, a southern province of Serbia. Belgrade revoked Kosovo's autonomy in 1989 following widespread protests by the majority-Albanian population there demanding an end to repression. The regime of Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade declares it will never relinquish its hold on Kosovo. Rightist groups in Serbia have called for "open war" on Albanians and expulsion of those who defy rule by the Belgrade regime in the region.

Further south, the potential for war exists between the regime in Macedonia and the governments to the north (Belgrade) and south (Athens). The capitalist rulers in Athens have made an issue of the republic's use of the name "Macedonia," charging that this signifies Skopje's designs on the northern province of Greece, also known as Macedonia. According to press reports, officials from Belgrade have approached the Greek government offering to discuss a partition of the republic of Macedonia.

This book's authors look into these different conflicts, explaining that the slaughter taking place today has been imposed on working people whose parents and grandparents made a socialist revolution in Yugoslavia. That revolution, forged in the midst of World War II, was a social upheaval by millions of people. It overcame a period of massacres directed against various ethnic groups, organized by rightist forces on all sides. The revolution united workers and peasants of every nationality and made progress in narrowing some of the extreme regional disparities in production and income that existed in the country. The solidarity forged in the struggle was undermined at every step over the following decades of Stalinist rule.

Not an ethnic war

Despite the murderous attacks and chauvinist campaigns conducted by rightist forces over the past two years, working people remain deeply hostile to the notion that the different peoples cannot coexist. "Remarks like that are simply stupid," commented Zdravko Jovanovic, a small businessman in Sasici, a village outside the Muslim-majority town of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia. The *New York Times* reported his response to comments by rightist leader Radovan Karadzic, who has led the "ethnic cleansing" by the forces supported by Belgrade and who says that Serbs and Muslims are instinctively hostile to each other, "like cats and dogs."

Jovanovic, who is Serbian by birth, added "Serbs and Muslims have lived in the same valleys, used the same roads, worked in the same places, and intermarried throughout our history. Now Karadzic wants to tear us apart. You just tell him from me, come to Sasici. We'll sort him out."

Karadzic's forces "are fascists," said Iso Papo, seventy, a retiree in Sarajevo. Pointing to those sharing a basement shelter, he said, "Look at the people here. This gentleman is

a Serb. So is this one. I am a Jew, he is a Croat, and this lady here is a Muslim. So what is this nonsense about an ethnic war?"

Similar comments were made to Argiris Malapanis, a reporter for the *Militant*, when he visited Sarajevo. Haris Halilovic, a hotel worker, described the attacks on the city as "nationalistic madness." "You can see it here," he said, pointing to families of Serbian and Croatian origin, and of the Muslim faith, crammed into a basement. "This is not a war between Serbs and Muslims," Ramiz Beshlija, whose family lives on the outskirts of Sarajevo and whose neighbors are among the many of Serbian origin participating in defense of the town, had one emphatic message: "Tell America this is not an ethnic war."

In Serbia itself, the regime has had difficulty drafting youth to fight, and has faced antiwar demonstrations, including a march of 100,000 in Belgrade June 28, 1992, that called for negotiations to end the Belgrade-backed wars in Croatia and Bosnia.

Regardless of such evidence, supporters of imperialist intervention into the Balkans frequently cite "irreconcilable national hatreds" as the fundamental reason why such intervention is necessary.

The rulers in Washington, London, Paris, and Bonn have been debating and jockeying among themselves over how to intervene in the former Yugoslavia.

Washington has drawn up plans for a force of from 40,000 to 80,000 heavily armed troops, under United Nations auspices, to intervene to enforce a Bosnia peace agreement, once one is signed. The force would be assembled to play an active combat role, in contrast to the more stationary UN force at present in Bosnia. About 20,000 of its members would come from the United States. Washington's intention to have this operation led by NATO, which it dominates, has met sharp opposition from the government of France, which is not part of NATO's military command.

UN plan legitimizes land grab

The UN plan, drawn up by negotiators Cyrus Vance and David Owen, divides Bosnia into ten autonomous provinces. It would recognize much of the land grab carried out in Bosnia by rightist forces based in Belgrade and Zagreb.

None of the actions of the warring factions in Bosnia, or anywhere else throughout the former Yugoslavia, are in the interests of working people there. Nor will imperialist intervention bring any relief to working people. Workers and peasants can benefit only through taking action themselves, beginning with resistance to those oppressing them, and uniting across all national, religious, and other such lines. They have no interest in the chauvinism of the gangsters who claim to be their leaders, or in slicing up the lands where they live into ever-tinier "ethnic" partitions.

The Russian revolution of October 1917 showed how working people of city and countryside could forge a new state that reached beyond the national divisions reinforced by tsarism and capitalism. Its example played a powerful role in inspiring the generations that made the Yugoslav revolution of the 1940s.

Today working people in the former Yugoslavia can look to South Africa where, under the leadership of the African National Congress, masses of ordinary working people are seeking to place their stamp on that society's future, by fighting for a united South Africa, free of the narrow "ethnic" and racial divisions the rulers have imposed for so long.

It is along those lines that people in Yugoslavia can reconquer what previous generations already achieved with the revolution of the 1940s. In the process they can create a society based on human solidarity, not on the bureaucratic rivalry, brutality, and bloody conflict they confront today.

* * *

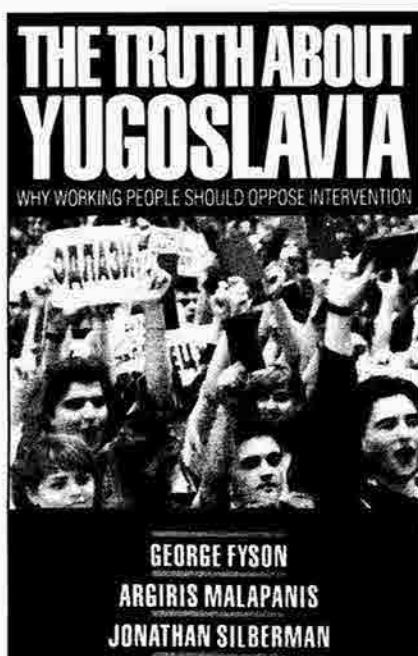
The contents of this book first appeared in the socialist newsweekly the *Militant* between April and October, 1992. One of the articles was written in reply to an item in the August 12, 1992, *Guardian*, a New York-based weekly that ceased publication

Continued on Page 12

Coming soon from Pathfinder

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The slaughter that has taken place since the collapse of Yugoslavia has nothing to do with age-old "ethnic conflicts." The driving force is competition between rival Stalinist gangs who—after dropping any pretense to communism—have draped themselves in nationalist colors to rally support in a war for territory and resources that is against the interests of all working people in Yugoslavia.

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'Mark Curtis belongs free, not in prison, to continue to work for a better society'

Supporters of jailed Iowa union activist speak out against police frame-up

We reproduce below excerpts of some of the recent letters sent by supporters of Mark Curtis 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.

* * *

Venus Hannah

President, Plainfield
Afro-American Association,
Plainfield, New Jersey

I met up with the Mark Curtis case while I was bringing into light the hanging of my 19-year-old son, Santana, in the Plainfield, New Jersey, jail on April 4, 1990. In protesting this, two other sons, myself and my husband were brutalized and three of us were arrested on trumped-up charges by these Plainfield police. Fix-ups, cover-ups and frame-ups are what the police departments and the justice system is all about in this country.

I have since followed the Curtis case closely and have recently re-examined the MDCDC [Mark Curtis Defense Committee] materials as well as the arguments made by Mark's detractors. I personally believe Mark Curtis was framed-up to be removed from fighting with his co-workers to achieve their common goals. The police hated the fact that he was effective in the fight for justice including in participating in the defense of his immigrant co-workers. The police hate the fact that he speaks Spanish.

Like in the cases of Rodney King, the deaths of Phillip Pannell, Lamont Jones, Tasha Mayse, [Pannell, Jones, and Mayse were killed by police in New Jersey in 1990 and 1991.] and Santana Hannah, the court's investigations were one-sided against the truth. In Mark's case the prosecution's side of the story is the unbelievable one, which was never proven in court. For example, why would Mark Curtis rape a young woman in front of her younger brother; why wouldn't there have been a struggle there? Why weren't Mark Curtis's clothes in the same dirty condition as the girl's? What about the time discrepancies in the 911 call, the girl's story, the boy's, and Mark's alibi?

When the police and the prosecution framed up Mark Curtis they didn't use a traffic ticket or a ticket for loitering. They made it big time to put Mark Curtis away from the people. This is the only reason he is behind bars. He belongs free, not in prison, so he can continue to work for a better society.

Carol Thomas

Member, July 26th Coalition
in Solidarity with the
Cuban Revolution,
Cambridge, Massachusetts

This statement reaffirms my support for Mark Curtis, a white trade union organizer and political activist. He is framed on burglary and rape charges. He allegedly raped a young African-American woman, Demetria Morris of Des Moines, Iowa. Mark, sentenced to 25 years in prison, is appealing the frame-up. He is a model prisoner.

I believe something terrible happened to Demetria Morris in March of 1988 and I'm sorry. She deserves support during her recovery from the ordeal. But Mark Curtis is not guilty of the charges. There is no forensic evidence linking him to the assault. No dog hairs or dirt from the porch were found on his clothes. Common sense would have asked if they were found on the victim's clothes, why weren't they on Mark's? From Demetria's description of the assault, it was a prolonged and physical struggle.

Just months before Mark's frame-up, the Socialist Workers Party won a court suit



"Mark should be allowed to go free on parole," writes Piri Thomas, pictured above. "He has served enough time already for a crime I believe he did not commit."

they had brought against the FBI, CIA, INS, et. al., for their illegal spying and attempted disruptions of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance. These illegal government actions against the SWP and YSA had begun in the late 1930's and continued through the early 1980's. Mark Curtis was an officer in the YSA.

Mark is in prison. His very right to defend himself and the efforts of his defense committee and the SWP are questioned and slandered. Isn't it entirely out of tradition and character for the police, with the history of the Des Moines police department, to so righteously defend and side with the interests of a young Black woman against a white man unless there is something else operating here?

Free Mark Curtis and all political prisoners.

Piri Thomas

Author, Berkeley, California

I am writing to express my continued support for Mark Curtis, unjustly incarcerated on trumped-up charges of rape. I believe Mark should be allowed to go free on parole. He has served enough time already for a crime I believe he did not commit, and he has shown himself to be a model prisoner. Continued incarceration of Mark Curtis is unjust, and is nothing but a divisive tactic that does not advance the cause of working people as a whole.

Claudia Kaiser-Lenoir

Associate professor of
Spanish/Latin American
Studies, Tufts University,
Medford, Massachusetts

I am writing this statement to reaffirm my support for the fight for exoneration and freedom for Mark Curtis. I feel compelled to reaffirm my support in the strongest possible way in light of the destructive countercampaign against Mark Curtis being waged by a few individuals who say they are progressive activists. Since the organizers of the countercampaign are based in Boston, I have had ample opportunity to carefully examine their allegations, and also to become familiar with some of their operational methods.

Because I am a woman, a South American, and consider myself to be a progressive activist, I am—and have been from the start—very concerned with all the issues posed by the Mark Curtis case. I felt compelled to endorse the campaign on his behalf from the outset because of the indisputable evidence of his courageous defense of immigrants' and labor rights; because of the abuse and brutality of the police during his

arrest; because of the racist remarks aimed by the police against him; because of the lack of solid incriminating evidence presented by the prosecutors; and because of the general (and obvious) disregard for Mark Curtis's rights during the trial.

Rape is a fundamental issue for anyone who claims to be concerned with human rights. The central organizers of the counter campaign (Mary Bertin and Fred Pelka) state that they can prove Mark Curtis's guilt in the rape charge. I therefore felt compelled to examine carefully the charges and the supporting facts presented by them. After doing so I find that there is absolutely NOTHING they are adding to the case presented already by the police and the prosecutors. I must also say that it was *precisely* the contradictory, contrived, and unconvincing charges against Mark Curtis that prompted me to support his case, much more than merely his "politically correct" background.

"Innocent until proven guilty" is a dearly won right that protects all of us. Anyone fighting for social justice could end up like Mark Curtis. Many have. The individuals responsible for this countercampaign threaten all of us, and advance nothing but the cause of repression when they throw away the presumption of innocence until *proven* guilty. Anyone with a minimally awakened conscience will agree that the trial against Mark Curtis could hardly *prove* the charges against him.

I reaffirm my unequivocal support for Mark Curtis's fight for justice. I urge all others concerned with social justice and human rights to do so. Please continue to

call on me for whatever help I can give. Mark Curtis is an example for all of us—men and women. We must not rest until he is free.

Michele Wilson

Birmingham, Alabama

I am writing to declare my continued support for Mark Curtis and for the work of his Defense Committee.

I have long maintained that Mark's arrest and conviction must have been part of a frame up. Not only was the story hokey, it did not fit what I knew of Mark. While in Birmingham, Mark was very supportive of women's rights. He attended many functions sponsored by N.O.W. and other women's organizations. I particularly remember that Mark helped to escort patients seeking abortions. Escort duty is unpleasant at best. But it lets you gauge one's mettle because you are being yelled at and called names. Few can do this kind of volunteer work without losing their cool. Mark could. That shows calm as well as commitment.

That a segment of law enforcement is capable of setting up a citizen has been well documented. That this is often done in the name of goals of the rich and powerful is also known. It was not difficult for me to conclude that Mark was framed because he had offended the powers that be.

Rob Smissen

Student, Victoria University,
Wellington, New Zealand

Recently I was forwarded material supporting the frame-up of activist Mark Curtis on rape charges. I have carefully examined this and sought answers to the questions it raised. While superficially compelling, the letter of Gregory McNaughton, and articles by Ann Russo and Fred Pelka are merely an attempt to place a veneer of shallow arguments over the gaping holes in the cop case against Mark.

It is up to Mark's accusers to prove beyond reasonable doubt that he is guilty. This, to my mind, was not done at his trial and no amount of ifs, buts and maybes can substitute for hard evidence.

Mark must be paroled now! The longer he is kept in prison in an attempt to make him admit his guilt, the more clear it will become to people all around the world that he, and justice, are the victims of a cop frame-up.

* * *

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.

Literature available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

The Frame-up of Mark Curtis by Margaret Jayko. This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$4.95. Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Please include \$3 for postage and handling.)

Why Working People Should Join the Fight to Free Mark Curtis by Harvey McArthur. Presents clear and convincing answers to the campaign of slanders that aim to justify the frame-up of Mark Curtis. 24 pp. \$2.

State of Iowa v. Mark Stanton Curtis. Transcript of September 1988 trial that found Curtis guilty of sexual assault and burglary. 446 pp. \$35.

The Stakes in the Worldwide Political Campaign to Defend Mark Curtis by John Gaige. A pamphlet that explains the political background to Curtis's case, the frame-up, and unfair trial. 25 pp. \$2.

Freedom and Justice for Mark Curtis — An Answer to a Slander Campaign against Jailed Unionist and Political Activist Mark Curtis, by Andrea Morell and Geoff Mirelowitz. \$2.

The Frame-up of Mark Curtis, a VHS video produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle. This effective 49-minute documentary has clips from TV news broadcasts on Curtis's fight for justice; scenes from the trial; and interviews with Curtis, his wife Kate Kaku, and others. This video is available for the cost of reproduction and shipping. \$20 Beta or PAL; \$15 VHS.

