

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Victims of Washington's nuclear tests speak out

— PAGE 5

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 57 NO. 33 September 27, 1993

## U.S. troops massacre Somalis

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In one of its bloodiest attacks since invading Somalia, U.S. helicopter gunships opened fire September 9 on a crowd of Somalis protesting the continued occupation of their country. Approximately 100 people were killed according to United Nations officials and local residents. Many of the casualties were women and children.

Two U.S. Cobra attack helicopters together with Pakistani tanks and armored personnel carriers fired cannons and rockets at Somalis in the streets of Mogadishu in an intense three-hour bombardment. In addition to the scores of Somalis murdered, one Pakistani soldier was killed and three U.S. and two Pakistani troops were injured.

"There are no sidelines or spectator seats," stated chief UN military spokespersons.

Continued on Page 13

## Unionists discuss auto contract

BY PETER THIERJUNG

CLEVELAND — Auto workers across the country are discussing the negotiations between the United Auto Workers (UAW) union officials and representatives of Ford Motor Co., Chrysler Corp., and General Motors (GM). The UAW contract with the "Big Three" auto bosses which expired September 14, has been extended while negotiations continue.

In anticipation of a rapid agreement, union officials have scheduled a September 17 meeting of the union's National Bargaining Council. The council must approve any tentative settlement before it is put before the membership for a ratification vote.

The union targeted Ford to negotiate the first and pattern-setting agreement for the industry. This company has fared better than

### As we go to press:

**United Auto Workers officials have announced a tentative agreement with Ford Motor Co.**

its competitors and, in fact, has recently started hiring more workers.

Workers have closely followed the trickle of news reporting on Ford and Chrysler's demands for concessions. These include a steeper two-tier wage scale and copayments and deductibles for health and pension benefits.

"We have to fight against this two-tier," Kathy, a 33-year-old worker at the Ford assembly plant in Avon Lake, Ohio, said. "Someone fought for us so we could have what we have now. We have to fight for the next generation."

Kathy is one of the more than 1,000 workers hired at the Avon Lake plant in the last three years. As a result of previous concession contracts, these workers started at only 85 percent of full pay. Ford proposed widening the two-tier wage scale for new hires to 60 percent of full pay. It would take six years, instead of the current 18 months, to reach 100 percent.

"The lower wage for new hires is really

Continued on Page 10

## Palestinians celebrate agreement with Israel

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The decision by the government of Israel to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and sign an accord opens up new political space for Palestinian fighters to advance their struggle for self-determination and an independent state. It also creates new openings for forging unity between Palestinian and Jewish workers within Israel. The agreement calls for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho and the subsequent election of a Palestinian Council with legislative authority over the entire West Bank and Gaza.

The accord is a product of the five-and-a-half-year Palestinian rebellion, known as the *intifada*, that Israeli military repression has failed to halt.

As Yasir Arafat, chairman of the PLO, and Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, gathered for the signing ceremonies on the White House lawn September 13, celebrations over the peace accord erupted throughout the occupied territories and within Israel itself.

In Gaza, more than 50,000 people poured into the streets chanting tributes to the PLO and unfurling Palestinian flags, still technically banned under Israeli military rule. As schools let out, children put small flags on sticks and raced up and down the alleys. Workers were busy stringing up rows of flags across the streets. All day and into the night jubilant Palestinians sang, danced, and marched in celebration.

A few days earlier, in East Jerusalem, a demonstration of 2,000 supporters of the agreement was broken up by Israeli troops who fired tear gas into the crowd. In the West Bank town of Ramallah, two Palestinians were killed by Israeli border police.

Continued on Page 9



Palestinians in Jericho celebrate Israel's recognition of PLO and signing of accords that will establish elected Palestinian Council for West Bank and Gaza.

## Two striking steelworkers killed on picket line at Alabama factory

BY TIM MAILHOT AND KAYE SEDAM

COLUMBIANA, Alabama — Two striking steelworkers were killed September 7 as they staffed the picket line in front of the National-Standard plant here. A rally has been called for September 26 to show solidarity with the steelworkers. Keith Cain, 23,

and Walter Fleming, 55, were killed when they were run over by a tractor trailer. Their union, United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 15015, has been on strike against proposed wage and benefit cuts of \$7.42 per hour since June 1.

When the murder occurred, Fleming was standing on the shoulder of the road leading

out of the plant talking to Cain, who was seated in a chair. Eyewitnesses said the truck came flying out of the plant and swerved off the road to hit the strikers. The driver, Larry Gray Jr., didn't stop until he was arrested several miles from the plant.

Gray has been charged with two counts of reckless murder and one felony charge of leaving the scene of an accident. He is being held in the Shelby County jail on \$250,000 bond.

Steve Hughes, a security guard at National-Standard, said Gray talked to him before leaving the plant. "He said that he was going to go out of there as fast as he could and he didn't care who or what he took out," Hughes reported.

### History of company, police harassment

Throughout the strike, the 190 steelworkers have faced harassment from the company, police, and the county government. A professional union-busting security guard company from Kentucky has videotaped the picket line since the strike began. Early in the strike, Columbiana police chief Richard Todd showed up at the picket line with a shotgun and full riot gear.

"The police have allowed drivers to leave the plant at high speeds, against state laws,"

Continued on Page 12



Striking unionists closed down plant after two workers were killed

**Clashes reflect depth of political crisis in Nicaragua — page 8**





## Aristide supporter is murdered

Antoine Izmerly, a wealthy businessman and prominent supporter of ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was assassinated September 11 in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Izmerly had organized a mass for victims of a massacre at a church five years earlier when Aristide was the pastor. Witnesses said two men took Izmerly from the church, executed him, and left him lying in the road in a pool of blood. This murder is the latest in a series of recent violent attacks in Haiti. Aristide is scheduled to return to the country October 30 under an accord mediated by the United Nations and signed by Aristide and Raoul Cedras, the military leader who overthrew him in a September 1991 coup.

## Cuba allows direct sales

A decree announced by Fidel Castro September 9 will allow individual private enterprises in more than 100 trades and services, including taxi drivers, mechanics, plumbers, carpenters, hairdressers, cooks, and computer programmers. The newly publicized regulations prohibit university graduates, especially doctors and management personnel, from going into private practice. But retirees, housewives, and workers laid-off or working part-time as a result of Cuba's economic crisis are permitted to pursue these trades as long as they don't hire others to work for them.

## New York bombing trials open

Jury selection began September 14 in the trial of four men — Mohammed Salameh, Nidal Ayyad, Mahmud Abouhalima, and Ahmad Ajaj — charged by the U.S. government with bombing the World Trade Center February 26. In a massive show of force designed to prejudice prospective jurors against the defendants, the New York police ringed the federal courthouse with barricades and stationed sharpshooters on the roof. The trial is expected to last three to four months.

## Farm workers win suit

The California Agricultural Labor Relations Board ordered a major Imperial Valley vegetable grower to pay \$2.5 million to 200 farm workers who were not rehired after a 1979 strike. The United Farm Workers filed suit after the grower refused to rehire workers who exercised their legal right to strike.

## N.Y. district ruled legal

New York's highest court overturned lower state court rulings and declared a disputed New York City Council district legal. The Court of Appeals upheld boundaries drawn for District 38 that link two predominantly Latino areas to form a district where Latino residents are in the majority.

## Boston teachers get 'merit' contract

The Boston Teachers Union ratified a new contract that links teachers' pay to the performance of their students. The agreement, which must be approved by the city, calls for bonus payments to teachers at schools where students meet goals for attendance, standardized tests, dropout rates, and reduced suspensions. Boston teachers have been working without a contract since August 1992.

## U.S. eases embargo on Hanoi

U.S. president Bill Clinton eased the economic embargo on Vietnam September 13 by allowing U.S. companies to bid on construction and development projects there. The bulk of trade restrictions would remain, however. Washington earlier said it would not block countries from helping to pay Hanoi's \$140 million foreign debt. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank say that if Vietnam eliminates its debt, it will consider the country for future loans.

The Vietnamese government rejected a Soviet military intelligence document that claimed Hanoi held more U.S. prisoners of war than it had acknowledged in the early 1970s. A Vietnamese official asserted that the inaccurate figures in the report resulted from "misunderstanding of information or



Youth clash with Chilean police September 4. The youth were demanding a street be renamed to commemorate former president Salvador Allende who was toppled in a U.S.-led military coup Sept. 11, 1973. Thousands of people were killed or "disappeared," and tens of thousands more were imprisoned and tortured in the 17 years Gen. Augusto Pinochet ruled. Protests continued throughout the week leading up to the 20th anniversary of the coup.

deliberate fabrication."

The document, which was turned over to U.S. officials in Moscow, was released just one week before Clinton decided whether or not to maintain the U.S. embargo on Vietnam.

## Russia, U.S. plan joint maneuvers

Russian and U.S. army divisions will conduct joint military exercises under an agreement signed September 8. The U.S. 3rd Infantry Division based in Frankfurt, Germany, and the 27th Motorized Rifle Division stationed in the Volga District in Russia will carry out maneuvers in Europe, Russia, and possibly the United States. In addition to the joint exercises the two governments plan to set up a "hot line" between the Pentagon and the Russian Defense Ministry so that the two military chiefs can consult directly.

## Iran warns Armenia

The Iranian foreign minister called for an immediate withdrawal September 7 of Armenian forces from Azerbaijan. Iran shares a 230-mile-long border with Azerbaijan. Armenian forces recently captured the town of Fizuli, just 20 miles north of Iran. Nearly 1 million people have fled southwestern Azerbaijan because of fighting in the five-year-old conflict over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. About half these refugees have been displaced in the last six months.

In mid-August the UN Security Council demanded an immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan. The Security Council warned it would be ready to "consider appropriate steps to insure that all parties fully respect and comply with its resolution."

## NATO plans troops for Bosnia

U.S. defense secretary Les Aspin announced plans to send 50,000 NATO troops to Bosnia after an accord to carve up the country and end the 18-month war is reached. Nearly half the soldiers will be from the United States.

Meanwhile, the German government, which is stepping up deployment of its military forces in the region, is lobbying to head a European Community (EC) team in the Bosnian town of Mostar. Under an agreement presented in earlier rounds of peace talks, the capital city of Sarajevo is scheduled to come under United Nations control for two years and the southern city of Mostar will be placed under EC control.

## Bonn cuts health-care services

Using some of the same measures that U.S. president Bill Clinton is proposing for health-care cuts in the United States, the German government set a limit of \$15 billion for prescription costs this year. Any amount spent over that limit would be deducted from the payments doctors receive for their services. Bonn spent 20 percent less on prescriptions in the first half of 1993 compared to the same period last year.

Under the German government's plan, hospitals are not allowed to buy new equipment without government approval and more and more people are being treated as outpatients. German workers are required to purchase health insurance. The cost of premiums is partly covered by employers. Additional coverage, including full dental care, costs extra.

— PAT SMITH

## THE MILITANT

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# Mandela campaigns for a democratic South Africa

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The African National Congress (ANC) is stepping up its campaign efforts leading up to South Africa's first-ever democratic, nonracial election scheduled for April 27, 1994.

This campaign activity coincides with the mid-September opening of a special session of the white minority parliament to rubber-stamp into law the formation of a Transitional Executive Committee (TEC) that will oversee the government through this electoral process. The TEC was approved September 7 by 19 of the 23 political parties participating in the country's multiparty talks.

At a rally attended by 30,000 people in the Black township of Khayelitsha near Cape Town, ANC president Nelson Mandela said, "Our main priority is to address the lack of power, the lack of houses, the lack of jobs and decent facilities for blacks. We will continue to address the problems of blacks first and foremost and try to put them in the same situation as the white minority. That is a commitment."

"But the people of South Africa are not only blacks," continued Mandela. "There are whites as well. They are South African... they are our brothers and sisters. The whites are not more important than you, but they have... knowledge, skills, techniques which we do not have. We want their support, we want them to help us build a new South Africa."

The rally was held to commemorate the 16th anniversary of the death of anti-apartheid fighter Steve Biko, who died from massive head injuries three weeks after being detained without charge by South African authorities. The ANC used the occasion to reiterate its call for a national "Commission of Truth" to investigate human rights abuses committed under apartheid.

Mandela condemned in the strongest terms the August 25 killing of U.S.-born student Amy Biehl in a township near Cape Town. "It is not military action to kill innocent civilians," the ANC leader said. "The people who killed Amy Biehl are no longer human beings. They are animals."

## Sanctions to be lifted soon

Mandela, who began a five-day tour of the Western Cape September 8, told reporters that the ANC would call for lifting the remaining trade and investment sanctions as soon as the TEC bill is passed by Parliament. ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus explained that this does not include the United Nations arms embargo and the international ban on oil sales to South Africa. "Arms and oil will have to wait until... after the April election," he stated.

While in the Cape Town area, Mandela spoke to a gathering of several hundred textile workers, urging them to vote for the ANC in the upcoming election.

In a live radio broadcast from the factory warehouse, Mandela said that an ANC government would not increase taxes on workers and would not seize private property. "There ought to be no fear on the part of the people who do not own mines, who do not own banks, who do not own monopolies," he stated. "Whether we are going to tax the rich is a question that can be discussed in due course."

Speaking to businessmen in Cape Town, Mandela condemned threats by Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the proapartheid Conservative Party to disrupt the April election. "Our country cannot play by the rules of the losers," said Mandela. "rules which seek to force a decision that if sufficient violence is generated there can be no election."

## 'Beginning of end of white supremacy'

The ANC leader hailed the decision to install the TEC as "the beginning of the end of white supremacy." He characterized this action as "the most important breakthrough in negotiations this year... a significant leveling of the political playing field."

At a conference of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), representing more than a million workers, Mandela urged Inkatha and the Conservative Party to return to the multiparty talks. "Let us resolve our differences around the table," he said. "The country expects this of

us. Those who talk of civil war do not care for the lives of our people and for the economy."

On September 11, dozens of armed neo-Nazis surrounded a hotel in the small western town of Beauford West where Mandela was to address a breakfast meeting. After demanding to give a message to the ANC leader, two of the whites were disarmed and allowed to enter for the first face-to-face meeting between Mandela and the Afrikaner Resistance Movement.

After the meeting, rightist leader Ferrus Munro admitted that Mandela "does his thing well." Later the ANC president explained that he met with the rightists "because we are building a nation. We do not fear anybody." At a campaign rally in a nearby township, Mandela urged, "Let us bury the past. Let us work together to build the country."

Mandela plans to visit the United States in early October. He is scheduled to give the keynote speech October 1 at a Washington, D.C., conference aimed at spurring



ANC president Nelson Mandela campaigning in Cape Town

institutional investment in post-apartheid South Africa. This meeting is being organized by Global Business Access, Ltd., a consortium of former U.S. ambassadors and senior diplomats.

## Forum debates road to democracy in Kenya

BY ROBERT SIMMS

TORONTO — The fight for democracy in Kenya was the topic of a conference held at York University here August 21-22.

More than 25 people engaged in an open exchange of ideas at the meeting. Participants, the majority of them originally from Kenya, traveled from several cities in the United States and Canada. Several other African countries were represented, as well as North America and the Caribbean. Canadian immigration police prevented George Rubiik, who was to give a presentation on the peasantry in Kenya, from entering the country from the United States.

One goal of the forum was to evaluate recent events in Kenya that point to openings for political activity by Kenya's working people. The dictatorial regime headed by Daniel arap Moi organized elections last December, the first in many years.

James Anampiu, a former student activist

in Kenya who is currently an industrial worker in Canada, began the conference by describing how imperialist domination of countries like Kenya produced local capitalist ruling classes, totally dependent on and subservient to imperialism, who share in plundering the country. Usually these regimes must use severe repression to stay in power.

Kenya's debt to imperialist banks is \$7 billion, Anampiu said, and austerity measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have drastically reduced wages, health, and education for Kenya's working people.

"The fight against the Moi government for democratic rights in Kenya today cannot be separated from the struggle of Kenya's workers and peasants to free Kenya from imperialist domination," he stated. "It is the workers and peasants who have the most interest in fighting for genuine democracy."

Anampiu pointed to the examples of the revolutionary struggles in Cuba, Burkina Faso, and South Africa as the only road forward.

Anthony Ayok-Chol disagreed. He described Anampiu's insistence that the only way to advance is the organization of the Kenyan toilers to fight for a government of workers and peasants as part of a worldwide struggle for socialism as "romantic and idealistic, the sort of vision we all shared 15 years ago but have moved away from."

Ayok-Chol, an immigrant rights consultant originally from Sudan, and other Sudanese and Malawian speakers described the human rights situation in their countries and elsewhere in Africa.

Other speakers included Mwakudua Mwachofi, a lawyer from Virginia who spoke on the human rights situation in Kenya and the collaboration of the Kenyan judiciary in suppressing democracy, and Elizabeth Gachuri.

Gachuri, who is from the University of Guelph, gave a talk on the economic crisis in Kenya. To struggle against debt and other forms of economic bondage, she urged African countries to band together to bargain collectively with the U.S. and European banks, to build economies based on self-reliance, and to fight to democratize Kenya through the mobilization of workers and students.

Omondi Obanda, one of the conference organizers, and Karanja Njoroge, who works in international affairs at Trent Uni-

versity in Peterborough, Ontario, reported on last December's electoral process in Kenya. Njoroge, exiled from Kenya more than a decade ago, was an official Canadian observer during the balloting. Both concluded from their experiences that Moi's narrow victory was rigged.

John Steele, who recently traveled to South Africa with a *Militant* reporting team, gave a slide show on recent events in the freedom struggle there. Steele explained how the developing revolution and the scope of its successes will be decisive in determining the progress of other struggles in Africa and elsewhere.

## Debate on South Africa

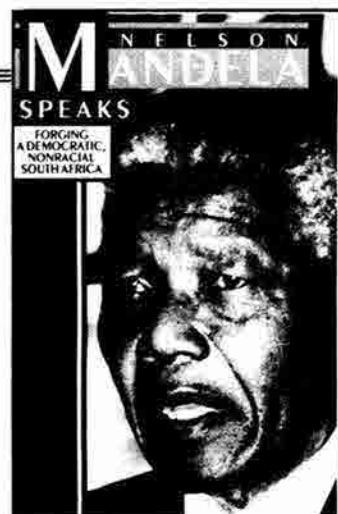
His remarks prompted a vigorous discussion. Ayok-Chol and Njoroge argued that Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC), even given their heroic contributions in the past, are too prepared to make accommodation with the former apartheid regime leaders, big business, and "Western interests." Ayok-Chol said that armed guerrilla struggle is still needed in South Africa.

Susan Berman, an autoworker in Toronto and Communist League candidate in the upcoming federal election, argued that the ANC is correct in pursuing a revolutionary democratic course. The victories at the negotiating table, she said, are only made possible by the continuing massive mobilizations of the South African toilers.

Another debate at the conference centered on the origin of Africa's oppression and exploitation. One participant said that besides imperialism, a big problem facing the toilers in Africa is "pocketism," the widespread corruption among African government officials who use their positions to line their pockets.

The resolutions adopted at the end of the conference argued that a democratic opposition based on "both middle classes and popular forces" was needed to fight for democracy, and called for an economic program based on African self-reliance and trade between African countries.

The participants decided to work to make the North America Kenya Forum an annual event and to investigate whether a democracy conference can be organized inside Kenya for next year.



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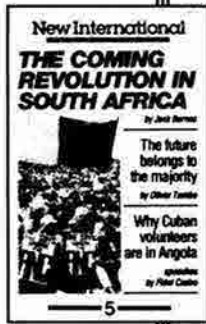
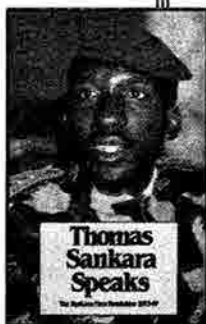
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# Fight against police brutality gives boost to unionist's defense

BY NAOMI CRAINE

(Seventh in a series)

Brutality at the hands of the police is a stark reality for thousands of working people in cities and towns throughout the United States. Workers who are immigrants or Black are especially likely to come under attack, as are those active in union struggles and social protest movements.

Mark Curtis was one victim of such a cop assault. His fight for justice is intertwined with struggles against police brutality and for democratic rights around the world.

In March 1988 the young socialist and union activist was framed up by the Des Moines, Iowa, police on false charges of attempting to rape a Black teenager. Curtis was at the time involved in a fight to defend 17 Latino immigrants at the packinghouse where he worked from government victimization.

The night he was arrested, Curtis was taken to the city jail. In a small room police officers ordered him to undress, placed a tape recorder on a desk, and began to interrogate him. Curtis said he wanted a lawyer,

Wolf and Daniel Dusenbery — who brutalized Curtis — were found guilty of battery and ordered to pay \$11,000 in damages, plus costs and attorneys' fees. The settlement totaled \$64,000.

"There was no way the police could deny that he was injured and the only people that could have done it were the police," commented Alfredo Alvarez, former head of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission and a longtime supporter of Curtis's fight for justice.

But the obvious fact that the police had caused Curtis's injuries was no guarantee of a victory. Cops beat people up all the time and then claim their use of force was necessary and justified, just as they did in this case. And the courts generally take the word of the police.

More than the cops' guilt, it was an upturn in the struggle against police violence and racism, both in Des Moines and on a national level that was essential to Curtis winning the lawsuit.

## 'That doesn't happen in Des Moines'

While the police were beating Curtis in 1988, Stu Singer, a political collaborator and next-door neighbor of Curtis, was trying to get him out of jail. When the officials at the city jail gave him the runaround about whether they had Curtis in custody, Singer, who had some experience in the civil rights and labor movements, became concerned the cops might be beating him.

But virtually all of the lawyers and political activists he spoke to that night said he shouldn't worry — that kind of thing didn't happen in Des Moines.

In the following four years, though, it became clear to many people that racism, sexism, and brutality are standard practice among cops in Des Moines.

A report issued by the Des Moines Civil Service Commission in November 1988 detailed widespread racist and sexist abuse within the police department. The *Des Moines Register* reported on the conclusions of the investigation, which reinstated a cop who had been fired for protesting racist remarks made by her superior. "The police department's internal investigation lacked credibility," the *Register* said. "The internal investigators tried to 'clear the supervisor.'"

Four months earlier a former cop who had been sexually harassed by other police officers for years won a discrimination lawsuit against the police department. Testimony in that case revealed not only sexist but also racist harassment, including two white cops dressing in Ku Klux Klan garb to supposedly "welcome" a Black officer onto the squad.

The Des Moines cops have also become well-known for beating people in their custody. The police were forced to install a camera in the elevator at the city jail, which is used to transport suspects from the booking area to the holding cells, because of an outcry raised against the number of people beaten while on this "elevator ride."

Wolf and Dusenbery had both either shot or beaten people in their custody before Curtis's arrest.

"We do know these beatings occur," Alvarez told the Civil Service Commission. In fact Joseph Gonzalez, one of the cops who framed up Curtis, had been suspended in the past for beating a suspect and lying about the incident. This was another fact withheld from the jury by the judge in Curtis's trial.

## 'No excuse' for police violence

The Dec. 28, 1991, beating of Larry Milton provoked an explosion of anger against the police and their violence, especially in the Black community, in Des Moines. Police struck the 35-year-old Black man repeatedly in the head with a heavy metal flashlight in front of dozens of witnesses, after they had cuffed both his hands and feet. It took 22 metal staples to close his gaping head wounds.

"No excuse" became the slogan of thousands of people, the majority from the Black community, who participated in protest meetings, public hearings, and radio call-in shows to denounce police brutality. Many came forward with their own stories of violence meted out to themselves or people they



Mark Curtis after being beaten by the police in March 1988. Inset: Larry Milton after brutal beating by the Des Moines cops December 1991. Curtis's fight for justice is intertwined with other struggles against police brutality and for democratic rights.

know by the cops. One woman recounted how all three of her sons had been assaulted by the Des Moines police.

Curtis and 24 other prisoners at the John Bennett Correctional Center in Ft. Madison, Iowa, wrote to Milton expressing their solidarity.

The attack on Milton occurred while the graphic videotaped image of police beating another Black worker, Rodney King, in Los Angeles was still fresh in people's minds.

Sara Lobman, a Curtis supporter and former Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Des Moines, read from the police department's Uniform Division Standard Operating Procedures at one city council meeting discussing the Milton beating. The document offers tips on how to use force against suspects. One section, titled "Attacking vital body points," suggests 21 body parts that police should target. "Eyes — gouge, throw items; ... Neck — nearly all neck vital for strike, pinch or choking; ... Kidneys — strike inwards; ... Groin — strike or kick," the manual read.

The manual also warns, "Public relations — when possible, avoid force in front of public audience. When not possible, attack hard and quick."

## Cops knew they used excessive force

These standard operating procedures, offered by Des Moines police chief William Molder as evidence the cops followed proper methods in their beating of Curtis, gave those demanding justice for Milton a better appreciation of the fact that what happened to both was not some aberration, but rather part of the cops' routine work.

The police and their political backers responded to this public outcry by launching a campaign to slander Milton and justify their actions. In arguments strikingly similar to those made by the cops in Los Angeles to justify beating King, the police sergeant in charge of the assault on Milton claimed he was drunk, on drugs, and did not seem to be affected by repeated blows to the head.

Despite all the protests, a grand jury eventually refused to indict the cops who beat Milton.

At the height of the debate over the Milton case, Curtis's lawsuit came before Judge Wolle. With the public spotlight on the cops, and under the impact of the protests and anti-

brutality demonstrations, the court felt compelled to rule that cops "Wolf and Dusenbery both knew they were using excessive force when they kned [Curtis] in the eye and groin while he was lying on the floor on his back, unable to flee or cause them harm."

"This is a big victory, not just for me, but for all victims of police brutality," Curtis declared when the ruling came down.

"I am ecstatically happy for the victory for Mark Curtis," Dudley Allison, a leader in the fight against police brutality in Des Moines, told a Feb. 8, 1992, rally celebrating the victory. "What this does, in my opinion, is open the door for the prosecution of the officers that commit these types of crimes," he added.

Sonja Palmer, who founded Mothers and Wives Against Police Brutality after the Milton beating, and Ako Abdul Samad, a member of the board of directors of a Black community radio station central in demanding justice for Milton, also addressed the rally.

"I think that if Mark Curtis ever sat down and decided to conform to the system, then that would be a sellout," Samad told the gathering. "I think that if we ever stop fighting for Mark Curtises and the Larry Miltons, then we sell them out, and we must not do that."