For these and other materials (including in Spanish) write or call the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Phone (515) 246-1695. Bulk quantities are available. Payments should accompany orders and checks can be made out to Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.

1993 SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND

City	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Albany	\$200		
Albuquerque	\$200		
Atlanta	\$2,500	\$2,305	
Baltimore	\$2,500	\$675	
Birmingham	\$1,500	\$1,500	
Boston	\$3,000		
Chicago	\$3,000	\$2,075	\$150
Cincinnati	\$300		
Cleveland	\$2,000	\$600	
Denver	\$200		
Des Moines	\$1,500	\$1,300	\$20
Detroit	\$3,000	\$875	\$25
Greensboro	\$1,250	\$1,675	\$125
Houston	\$3,500		
Los Angeles	\$6,500		
Miami	\$1,500		
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$830	
New Haven	\$500		
New York	\$8,000	\$150	
Newark	\$4,000	\$75	
Philadelphia	\$2,500		
Pittsburgh	\$2,000	\$919	
Portland	\$200		
St. Louis	\$3,350	\$1,175	\$55
Salt Lake City	\$3,000		\$405
San Diego	\$500		
San Francisco	\$6,500		
Seattle	\$2,500		
Twin Cities	\$5,000	\$3,360	
Washington, D.C.	\$2,800	\$1,505	
Other		\$90	
TOTALS	\$75,000	\$19,109	\$780

\$75,000

\$780

Fund will help send 'Militant' reporter to Cuba for May Day

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Socialist Workers Party leader Ernie Mailliot will travel to Cuba to report for the *Militant* on May Day activities on the island. He will also participate there in a leadership conference of activists from many U.S. cities involved in solidarity work with Cuba. The conference is sponsored by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples. Representatives of a number of groups working for normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba will attend.

As a result of the *Militant* reporting trip to Cuba in March, an interview with Mary-Alice Waters appeared in the April 9 issue of the Cuban magazine *Bohemia* (see pages 8 and 9).

Work starts on Marxist magazine

Meanwhile, a team of editors is now putting production of two new issues of *New Internationalist* into high gear to ensure that these publications will be available in August. Issue 9 of the Marxist magazine will be on "The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution." *New Internationalist* no. 10 will feature an article on world political developments since the Persian Gulf War, a follow-up to the main article in *New Internationalist* no. 7, titled "The Opening Guns of World War III."

The 1993 Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund will help make the May reporting trip to

Cuba as well as publication of the two *New Internationalists* possible.

Supporters of the fund in several cities are already setting dates and reserving speakers for special public fund-raising meetings between now and June 15. Speakers available for some of these meetings are Sam Manuel, Brian Taylor, and Wendy Lyons, who were part of a reporting team to South Africa in March, and Sara Lobman, Judy White, and Francisco Picado, who went to Cuba recently to report on the Cuban Women's Federation conference and other events.

Greensboro rally kicks off drive

The accompanying scoreboard will help fund participants keep track of the drive's progress every week. The chart reports goals they have adopted in each city and initial pledges as well as funds collected so far.

Greensboro, North Carolina, fund drive coordinator Joan Paltrineri sent in pledges and payments made at the successful fund-raising

meeting attended by activists from several cities in the east and south of the country as part of a regional educational conference on Easter weekend. SWP national secretary Jack Barnes spoke there on the subject of "World Capitalist Disorder Accelerates: Challenges and Opportunities Facing the Working Class Today."

To keep the scoreboard as up-to-date as possible, local fund drive committees should make sure to send all money received and reports on pledges each week. Pledges and funds collected must be received every Tuesday by 12:00 noon E.S.T. in order to be reported on the weekly chart. Prompt attention should be given to approach a wide range of unionists, farmers, political activists, students, and other young people for contributions to the fund as well as to set dates and prepare publicity for fund-raising meetings.

With a concerted effort in the next six weeks supporters of the fund can raise the \$75,000 by June 15.

I pledge = \$500 = \$250 = \$100 = \$50 = \$other

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Coal miners' union prepares to resume strike

Continued from front page

panies to join the Peabody strike of 7,500 workers at 22 mines, that began February 2. Within 48 hours the companies caved in.

Access to company records is essential for the union to enforce the contract provision that three out of five employees hired at newly opened mines of BCOA companies should be UMW members. To circumvent this, the companies use fake names, paper companies, and other ploys to hide the real ownership of new mines. This practice is called "double-breasting." Sometimes, a "new" mine is just a new shaft sunk into an existing mine.

Also on April 24 a rally was held near the Beverly Hills, California, home of Lord Gordon White, one of the owners of the British-based multinational company, Hanson PLC, which owns Peabody.

That rally, initiated by the UMW and sponsored by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, drew representatives from about a dozen unions. The two UMW members there urged the other unions to join them in their upcoming second-round battle against Peabody and the other BCOA coal mine operators.

At the St. Louis rally, in addition to several UMW officials, the speakers included St. Louis Labor Council, AFL-CIO, president Robert Kelley; Mike Sacco, international president of the Seafarers' International Union, which organizes the workers who run the barges carrying coal through the midwestern United States river system; newly elected St. Louis mayor Freeman Bosley, Jr.; and Lutheran minister Ted Shroeder. Both rallies opened with a moment of silence to honor United Farm Workers of America union president Cesar Chavez who had died the previous evening.

In St. Louis, UMW District 12 (Illinois) president Joe Angleton stressed the need for unity among working people across ethnic and racial divisions.

Justice for Janitors in support

William Stodghill, the leader of the mostly Black workers involved in the Justice for Janitors campaign and president of Service Employees' Union Local 50, said that he was at the miners' rally both to express support and to learn from their example. He invited miners to participate in a Justice for Janitors rally in St. Louis May 1. Representatives of the Justice for Janitors Organizing Committee also took part in the Los Angeles rally.

Miners came to the St. Louis rally mostly from the southern Illinois coalfields, although there were some from Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri. They included veterans of the 30-day strike against Peabody and those from other mines that had not been called out during that fight. When UMW International Executive Board member Bill Brumfield asked the crowd how many had participated in the 1988-89 Pittston strike and gone to the miners' Camp Solidarity in southwestern Virginia, a majority of the miners raised their hands and cheered. The inspiration from the Pittston strike victory is an example miners repeatedly refer to in discussing the current fight.

The miners on strike at the recently or-

ganized Buck Creek mine in Sullivan, Indiana, were not able to attend the rally because of strike-related activities. But other Indiana miners wore their Buck Creek strike support buttons. Other UMW miners are backing up the strikers by participating on the picket lines at the mine and also by regular picketing of the Buck Creek company offices in Evansville, Indiana.

Bosses prepare for fight

While the union is preparing its members for the next round of this fight, the companies are also preparing. And some new information has come out indicating how far the companies are ready to go in their war with the miners' union.

● Since the strike ended, Peabody has constructed barbed-wire fences around the entrances to their mines. In some cases they enclose public property along roads. As one miner put it, the barbed wire is not there just in case the company brings in strikebreakers who are housed on mine property and need a place to hang their laundry.

● A mutual assistance fund was revealed in financial records from Arch Minerals, a BCOA company that helped Peabody sustain itself during the strike. This mutual help gives the lie to the claim Peabody made that it had to operate some of its mines during the strike because otherwise it might lose some of its coal contracts.

● Peabody did operate the Squaw Creek mine in Indiana with a crew of mine managers and contractors' employees during the strike. According to union safety committee member Dave Hadley from that mine, the company used the strike to change the official listing of the mine's safety representative with the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration. They removed the name of the UMW miner who was listed and added a mine manager working as a strikebreaker. After the end of the strike, the union fought this and forced the company to back off.

But the UMW and its allies are also ready for the strike, using the experiences from the February strike and the Pittston battle four years ago. For example:

● In mining towns like Marissa, Illinois, and Boonville, Indiana, the union has prepared and put in place new union support signs in front of houses and in

store windows.

● Peabody miners have kept up and repaired their picket shacks for use again.

● With rallies like those in St. Louis and Los Angeles, the UMW made important ties with other unions which can prove critical to winning the support that will be necessary in the coming fight.

● The UMW Family Auxiliaries are better prepared than before to set up strike kitchens and help carry out strike solidarity work.

● UMW initiatives have drawn other unions more actively into support for the next round of the fight. In addition to the April 24 rallies in Los Angeles and St. Louis, a march and rally are being held May 1 in Pittsburgh outside the headquarters of Consol Energy.

The industrial Union Department of the AFL-CIO helped organize "Hanson-Peabody Solidarity Day" April 27. This involved 10 unions in the United States and the Trades Union Congress in Britain distributing literature, ribbons, and stickers to support the miners' fight against Peabody to workers at plants owned by Hanson PLC, the parent company of Peabody, based in Britain.

● In a successful skirmish heading into the likely resumption of the strike, miners at the Jim Walters Resources Number 7 mine in Brookwood, Alabama, struck for one day to protest the company's decision to move the workers' parking lot half a mile away from the plant in defiance of an arbitration ruling. The company backed down when miners at the three other Jim Walters mines in Alabama prepared to join the strike.

● The National Labor Relations Board is expected to set a date soon for the union election at the Marrowbone mine complex in Naugatuck, West Virginia, where 400 of the 435 miners have signed cards indicating that they want to join the UMW.

Contributing to this article were John Hawkins, a laid-off miner and member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2368 in Brookwood, Alabama; Kim Kleinman, a member of United Auto Workers Local 2250 in Wentzville, Missouri; and Sherrie Love, a member of United Transportation Union Local 1544 in Los Angeles.

Special Offer to Miners and their Supporters

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This book tells the story of the 22-month fight of Machinists at Eastern Airlines against union busting, and explains the valuable links that were forged between the striking airline workers and coal miners during the 1989-90 strike against Pittston Coal. 91 pp.

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. Please include \$3 handling for the first book and \$.50 for each additional copy.

Sales drive gains momentum

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The drive to win thousands of new subscribers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* registered an important step forward last week.

A total of 421 *Militant* subscriptions, 84 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and reports of sales of 106 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* arrived at the business office, closing by three percentage points the previous week's lag from the targeted goals.

While the drive is still 7 percent behind schedule, supporters in a number of cities report making progress in establishing a campaign atmosphere during the just completed target week. The key to successfully meeting all the international goals is to keep this momentum going for the remaining four weeks of the drive.

Supporters in the Twin Cities made one of the biggest leaps in the chart, going from 14 percent to 43 percent of their goal since the previous week.

To meet all the goals in full and on time the business office will need to receive in each of the remaining four weeks of the drive 400 *Militant* and, 87 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, and reports on sales of 217 *New Internationalists*. That's nearly as many *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions as arrived this past week as well as double the number of *New Internationalists*. Clearly, meeting the *New Internationalist* goal is the biggest challenge for *Militant* supporters.

The intensified debate around whether the capitalist rulers in the United States and Europe should militarily intervene in the former Yugoslavia should spur increased interest in *New Internationalist* no. 7 containing the feature article "Opening Guns of World III." Supporters should pay special attention to contacting *Militant* subscribers and recontacting individuals who have already bought a *New Internationalist* to encourage them to purchase additional issues.

The May issue of *Perspectiva Mundial*, just off the press this week, features articles on conditions in South Africa, a recent student conference in Cuba, and the Waco events. It should be a big boost to winning new *Perspectiva Mundial* readers over the next several weeks.

Sales to coal miners

As the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) makes plans to resume its strike against Peabody and possibly other coal companies, *Militant* sales and reporting teams continue to receive a good response throughout the coalfields.

Militant reporter Stu Singer, who attended the April 24 UMWA rally in St. Louis, reports that 30 people,



Militant/Stu Singer
Distributing the *Militant* at April 24 miners' rally in St. Louis

mostly miners, out of the 250 present bought copies of the *Militant*. "Most had seen the paper before when it was sold at their mine entrance, or they had seen it at a strike picket line or another labor solidarity activity," said Singer.

One miner from West Frankfurt, Illinois, "bought the *Militant* right away when he glanced at the article about the strike and union organizing drive at the Ziegler Coal Marrowbone complex in West Virginia," reported Singer. "Another miner had been involved in the successful union organizing drive at the Buck Creek mine and was glad to see the *Militant* covering that strike now."

Discussion around Waco

Sales also went well at the April 25 Washington, D.C., demonstration for gay rights. Supporters sold a total of 557 *Militants*, 20 *Militant* subscriptions, and 3 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*. The *Militant*'s banner headline, "Tell the truth about Clinton's holocaust in Waco, Texas!" attracted quite a bit of attention.

Salesperson Maggie Trowe, who sold three subscriptions at the demonstration, reports a debate around this issue. "Many people agreed with the *Militant*'s headline," she said. "They bought papers and subscribed based on their desire to read a working class perspective on politics, such as was presented in the articles on Waco." Others believed the government's claim that the Davidians had committed mass suicide, arguing that they were just right-wing antigay bigots who were ultimately responsible for the holocaust, said Trowe.

In Miami, *Militant* supporters sold 38 copies of the *Militant* and 4 subscriptions at a rally of 1,500

people to protest a small demonstration by a racist group. A right-wing Cuban-American overturned the Pathfinder sales and literature table at the antiracist gathering. Rally monitors helped to promptly set the table back, while *Militant* supporters continued to sell the paper for the next two and a half hours. "At times groups of as many as five high school students and other young people gathered around the table to buy *Militants* and leaf through the books on display," reports Seth Galinsky.

Labor Notes conference success

From Dearborn, Michigan, Gary Boyers reports very successful sales at the Labor Notes conference. A total of 18 *Militant* subscriptions, 85 single copies, and 2 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions were sold. Another 55 papers and 1 subscription were then sold at the April 26-27 United Auto Workers bargaining conference.

During the past month, 64 *Militants* and two subscriptions have been sold to Fieldcrest Cannon textile workers, whose union contract recently expired. *Militant* salespeople recently visited three of the company's plants in three states. Ten papers were sold at the Columbus, Georgia, plant, three in Fieldale, Virginia, and an additional paper at the mill in Eden, North Carolina.

From Wellington, New Zealand, Malcolm McAllister reports that the target week got off to a flying start. A team of *Militant* sellers netted 13 *Militant* subscriptions, 1 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and a copy of *New Internationalist* during a two-day visit April 18-19 to Massey University in Palmerston North, the country's sixth largest city.