Greg McCartan, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, which Curtis is a member of, said, "This ruling by a federal judge goes right to the heart of Mark's frame-up trial. ... The question now raised more sharply is that if a federal judge rules that the cops lied about beating Mark, then the cop who testified against him could have been lying as well."

The ruling "means many more people will be willing to join the call for [Curtis's] immediate release," Kate Kaku, Curtis's wife and a leader of the defense effort, pointed out. "We think the day of Mark's release has been brought closer and it will be helped by what we do now with this latest victory."

(To be continued)

The first six parts of this series appeared in the April 19, May 3, May 17, June 7, June 28 and September 6 issues of the *Militant*. They can be ordered for \$1.50 each from the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



Militant/Chris Remple  
Picket protests beating of Larry Milton outside Des Moines city council meeting.

but the police continued their questions. When he refused to answer, the cops beat him, saying he was a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds."

Curtis, who was knocked unconscious, suffered a blowout fracture to his eye socket and needed 15 stitches to close a gash on his face. When the cops took him to the hospital to be sewn up, they told the hospital workers Curtis was a rapist who had AIDS. He woke up shackled to a hospital bed. Afterward he was taken back to jail and put in a cell naked, bleeding, and without a towel, blanket, or bedding.

As often happens to victims of police brutality, Curtis was charged with two counts of assaulting the cops to cover up their violent actions.

When Curtis was tried on the sexual assault charge and a burglary count tacked on a month later, the jury was not allowed to know about the beating he had received. With the jury denied access to this and other important facts in the case, Curtis was convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison. Soon after, Polk County prosecutors dropped the charge that the unionist assaulted the cops.

## Victory in lawsuit against police brutality

In May 1989 Curtis filed a federal lawsuit accusing the city of Des Moines and the cops who beat him of violating his constitutional rights to be free from unreasonable search and seizure, violence and threats of violence while incarcerated, and cruel and unusual punishment, as well as negligence and assault and battery.

On Jan. 31, 1992, U.S. District Court judge Charles Wolle ruled in favor of the jailed unionist. Des Moines cops Charles

## Mark Curtis Defense Committee

**New! Sticker.** "Justice for Mark Curtis — Parole Now!" One for 25 cents/five for \$1.

**"Parole Now! for Mark Curtis" leaflet.** Single copies free, including copies that can be used for reproduction. Available in English and Spanish.

**Who is Mark Curtis?** The basic informational flier on Curtis's fight for justice. Single copies free, including copies that can be used for reproduction. Available in English, Spanish, and French.

**The Stakes in the Worldwide Political Campaign to Defend Mark Curtis.** Pamphlet. \$2.

**Freedom and Justice for Mark Curtis: An Answer to a Slander Campaign.** Pamphlet. \$2.

**The Frame-up of Mark Curtis.** 49-minute video produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle. \$15.

For information or to order: Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. (515) 246-1695.

**JUSTICE FOR MARK CURTIS PAROLE NOW!**

Literature available from the



# Victims of Washington's nuclear tests speak out

**American Ground Zero: The Secret Nuclear War** by Carole Gallagher. 427 pp. Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 1993. \$39.95 hardcover.

BY PAT SMITH

This book provides a fascinating collection of interviews and photographs on the casualties of Washington's undeclared war on thousands of working people in the western United States. Through pictures and words, author Carole Gallagher brings to life the incredible untold stories of the fight for justice by victims of the U.S. government's vicious atomic bomb testing program, and Washington's ruthless cover-up.

Since 1945, the five declared nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China — have exploded close to 2,000 atomic bombs. The U.S. government is responsible for nearly half of these. One hun-

signed to witness a hydrogen bomb out in the open in 1957. Shot Hood was the biggest atmospheric nuclear detonation conducted inside the United States. "I was happy, full of life before I saw that bomb, but then I understood evil and was never the same," he told the author. "I remember being in a lot of pain . . . the doctor told me that he thought I had radiation illness because I was nauseated, dizzy, disoriented. They didn't know what to do. They don't do anything for radiation illness, they just watch you die."

## Government radiation experiments

Carter told Gallagher he had seen animals and people handcuffed to chain fences in the fallout area — victims of government experiments on the impact of radiation. When Carter repeated this to his superiors he was drugged and kept in a military hospital for days. Before he was released, the doctor told him that if he ever repeated the story, he'd be thrown out of the Marine Corps.

Over the next three years of her research, Gallagher came across the same story again and again from other men who participated in Shot Hood. Many underwent the same psychiatric "deprogramming" as Carter.

*American Ground Zero* reveals the decades-long fight of the people of the Southwest. Convinced that the lesions, weakness, sterility, and death of their livestock was caused by radiation from Washington's nuclear tests, sheepherders in 1956 unsuccessfully confronted the government in federal district court in Salt Lake City, Utah. Years later, a 1980 investigation revealed the government had carried out a sophisticated cover-up, including suppressing evidence that the sheep's organs were contaminated with high doses of radiation. Although a judge ruled in 1982 that a monstrous miscarriage of justice had occurred and granted the ranchers a new trial, a higher court reversed the decision a year later.

*American Ground Zero* skillfully explores the U.S. government's calculated murder of hundreds of people within its own borders. One unfortunate weakness is a foreword and prologue that miss the mark on who to blame for this savage destruction of human life. "In their highly centralized industrial bureaucracy, protected by strict military secrecy, atomic scientists were free to take any risk, conduct any test, and set up any experiment without outside



Robert Carter holding photograph of soldiers taken moments before detonation of the biggest atmospheric test in Nevada on July 5, 1957.

interference," reads the foreword by Keith Schneider.

But it is naive to think that officials in Washington, who orchestrated the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — killing hundreds of thousands of people — did not order the nuclear tests in Nevada with the same callous disregard for the lives of working people.

The interviews in the book expose the lengths to which the U.S. rulers will go to maintain their hold over working people. In his foreword to the book, Schneider reports that, according to tests conducted by the Public Health Service and the Atomic Energy Commission, Washington's nuclear tests in Nevada poisoned milk in New England, wheat in South Dakota, soil in Virginia, and fish in the Great Lakes.

Last July, U.S. president Bill Clinton was forced to abandon his plan to resume nuclear testing. While public outcry forced Washington to postpone resumption of its destructive explosions, they continue to spend \$1.9 billion annually to maintain a nuclear weapons testing program. *American Ground Zero* is not only an important statement on the dangers of these tests, but a stinging indictment of the U.S. government.

## IN REVIEW

dred and twenty-six bombs were detonated into the atmosphere at the Nevada Test Site between 1951 and 1963 alone. Each of the pink clouds that drifted across the state contained levels of radiation comparable to the amount released after the 1986 explosion of a Soviet nuclear reactor at Chernobyl.

*American Ground Zero* is as disturbing as it is inspiring. Gallagher begins the book with a description of an armed forces film shown to soldiers before atomic maneuvers. In the movie a military chaplain is seen calming the frightened troops. "Actually, there is no need to be worried, as the Army has taken all of the necessary precautions to see that we're perfectly safe here," he says. "First of all, one sees a very, very, bright light followed by a shock wave, and then you hear the sound of the blast. Then you look up and you see the fireball as it ascends up into the heavens. It contains all of the rich colors of the rainbow, and then as it rises up into the atmosphere it assembles into the mushroom. It is a wonderful sight to behold." After witnessing the explosion, soldiers returned to camp bleeding from the eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.

These soldiers, their widows, and the others whose lives were stolen from them describe watching their children born with serious birth defects, their battles with painful cancers, and their communities' unsuccessful fight against the government.

Robert Carter was 17 years old when his platoon was as-

Reprinted from the **Des Moines Sunday Register**

SEPTEMBER 5, 1993

## SAYS HE WAS FRAMED FOR RAPE

# Five years later, Curtis still fights

By **WILLIAM PETROSKI**  
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

If being a good inmate was the only ground for parole, Mark Curtis would be one of the first prisoners freed from the Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison.

He is considered a model prisoner, rarely being cited for disciplinary infractions, and he holds a steady job in the prison's print shop, earning 49 cents a hour. Prison officials say he has blended well into penitentiary life as he finishes his fifth year behind bars for the 1988 rape of a teen-age girl in Des Moines.

But the Iowa Board of Parole has turned down Curtis four times for parole, and officials hint he may not leave the prison for at least several more years. The problem: Curtis continues to proclaim his innocence. He also alleges his chances for parole are being hurt because he refuses to participate in sex-offender treatment, which would require that he declare his guilt.

"In this country, you are not supposed to have to say you are guilty, but that is exactly what they are trying to make me do," said Curtis. "I would ask people . . . of the fairness of the parole board in forcing me to go through sex-offender treatment."

## Blames Police

Curtis' case is one of the most unusual ever faced by the Board of Parole. That's because he has repeatedly contended since his 1988 arrest that he was the victim

of a frame-up by Des Moines police because of his union and political activity.

As a member of the Socialist Workers Party, a Marxist political group, Curtis is also undoubtedly the only inmate in Iowa's prison system who can count on a worldwide defense campaign to press the case for his freedom.

Hundreds of letters still pour into the Board of Parole's offices in Des Moines from South Africa, New Zealand, Great Britain, Greece, Canada and from cities throughout the nation calling for Curtis to be released. They come from political activists, union leaders, college professors and lawyers. They are written in English, Spanish and French.

Last month, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young wrote his third letter on behalf of Curtis. "I believe that a careful review of his life prior to incarceration, his behavior in prison and the support he will receive upon release indicates that he is an excellent candidate for parole," Young wrote.

A dentist and a lawyer in Chicago have offered office jobs to Curtis if he is paroled.

## Lobbying for Support

Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife, recently traveled to Indianapolis to informally lobby on her husband's behalf to people attending the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Last month, she went to Alabama to talk about her husband before a black farmers'

group. She did the same with people who attended a Southern Christian Leadership Conference meeting in Baltimore.

Kaku estimates about \$150,000 has been raised by her husband's defense committee in an effort to win his release.

State parole records show Curtis is rated as a good to very good risk for parole. On a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 being the best risk for public safety, Curtis is ranked as a 2 under a statistical method of risk assessment.

Walter Saur of Oelwein, chairman of the Board of Parole, said recently he has an open mind about Curtis' bid for parole. He also said Curtis is raising a valid question in challenging the requirement that he acknowledge guilt in a sex-offender therapy program. But Saur said five years may not be enough time served considering the crime involved.

## Prison Time

Curtis has completed one prison sentence for third-degree sex abuse, but he is still serving a 25-year term for first-degree burglary for entering the Keith Morris home in Des Moines. In 1992, the average time served for first-degree burglary before parole in Iowa was 8.6 years.

While Curtis seeks freedom, Morris is equally determined to force Curtis to serve every possible day of his sentence. Including time off for good behavior, that would keep Curtis at the Fort Madison prison at least

seven more years.

Morris, whose daughter accused Curtis of rape, has attended every parole board session at which Curtis' case has been reviewed.

Morris contends that Curtis, who is white, received too lenient treatment from the courts because his victim was black.

"I know you can't keep him in prison forever, but there are no circumstances under which I would like to see him paroled," Morris said. "If this had been a black guy and a white teenager, this guy never would hit the bricks again. I'm sure he would be serving a life sentence."

## 1988 Arrest

Curtis was arrested on March 4, 1988, after allegedly pulling a knife on Morris' daughter — then 15 years old — and taking off her clothes as they struggled on the porch of her home. The girl's 11-year-old brother called police, who arrested Curtis, literally with his pants down.

Curtis gave another version. He said he gave a young woman a lift home in his car and was waiting on an enclosed porch when a police officer suddenly entered. He claimed he was escorted to a rear bedroom and handcuffed.

Curtis said he was framed because he was a union activist at a meatpacking plant in Des Moines and because he protested the apprehension of 17 co-workers from Mexico and El Salvador on immigration violations.



KAREN MITCHELL/THE REGISTER  
**John Studer**, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, with letters of support.

## Doubt

But some of Iowa's key Hispanic and labor leaders say they had never heard of Curtis before he was arrested for rape and are skeptical of his claims.

"I know who the movers and the shakers are, and I don't remember him at all," said Ila Plascencia of West Des Moines, a longtime Mexican-American activist.

Asked if there is significant support for Curtis among organized labor in Iowa, Mark Smith, secretary-treasurer of the Iowa Federation of Labor, replied, "No."

Two years ago, the state AFL-CIO convention passed a resolution publicly disavowing any support for Curtis and proclaiming, "there is overwhelming evidence of Curtis' guilt."



# Union wins suit against Los Angeles cops

BY SHERRIE LOVE

LOS ANGELES — On September 3, the Justice for Janitors campaign won an important victory against police brutality here. The unionists were awarded a \$2.35 million settlement by the Los Angeles City Council stemming from an attack by cops against a demonstration three years ago. Several hundred union members and supporters held a rally at City Hall the day the announcement was made.

One June 15, 1990, 400 workers marched from Beverly Hills to Century City to picket buildings where janitors were on strike for higher wages and a union contract. One hundred fifty cops armed with riot equipment beat the demonstrators, causing injuries ranging from broken bones to a miscarriage. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of those injured.

The unionization drive is organized by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) in cities around the country. Their campaign has been most successful in Los Angeles. Since the drive began six years ago, union membership among workers who clean the city's buildings has grown by more than 6,000. The overwhelming majority of the members here are Latino.

In the early 1980s, most cleaners made wages of around \$7 an hour. But takeback measures by real estate corporations that own the downtown buildings pushed pay down to minimum wage. Many large companies began to contract out their janitorial needs and eliminate jobs to slash their costs.