WHERE WE STAND

SOLD: 43% 1,214

SHOULD BE: 50% 1,400

END OF WEEK FOUR

	The MILITANT		PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL		NEW INTERNATIONAL	
	SOLD / GOAL		SOLD / GOAL		SOLD / GOAL	
UNITED STATES						
Cleveland	43	65	66%	1	4	9 25
Salt Lake City	48	75	64%	4	15	11 35
Chicago	60	110	55%	9	25	5 35
Washington,,D.C.	40	75	53%	7	25	18 40
Atlanta	39	75	52%	2	10	1 20
Miami	50	100	50%	21	35	23 50
Detroit	39	80	49%	2	10	6 30
Twin Cities, MN	52	120	43%	12	15	28 30
New York	97	225	43%	36	75	20 95
Greensboro, NC	28	65	43%	4	7	6 30
Boston	46	110	42%	14	30	18 45
Denver	2	5	40%	1	2	0 5
New Haven, CT	4	10	40%	0	2	3 5
Newark, NJ	54	135	40%	11	45	10 70
Portland	6	15	40%	0	2	2 10
San Francisco	44	110	40%	4	30	29 70
Houston	29	75	39%	6	20	13 25
Los Angeles	64	170	38%	45	85	14 95
Baltimore	28	75	37%	0	10	0 25
Morgantown, WV	24	65	37%	2	5	8 20
Philadelphia	31	85	36%	6	20	13 25
Des Moines, IA	30	85	35%	10	30	10 40
Birmingham, AL	26	75	35%	4	10	2 20
Pittsburgh	26	80	33%	6	8	6 25
Cincinnati	3	10	30%	1	2	0 3
St. Louis	24	90	27%	2	7	1 40
Seattle	21	80	26%	6	30	7 35
Santa Cruz, CA	1	8	13%	0	5	0 5
Fort Madison, IA	0	3	0%	0	0	0 0
U.S. Total	959	2,276	42%	216	564	263 953
AUSTRALIA						
	15	30	50%	2	10	3 20
BELGIUM						
	0	8	0%	0	4	0 10
BRITAIN						
London	27	60	45%	3	5	10 25
Manchester	10	35	29%	1	1	0 20
Sheffield	8	35	23%	0	3	1 15
Britain Total	45	130	35%	4	9	11 60
CANADA						
Toronto	37	75	49%	6	15	12 45
Vancouver	28	70	40%	5	10	9 30
Montreal	25	65	38%	6	12	10 60
Quebec City	0	5	0%	0	0	0 2
Canada Total	90	215	42%	17	37	31 137
FRANCE						
	2	10	20%	1	3	1 10
GERMANY						
	7	15	47%	0	0	1 4
GREECE						
	0	2	0%	0	0	1 2
ICELAND						
	5	10	50%	0	1	1 3
NEW ZEALAND						
Wellington	30	40	75%	1	1	5 10
Auckland	26	45	58%	2	1	3 10
Christchurch	14	25	56%	0	1	5 8
New Zealand Total	70	110	64%	3	3	13 28
PUERTO RICO						
	2	1	200%	2	10	0 10
SWEDEN						
	26	65	40%	8	20	8 20
TOTAL	1,214	2,857	43%	253	661	332 1,253
SHOULD BE	1,400		50%	300		600

IN THE UNIONS

	The MILITANT		PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL		NEW INTERNATIONAL		
	SOLD / GOAL		SOLD / GOAL		SOLD / GOAL		
UNITED STATES							
UMWA	24	15	160%	0	—	0	—
UTU	45	80	56%	0	4	4	27
UAW	43	85	51%	1	—	4	25
OCAW	23	50	46%	2	4	6	18
USWA	37	85	44%	2	—	1	25
ACTWU	12	28	43%	7	12	0	20
IAM	35	90	39%	1	25	9	35
UFCW	13	56	23%	10	35	2	26
ILGWU	3	20	15%	13	20	0	15
U.S. Total	235	489	48%	36	80	26	176
AUSTRALIA							
NUW	2	3	67%	0	—	0	—
AMEU	1	3	33%	0	—	0	1
FPU	0	3	0%	0	—	0	1
Australia Total	3	9	33%	0	—	0	2
BRITAIN							
TGWU	4	6	67%	0	—	0	3
AEEU	2	6	33%	0	—	0	6
RMT	4	12	33%	0	—	0	6
NUM	0	2	0%	0	—	0	2
Britain Total	10	26	38%	0	—	0	17
CANADA							
CAW	4	9	44%	1	—	3	4
USWA	7	17	41%	0	2	1	11
IAM	1	6	17%	0	—	0	2
ACTWU	0	2	0%	0	—	0	1
Canada Total	12	34	35%	1	2	4	18
NEW ZEALAND							
EU	3	5	60%	0	—	1	1
UFBGWU	2	8	25%	0	—	1	2
MWU	0	2	0%	0	—	1	1
New Zealand Total	5	15	33%	0	—	3	4
SWEDEN							
Food workers	2	6	33%	0	—	0	2
Metal workers	1	5	20%	0	—	0	1
Transport workers	0	2	0%	0	—	0	—
Sweden Total	3	13	23%	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

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'Those in Cuba who fight are not alone'

Cuban magazine interviews Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters

The following article appeared in the April 9 issue of *Bohemia*, a national weekly magazine published in Cuba. It is based on an interview with Mary-Alice Waters, a member of the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. *Bohemia* staffwriter Mirta Rodríguez Calderón conducted the interview in Havana in March. The three-page article as it appeared in *Bohemia* is reproduced on the right.

BY MIRTA RODRÍGUEZ CALDERÓN

We met one day in 1986 at the Palace of Conventions. We were both reporting on the Third Congress of the Party. Mary-Alice Waters was beginning a discussion with some delegates, but they became reticent when she said she was North American.

A number of years and many things have since passed. Friendly faces gave up their smiles. The weight of holding up the banners that have not been lowered is now heavier — although it is also true that those who feel themselves repositories of truth are stronger, knowing they are accompanied by the hopes of the poor of the universe.

Being in Cuba and identifying herself as a North American has a different tint, a different ring to it: her solidarity passed the test of the disaster. And Mary-Alice Waters knows it, feels it. Her emotions about Cuba date from the time of [the 1961 U.S.-organized invasion of Cuba at] Playa Girón, when as a college student in Minnesota she became a Fidelista, on her way to later becoming a communist. From her position as a youth leader of the Socialist Workers Party and editor of the newspaper *The Militant*, she became a member of the Political Bureau of her party and director of Pathfinder Press, a publishing house with branches in seven countries on three continents. Through its efforts, the speeches of Fidel, Che, the classics of Marxism, and contemporaries such as [Cuban economist] Carlos Tablada reach thousands of persons with its logo.

Mary-Alice Waters returned to Cuba this time to participate in the Continental Meeting of Women, and to meet with university students from Matanzas. There were many discussions and exchanges. Below are her answers to questions put to her by *Bohemia*.

Question: There are more than a few people who think and say that the collapse in Eastern Europe has made the possibility of building socialism a utopia, and that in the United States there are fewer and fewer receptive ears for this message. How do you evaluate these views?

Books for Cuba Fund

The Cuban magazine *Bohemia* interviewed Mary-Alice Waters during a visit to Cuba in March. Waters, together with *Militant* reporters Sara Lobman and Francisco Picado, attended a student conference at the University of Matanzas at which several requests were made for donations of books and pamphlets published and distributed by Pathfinder Press.

Because of the current economic crisis in Cuba, funds to purchase these books are virtually nonexistent. Yet there exists a tremendous thirst for the kind of literature that Pathfinder produces and distributes on the history of the modern working-class movement and the struggles of working people around the world.

To meet these requests, a Books for Cuba Fund has been launched. The cost of the donation of books distributed by Pathfinder to the University of Matanzas library alone came to \$1,600. Earlier donations to the library at the Higher Technical Institute in Holguín, Cuba, cost \$1,500.

Funds are urgently needed for further such donations. Send your donation to Books for Cuba Fund, c/o the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Make checks payable to the *Militant*.

Answer: Although there are some who say this, the truth is that there is not a decrease in interest in socialism within the United States following the collapse of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, especially when people hear someone say, "I am a communist" and state that this is the only perspective for humanity. Another indication is that the sales of our publications, far from decreasing, are growing.

We explain that what fell in Europe was not socialism or communism, but its negation. And we use Cuba to demonstrate that the construction of socialism is not a utopia, because the Cuban people are showing how it is possible to fight together to change society, and in this process, to create a new human being.

Question: Two years ago, when the classic books began to be thrown into the garbage in Russia, a small group of Socialist Workers Party members went to Moscow to gather them up. Tell us about this experience.

Answer: For many years in the Soviet Union, these works were published in volumes that were very good and very cheap. Because of this, Pathfinder always used these books and sold them in large quantities. As the disintegration of the bureaucratic caste there progressed, we became concerned about these collected works of Marx and Engels in English and French. We decided to purchase them while they still existed.

And in fact we arrived when they were already on the floor of the pulp-processing plants. We purchased them at 25 cents a book. We then shipped them by sea mail to the United States one package after another. In this way we rescued about 20,000 volumes.

Question: Your party has stated that the war in Iraq was the beginning of the third world conflagration. Do you continue to hold this point of view since Clinton's arrival in the White House?

Answer: The change in administrations is not a change in the economic and social conditions of capitalism. That is what is driving us toward World War III.

The capitalist world is living in a period that more than anything else resembles the 1930s. We are living at the beginning of a deep economic depression, with intensifying interimperialist competition, growing tensions, and a sharp polarization within society. This is evidenced, for example, in the rise of semifascist groups and organizations not only in Europe, but in the United States. This is the capitalist world of today.

The Yankee invasion of Somalia, the assault organized by the United States against Iraq, the conflicts over Yugoslavia — these are all the result of growing contradictions and tensions among the imperialist powers. What we see is therefore not the opening stage of a new world order but the disintegration of the old order.

There is no difference between the reactionary character of the policies of Clinton and Bush. Haiti is an example. A few days before assuming office he changed everything he had previously said, issued a decree imposing a naval blockade, and intercepted Haitians who were desperately fleeing their situation. Bush had not done this. The reason Bush was not reelected was because of the need to present a new face, with credibility, to put forward other programs.

Which ones? One thing now being envisioned is imposing new taxes on retirees. Bush had not dared to do that. Or the anticipated tax on oil-derivative products. Cuba is painfully aware of what oil means. And these measures will be applied to the oil needed for heating and transport. This will hit the working class especially hard. Reagan would never have tried this, nor would Bush, but the Democrats are going to do it.

Under the facade of being forced to reduce military expenditures, they are dismantling many of the obsolete bases they have in many areas — not Guantánamo, of course. In this way they are trying to get rid of obstacles to a more efficient military machine.

It is this whole picture that is leading us toward World War III. But it will not occur



Mary-Alice Waters

LOS QUE EN CUBA LUCHAN NO ESTAN SOLOS

Diálogo con la miembro del Buró Político del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores, de EE.UU.

COINCIDIMOS un día de 1985 en el Palacio de las Convenciones. Ambas reportábamos el III Congreso del Partido. Mary-Alice Waters se empeñaba en dialogar con algunos delegados pero éstos se mostraron reticentes cuando ella dijo ser norteamericana.

Han pasado algunos años y muchas cosas. Nuestros amigos trocaron sus sonrisas. El peso de sostener las banderas que no se arriaron ahora toca a más, aunque también es cierto que quienes se sienten depositarios de la razón tienen más fuerzas con la compa-

"Las ilusiones que abrigan algunos sectores de las capas medias de que Clinton aplique políticas más humanas que las que el capitalismo es capaz de implementar, se vendrán abajo"

nía de la esperanza toda de los pobres del universo. Aun de aquellos que ni siquiera han oído hablar de estándares.

Estar en Cuba e identificarse como norteamericana tiene otro tinte, otro tono: la solidaridad pasó la prueba de la hecatombe. Y Mary-Alice Waters lo sabe, lo siente. Mientras tanto ella, que asoció sus emociones con Cuba desde los tiempos de Playa Girón, cuando en la universidad de Minnesota se convirtió en fidelista para parar luego en comunista, creció desde su posición de dirigente juvenil del Socialist Workers Party y directora del diario *The Militant* a miembro del Buró Político de su Partido y directora de Pathfinder Press, una editorial con filiales en siete países de tres continentes, donde

Europa del Este ha convenido en utopía la posibilidad de construir el socialismo y que en Estados Unidos escaseen, ahora más que nunca, los oídos receptivos para ese mensaje. ¿Cómo valora usted esos criterios?

Aunque haya quienes digan eso, lo cierto es que no hay un decrecimiento del interés en el socialismo dentro de Estados Unidos, después del desplome de la URSS y el resto de Europa del Este cuando escuchan a alguien que dice "Yo soy comunista", y que se declara convencido de que ésta es la única perspectiva para la humanidad. Por otra parte, la venta de nuestras publicaciones, lejos de disminuir, está aumentando.

"Nosotros explicamos que lo que se cayó en Europa no fue el socialismo ni el comunismo sino una negación de él. Y usamos a Cuba para demostrar que la construcción del socialismo no es una utopía porque el pueblo cubano está demostrando cómo es posible luchar juntos para cambiar la sociedad, y para generar, en ese proceso, un nuevo ser humano."

Dos años atrás, cuando en Rusia empezaron a mandar a la basura los libros de los clásicos, un pequeño grupo de militantes del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores se fue a Moscú a recogerlos. ¿Cómo fue esta experiencia?

Por muchos años en la URSS se editaron estas obras en volúmenes muy buenos y baratos. De modo que Pathfinder siempre usó y vendió esos libros en grandes cantidades. Cuando la desintegración de la casta burocrática iba avanzando allí, nos preocupamos por estas obras completas de Marx y Engels en inglés y en francés. Decidimos comprarlas mientras existían.

Y llegamos, efectivamente, cuando estaban en los pisos de las plantas procesadoras de pulpa. Por ese precio las compramos: 25 centavos por libro. Luego las

B48

Bohemia article; photo is of Mary-Alice Waters. "Illusions among some middle-class layers, that Clinton will implement more humane policies than what capitalism is capable of, are going to shatter," reads caption quoting Waters.

without the working class having its chance to take power in several countries, as has already happened at other points in history.

Question: We Cubans feel that our struggle is unique, that it belongs to us, and that we must wage it with our own forces. I understand that you see things differently. Would you like to explain this to me?

Answer: Yes. I believe the Cuban revolution possesses a power that arises not just from the determination of its people to defend and deepen it. Obviously, without that there would be nothing; this process would not exist. For that reason, it represents tremendous power.

If, however, the Cuban revolution were absolutely alone in the world, it would not be able to survive. But Cuba is *not* alone.

It is precisely the conditions of the capitalist system generating other struggles in the world, that will be decisive for the future of the Cuban revolution: the struggles of South Africans to overthrow apartheid, the fight by miners in the United States to defend their unions against the bosses.

For this reason it is extremely important that those who are fighting in Cuba, under such difficult conditions, not think they are alone, because the Cuban revolution exists as a genuine and vital example for all of us who are fighting in the world.

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Available from bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. To cover postage and handling, please add \$3.00 for the first book and \$0.50 for each additional title.

P A T H F I N D E R

El Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores postuló a James Warren y Estelle DeBates para la presidencia y vicepresidencia de Estados Unidos como vía para hacer campaña con las ideas socialistas. Aquí, Warren, al centro, con trabajadores de la Alaska Airlines.

embarcamos, una a una por correo marítimo a Estados Unidos. Así recuperamos unos 20 mil ejemplares."

Su Partido ha afirmado que la guerra en Iraq fue el inicio de la tercera conflagración mundial. ¿Mantiene esos puntos de vista después de implantado Clinton en la Casa Blanca?

—El cambio de administración no es un cambio de las condiciones económicas y sociales del capitalismo. Es eso lo que nos conduce a la III Guerra Mundial.

—En el mundo capitalista vivimos hoy un período que se parece más que ningún otro a los años 30. Vivimos el inicio de una profunda depresión económica con una intensificación de la competencia interimperialista, crecientes tensiones y una aguda polarización dentro de la sociedad. Eso se evidencia, por ejemplo, en el surgimiento de grupos y organizaciones semifascistas no sólo en Europa sino en Estados Unidos. Ese es el mundo capitalista que tenemos hoy.