The janitors' campaign relies on bringing workers out to protest in front of the companies' offices against low wages, a back-breaking schedule, and lack of health insurance, and for the right to organize. Many of the protests occur around lunchtime and are visible and loud. Since most of the cleaning takes place at night, many janitors can participate in the rallies.

The campaign is currently targeting the contractor Advance Building Maintenance, whose biggest clients are Hughes Aircraft Co., Mattel Inc., and Toyota. The janitors have held numerous rallies in front of each corporation's headquarters to demand they use union labor and cleaning companies that pay a living wage. Community delegations have visited corporate headquarters in support of the janitors.

The companies and contractors blame each other for the low wages and poor working conditions. These corporate giants usually claim "neutrality" and say "it's up to the contractors," according to Jono Shaffer, an organizer for SEIU Local 399. A spokesperson for Mattel was quoted in the *Los Angeles Times* as saying, "These janitors don't work under deplorable conditions, but in beautiful, modern buildings. We have not found the injustices the janitors speak of." The head of Advance cries poverty, claiming he can't afford to pay decent wages or benefits.

In July, Advance fired 30 workers. The Justice for Janitors campaign is organizing a national speaking tour of several of these workers, which will be hosted by the SEIU

in different cities.

Where union contracts have been signed, wages have gone up from the federal minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour to over \$6 per hour. The unionists have also won health benefits. According to union activist Patricia Recinos, another gain is job security — including the right to schedule a vacation and still have a job to come back to.

The janitors have freely given their solidarity to other struggles. They show up at many union fights and picket lines, as well as social protests. The unionists organized a march through the University of California Los Angeles campus and spoke on the platform at one of the student-led demonstrations to win a Chicano studies program there. Many attended a recent demonstration in support of immigrant rights. They co-sponsored a downtown march with the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, which recently held a national convention here, turned out for a union rally in support of county workers, and participated in the Labor Day march. Several janitors have joined in biweekly picket lines in support of the United Mine Workers of America strike.

The union recently organized a community support meeting attended by students, unionists, and others to plan more outreach work.

"The corporations and contractors have to stop pointing the finger the other way," Recinos said. She pointed to the national tour going on and the importance of the labor movement getting involved.

Sherrie Love is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1544.



Janitor Rosa Ayala celebrates \$2.35 million settlement in union's suit against cops

## Minnesota rally hails Cuba aid effort

BY ABBY TILSNER

MINNEAPOLIS — A crowd of nearly 200 people here celebrated the successful completion of the U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment caravan and discussed plans for future activities in the fight to end the U.S.-imposed trade embargo against Cuba. The caravan delivered 100 tons of material aid to Cuba.

The victory celebration, which took place September 12 at the Plymouth Congregational Church, heard reports from local activists who participated in the Pastors for Peace-sponsored Friendshipment. It was one of many similar meetings taking place across the country.

"It will take intensified efforts of volunteers and the initiative of individuals all over the U.S. to end the blockade," Pastors for Peace director and keynote speaker Tom Hansen told the meeting.

People attending the celebration saw a film, and heard 11 of the 18 caravan participants from Minnesota speak of their experiences on the caravan and in Cuba; the effects of Washington's 33-year embargo on the Cuban people; and the importance of ongoing work to end the trade ban.

It was announced that Pastors for Peace is

cosponsoring a Freedom to Travel Challenge tour to Cuba, Oct. 10-17, 1993, initiated by the San Francisco-based Global Exchange.

Hansen, who will be one of the 120 participants, said the tour directly violates the U.S. ban on travel to Cuba. "We will be taking a vacation," Hansen said, referring to the protest. "We will be staying in hotels and spending our money."

From Nov. 19-Dec. 1 Pastors for Peace is sponsoring an 80-person construction brigade to Cuba. This also directly challenges trade and travel restrictions, Hansen said.

Participants will buy tools in Cuba and donate their labor to housing construction and repair in the working-class neighborhood of Marianao in Havana.

Several labor activists also spoke at the victory celebration. Colleen Aho, president of the Twin Cities Federation of Television and Radio Arts thanked "the caravan for succeeding in breaking the unofficial blockade of information to the U.S. of the Cuban people and their lives."

Barb Kucera, a member of the Newspaper Guild and editor of *Union Advocate*, a St. Paul labor monthly, spoke of how the caravan furthers the work of unionists to end the

embargo.

Ken Cochrum, a striking coal miner from West Frankfort, Illinois, and member of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2250 touring Minnesota, hailed the courage of the 14 hunger strikers for defying the U.S. government. "As a member of the United Mine Workers of America, I salute you," he said to cheers.

Hansen said that the "solidarity offered us by the people of Cuba was immense. We can learn from that kind of solidarity and the example of solidarity shown here by the UMWA."

"Fidel Castro once said that Cuba is a school," said Stan Pankratz, a farmer from Mountain Lake, Minnesota, and a participant in the caravan. "I attended that school for a week. I learned, as a farmer in the United States, that U.S. capitalism has its limitations and that labor unions are needed. I heard candid and honest Cuban officials answer probing questions from caravanistas. They admitted mistakes and talked of rectification. I am convinced socialism in Cuba is here for a long time because it meets the needs of its people."

"I went to Cuba to take part in a humanitarian effort and also to see life without racism, something I won't see in the U.S.," Tisha Carter, a 20-year-old Black student from the University of Minnesota, said. "The Cubans treated everyone, regardless of race or age, as a brother or sister."

One of seven teenagers on the trip was 17-year-old Rain Newcombe from Duluth, Minnesota.

"I see a lot of people pointing fingers and I wanted to take part in some action," she said. "I hope all my future actions are as successful as this one was."

Andrés Belalcázar from Bogotá, Colombia, is a student at the University of Minnesota. "I am one of the Latin Americans who admire Cuba for its human rights record. You will see no mothers of disappeared in Cuba," he told the meeting.

Belalcázar explained how he was first impressed with Cuba when working in an emergency room in Colombia while a Cuban doctor was visiting. "That physician had never seen bullet wounds before," he said.

Over \$2,600 was collected at the meeting, including a \$1,500 scholarship donation from a local trust fund for two drivers to participate in the next Friendshipment Caravan.

The third U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment is scheduled for February 1994.

For more information on upcoming Pastors for Peace projects call (612) 378-0062.

## Clinton 'cheap gov't' plan debated in Ohio

BY MARK SIMONS

CLEVELAND — President Bill Clinton and Vice-president Al Gore visited this city on September 9 to rally support for their "reinventing government" plan.

Under the guise of reducing wasteful bureaucracy and cutting government red tape the plan would axe a quarter of a million federal jobs over the next five years.

The scheme also projects closing 1,200 Department of Agriculture field offices and all the regional offices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, making it easier to fire federal employees, and gutting the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The consumer price index, which is used to determine Social Security and other benefits, would be revised.

"We are going to Cleveland in large measure because of Mayor Michael White's leadership," said Marla Romash, Gore's press secretary. "He has shown how to make government work better and cost less."

"There are two issues here," said White, discussing the Clinton administration plan. "One is downsizing government, and the other... is governmental innovation."

About 2,000 working people, students and area residents came out to see Clinton

and Gore. Most of the predominantly Black crowd were not enthusiastic about the administration's plan but were willing to wait and see what happens.

"We need some action, not words," said Ms. Barrow, a 35-year-old private-duty nurse. "My mother is ill, and how do they expect her to afford medication? She has to eat. There should be medical care for everyone."

Leon Dailey, 48, worked for Erie Sheet and Steel before that company closed and moved out of town. "We need jobs to get people off of welfare. The minimum wage absolutely needs to go up and we have to get drugs off the streets," he said.

"I like the idea of reforming the government, less bureaucracy, less waste. But after all the senators negotiate I don't see any real progress with Clinton's deficit reduction," said Chris Coblentz, a 23-year-old auto mechanic who walked down the street from work to see the president.

Roni McCann, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Cleveland Board of Education, and Kibwe Diarra, the SWP candidate for City Council from Ward 18, along with campaign supporters, greeted the crowd entering the rally.







# Nicaragua: clashes show depth of crisis

## Chamorro government, Sandinista Front seek to keep workers in check

BY AARON RUBY

A series of sharp conflicts in Nicaragua over the past three months reflects the depth of the political crisis in that Central American country today.

In late July the government sent troops to crush a partial takeover of Estelí, the country's fourth-largest city. A month later, dozens of government officials and legislators were held hostage for nearly a week by two armed groups. The fight over whether to remove Humberto Ortega, the commander of the army, also came to a head in early September.

These developments are the latest chapter in the disputes within ruling-class circles in Nicaragua—including the various bourgeois political forces that make up President Violeta Chamorro's National Opposition Union (UNO) and a layer of high-level officials in the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN)—over how to put together a stable capitalist government capable of keeping the Nicaraguan workers and peasants in check.

The drive to accomplish this has been prodded along by Washington, which continues to side with forces pressing for more aggressive action by the government in Managua, the capital city.

But, as with governments in other semi-colonial countries, the world economic crisis works as a destabilizing factor. And unlike their counterparts elsewhere, the wealthy rulers of Nicaragua confront obstacles posed by the remaining gains of a deep-going revolution.

In 1979 the Nicaraguan workers and farmers overthrew the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship and established a revolutionary government led by the FSLN. Hundreds of thousands mobilized, placing their stamp on politics. This included the widespread organization of working people through trade unions, peasant groups, a women's organization, and community-based committees; an autonomy project under control of oppressed peoples on the country's Atlantic Coast; a literacy crusade; steps toward free health care and universal education; and efforts to establish rent controls and rationing to guarantee adequate food supply. Many factories and a quarter of the arable land were nationalized. Thousands of peasants received titles to plots of land for the first time.

These actions of the workers' and farmers' government coincided with a massive marshaling of human and material resources to defend the country and the revolution against a dirty U.S.-sponsored mercenary war.

By 1988, the contras—as the counter-revolutionary forces were known—had been decisively defeated.

### FSLN abandons working-class course

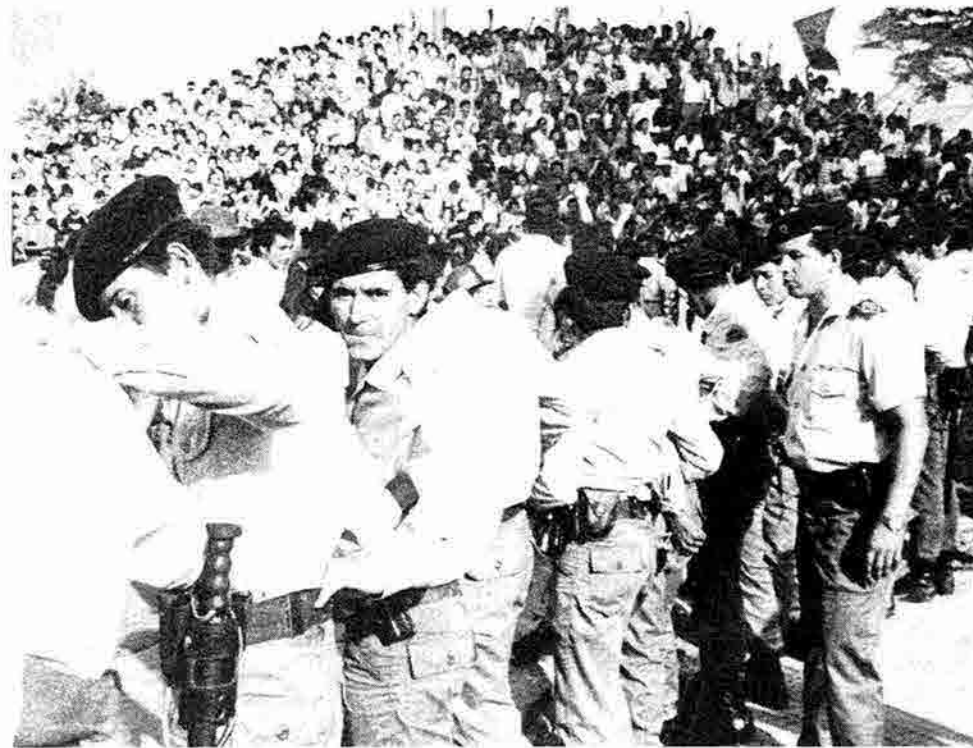
But with the end of the war, which cost more than 30,000 lives, it became clear that the FSLN leadership had abandoned the working-class course marked by the early years of the revolution. Thousands of workers, peasants, and youth—mobilized into the army for more than five years—were now available to take on other leadership responsibilities. They could have played a crucial role in advancing the interests of the most oppressed and exploited layers of society, helping to deepen the fight for work-

ers' control in the factories, integrating women into the work force, and building the mass organizations.

But instead of building on the toilers' increased self-confidence that resulted from the historic victory over the U.S.-sponsored forces, the FSLN turned the military demobilization into a political demobilization. More and more the FSLN leaders sought a reconciliation with the country's capitalists and landlords under a "social pact" with

the Workers' and Peasants' Revolutionary Front seized control of the northern town of Estelí July 21. It is one of several rearmed groups of former contras and Sandinistas in northern Nicaragua. Taken together, these groups have some 1,500 members.

The army veterans who captured Estelí demanded fulfillment of government promises to provide land, credit, housing, education, and health care to demobilized troops. They did not put forward demands that



Police blockade of 3,000 strikers at Chamorro's office in 1990. Nicaraguan government and Washington are working to stabilize country with aid of the FSLN.