—La invasión yanqui a Somalia, el asalto organizado por Estados Unidos a Iraq, los conflictos sobre Yugoslavia, son resultados de estas crecientes contradicciones y tensiones entre los poderes imperiales. Así, lo que vivimos no es el preludio de un nuevo orden mundial sino la desintegración del viejo orden.

—No hay diferencia entre el carácter reaccionario de las políticas de Clinton y de Bush. Haiti es un ejemplo, a los dos días de tomar el poder cambió todo lo que había



dicho, decretó el bloqueo naval y reprimió a los haitianos que huían desesperadamente de su situación. Bush no habría hecho esto. Y si no lo reeligieron fue por la necesidad de disponer de una nueva cara, con credibilidad, para llevar adelante otros programas.

—¿Cuáles? Pues el que ya se vislumbra de impuestos a las pensiones de los jubilados. Bush no se habría atrevido ya. O los que se anticipan para el petróleo y sus derivados. Cuba sabe dolorosamente lo que significa el petróleo. Y

estas medidas se aplicarán al petróleo necesario a la calefacción y a los transportes. Esto va a golpear a la clase trabajadora. Reagan no lo habría intentado, Bush tampoco, pero los demócratas lo van a hacer.

—Bajo esa fachada de estar esforzándose por reducir los gastos militares, están desmantelando las bases obsoletas que tiene en muchas partes, excepto la de Guantánamo, por supuesto. Se desprenden así de estorbos para hacer más eficiente la maquinaria

Varias brigadas de la editorial Pathfinder press "rescataron" en Moscú centenares de obras de los clásicos del marxismo que iban a ser convertidas en pulpa. La foto de Doug Hord es de 1992.



Top caption reads: "The Socialist Workers Party ran James Warren and Estelle DeBates for U.S. president and vice-president as a way to campaign with socialist ideas. Here, Warren (center) with Alaska Airlines workers." Bottom caption says: "Brigades from Pathfinder Press publishing house 'rescued' in Moscow hundreds of volumes of the Marxist classics that were going to be pulped. The photo, by Doug Hord, is from 1992."



militar. Es todo eso lo que nos conduce a la III Guerra. Pero no la habrá sin que la clase trabajadora tenga su oportunidad y tome el poder en varios países como ocurrió ya en la historia.

—Los cubanos sentimos que nuestra lucha es única, que nos pertenece y que somos nosotros los que debemos librarla con nuestras fuerzas. He creído entender que usted ve las cosas de modo diferente. ¿Quiere explicármelo?

—Sí. Yo entiendo que la Revolución Cubana posee un poder que no surge sólo de la decisión de su pueblo de defenderla y profundizarla. Claro que sin eso no habría nada, este proceso no existiría. Por eso éste es un tremendo poder.

—Pero si la Revolución Cubana estuviera absolutamente sola en el mundo, no podría sobrevivir. Sin embargo, Cuba no lo está.

—Precisamente son las condiciones del sistema capitalista, que genera otras luchas en el mundo, las que van a ser determinantes para el futuro de la Revolución Cu-

Las ediciones de Pathfinder tienen crédito en todo el mundo, y filiales en 7 países de 3 continentes.

B50



Top photo depicts August 1992 Socialist Workers Party conference in Oberlin, Ohio. At bottom, next to reproduction of Pathfinder promotional leaflet listing book titles, caption reads: "Pathfinder, whose books are sold throughout the world, has branches in seven countries and three continents." Photo of Mary-Alice Waters on preceding page is by Bohemia photographer José Oller; rest of photos were taken from Militant.

United Airlines workers resist concession demands

BY SARAH ULLMAN

BOSTON — The International Association of Machinists (IAM) has issued a call for simultaneous airport motorcades and informational picketing in several U.S. cities on Saturday, May 8, to protest concession demands by United Airlines. They will take place in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Company chief Stephen Wolf announced that 2,800 workers will be laid off. He also demanded the three groups of unionized workers at United reopen their contracts and agree to 5 percent pay cuts, major reductions of health insurance benefits, and a 10 percent productivity increase.

Two of the unions, the IAM and the Association of Flight Attendants, rejected Wolf's demand. The company then announced it would sell the flight kitchens, potentially cutting 6,000 jobs now organized by the IAM.

When this was announced the IAM organized a protest demonstration outside the San Francisco flight kitchen. IAM vice-president John Peterpaul told the 300 workers there that the threat to sell the kitchen was "corporate blackmail."

On March 1 United permanently laid off all skycaps, workers who carry passenger luggage into and from airport terminals. Some had worked for United for many years. They did not have a union. Wolf then hired a contractor to fill the sky cap jobs for less than half the pay.

United also imposed on the nonunion workers, such as reservations and ticket agents, the same conditions the unionized workers had rejected.

Wolf is featured in countless newspaper articles as one of the most highly paid corporate executives.

The discussion among United's kitchen

workers is whether to accept the concessions to try to keep the jobs, or reject concessions and use the union to put up a fight. Some former Eastern Airlines workers now work at United. Many of them are jumping into this discussion, offering their own experiences — that making concessions weakens the union and encourages company demands for still more givebacks.

Seventy-five worried and angry kitchen workers, half the work force here, met to discuss what to do. There were different opinions. A worker from Eastern Europe thought it should be illegal for a small group of men to make such a decision, based on greed, that would affect thousands of workers.

The workers who favored concessions tended to be those who had worked in the

kitchen for more than 10 years and were not working under the two-tier pay scale. Others who were veterans of past strikes at United pointed out how they had sacrificed to get what workers have now.

Sara Ullman is a member of IAM Local 1726. She works on the ramp at United Airlines in Boston.

U.S. gov't seizes man's boat for visiting Cuba

BY GEORGE CHALMERS

SEATTLE — U.S. Customs agents outside Tampa, Florida, seized a yacht February 26 on its arrival from Cuba, alleging violations of the Trading with the Enemy Act. The yacht's owner, Willem Eickholt, is being fined \$17,000 and faces a possible 10-year jail sentence and the permanent loss of his boat, already damaged since the seizure. This law is used by Washington to deny U.S. citizens the right to travel to Cuba.

Eickholt, 64, is a semiretired boatbuilder and Dutch citizen who has been a U.S. resident for 30 years. His yacht is registered in the Netherlands Antilles. In an interview at his home outside Seattle, Eickholt said he visits Cuba for "its people, the countryside, and especially the music." On a visit in 1991 he donated engine parts to Cuban friends who are fishermen "so they could fish and eat."

Before leaving on his recent two-week trip to Cuba, Eickholt called the group Pastors for Peace and offered space on his boat to transport humanitarian donations to Cuba. Pastors for Peace had no shipment ready at that time, so Eickholt went to the grocery store and bought 15 cartons of pow-

dered milk and dropped them off at the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, a humanitarian organization on the island, on his arrival there.

"I am outraged at the U.S. governmental abuse of power," he wrote in a public statement he is circulating. "[I] solicit your support in exposing this gross injustice, the hypocrisy of U.S.-Cuban policy and the absurdity of its counter-productive embargo."

While in government custody, his boat was seriously damaged by wind as a result of a storm. Additional damage was done to floorboards, drawers, and to cabinets forced open during the search by customs agents.

Eickholt says the 50-foot, \$250,000 yacht represents his life's work and savings. He was planning to sell it for a retirement fund in the near future. U.S. Customs is "determined to destroy me financially and emotionally," he said.

Eickholt is not a U.S. citizen and therefore is not subject to the U.S. trade embargo, he argues. "The big shots like Iberia Airlines or DHL freight," he points out, "as well as others operate from U.S. shores. Fourteen

airlines fly to the U.S. and Cuba. You can even rent a Chevy Lumina in Havana." But, he said, "they're out to get the little guy and set an example."

Articles covering Eickholt's fight have appeared in major daily and suburban newspapers. An editorial in the *Seattle Times* states, "The fines and seizure are excessive for the allegations made. Delivering a couple of propellers to Cuban fishermen is no trade threat."

Eickholt plans to appear on a radio show to explain his case and visit congressional offices along with a delegation of supporters.

He says that to his knowledge no boat has ever been seized on these charges. He noted that Canadians, Europeans, and "the whole world visits Cuba," including "quite a few American yachts," but "none which bring food." He added, "Life is more than having fun. I would feel awful if I did nothing but enjoy life and did nothing about helping other people. If you ever went to Cuba you'd know why."

George Chalmers is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 289.

ANC youth leaders on U.S. tour: 'We will not fall into the regime's trap of violence'

Minneapolis

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

MINNEAPOLIS — "When we first heard about the murder of Chris Hani, we started to pack our bags to return to South Africa," Eldred de Klerk told 135 students gathered in the Macalester College chapel. "But then we realized in talking with one another that we had a bigger responsibility to stay in the United States, to continue our speaking tour, and to counter the misinformation that is being presented in the press here with the truth about the actual developments in our country."

De Klerk, a member of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, outlined the main demands of the ANC: that a date be set for the first one-person, one-vote elections in South Africa; that a transitional executive council be put in place to organize the elections; and that South African president F. W. de Klerk step down from office.

De Klerk and Thabo Mzilikazi, also touring the United States, urged students to share what they had learned about the fight for the first free elections in South Africa with others and to organize a contingent to participate in a youth conference being organized in June by the ANC Youth League in South Africa.

In their two-day stop in this area, the Youth League leaders spoke to more than 400 people. Their tour included a meeting at the University of Minnesota, a citywide meeting held at the Sabathani Community Center, a visit with young musicians at a meeting of the "Hip Hop Parliament," and an invitation to an African-American history class at Edison High School in Minneapolis.

Press coverage brought the message of the anti-apartheid fighters to thousands more. A representative of University of Minnesota president Nils Hasselmo; Ron Merklings, president of the Minnesota Student Association; and Brock Satter, vice-chair of the Africana Student Cultural Center, spoke at a press conference welcoming the South African youths.

The youth leaders received letters of welcome from Minneapolis mayor Donald Fraser; St. Paul mayor James Scheibel; and U.S. senator Paul Wellstone.

San Francisco

BY JOAN RADIN

SAN FRANCISCO — Tseke Morathi of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League toured the Bay Area, California April 11-14. Morathi, ANC youth fundraising officer in the United States and Canada, spoke to more than 1,000 people at eight meetings and reached countless others through newspaper, radio, and television interviews.

The Bay Area Anti-Apartheid Network (BAAAN) sponsored the tour. It was the final leg of the two-month national Student-to-Student Empowerment Tour.

The ANC youth leader spoke to a Black studies class of 90 at Berkeley High School and to an assembly of over 400 students at San Leandro High School.

He also spoke at San Francisco State University, Laney College in Oakland, DeAnza College in Cupertino, and Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz. A wide range of student organizations, student governing bodies, professors, religious groups, and student activists endorsed, organized, and publicized the meetings. Collections were taken at three of the campus meetings. More than \$500 was raised for the ANC at Cabrillo College alone.

In all his talks the ANC youth leader addressed the issue of violence against the South African people. He explained that the objective of the April 10 assassination of ANC leader Chris Hani was to lengthen the life span of apartheid by derailing the current negotiations. The negotiations between the ANC-led democratic movement and the apartheid regime are paving the way for the first elections in which all South Africans will be able to take part.

"The violence," said Morathi, "is intended to create confusion and anger in the

people so they will react in a manner resulting in more violence." He told students at Cabrillo College that "the South African people will not fall into that trap," drawing a standing ovation from the audience.

Morathi said at San Francisco State University that the ANC aims to speed up the

Africans, regardless of race or national origin." The ANC is calling for elections for a constituent assembly based on one person, one vote.

Both youth leaders explained that victories in the fight for a democratic republic have been won only through struggle. "It



Clayton Lillienfeldt (second from left) tours farm of Larry Ginter (center) in Iowa. ANC youth leader spoke to hundreds of farmers, unionists, and students in that state.

negotiations process and the setting of a date for elections.

A student at Laney College asked about the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). Morathi replied that the government has funneled huge sums of money to Inkatha. He said Inkatha forces have carried out violent attacks against many opponents of apartheid.

Morathi noted that the IFP "never protested government policies, never called strikes or stay-aways, never called for student protests, and was opposed to economic sanctions against apartheid." He stressed the importance of making a distinction between Zulus and Inkatha. At San Francisco State he said there have always been Zulus in the ANC and ANC supporters in Natal where Inkatha is based.

At every gathering people asked what they could do to help bring down apartheid. The ANC youth leader encouraged listeners to become part of the 200,000 volunteers who will be needed in South Africa to carry out voter education so that the ANC policies on land reform, a bill of rights, schools, affirmative action, and many other issues will be clear to all voters.

Morathi was interviewed by KGO-TV, four radio stations, and campus newspapers at Cabrillo College and the University of California in Santa Cruz.

The youth leader ended his tour as the featured speaker at a BAAAN-sponsored memorial meeting attended by 200 anti-apartheid activists to celebrate the life of Chris Hani.

Seattle

BY STUART CROME
AND DAVID WARSHAWSKI

SEATTLE — Eldred de Klerk and Thabo Mzilikazi, two members of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, toured Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia April 11-14. They spoke at three high schools, three college campuses, and at a community meeting. They also went on a union-sponsored tour of a Kenworth truck plant and were interviewed by two newspapers and a radio station.

At the community meeting hosted by the King County Labor Council of the AFL-CIO, a message of welcome from the city of Seattle was read. Signed by Mayor Norman Rice, the statement proclaimed April 14 "Chris Hani Day." ANC leader Hani was assassinated April 10.

Answering questions about the ANC's strategy in the democratic movement's fight for elections in South Africa, de Klerk said "Nelson Mandela reminded us that nothing should be taken for granted. The ANC is fighting to be an organization of all South

wasn't because of de Klerk that Nelson Mandela was released," said Mzilikazi. "It took 40 years of our struggle to do that. It took you to put pressure on your government to force the regime to release him."

Asked about what the Freedom Charter — the program of the democratic movement — has to say about the nationalization of land, de Klerk responded by quoting the section of the Charter entitled "The land shall be shared among those who work it." It states, "Restriction of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land redivided amongst those who work it."

A statement released by Nelson Mandela was read at the community meeting. "The key is the transition to democracy," it said. "Only then will all South Africans be able to build a new South Africa."

The tour in Washington state was organized by the Southern Africa Action Network and was sponsored by the Washington State Labor Council, the Associated Students of the University of Washington, and Black student unions on various college campuses. The tour was endorsed as well by the National Organization for Women, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and various union locals.

Chicago

BY PAT SMITH

CHICAGO — Two African National Congress Youth League members, Thabo Mzilikazi and Eldred de Klerk, spoke to 2,500 high school and college students in their three-day tour here in mid-April. Their visit was part of a recently completed national tour of several South African youth leaders that was organized as a result of an African National Congress (ANC) support conference in New York last November.

The highlights of the tour were the meetings with 2,000 students at five public high schools on the city's South Side. Students varied in their knowledge of the South African revolution, but they listened carefully to the ideas presented by the ANC youth leaders. This was apparent by the thoughtfulness of their questions and the sharpness of debate that developed throughout the tour.

Students discussed the ANC's proposals for elections to a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution and for an interim government to include, on a proportional basis, all political parties that receive at least 5 percent of the popular vote.

The most common question was, "What can we do to help?" Mzilikazi and de Klerk invited students to South Africa for an international conference in June. "This confer-

ence," de Klerk told students at Hyde Park Career Academy, "gives us an opportunity to meet and exchange experiences and ideas with young people from around the world. We will prove we are not the 'lost generation' of South Africans between 14 and 40 years old that Ted Koppel coined in his interview with Nelson Mandela on 'Nightline.'" he said. "We're confident, mature, and capable," he continued. "There has been a lot of talk in the U.S. press about how Mandela can't 'control' the 'militant' youth. It is not Mandela's responsibility to control us but to guide us. We have proven ourselves to be capable and responsible. This [argument] is an excuse to use more cops to violate our rights. Doesn't it sound familiar?"

De Klerk also spoke to meetings of students and professors at Loyola University, the University of Illinois, Illinois Benedictine, North Central College, and Beloit College.

Mzilikazi spoke with students at Morgan Park, Corliss, Kenwood, and Julian high schools as well as at the University of Illinois and University of Chicago. He received a standing ovation from a crowd of 100 at a memorial meeting for slain ANC leader Chris Hani.

The ANC members also had informal meetings with members of the South African International Student Congress and supporters of framed-up union and political activist Mark Curtis.

Pat Smith is a member of United Transportation Union Local 577 in Chicago.

Des Moines, Iowa

BY GALE WHEELER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Clayton Lillienfeldt, a member of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, just completed a four-day tour of Iowa where he spoke with close to 700 unionists, farmers, students, and others.

Lillienfeldt was welcomed to Des Moines by a delegation from the newly formed African Association of Iowa, along with students working on the tour.

At a meeting with family farmers, Lillienfeldt explained the need to redistribute land and to maintain food production. "Black farmers do not have access to the same modern methods of farming that whites do," Lillienfeldt said. He noted that the postapartheid government would take the challenge of making sure the land is not overworked.

Around 40 union members at a United Auto Workers-organized shop heard the South African youth leader explain the need for working-class solidarity. Lillienfeldt discussed conditions in the plant with several women workers.

"The fight for women's rights is part of the fight for better wages," he said. "All of these struggles help break down the divisions among us." Workers in the plant took up a collection to help finance the tour.

Lillienfeldt also spoke at the University of Iowa, where he placed the blame for the violence in South Africa directly on the white regime. He explained the ANC Youth League's call for a united front of all youth opposed to apartheid, and the need to be disciplined. "We also need to step up the mass action and come up with a date for the elections."

In addition, Lillienfeldt addressed services at the Union Baptist and Maple Street Baptist churches, where he urged young people to get involved in the fight for a democratic South Africa.

Speaking at Iowa State University, Lillienfeldt focused on the role of youth in the South African revolution. He also explained why democratic forces in South Africa support Cuba's internationalist contribution to the freedom struggle in southern Africa.

Meetings were also held at Grinnell College and Drake University, where several students decided to organize further meetings on South Africa. Articles on the tour appeared in local and campus newspapers. Lillienfeldt was also interviewed for network radio.

Solidarity rally supports striking mushroom workers in Pennsylvania

BY NANCY COLE
AND MARK WYATT

KENNETT SQUARE, Pennsylvania — Representing labor, church, student, and community groups, 500 people marched through this town April 24 in support of striking mushroom workers. The march, followed by an ecumenical service and rally at a park next to the struck Kaolin mushroom farm, was called by the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights. A car caravan from the Puerto Rican community in Philadelphia joined the demonstration.

The march led off with 75 strikers, all wearing black armbands in memory of Cesar Chavez, the veteran farm worker leader who died April 23. They also wore red caps with the initials of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU). Earlier in the week the strikers had decided to affiliate with RWDSU. They hope this move will lead to weekly strike benefits, easing the severe economic pressures on strikers. The strike for union recognition began April 1.

The strikers are overwhelmingly Mexican immigrants. About 10 percent of mushroom workers in Chester County are Puerto Rican. The county produces nearly a quarter of the country's mushrooms, and Kaolin is the biggest mushroom company in the United States. Kennett Square, where Kaolin and other companies are located, is referred to as the "Mushroom Capital of the World."

Numerous labor contingents made up the march, including the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and United Auto Workers. Among the speakers was Joe Rauscher, president of the Philadelphia Council of the AFL-CIO. The council voted unanimously April 14 to support the striking workers after hearing strike organizer Ventura Gutiérrez. Gutiérrez led 75 strikers at the council meeting in chanting, "We want a union!"

A contingent from Asian-Americans United also took part in the April 24 march. Asian-Americans United is working with the strikers to reach out to the

Asian-American community in Philadelphia. Labor contractors are bringing in Vietnamese and Cambodian immigrant workers from Philadelphia to work as replacements at the struck farm.

'We are all part of working class'

Describing the effort to reach these Asian workers, organizer Gutiérrez told the rally, "No working person is our enemy. We are all part of one working class."

Later that evening, Gutiérrez and 10 strikers spoke at a strike support meeting hosted by the Militant Labor Forum in Philadelphia. One after the other, the strikers stood to explain why they walked off the job April 1. Together their testimonies painted a picture of the inhuman conditions of work and life imposed by the employer on those who produce Pennsylvania's biggest cash crop.

"They weren't treating us like human beings," explained one striker, Porfirio. "I've worked for the company for 10 years and every season they treated us worse."

Others said management had recently cut wages to \$4.50 an hour for hourly packing workers, required bigger baskets



Strike organizer Ventura Gutiérrez (left) speaking to the media. "No working person is our enemy," he said. "We are all part of one working class."

for the piecework pickers without changing the rate, and denied medical benefits. They described the many on-the-job injuries not covered by any workers' compensation benefits, and the increasing pressure from the bosses to work harder and faster.

Some strikers, in the face of company threats and economic pressures, have returned to work. But, Gutiérrez said, most of the 2,500 mushroom workers in Kennett Square have not crossed the picket line.

"It's time to tap organized industrial labor on the shoulder and say that the indifference to farm workers must end," Gutiérrez said.

He explained that efforts are under way to bring together farm worker groups from across the country to discuss a national organizing drive of the mushroom industry as part of an even larger organizing drive of agricultural workers.

Those wishing more information on how to support the strike can contact the Kaolin Workers Union, P.O. Box 246, 102 East State St., Kennett Square, PA 19348, or call (215) 444-9696.

Nancy Cole is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1776. Mark Wyatt is a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Textile workers publicize contract fight

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — More than 100 textile workers from plants in North Carolina and Virginia converged on the U.S. district courthouse here April 23 for a news conference where Bruce Raynor, executive vice-president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), announced a campaign to fight for a contract for Fieldcrest Cannon workers.

Buses brought workers to the media event from the Fieldcrest Cannon plants in Eden, North Carolina, and Fieldale, Virginia. Contract negotiations at Fieldcrest came to a halt

following workers' rejection of the company's latest offer. (The contract, which expired April 20, affects 4,200 workers at nine Fieldcrest plants in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia. Fieldcrest manufactures towels, blankets, bedding, and carpets. According to ACTWU union officials, the contract rejection is the first in more than 40 years. Workers came to the news conference with their union banner and wearing stickers that said, "8 is enough! No 12-hour shifts!"; "Stop minding my business!"; and "Subcontracting? Not my job!" Workers expressed their determination to fight for a contract.

"We're here demanding what's owed us," a worker from the blanket-finishing mill in Eden said.

Bobby Foley, a weaver at the Karastan rug mill in Eden said, "We work 27 days in a row, then get one Sunday off. We're against the forced overtime."

Although the main issues in the strike are wage increases, changes in contract language, and job security, the right to smoke has also become an issue. Fieldcrest has provided smoking areas for workers.

"They want to ban smoking on all company property, inside and outside the plants. We want to keep the right to smoke," Foley said.

"Fieldcrest cares very little about us," said a worker from the Fieldale plant in an interview with a local television station. He added, "We want overtime when we decide. We don't want it forced down our throats. The money is fine but it's killing our bodies."

One of the rug mill workers explained that Fieldcrest has begun subcontracting the sweepers' jobs. There are many sweeper jobs in textile mills because of the large amount of dust and lint generated.

Standing in front of television cameras with the ACTWU members behind him, Raynor said, "We're going to take actions up to and including strikes. The union has a wide variety of legal actions open to us both inside and outside the plants."

After the news conference, workers from the Eden and Fieldale plants met to discuss what they would do when they returned to their plants.

Union members at the Fieldale plant have been passing out information to workers at the plant gates. The day after the contract expired, workers going in and out of the plant got stickers to wear on their shirts. The union has also been on a drive to recruit new members in the plant.

Many workers at the Fieldcrest plant in Columbus, Georgia, said they were determined to fight for a contract. "There's going to be a war," one worker said. "We're going to have to shut this place down," said another.

Bruce Kimball is a spinner at Cone Mills in Greensboro and a member of ACTWU Local 1391.

Trinity strikers assess their eight-month fight as company moves to close plant permanently

BY DENISE MCINERNEY
AND BETSEY FARLEY

BESSEMER, Alabama — Workers at Trinity Industries here, who have been on strike for the past eight months, are discussing the company's announcement that it will close the plant.

More than 500 Steelworkers went on strike against Trinity in September 1992 in a dispute over wages and medical insurance. Since workers voted to reject the company's final offer, no serious negotiations have taken place.

Early in the strike, Trinity fired dozens of workers for alleged violations and declared that 57 of them were permanently discharged. The union insisted workers would not return to work without its fired members.

With the help of the courts, cops, and private guards, Trinity tried to operate the plant. But they have not been able to get enough strikebreakers or maintain production.

The company announced March 30 that it would close the plant. The announcement was first met with skepticism by the strikers. Recently, however, the company began removing machinery from the plant and dismissing the scabs who were working.

"I feel like we won because the company was forced to deal with the union or close the gate," said striker Samuel Pruitt. Picket captain Kenneth Jones said, "We've shown that the union isn't going to be pushed to the side."

With the announcement of plans to close the railcar plant, strikers are assessing their

eight-month battle against the company. "These companies are going back to the violent methods they used in the 1930s to try to break the union," Jones said. "We've got to get together and organize ourselves like the people did back then."

Pat Wallace, recording secretary for the union local, explained that support from other unions and the local community has helped the strikers stay strong. "Several locals of the United Mine Workers helped us with food and money contributions. They even donated toys for a Christmas party for strikers' children," she said.

More than 30 strikers have been arrested on frame-up charges ranging from malicious littering to assault. Many strikers say Bessemer city cops have acted like Trinity's private police force. "Cops have been out there all the time harassing us," Pruitt explained. Cecil Watts, chair of the local's grievance committee, said, "It's a crying shame when a company person can show a picture of a union member to a scab and say you did something. Then the scab points you out and the cops arrest you. But two or three of us can file a complaint against a strikebreaker and nothing happens."

"Some of these charges are going to the grand jury now," Watts, who is himself a frame-up victim, continued. "The whole setup is unfair, because the accuser goes in and says whatever he wants and you aren't allowed to present any defense. It's nothing but a fishing expedition."

Jury trials for some of those charged were scheduled to begin at the end of April. Hun-

dreds of signatures on petitions have been collected demanding the charges be dropped. The union is organizing supporters to pack the courtrooms for the strikers' trials.

The Bessemer plant is scheduled to close June 3. Striker Joan Andrew Bell explained that the union plans to "maintain the strike to the end, regardless of what the company says."

"If we fold and let them have what they want — a nonunion plant — we're jeopardizing our children's future and we're jeopardizing everyone's job, union and nonunion."

"Our struggle inspired people to the point of knowing that if you want something, you've got to stand up and fight for it," Bell said.

Striker Larry Burton explained, "Anytime you lose a job you feel sad, but the union stuck together and gave it a good shot. They're closing it down because they couldn't beat us." Sam Tartt, another striker, added, "Our strike will make a big difference if other people follow our example."

Messages asking that the charges against the Trinity strikers be dropped can be sent to: District Attorney, Courthouse Annex, 1801 3rd Ave., Bessemer, AL 35020, and District Attorney, 801 N. 21st St., Birmingham, AL 35203. Send copies of messages to United Steelworkers of America Local 9226, 1919 7th Ave., Bessemer, AL 35020.

Denise McInerney is a member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 9226, on strike against Trinity Industries. Betsey Farley is a member of USWA Local 2122 in Fairfield, Alabama.

Gay rights rally

Continued from front page

have asked the Secretary of Defense to determine how to implement an executive order lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military by July 15," Clinton wrote.

A large proportion of the march cheered when Clinton's statement was read. Others chanted, "Where's Bill?" questioning his decision not to make a statement in person.

Most of the speakers put forward the idea that this was an important time because Clinton is the first president to support rights for gays. While such statements met with an enthusiastic response from a majority of the crowd, many discussed whether this was true.

"We need to take this opportunity and run with it. With Clinton, maybe we can deal with homophobia for good," said Michael Wilson, who came to the demonstration from Chicago. He, like many others, opposed criticizing Clinton. "He's got a lot of problems, that's why we need to work with him," Wilson said.

An organizer of Operation Lift the Ban and the Human Rights Campaign Fund raised another view: "Clinton's voice is better than the previous voices we've had in Washington, but nobody's our savior. We have to be there."

Debate on military ban

More numerous than the thousands of signs were T-shirts expressing a great range of views. Many asserted that the wearer was gay. There were also large numbers of T-shirts and signs demanding more funding for AIDS research and an end to attacks on gays, health care, and abortion rights.

Numerous marchers had T-shirts and signs calling for an end to the ban on gay conduct in the military. Others took a different stance toward the military. For example, some wore a T-shirt that said, "The problem is dead soldiers, not gay soldiers. Ban the military now!"

Many felt the march was an important step in the fight to end discrimination against lesbians and gays. Fidi, a 26-year-old Georgetown University student from Reunion, a French island colony in the Indian Ocean near Africa, came to observe the march. "Discrimination against gays is a problem around the world, even in France. I would be happy if the people in the U.S. would deal a blow to discrimination."

Mark, from London, a city in Ontario, Canada, said he came because he believes gays in Canada are fighting for the same things as gays in the United States. He thought that in Canada, however, gays have "a few more human rights."

"This is what it is all about," said another demonstrator from Kansas, a state that had 1,000 people at the march. "This is the way we've been winning rights for hundreds of years."

Many speakers stressed that the fight for civil liberties should include lesbians and gays.

"We march today because oppression is simply wrong," said Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women. "Discrimination is wrong, whether against people with disabilities, people with AIDS or HIV, women, lesbians, gays, or bisexuals."

"We march," Ireland continued, to be "free from the cowardly murders of Dr. David Gunn, shot in the back by an anti-abortion terrorist in Pensacola, Florida; Chris Hani, cut down by racists in South Africa; or Alan Schindler, beaten to death by homophobic fellow sailors in Japan."

Jesse Jackson, president of the National Rainbow Coalition, opened his address by calling for a moment of prayer for United Farm Workers of America president Cesar Chavez and African National Congress national chairman Oliver Tambo, both of whom had recently died. "We must measure humanity and human rights by character and caring — not by race, sex, sex orientation, or religion," Jackson told the crowd.

There were numerous other speakers, including Ben Chavis, Rupert Richardson, and William Gibson, leaders of the NAACP; U.S. senator Edward Kennedy; talk show host Phil Donahue; U.S. representative Pat Schroeder; New York mayor David Dinkins; Washington, D.C., mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly; actresses Cybil Shepherd and Judith Light; and tennis player Martina Navratilova.

In the days before April 25 there were several demonstrations here, some attended by thousands of people.