"patriotic producers"—capitalist businessmen and landowners who had not fled the country in 1979. Social programs were cut; wage controls put in place; and the land reform halted, although thousands were still without land. By the time national elections were held in 1990, the workers' and farmers' government had been overthrown.

When Violeta Chamorro—the U.S.-backed candidate for president of Nicaragua—ousted Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega, the FSLN quickly adapted itself as a loyal opposition party, occasionally calling its supporters into the streets as a pressure tactic and looking, above all, to an electoral victory in the 1996 presidential ballot.

In a reflection both of the depth of the revolutionary transformation that had occurred in Nicaragua, and the willingness of the FSLN to serve as a prop in the defense of the bosses and landowners, Humberto Ortega, a longtime central leader of the FSLN, remained head of the armed forces and several other high-level Sandinista officials also retained their posts.

However, many gains working people had won remain. Even today, compared to other Central American countries, workers and peasants in Nicaragua maintain a relatively large amount of freedom to organize, protest, and strike. This is the obstacle that the ruling class in Nicaragua is unable to overcome and is a factor that drives it into constant crisis.

Like the rest of Latin America, Nicaragua is in the midst of a prolonged economic crisis. Some 60 percent of the population is unemployed or underemployed. Average annual income stands at \$459, less than a third of what it was in the mid-1970s. The foreign debt is more than \$10 billion. The prices Nicaragua receives for major exports such as cotton continue to decline on the world market. Nicaragua and Haiti now rank as the two poorest countries in the western hemisphere.

In 1990 the Sandinista People's Army (EPS) and the contra forces signed an accord officially ending the almost 10-year war. A central aspect of the agreement was that most of the 100,000 former contra and Sandinista combatants were to receive either land on which to settle or severance pay. But the benefits of this program have yet to reach much beyond the officer corps of the two armies. The majority of those demobilized are left with no means to sustain themselves.

It is in this context that about 150 former FSLN soldiers organized into a group called

would advance the interests of workers and peasants as a whole. Because of this, and because of their banditry, including robbing banks and grocery stores, they did not win much support outside their own group.

### Chamorro sends army into Estelí

Chamorro responded by sending the army into the city to assert control. With light artillery and helicopter gunships, government forces crushed the takeover. Army officials say 45 people were killed and nearly 100 were wounded in the assault. The brutal response was meant as a signal that the officers of the Sandinista-led army will move to help stabilize a capitalist regime and enforce order in the country. The army's actions "marked the end of confusion between tolerance and incapacity," stated Chamorro.

Shortly after the Estelí massacre, Sergio Ramírez, a Sandinista leader, defended the army under Ortega as "revolutionary and patriotic."

On August 19, an armed group of ex-contras seized more than 30 members of the national parliament, army, and government. The officials were part of a delegation sent to talk to government opponents near the northern village of Quilalí. The central demands made by the captors were the removal of army chief Ortega and presidency minister Antonio Lacayo, an extension of a security-zone for the former contras, as well as land and financing.

In response, a group of Sandinista army veterans seized some 30 right-wing politicians, including vice-president Virgilio Godoy. They demanded the Sandinista hostages be freed and that they also receive land.

Chamorro, Daniel Ortega, and rightist forces in UNO who have split from Chamorro for not moving decisively enough to break with the Sandinistas and attack the workers and farmers, all urged a negotiated end to the crisis. The hostages were released and guarantees of safety were given to both groups.

Following these events, Chamorro announced September 2 the dismissal of Army intelligence chief Lenin Cerna. She also stated her intention to remove Humberto Ortega next year. Cerna had headed the FSLN intelligence service.

The removal of Ortega has been a central demand of the administrations of both George Bush and Bill Clinton. He is viewed

by the former backers of the Somoza dictatorship as the premier symbol of the failure of the Managua government to bring about a regime more completely submissive to Washington. "We applaud the bold steps toward reasserting civilian control," U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher said of Chamorro's announcement. A growing number of bourgeois politicians in Nicaragua have gotten the message and view Ortega's presence as an impediment to better relations with the United States. A joint declaration issued by UNO and various business groups stated that Ortega is "responsible for the international bad image of the country."

The U.S. government has used aid as a primary weapon to accomplish its goals. On July 28, for example, the U.S. Senate voted to suspend \$98 million in funds directed to Nicaragua. Washington used the explosion of an arms depot in a Managua garage as part of its anti-FSLN campaign, demanding an investigation into possible links between government officials who are members of the FSLN, the depot, and guerrilla groups who are accused of organizing kidnapping rings in a number of Latin American countries.

### FSLN, UNO agree on labor 'discipline'

The different factions of UNO and the opposition FSLN all agree on the need for greater "stability" and labor "discipline." Under the framework of "national unity," they call on working people to accept sacrifices as the only road to attract skittish capitalist investment and to revitalize the economy. They disagree on the extent to which the government in Managua should subordinate itself to Washington's demands. Their debate is over how and at what pace to proceed, and over who will receive the former state-owned properties that are being privatized. The common framework they all share, however, was reflected in a recent joint statement issued by Chamorro, the FSLN, and UNO calling for "institutional, economic, and social normalization and the search for the common good."

In a recent interview, Sandinista leader Bayardo Arce called for direct negotiations between UNO and the FSLN. "We agree at least in our concern over the country's problems and on ways to find national solutions for those problems," Arce said.

With the victory of UNO candidate Chamorro in the 1990 presidential elections many of the capitalists who had left the country following the 1979 revolution began to return to make claims on properties that had been confiscated. Some of this property is now in hands of various unions and officials in the former FSLN government. The right wing of UNO wants to move more quickly against working people and the gains of the revolution.

This grouping calls for deep cuts in social spending and defending the actions of the rearmed contras. They vie to loyally represent the U.S. government and echo its demands that the powers of the FSLN be sharply curtailed inside and outside the government.

Chamorro's forces seek a cautious approach of what is known as "reconciliation" between factions of the ruling class, as well as between workers and capitalists, in an attempt to avoid provoking greater resistance to austerity measures. The government has used little direct force in its efforts to retake properties and cautions that abrupt moves could result in greater instability. "What has been transferred to peasants through land reform cannot be returned," said Minister of the Presidency Lacayo recently. "We have to pay compensation to the owners, he said, referring to landlords who fled the country during the revolution.

The FSLN, for its part, tries to utilize its influence among working people as leverage to gain an advantage for the wing of capitalists it represents. It portrays itself as the only party capable of mediating the class struggle, often negotiating between the government and the unions it influences during strikes and protests. FSLN leaders urge support for Chamorro as a lesser evil in the face of the right wing.

Aaron Ruby is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27 in Landover, Maryland.

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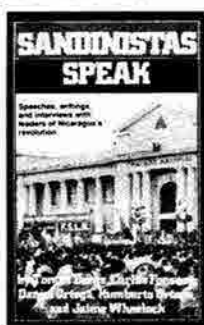
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# Palestinians celebrate accord with Israel

Continued from front page  
during a confrontation between supporters of the accord and those opposed, including Hamas, a right-wing Palestinian group.

Israeli army patrols still walk the streets in Gaza, but as demonstrators mingled and handed flowers to Israeli soldiers, many noted that this would be changing.

"Next time I come back it will be without these clothes," stated one Israeli soldier in reference to his military uniform. His commander commented, "After the peace, [the Palestinians] can do anything they want. They asked me and I told them it's OK to fly the flags. I told them to do anything they want."

Earlier in the day Hamas and the Islamic Jihad had called a general strike in Gaza to protest the accord. Hamas in particular has strong support in Gaza. The groups there vowed to step up attacks on Israeli soldiers as part of a campaign against the agreement, which they argue is selling out the struggle for a Palestinian state. By mid-afternoon, however, the protests ended and the celebrations over the accord began, based on an agreement worked out in advance between local leaders of Hamas and the PLO.

Many Palestinians supporting the accord see this agreement as the first step toward the formation of a Palestinian state. In the West Bank town of Jericho, which has 15,000 residents, the *New York Times* reported that "at times it looked as though every one of them was in the streets" celebrating. "We are feeling freedom," stated one young man, who gave his name as Fatah, to the *Times*. "Today there is Palestine, and peace between us and Israel."

Several hundred demonstrators danced in the streets of downtown Jerusalem upon hearing that the accord was signed.

"This is it — the chance, the hope we've been waiting for all this time," stated Yasmin Halevi, an Israeli university student in her 20s.

Rightist forces in Israel expressed despair

## Highlights of the agreement

The Israeli-Palestinian accord signed in Washington, D.C., September 13 calls for Israel to begin withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho starting December 13. The withdrawal is to be completed by April 13, 1994.

Within 10 months, or no later than July 13, 1994, elections will be held for a Palestinian Council with control over education, economic development, environmental protection, taxes, and social welfare in all of the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians living in East Jerusalem will be eligible to vote for this body. The elected council will have power to pass laws within all the areas transferred to it.

Prior to the election, the Israeli military government will be withdrawn and the army-run civil administration dissolved. Israeli military forces will be "redeployed" outside of population areas in the rest of the West Bank by the eve of the balloting, at the latest.

The Palestinians will form a police force. The Israeli government, however, will continue to have control over the 144 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. The 115,000 settlers will remain outside the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Council.

A joint committee with Israel is to be set up to determine future repatriation of the more than 100,000 Palestinian refugees who fled during the 1967 war.

Within two years, or by Dec. 13, 1995, both sides will start talks on the permanent status of the territories. Outstanding issues still to be resolved include the status of Jerusalem, the method of return of Palestinian refugees, and the status of Israeli settlements.

A permanent agreement is scheduled to take effect by Dec. 13, 1998. — B.W.



Demonstrator waving Palestinian flag from what once was an observation post for Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Nablus.

over the dynamic that could be set in motion by this accord. "This will be remembered as the day when Zionism died of its own will," said West Bank settler Yehuda Etzion to Israel Radio. "The state of Israel has made itself equal to the state of Palestine, which is now established, and who knows what will happen."

### Letters of mutual recognition signed

Several days prior to the signing of the accords at the White House, Israeli prime minister Rabin signed a letter in Jerusalem recognizing the PLO as "the representative of the Palestinian people." Ten hours earlier in Tunis, Tunisia, PLO chairman Arafat signed a letter recognizing the existence of Israel. This was the first agreement between the Israeli government and the Palestinians since the state of Israel was established in 1948.

This mutual recognition agreement "enshrines the principle that the Palestinians are, in fact, a distinct people, defined by the land they call home, and entitled to negotiate their own destiny," wrote Youssef Ibrahim in the September 12 *New York Times*.

Pointing to the significance of this development, the *Times* article continued, "Not long ago [former Israeli prime minister] Golda Meir said flatly that the Palestinians did not exist." This agreement "is also changing Palestinians' relations with the Arab states, which for so long treated them as little more than wards who could not speak for themselves."

On September 10 U.S. president Bill Clinton announced the resumption of diplomatic talks with the PLO that Washington had broken off in 1990. This set the stage for Arafat's attendance at the September 13 White House ceremony, marking the first time in nearly two decades that U.S. officials have allowed him to enter the country.

In his Washington, D.C., speech at the accord-signing ceremony, Arafat said, "Our people do not consider that exercising the right to self-determination could violate the rights of their neighbors or infringe on their

security. Rather, putting an end to their feelings of being wronged and of having suffered an historic injustice is the strongest guarantee to achieve coexistence and openness between our two peoples and future generations."

Arafat says the agreement will pave the way for "an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital." Rabin strongly disagrees. "Creating their own entity doesn't mean an independent state," he asserted. "Jerusalem will remain always united under Israel's sovereignty and our capital forever."

### Rabin uncomfortable with agreement

In an interview with the McNeil-Lehrer TV news show, Rabin bluntly explained, "I feel certain uneasiness in reaching this agreement," which he has described as not the best Israel could have gotten.

"You don't negotiate peace with friends. You make it with very unsympathetic enemies," stated Rabin in motivating to the Israeli parliament why it was necessary to sign these accords. The PLO "was an enemy. It is still an enemy," he said.

Rabin was military chief of staff in the 1967 Six-Day War when Israel first occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and East Jerusalem. He also called for breaking Arab fingers to end the intifada. This past summer Rabin unleashed a massive bombing campaign against Lebanon, forcing hundreds of thousands of refugees from their homes.

### Irrepressible struggle

The impetus leading to the Palestinian-Israeli accord has been the irrepressible in-

tifada. Begun by Palestinian youth in the Gaza Strip in December 1987, demonstrations, strikes, and other protests quickly spread throughout the occupied territories.

The intifada, which won broad support among workers and farmers around the world and put a spotlight on Palestinian demands for justice and on the brutality of the Israeli regime, marked a turning point in the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

It also began to have an impact on the political consciousness of working people within Israel itself. "Those favoring direct negotiations with the PLO have increased," wrote David Hoffman in a *Washington Post* article dated September 10. "Those who want Israel to keep control over the West Bank have declined; there has even been an expansion in the minority who say they favor a Palestinian state."

"Israelis were tired," stated Uri Dromi, an Israeli government spokesperson. "For 20 years, the Palestinians had spoiled us and let us rule them without too much trouble. When they took rocks in their hands, they were knocking on our doors and telling us, 'Hey, we exist.' In that sense, the intifada succeeded."