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.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Struggle in the Coal Fields: Miners Defend Their Union. Sat., May 8, 7:30 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Crisis in Russia: What Way Forward for Working People. Sat., May 8, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

TEXAS

Houston

Slide Show and Reportback from April 1993

Clinton drops 'jobs' plan, pushes new taxes

BY GEORGE FYSON

The White House abandoned its efforts to push through an economic "stimulus package" April 21 when Republican senators successfully filibustered to block the bill, a combination of tax breaks for companies and a few spending programs. While President Bill Clinton's congressional critics and most reports in the big-business media presented this as a major setback for the U.S. president, it was only a small episode in the ongoing bipartisan assault on living standards and wages of working people.

Republican senators, who number 42 in the 100-person body, united to prevent the 60 votes that are necessary to end the delaying tactic of a filibuster. The tax breaks and spending plans amounted to roughly \$20 billion each.

The only piece of the package that the Senate agreed to pass was \$4 billion in extensions of unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed. Clinton claimed the original package would help generate half a million new jobs.

Following the plan's defeat in the Senate, capitalist commentators indicated that its economic impact would be minimal, given the program's small size relative to the U.S. economy. With 9 million officially unemployed, and another 8 million underemployed, the package was not designed to address seriously the problems generated by the depressed conditions of the capitalist market system.

This occurs at a time when the administration is floating proposals for tax increases

March on Washington for Gay Rights. Sat., May 8, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Clinton's Holocaust in Waco, Texas. Sat., May 8. Time and location to be announced. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

BRITAIN

London

The Myth of Women's Inferiority. Speaker: Doreen Wepler, representative of Communist League, member of Transport and General Workers' Union. Sat., May 8. Open House: 4 p.m., forum: 6 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-928-7993.

CANADA

Montreal

Challenges for the Labor Movement: The New World Disorder and the Crisis of Canadian Imperialism. Speaker: Michel Dugré, Communist League. Sun., May 9, 2 p.m. 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$4. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

— including extra taxes on such things as alcohol, tobacco products, and guns — assertedly to pay for revisions in how the health-care system is organized in the United States.

Significant among the possible new taxes being discussed is a value-added tax (VAT), which several White House officials have advocated. This is a national sales tax on all goods and services performed.

All of Washington's major imperialist rivals have a VAT in some form. In France the tax is 18.6 percent on goods; in Britain it is 17.5 percent; in Germany, 15 percent; in Japan, 3 percent.

As a form of sales tax, a VAT is regressive. That is, it hits working people the hardest. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a 5 percent VAT would mean that the 20 percent of households with the lowest income would pay 4.8 percent of their income toward the tax, while those in the upper 20 percent would only pay 1.5 percent.

In addition, there are huge administrative costs for a VAT, both for the government and for businesses large and small. An army of VAT inspectors is needed to police the system, which is based on recording the VAT for every transaction made by every business.

While the CBO estimates that administering the VAT could cost up to \$1.5 billion, some economists have estimated that it might cost in the region of \$8 billion. Such costs make it uneconomical to impose the tax unless it is as high as 6 to 8 percent. Businesses could be paying \$4 to \$7 billion more for extra accountants and clerks need-

Toronto

The Truth About Clinton's Holocaust in Waco: The Stakes for Working People. Speaker: Gary Kettner, member, United Steelworkers of America Local 8754. Sat., May 8, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. W. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver

Coal Miners Confront Bosses. Speaker: Betty Brown, Communist League, just returned from West Virginia coalfields. Sat., May 8, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24th Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

South Africa: The Fight for Democratic Rights. Sat., May 8, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Christchurch

Imperialist Intervention in Bosnia: Will It Help End the Civil War? Speaker: Stuart Needham. Sat., May 8, 7 p.m. 199 High St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington

Crisis in Peru: What's Behind the Anti-Worker Actions of Shining Path? Speaker: Felicity Coggan. Sat., May 8, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

ed to do the paperwork, the CBO estimated.

To gain acceptance of such a regressive and bureaucratic proposal, the government is linking it to the introduction of a health-care plan, which, it is said, will benefit those receiving the lowest incomes.

This is a thorough scam, however. There is absolutely no connection between how new taxes are raised, or whether they are raised at all, and how tax revenues are spent. It could equally well be argued that the VAT is for the purpose of sustaining military expenditures at their current level.

Truth on Yugoslavia

Continued from Page 4

with that issue. Much of the material, including photographs, resulted from a trip to Yugoslavia by a team of *Militant* reporters in July 1992. They visited Belgrade, Kosovo, Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik, Sarajevo, and Skopje, as well as several cities in Greece, speaking with workers, antiwar activists, and students.

A note on the authors. George Fyson is editor of the *Militant*. Argiris Malapanis, managing editor of the *Militant*, led the paper's reporting team to Yugoslavia in July 1992. Jonathan Silberman is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union in Manchester, England. He is a contributing editor of the magazine *New Internationalist*.

April 1993

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

Sexist pig of the week — A man was arrested in Berkeley, California.



Harry Ring

nia, for grabbing at the breast of a passing woman. A Berkeley police lieutenant commented that the man had done "what every red-blooded American boy dreams of doing on a warm summer's day, but most people have the self-control to know not to do it."

See, we do have preventive medicine — At better pet shops, prenatal care nutritional supplements for pregnant cats and dogs.

Ear plugs? — The Edison, New Jersey, Boy's baseball league rejected a mother's offer to serve as coach or scorekeeper for her son's Little League team. *Sporting News* reports, "She was told by League officials that the language used in coaching meetings was not for a woman's ears." The paper added, "Welcome to the 1990s, fellas."

By any means necessary — "The aggressive posture we have taken... continues to make these

cases extremely burdensome and expensive for plaintiffs' lawyers. To paraphrase General Patton, the way we won these cases was not by spending all of Reynold's money, but by making that other son of a bitch spend all his." — A lawyer's 1988 memo on one strategy for beating back suits by tobacco victims.

Capitalist planning — Everex Systems, a California personal computer firm, will slash its work force by 25 percent. *The Wall Street Journal* explained the move was "part of a broad plan to revive the once fast-growing company."

Shopping tip — The feds plan

to auction off six choice golfing and resort properties owned by a busted New Orleans thrift. The asserted book value totals \$750 million.

Facts of life — "Make a visitor stand in front of your desk... Lean back and look at him coldly through a frozen smile. The body language of contempt can cut your opponent like a razor." "Everybody cheats at one time or another... Dirty tricks are part of the game." — *Executive Strategies*, 12 issues, \$59.

Clear-eyed sky pilot — "I'm a bit too good-hearted. But in management, I've got to get a job done." — A testimonial to *Executive Strat-*

egies from a Los Angeles minister with a staff of 12.

The Bomb Channel — If he can raise the necessary bread, an operator is looking to establish a 24-hour cable TV military channel. It will feature war documentaries, plenty of John Wayne movies, and, hopefully, a segment on the Stealth aircraft. "There'll be no talk, just music. You sit and watch it fly for six minutes."

Thought for the week — "There but for the grace of God go I." — A Los Angeles cop responding to the conviction of Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell in the beating of Rodney King.

Child abuse frame-up of day-care worker reversed

BY MARTHA PETTIT

NEWARK, New Jersey — Margaret Kelly Michaels, a child-care worker who was falsely accused of sexual abuse five years ago, was vindicated March 26 when a New Jersey appeals court threw out her conviction, saying she had been denied a fair trial.

Michaels, then 26 years old, was convicted April 15, 1988, of 115 out of 131 counts of sexually abusing 19 children in the Wee Care Day Nursery in Maplewood, New Jersey. She was sentenced to 47 years in prison.

The prosecutors had accused Michaels of raping the children — who were between the ages of three and five — with knives, forks, Lego blocks, and a large wooden spoon; making the children perform oral sex with her; forcing them to drink her urine and eat her feces; and playing games in the nude, among other charges.

She supposedly committed this mass abuse on a daily basis, during school hours, in a church where the day-care center was housed.

Yet none of the other teachers, administrators or church personnel, as well as none of the parents and parishioners who regularly went through the premises saw, heard, or smelled anything.

For the entire time Michaels worked there, not a single child said a word to their parents about this or complained about pain from the alleged brutal acts.

How the frame-up began

The charge that set the process into motion was made by a four-year old boy who, on having his temperature taken rectally during a visit to the pediatrician, said to the nurse, "That's what my teacher does to me at nap time at school." The youngster did not add that the teachers at the day-care center took the children's temperature with plastic strips on the forehead.

A government child protection agency then questioned some of the kids and on the basis of unfounded speculation mobilized a battery of social workers and "experts" to launch an investigation. The investigation went on for two years.

Tape recordings of the interrogations, which were the basis for the prosecution's case, show that the children were browbeaten and cajoled into saying what the investigators wanted to hear. "If you don't help me, I'm going to tell your friends that you not only don't want to help me, but you won't help them," social worker Louis Fonolleras warned one youngster.

The investigators gave children "anatomically correct" rag dolls. If the kids played with the toy genitals, interviewers wrote that they were "victimizing" the dolls, supposedly indicating their own victimization. Investigators downplayed children's denials and fantastic answers, and the prosecutor told the jury they didn't have to believe everything the children said. One boy said students threw Michaels "right out of the chimney." Another described Michaels putting a "real car and tree" on a boy while molesting him. One child declared Michaels turned him into a mouse.

The judge did not allow both sides to be heard in the courtroom. Despite two years of "investigation" by the prosecution, the defense was denied the ability to talk to these children and carry out their own investigation because, the judge said, the children would be too traumatized by a second set of psychologists.

In a blow to the Sixth Amendment right to



Kelly Michaels, freed after five years in jail.

face one's accuser, the court had the children testify in the judge's chambers, and their testimony was shown on closed-circuit TV. The appeals court decision reversing Michaels's conviction stated, "The in-chamber proceedings were conducted in a manner so far removed from proper standards of impartially presenting the testimony of the children witnesses, that the defendant was denied a fair and impartial trial."

In an interview, appeals counsel William Kunstler said the importance of the appellate ruling is that "prosecutors can no longer present a case in which there is no corroborating evidence for what children say."

The appellate decision, Kunstler also noted, challenges the use of the "Child Sexual Abuse Syndrome," the "Child Sex Abuse Accommodate Syndrome," and other unscientific methods that the prosecution presented as facts to bolster its case.

For example, psychologist Eileen Treacy testified for the prosecution that if a child said emphatically that nothing had happened, the denial — according to these alleged "syndromes" — was the very proof that the abuse had taken place. All friendship or affection shown by teacher to child signified an effort to seduce, the "expert" testified.

Much of the big-business press contributed to the wild campaign of speculation and rumors that undercut Michaels's fundamental right to the presumption of innocence. They propagated the prosecution's rumor, for example, that Michaels was herself a victim of child abuse. While there was not a shred of evidence to support these rumors, the common currency was that victims of abuse turn into abusers. This was then more "proof" that Michaels was guilty.

Salem witch trials

In an article published in the March 31 *New York Times*, syndicated columnist Anna Quindlen throws the presumption of innocence out the window. She wrings her hands and says that there was a great wrong done in the case, but she's unsure whether it was to Michaels or to the children. She says that calling the trial and persecution of Michaels a witchhunt like the Salem witch trials, as supporters of Michaels have done, is a "cheap and easy metaphor that implies malevolent hysteria." Nineteen women were tried and hanged as "witches" and many others persecuted in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692 during a hysterical campaign pushed by government officials and the clergy. Testimony from children, claiming to be possessed by the devil, was used to obtain convictions. In 1696, the legislature passed a resolution admitting the injustice of the trials.

Quindlen's column was answered by William Kunstler in a letter that appeared in the April 5 *New York Times*.

"It is indisputable that the witch trials that contorted New England in the waning years of the 17th century were generated not by 'malevolent hysteria,'" he wrote, but "by people sincerely convinced they were participants in a 'front-line struggle against the Devil and his legions.'"

"It was never our purpose to denigrate the parents," Kunstler continued, who "were genuinely overwhelmed by the possibility that their children had been sexually abused. If anyone in this tragic case was 'malevolent,' it was the investigators... and the prosecutors.... The parallel between such unfair methods in 1692 and 1985 was... startling."

"Believe the Children" became the rallying cry for prosecutors in several similar cases of alleged child abuse by day-care worker in the 1980s. In the Michaels case the facts show that those who abused and manipulated the children were the prosecutors, their professional experts, and social workers — all in the name of "protecting the children."

Defense of children against the very real

sexual abuse which occurs in society is strengthened by the appellate ruling in the Michaels case. Allowing fantastic, unsubstantiated claims to be used in court to put an innocent woman in prison is a serious obstacle to the effort to properly investigate and prosecute real cases of child abuse.

Kelly Michaels always maintained her innocence. Regarding the parents she said, "I was more free in this prison than they have been on the street. They believe in something that didn't happen."

"I pray that they will be able to confront that they were pressured, or got hoodwinked, and that they ended up being involved in something that was a fraud."

Michaels is currently free on bail set at \$75,000. The judge added several conditions, however: that Michaels not associate with children under 13 years old, that she enter New Jersey only for reasons of court appearances, that she not be allowed to hold a passport and that she report monthly to her lawyer. The appeals court has remanded her case to a lower court — either for dismissal or a new trial.

Michaels said the overturn of her conviction was "a victory, not just for me, but for all of them who have known this was a fraud and a terrible injustice."

Martha Pettit is a sewing machine operator who works in Garfield, New Jersey.

25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

THE MILITANT

Published in the interest of the Working People

May 10, 1968

Price 10¢

The Student Strike against the Vietnam war April 26 was the largest student strike since the thirties. Large demonstrations took place in Czechoslovakia and Japan as well as actions in Canada, Great Britain, Europe and Latin America.

The organizers of the strike, the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, have already received reports from 280 colleges and high schools throughout the country, documenting participation of more than 365,000.

The *New York Times* put the strike [in New York City] at 200,000 for metropolitan area high schools and city colleges.

Next to New York, the heaviest turnout for the strike among high school students was in Detroit. Twenty-two high schools participated in the strike. More than 3,000 were at a rally at Wayne State University.

In Berkeley, Calif., 30 percent of the 4,000 students at Berkeley High School stayed out of school. Eight hundred demonstrated at the Oakland induction center demanding freedom for imprisoned Black Panther Party leader Huey Newton, and then marched to the University of California for a rally.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

May 8, 1943

By asserting their independence of the Roosevelt administration, the miners won the first round in their fight to obtain wage

increases to meet the rising cost of living. It was no secret that the administration was anxious not only to deny the miners' economic demands — the winning of which would inspire all the other unions to press for similar gains — but also to smash John L. Lewis and crush the strong position held by the United Mine Workers.

After the coal operators hurried away from the New York wage negotiation conference to place their case into the hands of Roosevelt's War Labor Board, the miners began to walk out of the mines. The WLB appealed to them to return. The answer they got was more walkouts.

On April 29 Roosevelt ordered the UMW to resume and continue production after the expiration of the mine contract on May 1 and warned that he would use his power as commander-in-chief if they refused. The answer he got on May 1 was a complete shutdown of all the soft-coal and hard-coal mines in the country.

Roosevelt then ordered Secretary of the Interior Ickes to take over all the mines and fly the United States flag over them, and he directed the Secretary of War to provide "protection" to those who wanted to work. But no miners wanted any such protection; they all stayed away from the mines.

A few minutes before Roosevelt was scheduled to make a radio broadcast to the miners on the evening of May 2, Lewis announced that he had met with Ickes and arranged a 15-day truce, and that the UMW national leaders wanted the miners to go back to work on Tuesday morning.

Roosevelt then called on the miners to return to work on Monday morning. But only a small minority returned to the mines on Monday; the great majority waited until Tuesday as they had been requested to do by their union.

Clinton's hypocrisy on Waco

In what can only be described as an act of unabashed hypocrisy, U.S. president Bill Clinton led the dedication of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., April 22. Speaking before that gathering, Clinton condemned "animosity and violence" in the world today. No one there so much as mentioned Clinton's holocaust in Waco, Texas.

Just three days earlier, FBI agents, acting with Clinton's full knowledge and approval, had carried out a murderous assault on a religious sect that left 86 people dead. Two days before he opened the museum, dedicated to those who died in Nazi concentration camps, Clinton reiterated his support for the cold-blooded attack on the Branch Davidians' headquarters, falsely claiming, "We did everything we could to avoid the loss of life."

Even FBI officials now admit they expected the occupants of the ranch to suffer heavy casualties when they began their tank-and-tear-gas assault. The knowledge that the wooden buildings were a potential fire trap and that kerosene lanterns were being used for lighting did not deter them from battering down the walls, an act that shook the complex to its foundations. These facts did not make Clinton or Attorney General Janet Reno waver from approving the course of action.

Instead, Clinton has helped to lead a campaign of lies, half-truths, and unsubstantiated accusations to justify the government's initial February 28 raid on the Branch Davidians and the final deadly assault in mid-April. Charg-



Clinton dedicating Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. None of the liberals or others present uttered a peep about Clinton's holocaust in Waco, Texas.

es of child abuse, illegal weapons production, and, most recently, mass suicide or murder, have been leveled against David Koresh and his followers.

Most ruling-class figures, politicians, and commentators from both the Democratic and Republican parties are falling in line behind Clinton. Even those who complain that the situation could have been "handled better" repeat the cops' claim that the fire was deliberately started inside the compound. Authorities have rejected efforts by attorneys for surviving Branch Davidian members that independent investigators be allowed to inspect the premises and conduct forensic exams.

The criminals who are responsible for the Waco inferno sit in the White House. From the moment the cops first assaulted the Waco farm in February to the massacre two months later, the government trampled on basic democratic rights, such as the right to due process and the presumption of innocence.

Millions of working people were outraged and horrified as they watched the conflagration on TV. This type of government violence has been used in the past against unionists, Black rights activists, and other fighters against injustice, and will be used more in the future. We cannot allow the rulers of the United States to justify such brutality, whatever the targeted group's religious or political beliefs might be. Working people must tell the truth about Clinton's massacre in Waco.

Support miners' fight

"Take this message back to your mines; prepare yourselves to resume the strike," United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) leader John Cox told a rally in St. Louis April 24.

All working people should take this call to heart. Now is the time to step up solidarity with the coal miners. Rallies like those organized April 24 in St. Louis and Los Angeles and the Hanson-Peabody Solidarity Day organized by the AFL-CIO on April 27 are the way to go. Working people and youth should plan to build and attend the march and rally in Pittsburgh on May 1. Rank-and-file coal miners have a proud history of successful resistance to company demands for concessions that spans decades.

The union mobilization, support strikes, and cross-country car caravans of the Pittston strike victory of 1988-89 mean that thousands of coal miners have some experience under their belts. They know the value of solidarity and the importance of linking up with other unions in battle. Just 2 months ago, the miners won another victory in the first stage of the current battle against Peabody Coal.

Nonunion miners and other workers have been inspired by the UMWA-organized fight. That's what's behind the organizing drives the UMWA has won or is fighting to win at

Buck Creek in Indiana, Marrowbone in West Virginia, and Wolf Creek in Kentucky. Success in organizing nonunion mines can accelerate with the battles to come.

Militant supporters have been fielding sales and reporting teams to coal mining communities for the last three months. Dozens of subscriptions and far more than 1,000 copies of the *Militant* have been sold. Now more than ever, coal miners and their supporters need the working-class world view that the *Militant* offers. This is the time to organize more teams to circulate the *Militant* and get accurate on-the-scene coverage of the miners' fight.

"The rest of the labor movement is welcome on our picket lines," Cox told the St. Louis rally. Workers involved in similar fights, from mushroom pickers in eastern Pennsylvania to steelworkers in eastern Germany, will welcome this invitation.

Working people have a tremendous stake in this battle. From the miners and railworkers in Britain to the steel and electrical workers in Germany and the fighting working classes of South Africa and Cuba, there is no more powerful ally than fighting workers in the United States — the most powerful imperialist country in the world. The labor movement in the U.S. and around the world should throw its full support behind the miners' battle.

No to intervention in Yugoslavia

The United Nations Security Council decision to tighten the embargo against Serbia and Montenegro will hurt the people of the region just like the sanctions strangling Iraq have harmed working people there. The seizure of Yugoslav assets abroad, from planes to bank accounts, amounts to piracy on a grand scale.

It is also clear that Washington and its allies are moving closer to direct military intervention, such as bombing Serbian supply lines. Some in capitalist ruling circles are advocating even more extensive military attacks.

Economic sanctions already in effect have caused great hardship in Serbia and Montenegro. Unemployment has risen to 40 percent, average monthly wages have dropped from \$500 to \$50, and inflation is running at an incredible 25,000 percent a year.

The tightened sanctions are designed to force the rightist Serbian forces fighting in Bosnia to sign the United Nations plan drawn up by negotiators Cyrus Vance and David Owen. This carve-up, which artificially divides the country into numerous small pieces, supposedly on a rough ethnic basis, contains the seeds of countless future disputes.

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia is not the result of irreconcilable antagonisms between people of different ethnic groups, languages, and religions, despite what capitalist politicians and their mouthpieces in the news media repeatedly claim. It is caused by the rivalry between the bureaucratic gangsters who head the various regimes that

emerged from Yugoslavia's breakup and who are engaged in a bloody war to enlarge their turf.

All the regimes and forces involved — from the rulers in Belgrade and Zagreb to the Bosnian government and the leaders of the Serbian and Croatian rightist forces fighting there — share the blame for the carnage. All have conducted vicious ethnic cleansing, directed against workers and farmers. Their grab for land and resources has caused tens of thousands of deaths and created millions of refugees.

Only the working people of the region, who have been the victims of this slaughter and destruction, can resolve the bitter antagonisms that the conflict has created. This can only be achieved through forging unity in struggle against the parasitic regimes that rule over them.

Will working people in Yugoslavia be able to replace the rival gangs in power with their own government and put an end to the war? That depends on progress toward forging a working-class leadership with a clear political perspective. Reliance on workers' own organization — not on any of the current regimes in the former Yugoslav republics or any capitalist government — is the only road forward. Working people in Bosnia, Serbia, and the other republics need time and the freedom to put different leaderships and perspectives to the test.

Working people around the world should oppose imperialist intervention in the Balkans in all its forms, from sanctions to direct military action.

Official version on Waco wears thin

Continued from front page

Just three days after the murderous assault, Clinton spoke in Washington, D.C., dedicating the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to the victims of Nazi genocide in World War II. Neither he nor any of the other speakers at the event mentioned the massacre carried out with the president's approval in Waco.

Police and government officials have tried to bolster their claim of suicide, with an arson investigation. All of the investigators have been recommended by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). This is the agency that carried out the first assault on the Branch Davidian complex February 28 and then laid siege to the place. In its preliminary report, the arson team concluded that "this fire was intentionally set by the persons inside the compound."

The report argues that, since the fire began some distance away from where the tanks smashed into the wall, it could not be the result of a falling lantern. But survivors said that stairways, walls, and ceilings were collapsing under the repeated impact of tanks that shook the entire building, making it likely that the burning lanterns would be knocked to the floor as well.

Four of seven fire experts interviewed by the *New York Times*, who viewed videotapes of the blaze, said the tapes do not show how the fire began.

Government officials claimed that the fact that one survivor tried to return to the building was evidence that she wanted to commit suicide. But Thomas Klem, director of the National Fire Protection Association in Boston, noted that the fire would have quickly released large amounts of toxic gases that cause confusion. "It's not unusual for people to try to return to burning buildings," he said. "They are intoxicated and disoriented."

FBI knew casualties would be high

The FBI now admits it expected a high number of casualties among those inside when it began the assault on the Branch Davidians' living quarters. Bob Ricks, one of the cops in charge of the attack, claimed that they believed by battering and teargassing the buildings they could rescue the children inside. "We knew that the chances were great that the adults would not come out unharmed," Ricks told a Dallas newspaper.

The claim by Attorney General Janet Reno and others that suspected child abuse was a primary reason for ordering the assault is also becoming discredited. Accusations of child abuse against the Branch Davidians were investigated twice before; in neither case was proof found. None of the 21 children who came out of the compound during the siege showed signs of abuse. Nevertheless, media reports remain full of quotes from people like cult "expert" Priscilla Coates, who said, "I know how these types of groups work, and children are always abused."

Reno won high marks at a Senate hearing April 22 for her actions in approving and defending the assault. "I think you acted in an outstanding fashion," Democrat Ernest Hollings told the attorney general. Phil Gramm, a Republican, seconded him, saying, "I don't think we will achieve anything by pointing fingers and trying to say who's guilty of what here."

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen indicated April 28 that he might fire ATF head Stephen Higgins, who supervised the initial government raid in February. Bentsen is attempting to pin the blame on Higgins for the way the raid — which led to the deaths of 4 ATF cops and 6 members of the Branch Davidian group — was conducted. The ATF, however, is subordinate to the Treasury Department, for which Bentsen is responsible.

'Responsibility rests with Koresh'

The April 21 *Wall Street Journal* ran a column by Charles Sykes stating that "the ultimate responsibility for the death of the 80-odd cult members rests solely with [Branch Davidian leader] David Koresh." Next to this article was an editorial headlined "In Defense of Janet Reno."

Many liberal figures have joined in putting the full blame on Koresh. Speaking at the April 25 march for gay rights in Washington, D.C., Rev. Jesse Jackson referred to him as "a Bible-toting, hymn-singing, heterosexual maniac, who subjected 100 people to be incinerated in an inferno."

Even those commentators and politicians who have criticized the government's decision to violently assault the sect's headquarters generally promote the assertion that the Branch Davidians lit the fire.

Several of the survivors are still in jail as "material witnesses"; some may face murder charges in relation to the fire.

CORRECTIONS

Two errors appeared in the May 3 issue. The article on the Canadian miners' strike in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, appearing in the "On the Picket Line" column should have stated that 77 families of strikers were sponsored in March, not 27.

The article entitled "Campaign is launched in Miami to defend anti-embargo protesters victimized by cops" states, "The police revoked the permits of both the anti-embargo protesters and the rightists and ordered everyone to leave." This is incorrect. The rightists who attacked the anti-embargo protesters did not have a permit. The anti-embargo protesters, on the other hand, did have a legal permit. Their permit was revoked by the police during the attack.

Philadelphia oil workers fight for union contract

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

More than 200 Chevron refinery workers in Philadelphia surrounded

ware River. Five of these are organized by OCAW.

The company is asking for pay cuts ranging from 10 cents to \$1.05 an hour.

The April 6 demonstration was the third in two months. All of the rallies have numbered more than 150 workers.

"We're writing up a flyer with a description of what is happening here to be distributed at the other Chevron refineries," said Jim Akins, executive vice president of OCAW Local 8-234.

Chevron has OCAW-organized refineries in Utah, California, and Texas. The Philadelphia workers are collecting \$10 from each member to send two local members to

bers of Local 151 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) voted unanimously to ratify their first contract. Of the initial 18 strikers, all Puerto Ricans, 11 walked into the plant to applause and cheers from supporters. José Figueroa, a worker at the company since 1991, thanked supporters. "It's been a long battle, but we now have a victory and a contract," he said.

According to Danny Perez, ILGWU state organizing director, the three-year contract includes wage increases of 65 cents per hour for the first year and 25 cents each subsequent year. The current average hourly wage is \$6.50. The employer was also forced to establish a health and safety committee. Plastonics was cited for 58 health and safety violations and fined \$62,000 by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. It is also being investigated by the government environmental protection agency for violating air pollution rules.

Five other rallies were held at the plant in the course of the strike, reflecting widespread support in the community and the labor movement.

Steve Thornton, ILGWU strike organizer, pointed to a prohibition against race and sex discrimination in the contract. "The company really tried to hold out on this one," he stated. While all the strikers won their jobs back, a few of the 32 scabs that crossed the picket line, supplied by a local temporary work

service, will remain. But as one striker emphasized, "It's nice to go back to work, now that they have recognized the union." □

Workers discuss overtime and profits

A March 18 article in the *Des Moines Register* titled "Workers log more overtime," started a discussion among workers at Herschel Corp. in Indianola, Iowa. Herschel manufactures agricultural implements. Departments like the press room have been working 10-hour shifts for the past two months.

The article explained that, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. workers are putting in more overtime now than any time since record-keeping began in the 1950s. Factory workers now average 4.2 hours of overtime each week. This is occurring when nearly 9 million people can't find jobs. Harvard economist Juliet Schor said, "What we've got is a great social irrationality." She's right. Instead of hiring new press operators or opening up a third shift to spread the work around, Herschel is squeezing more work out of its current work force, which numbered 250 several years ago and is now around 80.

Some workers said they didn't mind the overtime. "All this overtime must be costing them an arm and a leg," one worker remarked.

But the *Register* article cites John Zalusky, an AFL-CIO economist,

who says that paying a worker time-and-a-half only costs employers an extra 3 percent. It's much cheaper than to hire new workers.

Pro-union workers here think the company is pushing overtime to stockpile in anticipation of a strike in June, when the contract expires. While this may be partly true, forced overtime is a cold-blooded business decision to increase profits at workers' expense.

One boss told workers at Herschel that the way to stop the overtime was to be "more productive." He suggested taking less breaks and working faster to get more hours out of the machines. This approach didn't motivate even one worker.

Economist Zalusky advocates changing the Fair Labor Standards Act to require double-time pay for overtime instead of the current time-and-a-half. While this would be welcome, several Herschel workers said they should be paid enough so they wouldn't need overtime pay at all. They agreed that the available work should be spread around by hiring more people. □

The following people contributed to this week's column: Kathy Mickells, a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-901 in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania; Alex Koskinas, a member of Administrative and Residential Employees Local 4200 in Hartford, Connecticut; and Bill Kalman, a member of International Association of Machinists Local 254 in Indianola, Iowa.

ON THE PICKET LINE

the car of James Zewan, chief negotiator for Chevron as he exited the refinery after a day of negotiations April 6. He was delayed from catching his flight by the resulting traffic jam.

Zewan was at the refinery for negotiations with the recently recognized unit of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 8-234. In September 1992, workers voted in OCAW by a 2-1 vote. They are attempting to get their first contract, but the company is stonewalling on the negotiations.

The Philadelphia plant is one of eight refineries that line the Dela-

visit the other locals and oil workers in those areas.

They also plan to leaflet motorists using the Platt Bridge, which crosses over the refinery, to notify people about the possible safety hazards at the plant brought about by management's restructuring plans. □

Plastonics workers win strike victory

Thirty people attended a "Back to Work" rally on April 14 celebrating the recent victory by strikers at Plastonics in Hartford, Connecticut. After 23 weeks on strike, mem-

LETTERS

Indian spear fishing

Supporters of Anishinaabe (Chippewa) treaty rights in Minnesota prepared for the approaching spear-fishing season with a community forum March 26 and a counter-demonstration against an anti-Indian rally March 27.