In response to this upsurge of protest actions in the West Bank and Gaza, the Palestine National Council (PNC) in November 1988 undertook a major diplomatic initiative, declaring the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories. It also acknowledged the "sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the area," including Israel.

When Arafat requested a visa to present these proposals before a November 1988 session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the U.S. government barred the PLO chairman from entering the country. In response, the General Assembly voted 154-2 to hold a special session the following month in Switzerland to hear the Palestinian leader.

The Israeli authorities for their part responded to Arafat's November 1988 initiative by barring radio and television from broadcasting the declaration of a Palestinian state. They also forbade interviews with Arabs from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or Israel about the decisions of the Palestine National Council.

The Israeli rulers attempted to maintain this hard-line stance until quite recently. In February Rabin stated that the more the PLO loses its authority, the better it would be for progress toward peace. In May Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres wrote to the American Zionist Organization, reiterating his opposition to negotiations or dialogue with the PLO.

### More political space for Israeli workers

Up until January 1993, Israelis could be jailed for meeting with an official of the  
Continued on Page 13



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# Miami opponents of Cuba embargo greet striking coal miners

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

MIAMI — Representatives of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) on strike against Peabody Coal Co. in Indiana completed a successful 10-day tour of the Miami area. The coal miners spoke before trade union locals, on campuses, and to community organizations in an effort to build solidarity for their fight.

Seventeen thousand members of the UMWA in seven states are on strike against the Bituminous Coal Operators Association.

Rick Walker, a ramp worker at American Airlines and a member of Transportation Workers Union Local 568, coordinated the tour of Bil Musgrave and Jeff Chapman. The southern Florida council of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) offered its offices to the miners during the tour.

Besides speaking at 11 union gatherings, the miners attended a union picnic and a fund-raising reception. They also spoke at two campus events and before two community organizations, and were taken to farm workers' camps and work sites by leaders of the Florida Farmworkers Association. The tour raised money for the UMWA strike relief fund from donations and the sale of several dozen strike T-shirts and UMWA buttons.

At the J.K. Dawson Shirtmakers plant in Hialeah, Florida, ACTWU members took up a plant collection for the miners. "It is not a lot, but we want to help," shop chairperson Irma Mendez told the coal miners. She and a dozen other workers welcomed the strikers during a lunch break outside the garment shop.

## 'Double breasting'

One highlight of the tour was the miners' visit to the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC). "Coal miners do a dangerous job that is essential for society, but what they face is exploitation at the hands of big wealthy companies," said ATC president Walfrido Moreno to some 100 Cuban-Americans present. "These people face many of the same enemies we face and the media doesn't tell the truth about them either. I want you to give a warm welcome to these two coal miners because they are fighters," he said.

"It's always nice to speak before people who aren't afraid to fight for their rights," said Musgrave after the audience gave a standing ovation to the miners. Musgrave had just learned from Moreno about right-wing attacks on ATC members at a March 17 demonstration opposing the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

"The UMWA was founded in 1890 by the merger of two small unions," continued the strike activist. "Its founders included many workers that spoke languages other than English. Today we face a situation where we have become very productive and have made a lot of profits for the companies, but

they want us out of a job. We are not fighting for money; we're fighting so that workers, including those who have worked for 30 years, have a right to union jobs.

"We have become efficient and they have paid us back by eliminating over 100,000 jobs in recent years. According to the last contract signed by the Bituminous Coal Operators Association, three out five jobs in new mines opened up in the same coal seam owned by the parent company are supposed to go to UMWA members. But the companies are refusing to implement this aspect of the contract, claiming the new mines belong to different owners," Musgrave explained. "This is what is called 'double breasting,' and if we allow it to continue we will be working ourselves out of a job."

Many Cuban-Americans at the meeting walked up to the miners to shake their hands, buy a button, and offer support. A woman from Havana, Cuba, asked the miners if it was OK to send the printed information on their strike to a friend who is a professor back home. She thought he would be interested in organizing a class there on the miners' struggle.

## Haitian group welcomes miners

At a meeting at the University of Miami sponsored by the Labor and Employment Law Society, the coal miners spoke to a couple of dozen students and faculty.

At a speaking engagement before Veye-Yo, one of Miami's biggest and most active Haitian refugee rights organizations, the coal miners were introduced by Lavarice Gaudin, a central leader of the organization. "Don't worry about the clothes the miners are wearing," said Gaudin, pointing to the



Militant UMWA strikers at meeting of Veye-Yo, a Haitian rights organization in Miami. Haitian workers and Cuban opponents of the U.S. embargo gave miners a warm welcome.

camouflage the miners wore. "They are not military, they are militants" The strikers were well received by the Haitian activists, who also told them of their fight in Haiti.

"It's not until you get out on the road that you find out how much respect the struggle of the miners' union has among all kinds of workers," said Musgrave, summing up the response to the tour. "We were able to spread a lot of seeds of solidarity down here that will yield fruit in the future."

"We were effective in making a layer of unionists in Miami aware of the strike," tour coordinator Walker said. "I attended meetings where workers would point out how some of us here in Florida are going through similar attacks to what the miners face. The example of the membership of the miners through their struggle is very concrete to us."

Francisco Picado is member of ACTWU Local 2594 at J.K. Dawson.

# Workers debate national auto contract

Continued from front page

wrong," said another worker. "Yes, I would strike" over this issue.

Patrick Weaver, 24, disagreed. "I'm not for a strike. I don't think either side can afford it," he said. "I wouldn't go on strike over someone else's rights. I know that may be an unpopular position, but that's how I feel."

Officials of UAW Local 2000, which organizes the more than 3,000 workers at the Avon Lake plant, have spoken out against widening the two-tier system. "It weakens the union and creates deep divisions," said Jerome Williams, the local's second vice-president.

Other workers were guarded about whether striking Ford would be a good idea. One Local 2000 member pointed to the setback imposed on Caterpillar workers in 1992 when UAW members were ordered back to work by union officials after a 165-day strike when the company threatened to hire scabs.

Some workers at Ford's Walton Hills, Ohio, stamping plant, however, find it hard to believe that the company could impose a deeper tier system and do not think it is the

most important issue. For many, one worker explained, the first priority is being able to retire without losing current health and pension benefits. Some 800 of the plant's nearly 2,000 employees could retire in the next few years, he pointed out.

Little news on the contract talks reached Hapeville, Georgia, where Ford has a Taurus assembly plant with 2,500 members of UAW Local 882. An article from the *Detroit Free Press* detailing the company's concession demands, however, made its way to the plant and soon dozens of Xerox copies were being passed around.

"What proposal?" said one worker when asked about the company's position. "All I read was a death certificate!"

"Hell, it's just plain greed," said Wayne, who works a "fast" job in the chassis department. "We build the number-one selling car in the country and this is the thanks we get?"

Other workers felt the company's proposals were acceptable "given the state of the economy today."

The dilemma of confronting serious concessions with strike action made many workers uneasy. Some recalled a local strike in 1985 over better ventilation and more water fountains for the plant. "I don't need to go on strike for something silly,"

said one Local 882 member.

Some newer and younger workers felt a little uncertain about the prospect of a strike. "I've never been on a strike," said Lisa, who works on the door line. "Will some of us get arrested?"

General Motors has declined to bring any proposals to the negotiating table, pending the outcome of talks at Ford. GM, plagued by profit losses in its North American operations, will undoubtedly seek to expand the scope of any concessions made by the UAW to the other automakers.

A member of UAW 1714 with 24 years seniority at GM's Lordstown, Ohio, fabrication plant explained "that if there ever was a union-busting tactic, it's the two-tier. But," he added, "jobs and job security are the key issues here."

Local 1714 struck GM for nine days a year ago, forcing the company to live up to agreements on job security and limiting the company's contracting out of work to non-union plants.

Peter Thierjung is a member of UAW Local 538 in Cleveland. Kibwe Diarra and Amy Husk of UAW Local 2000 in Avon Lake, Ohio, and Miguel Zárate of UAW Local 882 in Hapeville, Georgia, contributed to this article.

# Seattle unionists tour miners

BY SCOTT BREEN

SPOKANE, Washington — Jerry Kellerman and Dan Spinnie, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) coal miners on strike in Illinois, addressed 500 delegates and guests at the Washington State Labor Council AFL-CIO Convention here September 9.

The 500 delegates and guests gave Kellerman a standing ovation when he declared that the UMWA strike, now entering its fifth month, was "a fight for all labor, not just the UMWA."

The delegates took up a collection on the spot, donating over \$1,300 for the strike. Delegates and officials from United Steelworkers of America Local 329 in Spokane challenged all other local unions in Washington state to match or beat their donation of \$1,000. While in Spokane for the convention, the miners had addressed that local's business meeting, as well as a local of the Amalgamated Transit Union and the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 86. They were also interviewed by

Radio KPBX in Spokane.

This was the second time striking coal miners had toured Washington state. The Washington Labor Council AFL-CIO and the King County Labor Council had sponsored a tour in July. This time the miners were invited by the state Labor Council and by District 751 of the IAM, which represents 32,000 aerospace workers at Boeing in the Seattle area.

The miners also spoke to several hundred Machinists at union meetings of two different IAM locals, the Snohomish Labor Council meeting, the King County Labor Day picnic, and the executive board of International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 19.

Kellerman and Spinnie traveled to Campbell River, British Columbia, to find out about the strike of miners at the Westmin mine there.

Following the convention, the two miners flew to Alaska for a week-long tour sponsored by the Alaska AFL-CIO.

# Canadian auto workers reach tentative contract agreement

BY GARY WATSON

TORONTO — Negotiators for the Canadian Autoworkers (CAW) union and Chrysler Canada have reached a tentative agreement on a new contract. The deal was finalized late in the evening of September 14 just hours before a midnight strike deadline. Chrysler Canada employs 10,500 CAW members.

While no details of the agreement have been provided to CAW members, according to media reports, the settlement calls for wage increases of 2 percent, 1.5 percent, and 1 percent over a three-year contract.

Retired workers will reportedly receive a pension of \$25,000 per year, rising to \$30,000 over the next six years.

News reports have also stated that a third shift will be established at the Windsor, Ontario minivan plant. The new shift is scheduled to begin February 1994, and will require 600 workers. Union negotiators had demanded the shift.

Ratification meetings are scheduled for Sunday, September 19.

On September 20, CAW officials are expected to announce if Ford or General Motors will be the next strike target. These companies employ 39,000 CAW members.

Gary Watson is a member of CAW Local 1285 and works at the Chrysler Bramalea Assembly plant.



# 'No one owns me except the working class'

## Mother Jones speaks to 1911 convention of the United Mine Workers

From the end of the Civil War until her death in 1930 at the age of 100, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was a tireless fighter for the working class.

For six decades she joined with workers in struggle throughout the United States: railroad workers in Pittsburgh, garment workers in New York, steelworkers in Chicago, and many others. She also defended Mexican revolutionaries, framed-up labor activists, and the October 1917 revolution in Russia.

More than anything, Mother Jones was associated with the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). She became an organizer for the union in 1890, the year it was founded. For decades she crisscrossed the coalfields of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Alabama, Michigan, Arizona, Colorado, and other states, confronting the employers along with their cops and gun thugs, judges and prosecutors.

These were years of mighty class battles. In 1897, with only 4,000 members, the United Mine Workers called a nationwide strike. To the surprise of the coal bosses, 100,000 miners walked off the job. Another strike, in 1902, involved 200,000. By 1911 the UMWA was the largest union in the United States, with a membership of close to 300,000.

Below are excerpts from Mother Jones's speech to the UMWA's 1911 convention. It is taken from *Mother Jones Speaks*, recently reissued by Pathfinder Press. In her remarks, she refers to strikes by coal miners then under way in Irwin, Pennsylvania, and against the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., owned by John D. Rockefeller.

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\* \* \*

Brothers of this convention, perhaps never in the history of the mine workers was there a more important convention than this. The eyes of the world are resting today and all other days you are in session on this hall. The master class is watching your convention with keen interest. And so I say to you, be wise, be prudent in

**"Never can a complete victory be won until the woman awakens to her condition . . ."**

your actions. Think before you act. Don't give the master class any weapon to strike you with and laugh about. Let us have the laugh on them.

Now, my brothers, the last year has been a trying year for organized labor all along the line. There have been some wonderful fights on the industrial field. It has not been alone the miners, it has not been alone the steel workers.<sup>1</sup>

For the first time, perhaps, the women in

1. A reference to strikes by steelworkers at the Pressed Steel Car Co. and at Bethlehem Steel.

the industrial field have begun to awaken to their condition of slavery. In New York and Philadelphia the women arrayed themselves in battle, and they gave battle fearlessly.<sup>2</sup> They were clubbed, they were jailed, they were insulted, but they bore it all for a principle they believed in. Never can a complete victory be won until the woman awakens to her condition.

The industrial war is on in this country. Why? Because modern machinery plays a greater part in the production of wealth in this nation than it does in any other nation of the world. The class that owns the machine owns the government, it owns the governors, it owns the courts and it owns the public officials all along the line. There may be an exception, but on the whole it is true. It certainly owns the governor of Ohio. Put it down, Mr. Reporter, that I said so!

First the governor of Ohio brought out his dogs of war to turn them on the steel workers. That cost this state \$250,000. Then he brought them out and turned them on the street car strikers and undertook to lick them into submission. I want to serve notice on the governor of Ohio that he has never licked labor into submission and never will, and by the eternal gods we will lick him into submission before we are through!

Now, you have a fight of the miners in Colorado. You have got to call a strike in the southern field and lick the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company out of its boots. You cannot win in the northern field until you take a hand in the southern field. You could have won in Colorado at one time. You had the strike in your own hands, but you undertook to make a settlement in the northern field and left the southern field to fight the battle alone.

Then they were able to turn their batteries. The northern field furnished coal for the state institutions, and the result was their rotten carcasses got heated up and they could turn the bayonets on you. I am for making a fight on the whole bunch. If you don't want to do it alone, I will go there and take a hand in it and give them hell.

I know how a scab is made up. One time there was an old barrel up near heaven, and all of heaven got permeated with the odor. God Almighty said, "What is that stuff that smells so?" He was told it was some rotten

**"The class that owns the machines owns the government, and it owns the courts . . ."**

chemical down there in a barrel and was asked what could be done with it. He said, "Spill it on a lot of bad clay and maybe you can turn out a scab." That is what a scab is made of, and he has been rotten all down the ages.

If there is an organization in this land or in any other land the master classes are afraid of, if there is an organization they want to split in two, it is the United Mine Workers of America. They are putting up every sort of game to divide our forces, but they are going to get left, my friends. We may have a little housecleaning, we may have a little jawing and chewing the rag; but when the time comes we will line up and give the master class what they have been looking for.

In Colorado you have 16 men in jail. A distinguished judge, owned body and soul and brains — and he never had any too much brains — by the corporations, has put 16 of our men in jail. Let me serve notice on the judges of this country that the day is not far distant when we will put every capitalist judge in jail and make a man out of him. That day is coming and it is not far away. Put that down, Mr. Reporter, so the judges will know it!

No man, no set of men will or ever have owned me except the working class. There is not a more important strike in the history of the miners' union than the strike in the

2. Mother Jones is referring to strikes by garment workers in these two cities.



Mary Harris "Mother" Jones

Irwin field — not one. I knew that when it started; but the whole industrial body of the miners were in a strike of their own at the time it started. They were not able to take hold of it as they should have done. They have done yeoman work in that field; they are magnificent fighters; but in all strikes there will be the grafters, there will be those who have no conscience, there will be those who sell their homes and come out and live off the organization.

I want to say to you that strike must be won; it will be won, but you have got to center your forces there, and if it takes all the money of your organization, put it there and lick hell out of those operators.

Today 21 men are to be hung in Japan — 21 revolutionaries, 21 brave souls in that nation that has only come from barbarism within the last 40 years. Those 21 brave men go to the scaffold today, my friends, for a principle in which they believe, the principle of right and justice, and I want this convention to pass resolutions and notify the Japanese consul in Washington that they will hear from us if they hang any more of those men.

You are in the mightiest conflict of the age. Put away your prejudice, grow big and great and mighty in this conflict and you will win. There is no such thing as fail. We have got to win. You have brave fighters, both in Colorado and Pennsylvania. You have warriors there, but you must stand by them. Pay your dues, win that battle in the Irwin field, and then, my friends, turn your batteries on the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and show them what the United Mine Workers' organization is made of.

### Trotsky praised example of working-class fighter

"I have finished reading the autobiography of Mother Jones. It has been a long time since I have read anything with such interest and excitement. An epic book! What unflagging devotion to the working people, what organic contempt for the traitors and careerists from among the working-class 'leaders.' With 91 years of life behind her, this woman at a Pan-American Workers' Congress held up the example of Soviet Russia. At 93 she joined the Farmer-Labor Party. But the main substance of her life was her participation in workers' strikes, which — in America more frequently than anywhere else — turned into civil war.

"Jones represents a splendid landmark in the history of her class."

Leon Trotsky, 1935. (Contained in *Art and Revolution*, published by Pathfinder.)



Mother Jones urging steelworkers to vote for a strike. For six decades Jones joined with workers in struggle throughout the United States. She also defended Mexican revolutionaries, framed-up labor activists, and the October 1917 revolution in Russia.

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## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**The Fight against Censorship and Discrimination.** Speakers: Jon Greaves, Cobb Citizens Coalition; Lisa Mount, managing director, 7 Stages theater; Teresa Nelson, executive director, ACLU of Georgia; Cherry Spencer-Stark, board chair, Theater in the Square, Marietta; Susan Lamont, Socialist Workers Party, member, ACTWU, Local 365. Sun., Sept. 26, 3 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3; students and unemployed \$1. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

**Iran, Azerbaijan, and the Central Asian Republics. Celebration of: To See the Dawn.** A slide show and presentation by Ma'mud Shirvani, recently returned from Baku, Azerbaijan, coauthor, introduction to the new Pathfinder

book *To See the Dawn: Baku 1920 — First Congress of the Peoples of the East*. Sat., Sept. 25, 6 p.m. 7414 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$5 each for program and dinner. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**The Significance of the Mideast Accords.** Sat., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.  
**Health Care Crisis: Is Clinton's Plan The Solution?** Speakers: Sue Skinner, Socialist Workers candidate for City Council; others. Sat., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

**Challenges Facing the Labor Movement Today.** Speakers: Ken Cochrum, striking coal miner, member, UMW Local 2250, West Frankfurt,

Illinois; Dale Chidester, meatpacker, member, UFCW Local 9, Austin, Minnesota; Bob Kruger, airline worker, member IAM Local 1833, Twin Cities, Minnesota; Ernie Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party, member, IAM Local 638. Sat., Sept. 25, dinner: 6 p.m. program: 7:30 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: dinner \$4, program \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**PLO-Israel Agreement: A Step Forward for Palestinians.** Speakers: Representative, Palestine Aid Society of America; Bob Stanton, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Morgantown

**Can the Israeli-Palestinian Accords Bring**

**Peace?** Panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (304) 296-0055.  
**Dr. Kevorkian: Mercy or Murder.** Speaker: Elizabeth Lariscy, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

## CANADA

### Vancouver

**Israel Agrees to Limited Palestinian Autonomy.** Speakers: Representatives, the Arab Students Society of University of British Columbia; representative, Communist League election campaign; others. Sat., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24th Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

# Steelworkers murdered on Alabama picket line

## Continued from front page

Local 15015 president Ray Wood pointed out. "When we complained to them about this, they said that they weren't out here to issue traffic tickets." Strikers reported other incidents where trucks had flattened metal folding chairs "like a dime," forcing pickets to jump into a ditch to avoid being hit. Strikers' complaints against such acts have been ignored by cops and local authorities.

Injunctions have been leveled against the Steelworkers limiting the number allowed on the picket line to 10. When a group of the strikers' wives organized a protest, holding signs along the highway, a Shelby County judge tightened the injunction to prohibit any gathering of strike supporters throughout the county, except at the union hall.

National-Standard has been trying to operate the plant with supervisory personnel since June, and began hiring 30-40 scabs in July. But at the insistence of the strikers, the district attorney and other officials ordered it closed after the killings. City, county and state police escorted the scabs out of the

plant. A crowd of angry strikers hurled rocks, bottles, and other items at the 20-car caravan. Later, strikers barricaded the driveway with 55-gallon drums. Strikers continue to maintain the picket line.

Several hundred steelworkers and supporters from the community gathered September 8 for a vigil outside the plant. As they placed candles around wreaths set up on the picket line, union member Roger Price said, "We have two fallen comrades, Lord, but they will not be forgotten."

## Six hundred attend funeral

In an outpouring of solidarity, nearly 600 people attended the two funerals held for Cain and Fleming. A contingent of coal miners from several locals of United Mine Workers of America District 20 as well as district officials attended, wearing camouflage and black armbands.

A caravan of Steelworkers from USWA Local 9226 at the Trinity Industries plant in Bessemer, Alabama, traveled 40 miles to attend the funeral. Workers at Trinity recently concluded a eight-and-a-half-month-long

strike. Some of the Trinity workers helped staff the picket line so strikers could attend the services.

UMWA striker Sonny Smith and his wife Carol traveled from Coulterville, Illinois, for the funerals. Smith walked the picket line with the strikers and attended their union meeting during a solidarity tour of Alabama last month. "They were our brothers," he said. "We're all part of the same struggle."

Delegations from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Birmingham, Alabama, were also on hand for the funerals.

Others at the services included members and officials from steelworkers' locals at USX Corp. in Fairfield, Alabama; the Communications Workers of America; the American Postal Workers Union; and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Steelworkers District 36 director Richard Davis and International Vice-president George Becker attended, along with the Ala-

bama state secretary of labor, Ace Trammel, and James Albright, president of the state AFL-CIO. Albright said National-Standard should share the responsibility for the deaths. "It's the company's fault; they hired the truck driver," he said.

The USWA International has donated \$25,000 to help start a fund for the families of those killed.

Contributions and expressions of solidarity have begun to come in from union locals across the country, Davis said.

Donations and contributions can be sent to the Cain-Fleming Memorial Fund at P.O. Box 192, Shelby, Alabama 35143.

# CALENDAR

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**Pastors for Peace 5th Anniversary.** Video: Cuban president Fidel Castro presents awards to Pastors for Peace and Rev. Lucius Walker for their work in the Friendshipship caravan to Cuba. Fri., Sept. 24, 8 p.m. Casa de las Americas, 104 West 14th Street. Tel: (212) 675-2584.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**Marx and Engels on the National and Colonial Questions.** Public discussion and class series held every week Sept. 20-Oct. 8. Please call for times and readings. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Report-Back from 2nd U.S.-Cuba Friendship-ment with Participants and Video.** Speakers: Lisa Valanti, hunger striker; Susan Chen; Ray Donaldson; others. Fri., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by D.C. Hands off Cuba Coalition. Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave., NW (off Connecticut) Tel: (202) 234-2000.

# Canada caravan fights logging bosses' greed

## BY BETTY BROWN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Two hundred people gathered at the train station here September 5 to greet 18 opponents of logging in Clayoquot Sound. The 18 were part of a cross-country caravan that began in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and continued on to Clayoquot Sound to participate in a mass blockade of the Kennedy River logging road September 7.

The caravan participants are part of a growing movement protesting the April 13 decision by the New Democratic Party government in British Columbia to allow logging to proceed in the Clayoquot Sound area. This would result in the destruction of one of the few remaining tracts of ancient rain forest in North America.

The caravan participants were eager to describe the impressive show of support they received across the country. Simon Adell, who is taking six months off from school in order to see the fight to save Clayoquot Sound through to the end, got on the train in Kingston, Ontario. At the next stop in Belleville, Ontario, more than 50 people gave the caravan a loud, boisterous welcome. In Winnipeg, Manitoba, 150 rallied at the train station for the arrival of the protesters. Adell was particularly impressed by the fact that in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, "a couple dozen people — most of them Natives — came out at 2:15 a.m. in the bitter cold" to show their support and bring much-appreciated blankets.

Lorraine Swift, a young staffer for the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, reported that 150 people, including three different musical groups, showed up at 8:00 a.m. in Edmonton, Alberta, to greet the protesters.

Caravan organizer Donna Passmore from Wakefield, Quebec, said supporters across the country donated more than 700 pounds of food and other supplies for those staying at the peace camp, an organizing center for the protests in Clayoquot Sound itself.

One participant traveled from Newfoundland to join the beginning of the caravan in Halifax. A young man from Germany who

is visiting Canada also joined the convoy as it traveled across the country. A young woman who was moving from Toronto to Winnipeg decided to continue on to Clayoquot Sound after discussions with members of the caravan.

At the rally in Vancouver, Garth Lenz, a leader of Friends of Clayoquot Sound based in Tofino, British Columbia, blasted the "collusion between the courts, cops, government, and forest companies to desecrate the land for short-term profit."

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



And have a nice day — Bob Miske, veteran scout for the L.A. Dodgers, recently underwent a quad-



Harry Ring

druple-bypass operation. While recuperating, he received a letter from his boss, Terry Reynolds, notifying him he was fired. The letter concluded with the hope that Miske was getting better.

**Saucy question** — Of the four

top-selling barbecue sauces, three are owned by Philip Morris, and the other by Clorox bleach. "So," inquires one food writer, "what's the secret ingredient?"

**The civilized society** — A class-action suit has been filed on behalf of prisoners at California's Pelican Bay supersecurity prison. A hi-tech dungeon, "troublemakers" are assigned there from other prisons. They are held in total solitary confinement in small windowless cells, denied the opportunity to work or engage in other activity. A psychiatrist who interviewed inmates said they're treated like "caged animals" and that the isolation is a form of "psychological torture."

**They volunteer for it** — "These men have been doing hard time for years. . . . For many of them, surviving in places like this — and defying the authority of the state — gives zest to their lives." — Sociologist David Ward explaining why Pelican Bay isn't as bad as it seems.

**The ice-cream caper** — We reported about Dehundra Caldwell, 17, who got three years in Thomaston, Georgia, for taking a box of ice cream bars from a school cafeteria. Now his brother Marcus, 15, says he took the ice cream. Dehundra explained that he pleaded guilty because he felt he should take responsibility for his younger brother and another friend.

**P.S.** — With the area media focusing on the Caldwell case (an *Atlanta Constitution* editorial rapped the sentence), the judge decided to review the matter. Caldwell's sentence could be reduced to probation. If not, he'll remain in the county jail until space becomes available in a state prison.

**Stop worrying** — To withstand earthquakes, the concrete walls of a subway being built in Los Angeles are supposed to be at least 12 inches thick. But officials let the contractor make some areas of the walls as thin as 6 to 8 inches. An official assures that three recent major earthquakes in the past two years had no impact on the tunnel. The tremors were centered 100-120 miles away.