The Anishinaabeg ceded northern Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota to the U.S. in a series of treaties but they retained the right to hunt and fish in the ceded territories. These rights were not respected by state governments for most of this century, but were recognized by the Voight decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, in the early 1980's.

As public spear-fishing in Wisconsin began again in the mid-1980's, fishers were harassed and assaulted by racist mobs. This right-wing mobilization continued until 1991, but was worn down by counter-mobilizations by hundreds of treaty rights supporters, who joined the fishers and their families at the boat landings.

The Minnesota state government claims that the Voight decision is not binding because Minnesota is not in the 7th Circuit. The Mille Lacs band of Anishinaabe filed suit in 1992, demanding recognition of treaty rights. The band and the state have negotiated an out-of-court settlement. A band referendum approved the settlement; the state legislature is considering it, but its passage is by no means guaranteed.

About 60 people attended the March 26 forum, which was held at Holy Rosary church in south Minneapolis and sponsored by Witness for Non-Violence, Clergy and Laity Concerned, and Women Against Military Madness. Five speakers from several Anishinaabe bands opposed the settlement. Mille Lacs band officials were invited to defend the settlement, but they did not respond.

The March 27 anti-Indian rally drew over 1,000 people to the State Capitol in St. Paul to oppose any state recognition of treaty rights. Treaty rights were opposed on grounds of defense of natural re-

sources. Another demand of the rally, which has nothing to do with treaties but reflects the economic interests of resort owners, is that three mechanized portages in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness, recently ordered closed by a federal court order, be re-opened. Addressing this latter issue, a speaker referred to environmentalists as "anti-human."

Demanding respect for the treaties, about 50 people held a counter-demonstration at the edge of this rally. The counter-demonstration was called by Leonard Thompson, a Minneapolis firefighter who is Anishinaabe.

Tom O'Brien
St. Paul, Minnesota

Government lies

In discussing the FBI attack on the Davidian complex in Waco with a coworker, I said that the FBI was using the allegation that they were religious zealots and child abusers to legitimize increased use of cop violence against citizens. My coworker who is a fellow *Militant* subscriber replied right away, "I'm not prepared to believe they did abuse children. Look at that guy in the *Militant*, Curtis. It's easy to blackmail people." A small example of the contribution of the Mark Curtis defense campaign in teaching us how to see through the lies!

Katy Lerougetel
Montreal, Quebec

Keep up the good work

Keep up the good work. We need news like yours that is not slanted in favor of the ruling class.

James Mendez
Norwalk, California

Northern Ireland

The systematic abuse of Catholics was the center of focus at Canada's first Conference on Human Rights in Northern Ireland held at McGill University's Law School in Montreal on March 19 and 20.

Over two hundred people gathered to hear speakers from Northern

THE WIZARD OF ID



Ireland, from Canadian Unions, Members of Parliament and U.S. Human Rights activists denounce the conditions that the Catholics in Northern Ireland are made to suffer under the British occupation.

Guilford 4 member Paul Hill, who spent 16 years in British prisons for a bombing he didn't commit, said that "only when international bodies (the UN, EC, etc.) actually are concerned about the plight of our community will they (England and the loyalists) desist from violence."

Jean Bishop, from American Protestants for Truth in Ireland, denounced the state-sponsored killings of IRA members. "In British law there is no death penalty," she said, "so that summary executions are committed by the security forces."

Bishop pointed out that in the past 25 years 340 of these killings have been disputed by the Irish Catholics. Only 28 cases were brought to court by the authorities resulting in just two convictions. One received a suspended sentence for manslaughter and the other, after serving only 2 1/2 years for murder, returned to the British military.

Meanwhile hundreds of Catholic youth and young men are picked up off the streets or out of their beds and forced to sign confessions to crimes they didn't commit in order to make the numbers look good. In order to stop this "conveyor belt," as it is called in the North, Hill said, "We must have immediate access to solicitors, the right to silence, and a jury trial by our peers, not in a Diplock Court or with Loyalists as the jurors."

Paul Hill, reflecting on U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement

on St. Patrick's Day that he will not send a special envoy to Northern Ireland anytime soon, warned, "the British will see it's the same old agenda and they will take it as a green light to continue their policy."

During his run for President, Mr. Clinton supported a special envoy and had denounced the Human Rights abuses in Northern Ireland.

"Human rights in Northern Ireland," said Hill, "is as much an issue as Human Rights in Bosnia, Palestine and the rest of the world."

"I firmly believe that Sinn Fein should be engaged in the peace talks. I don't believe there can be peace unless all the warring factions, and that includes the Unionist factions, are seated at a table and they can thrash matters out."

Len Kaminsky,
Brooklyn, New York

Rape frame-up

James Jones, a Black man, spent five weeks in jail here on a rape charge even though the victim, a white woman, explicitly eliminated his picture from a selection of eight mug shots.

"I knew they had the wrong guy," the woman told the *Salt Lake Tribune*. "They ran this guy through because they didn't have anyone else." The woman described her attacker as a 6-foot tall Black man with short hair, wearing a black jacket. Jones is 5-foot 7-inches tall, has long hair, and was picked up wearing a blue and purple jacket with white lettering.

Cops ignored the woman's judgment, telling her that rape victims are often too traumatized to reliably

identify attackers. Jones was charged with aggravated sexual assault, a first-degree felony, based on a detective's statement that Jones "fit the same description as the suspect." Bail was set at \$100,000.

While in jail Jones lost his job. His wife and newborn baby, who was born while Jones was in jail, were evicted from their apartment, unable to pay rent. All three now stay in a Salt Lake City homeless shelter. Jones cannot find a new job because the rape charge remains on his criminal record, even though it was formally dropped after a DNA test proved his innocence.

The judge in the case called Jones's jailing and subsequent homelessness and poverty "a tragedy." He continued, "But, from my vantage point everyone was doing their job. It's unfortunate that Mr. Jones was inconvenienced — significantly inconvenienced — but it's an imperfect system. It happens."

Mike Bodily
Salt Lake City, Utah

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.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

1,500 rally against racists in Florida

BY ELLEN BRICKLEY
AND JIM KENDRICK

MIAMI BEACH, Florida — More than 1,500 people rallied April 24 in a counterdemonstration against a white supremacist rally of about 40 people that was held near the Holocaust Memorial here.

Almost a third of the counterprotesters were young people. Dozens of high school students turned out, including a group from Killian High School. A busload of the Jewish War Veterans group came from Palm Beach County.

Speakers at the rally included survivors of Nazi concentration camps, Miami Beach and Miami elected officials, and representatives of several of the sponsoring organizations, among them the three groups that obtained the rally permit: Shalom International, the Rabbinical Association of Greater Miami, and a contingent of various veterans' groups. Many people turned out at the urging of their synagogue.

The counterdemonstration was a response to a right-wing, racist rally called by Hank Pritchard, a former member of the Ku Klux

Klan. Pritchard is the founder and leader of the Ft. Lauderdale-based Society for the Advancement of White People. The rightist rally was timed to coincide with the opening of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Of the 40 participants in the right-wing rally, many were young skinheads, several wearing Nazi insignia. Pritchard's previous rallies in nearby Broward County had gone largely unanswered by major civil rights organizations in Florida.

A focus of Pritchard's racist attacks has been immigrant workers, especially Haitians. At a previous rally Pritchard was quoted as saying: "AIDS is a Black thing." At the white supremacist rally the media reported Pritchard describing immigrants as a "sea of scum."

Debate over first amendment rights

Pritchard's latest rally brought out a lot of opposition. While the counterdemonstration was primarily built by Jewish organizations, many participants came on their own after hearing about the right-wing rally. A letter in the Florida International University stu-

dent newspaper *The Beacon* urged students to rally against the Klan.

The turnout at the counterdemonstration was boosted by three weeks of public debate over the issue of free speech. The *Miami Herald* ran numerous articles and editorials. Many letters to the editor discussed whether or not the rightists should be allowed to rally. Some letters supported the government's denial of a permit for Pritchard as the way to fight the rightists. Some of these same people were opposed to a counterrally and said that Pritchard should be banned. Others looked to mobilizing in the counterdemonstration as the only effective way to answer the rightists.

City officials denied Pritchard a permit to hold his anti-Semitic rally at the Holocaust Memorial. Pritchard appealed the decision with the aid of the American Civil Liberties Union. U.S. district judge Shelby Highsmith turned down the appeal on the grounds that the memorial is not a public forum area and that political rallies there have been banned since it opened in 1990. This is despite the fact that the memorial is on public property.

Pritchard was given a permit to rally a

block away at the Miami Beach Garden Center, out of sight of the Holocaust Memorial. Opponents of his racist views were given permits for a rally site a block away from Pritchard's rally. A permit for a march was denied.

Cuban-Americans at the rally

Leaders of Shalom International held at least one public meeting to build the rally and involve other forces in the planning of the event. Bob Kunst of Shalom appealed to the Cuban-American community over Radio Mambí and Radio La Cubanísima. He asked Cubans to show their opposition to Pritchard's anti-immigrant views and to demonstrate solidarity with Jews, who were a target of the rightist rally.

These radio stations are known for their ultrarightist views on many issues. Only a few weeks before, Radio Mambí had mobilized rightist Cuban-Americans to attack a peaceful legal rally against Washington's embargo of Cuba.

A large number of Cuban-Americans turned out for the rally against Pritchard. A good number of these were affiliated to reactionary groups. The ultraright Brigade 2506 turned out some of its cadres for the counterdemonstration. Jorge Mas Canosa, head of the right-wing Cuban American National Foundation, spoke at the counterprotest.

Some protesters pointed out the problem with looking to groups like the Cuban American National Foundation to fight racists like Pritchard. Laura Garza of the Socialist Workers Party, one of the organizations endorsing the rally against Pritchard's group, said, "These right-wing Cuban-American groups came to the counterprotest to attack the Cuban revolution and equate it with fascism, not to fight these rightists."

"This was evident from the speeches they gave and the fact that some of them overturned a literature table put up by members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party." Rally monitors and others defended the right to have such a table and helped set it back up. Garza said right-wing Cuban-Americans harassed those staffing the table for nearly two hours at the rally. "At one point the right-wing Cubans were joined by right-wing Zionists," she said.

"The prominent role of reactionary forces like the Cuban American National Foundation and Brigade 2506," Garza added, "necessarily limits the participation of forces that really want to push back Pritchard and his ilk, like the Haitian community." Very few Haitians and U.S.-born Blacks participated in the counterrally.

Organizers of the protest against Pritchard put out stickers with two slogans, one denouncing Nazism and the other calling for a boycott of Germany. Many in the crowd demonstratively cut off the anti-Germany slogan, showing their disagreement with this proposal.

Opponents of embargo against Cuba launch U.S. solidarity flotilla to island

BY ROSA GARMENDIA
AND PHOENIX KENDRICK

KEY WEST, Florida — The Basta Flotilla, made up of nine boats, set sail here April 24 and 25 for Havana, Cuba, with five tons of food and medical supplies.

John Young, a Key West businessman and founder of Basta, which in Spanish means "enough," organized the aid effort. Young publishes *InCUBator*, a newsletter that advocates establishing business ties with Cuba. The idea for the flotilla grew from a prior visit to the island.

The Cuban American Coalition, a Miami-based group opposed to the U.S. embargo and travel ban, organized the collection of supplies. The group's president, José Cruz, said he wants to make the aid flotillas a regular event.

Emelia Fernández, a member of the coalition and resident of Key West who left Cuba in 1959, said, "I am against the embargo 100 percent." Her daughter Irene said, "It is very important to send this humanitarian aid, but I am also against the embargo." The two loaded supplies on the boats along with other volunteers.

The five tons of food and medicine were donated mostly by Cuban-Americans in Miami and others in southern Florida. The cargo included vitamin B, crutches, allergy tablets, 400 pairs of reading glasses, shoes, and one electric-shock heart resuscitation machine.

Backers of the U.S. embargo against Cuba have opposed the flotilla.

The U.S. Commerce Department granted the license for the shipment on the condition that the goods are given to a group other than the Cuban government. Young said the shipment would go to the Cuban Red Cross, the Ecumenical Council, and the Baptist Convention.

Two small protests were held April 23 where opponents of the shipment shouted at the volunteers loading the ships, saying the aid would benefit Fidel Castro, the *Miami Herald* reported.

Alfredo Aguero of Key West organized a group called Basta de Basta, or "Enough of Enough." The *New York Times* reported that Basta de Basta staged a motorcade of about 50 cars in Key West with signs and flags protesting aid to Cuba.

On April 22 a small fire was set at the warehouse where the supplies had been stored. Aguero denied his group was involved. According to Young, the supplies were not damaged.

John Leslie, who is responsible for the



Militant/Phoenix Kendrick

Volunteers load boat with food and medicine for Cuba in Key West, Florida.

storage of the goods, said, "Aid is a statement we are making. Do we really think Cuba will take us over?"

Some boat owners donated their yachts to carry the cargo. Fishing boat captain George Lins said "I see it as a humanitarian mission. I wanted to help out. I would like to see Cuba

opened up so I could sail over there."

Gerry Burris, a boater and member of the environmental group SeaGuard, said he didn't want to see Cuba "trashed for profits." He was going on the flotilla to deliver books in Spanish and English on the environment.

Germany: 200,000 workers demonstrate, demand bosses honor wage agreement

BY GEORGE FYSON

Some 200,000 unionists demonstrated in seven German cities April 24. The protest was part of a campaign against German employers, who have reneged on a 1991 agreement to raise wages by 20 to 26 percent in eastern Germany. The broken agreement was part of a deal to bring wages in the east into line with those in the west by 1994. In breaking the agreement, the bosses offered only nine percent, which is about the current rate of inflation.

The demonstrations, in Dortmund, Cologne, Nuremberg, Hamburg, and Stuttgart in the west, and in Leipzig and Potsdam in the eastern part of Germany, were organized by the DGB union federation. The Leipzig protest drew 50,000 workers, including union-

organized trainloads of workers from western Germany. *Militant* correspondent Lüko Willms reported from Frankfurt that several hundred workers from that city volunteered to take the trains to Leipzig for the protest. Five hundred went from General Motors' Opel factory, and 120 participated out of Honeywell's workforce of some 1,100.

Franz Steinkuehler, head of the IG Metall union, told the Leipzig rally, "If the employers' coup against wage autonomy in east Germany is not resisted today, then tomorrow no wage agreement will be safe in the whole of Germany. . . . We did not support unification in order to let employers turn east Germany into a cheap-wage colony." IG Metall organizes workers in the steel, auto, electrical, and machine manufacturing industries.

Contracts in the metal industry in Germany are organized on a regional basis. The employers' breach of the contract in eastern regions was seen by workers as a threat to workers in other regions. "When they succeed in breaking the contract in the east they will break it for us too," a Honeywell worker traveling to the Leipzig protest on a union-organized train from Frankfurt told the *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

Workers in eastern Germany organized several "warning strikes" during April on this issue. Following the April 24 protests, they were due to vote in a ballot that, if passed, could lead to a full strike beginning May 1. The union's constitution requires a 75 percent majority for such a strike to proceed.