**Quality time** — Hermes, the venerable Paris fashion house known for its upscale scarves, etc., also has a line of equally stylish watches. Prices range from \$850 to \$12,300 depending, apparently, on how many diamonds you want on the watchband.

**Thought for the week** — "A five-year study of the American work force has come up with findings that most working people already know too well: Many feel burned out by the end of the day, don't have enough time with their families, and fear they will be laid off." — Associated Press

## U.S. troops massacre Somali civilians in Mogadishu

Continued from front page

son Maj. David Stockwell in an effort to justify this massacre. "The women and children were combatants. . . . We've seen this before," he added. "If they reach our soldiers, they tear them limb from limb."

Two local hospitals were filled with more than 100 Somalis wounded in this assault. Ali Ahmed Mohamed, 14, was hit in the stomach while sitting in his home close to the fighting, according to a *Washington Post* reporter who visited Digfer Hospital. "Another patient," continues the *Post*, "Abdirahman Sheikh Issa, 20, was hit in the head by shrapnel from a tank shell while he was about a half-mile from the fighting."

U.S. and UN officials are attempting to avoid blame for the high number of civilian casualties. They argue that Somalis provoked the attack by firing on UN troops.

Senior U.S. military officials note that an increasing number of Somalis are not being intimidated by the massive firepower directed against them. According to Col. Mike Dallas, commander of the U.S. Quick Reaction Force, the significance of the September 9 battle was exactly the willingness of the Somalis "to stand up and fight."

On September 13 U.S. Cobra helicopters raked Mogadishu with machine gun and cannon fire for the second time as UN troops fought with Somalis for nearly three hours. The battle began after 200 soldiers from the Quick Reaction Force began conducting a weapons search, detaining 50 Somalis. A spokesperson for Somali Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid said at least 25 people were killed and many more wounded in this attack. Three U.S. soldiers were also injured.

The Associated Press reported that this battle marked the first time that Somalis had willingly engaged heavily armored vehicles.

U.S. troops invaded Somalia last December in what then-President George Bush proclaimed was a short term humanitarian mission to feed starving people. In late August, U.S. defense secretary Les Aspin stated in a major policy address that U.S. forces will not leave until "order" is restored, a "credible police force" installed, and weapons are confiscated from the vast majority of Somalis.

About 3,000 U.S. troops are now in the African country as part of the 24,000-member United Nations force. An additional 1,700 U.S. soldiers — a 1,300 army "quick-reac-

tion" force and 400 Army Rangers — are also stationed there under separate U.S. command.

This summer the London-based human rights organization African Rights issued a report documenting a number of instances of harassment and abuse of Somalis by the UN occupation force. This organization, founded by Somali attorney Rakyika Omaar and Alex de Waal from Britain, details how the threat of famine in Somalia had actually receded before the U.S. intervention took place. Among the charges in their report is that Belgian UN troops threw Somali civilians off a bridge.

In August, 26 nongovernment relief organizations working in Somalia filed a complaint with UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali about the stepped-up military operations by UN troops there. "Serious moral and legal questions are posed by numerous military actions of UNOSOM [United Nations Operation in Somalia]," they wrote. A number of these groups have been forced to cut back or suspend their food aid programs as a result of these expanding attacks.

### Congressional resolution on Somalia

The Clinton administration's open-ended military intervention policy in Somalia has provoked a debate in Congress. In a 90-7 vote the Senate September 9 adopted a non-binding resolution urging the president to provide by October 15 a report on his goals and objectives in Somalia. It also requests that Clinton seek congressional approval by November 15 for any continued U.S. presence there.

Last February the Senate passed a resolution promoted by both Democrats and Republicans that authorized the U.S. military invasion and occupation of Somalia.

In the current debate, a number of senators expressed opposition to withdrawing U.S. troops. "It is true that no direct national interest is involved," stated South Carolina Republican senator Strom Thurmond. "But now that we are there, all the indirect national interests are at stake — U.S. leadership, prestige, credibility, and self-respect."

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, backed this point of view. "I think we have to stay there for the foreseeable future," he stated in an interview with Associated Press. It would be a mistake to "cut and

run because things have gotten a little tough," the general added.

The *Wall Street Journal*, while wholeheartedly backing U.S. military action in Somalia, takes issue with Powell's motivation that U.S. troops must remain there for the sake of "our ability to participate in multilateral organizations."

The *Journal* instead calls for the U.S. to take the "lead," arguing that to subordinate U.S. troops to the UN military command could lead to Washington "being quagmired by the UN."

The *New York Times*, in a September 12 editorial entitled "Somalia: From Bad to Worse," expresses growing unease about the U.S. military operation. "Somalia was supposed to be the blueprint for a new kind of constructive international intervention," states the *Times*. "Instead, it has increasingly come to resemble an old-fashioned, unwinnable colonial war."



Scores of Somalis died in September 9 attack

## 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interest of the Working People  
September, 27 1968 Price 10c

A mass demonstration against the war in Vietnam and in protest against the brutal police suppression of dissent during the Democratic Party convention has been planned here for Sept. 28, one month after the "Battle of Chicago." The demonstrators will march down Michigan Avenue and rally at Grant Park in front of the Conrad Hilton Hotel, scene of the violent police attack that millions watched on TV, Aug. 28.

An ad hoc committee, "Citizens for a Free Chicago," is co-sponsoring the demonstration together with the Chicago Peace Council. A leaflet distributed by the two organizations declares, "If you were revolted by police behavior in front of the Conrad Hilton August 28, come and be counted September 28." The call for the demonstration also demands amnesty for those arrested during the convention week, as well as amnesty for the black GIs at Fort Hood, Tex. who refused to come to Chicago to help put down the convention-week demonstrations.

Up to 1,000 demonstrators and bystanders were injured and 700 arrested during the week of protest. But the news media have played up the relatively few and minor "injuries" to the police, as well as the scare stories about black-widow-spider-bombs, or demonstrators charging police lines. In addition the *Chicago Tribune*, an influential, arch-conservative newspaper (Chicago's largest), has been spearheading a campaign

to have the leaders of the demonstrations last month indicted on felony charges.

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

### September 25, 1943

The 18 defendants in the Minneapolis case are the first victims of the Smith "Omnibus Gag" Act passed in 1940. The sponsor of this law — the most reactionary statute in the U.S. Code — is poll tax Representative Howard W. Smith, leader of the anti-labor bloc in Congress and co-author of the vicious Smith-Connally anti-strike law.

The Smith "Gag" Act is the first federal peacetime law since the infamous Alien & Sedition Acts of 1798 which makes mere advocacy of ideas a felony. Under its provisions it is a penal offense punishable by ten years imprisonment and \$10,000 fine to advocate any revolutionary change in the U.S. government or to criticize conditions in the armed forces. It could easily be used to include the CIO's protest against training soldiers in strike-breaking tactics or protests against Jim Crow in the armed forces.

During the debates in Congress Representative Geyer of California declared: "This bill is an attempt to put an end to real democracy. It is an attempt to break the labor movement." Representative Martin of Colorado said: "It is enough to make Thomas Jefferson turn over in his grave. It is without precedent in the history of labor legislation. It is an invention of intolerance contrary to every principle of democracy."

## Palestinians celebrate agreement

Continued from Page 9

PLO. It was only when the parliament revoked this blatantly undemocratic law that it finally became possible for Israeli working people to read in newspapers and watch on TV the point of view of PLO leaders, uncensored by Israeli authorities.

"I could not believe it was finally taking place," stated Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan, who was twice sentenced to jail by Israeli courts for meeting with Arafat and other PLO members. "So much time lost, so many lives wasted. It should have happened years ago."

Twenty-six years of Israeli military occupation have left the West Bank and Gaza in dire economic straits. Annual per capita income in the territories is just \$1,350, one-eighth the level in Israel. Only 80 of the 400 Palestinian villages have telephone service. About 140 villages have no electrical power, while a lack of wastewater treatment facil-

ities means that sewage is often discharged into streams.

A new report by the World Bank estimates that the West Bank and Gaza will need \$9 billion in economic aid. This includes \$3 billion over 10 years for water and sewer upgrades, roads, electricity, education, and health care; \$3 billion to build more than 50,000 housing units; and another \$3 billion to finance business investments. Some 750,000 Palestinians live in the Gaza Strip and 1.8 million reside in the West Bank.

Managing editor Argiris Malapanis is on a reporting trip to the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Israel. Contributions to help defray the cost of this important trip should be earmarked "Middle East trip" and sent to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



# A victory for Palestinian fighters

The victory signaled by the signing of the accord between the Israeli government and the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is a product of the courageous and irrepressible *intifada* led by Palestinian youths in the occupied territories for the past five and a half years. This uprising has built on the decades-long fight by the Palestinian people for self-determination.

Despite fierce repression, these Palestinian fighters continued to take to the streets in demonstrations and strikes against Israeli military occupation of their land. Through this fight the Palestinians won worldwide support for their struggle for justice and self-determination. The Israeli rulers, meanwhile, found themselves increasingly isolated and condemned by working people and governments around the world for their brutal policies.

The accords call for the withdrawal of Israeli troops, first from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and then from other "populated areas" throughout the West Bank. The ending of Israeli military rule over the territories and the transfer of decision-making power over wide areas of social and economic life to an elected Palestinian Council opens up new political space for Palestinian fighters to advance their struggle for an independent state.

It will now be easier for Palestinian trade unions and other workers' organizations to function and grow. Censorship policies imposed by the Israeli rulers over the territories can now finally be lifted together with Israeli control over the education system.

The accord opens up new possibilities for common

discussion and action by Palestinian and Israeli workers in the face of the growing capitalist economic crisis. The fact that it is no longer illegal for Israelis to meet and speak with PLO leaders and that PLO statements can now be broadcast in the Israeli media represents an expansion of the democratic rights of working people in Israel.

Workers in Israel will now be in a stronger position to discuss out political ideas and seek allies in their fight against the Israeli bosses from among the most resolute Palestinian fighters.

The advances made by the Palestinians will aid those fighting in South Africa under the leadership of the African National Congress for a democratic, nonracial nation. The death blows dealt to the apartheid system by the mass actions of the democratic forces in South Africa helped inspire the new generation of Palestinian fighters. For decades the Israeli government was one of the staunchest backers of the apartheid regime.

Twenty-six years of Israeli occupation have left the West Bank and Gaza in desperate shape. PLO officials estimate that they will need about \$11.2 billion in economic aid over the next 10 years to reconstruct the territories' infrastructure and provide basic social services.

The Clinton administration, which has thus far balked at providing significant funds, should provide massive aid to the Palestinians with no strings attached. And all U.S. laws prohibiting Washington from giving any funds to the PLO should be immediately repealed.

# End brutal invasion of Somalia

"We saw all the people swarming on the vehicles as combatants. We've seen this before. If they reach our soldiers they tear them limb from limb."

These are the words of Army Maj. David Stockwell, chief spokesperson for the heavily armed imperialist troops in Somalia.

This is how the rulers justify the barbaric slaughter of 100 Somalis on September 9. As the bodies of men, women, and children littered the ground, the warlords in Washington talked of "ensuring the success of the operation."

The veil is off the "operation." The invasion of the country on the Horn of Africa is not about food, and it never was. It's about projecting U.S. military might, moving to cut off Washington's competitors in Bonn and Tokyo, and inflicting punishment on whoever gets in the way.

The allied invaders, under the UN flag, fired rockets and cannons from helicopter gunships and armored personnel carriers. "The women and children were combatants," says Stockwell.

Stockwell's words sound a lot like those used to describe the brutal assault on Iraq, when Air Force officers called bombing runs "cockroach hunts" and where falling "ordnance" resulted in "collateral damage."

The aim in Somalia, as it was in Iraq, is to present the workers, farmers, and youth of the country as faceless, "swarming" animals. By no small coincidence, the vast majority of big-business newspapers published in the

United States avoided printing pictures of the murdered Somalis.

This is the same brutality that the wealthy rulers of the United States mete out to working people at home. When the Los Angeles cops nearly beat Rodney King to death in 1991, they claimed he was attacking them. When striking steelworkers or coal miners organize an effective struggle to shut down their work sites, the bosses and their agents accuse them of violence, while sending gun thugs out to take shots at strikers.

The debate that broke out in Washington in the wake of the bloodbath points to the central problem the rulers face: they don't know if they can win, even in a small, impoverished country like Somalia, which they bled dry for decades.

Gen. Colin Powell said that a pullout would be "devastating to our hopes for the new world order and our ability to participate in multinational organizations to deal with problems like this."

Washington went into Somalia hoping to get out quickly, deploying thousands of troops under a humanitarian guise. But the rulers are headed — once again — toward a quagmire. Most alarming to them is the increasing "willingness" of the Somali people to "stand and fight," as U.S. Quick Reaction Force commander Mike Dallas said.

Working people around the world should demand Washington and its allies get out of Somalia now.

# Resounding blow to apartheid

When negotiators involved in multiparty talks approved the formation of a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) in early September, they dealt a resounding blow to apartheid and took an important stride toward a democratic, nonracial South Africa.

"The adoption of the draft TEC bill is one of the final steps in bringing down the apartheid edifice," proclaimed African National Congress (ANC) secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa.

ANC president Nelson Mandela hailed this decision as "the beginning of the end of white supremacy" and "the most important breakthrough in negotiations this year."

The council will have major decision-making power over all areas related to South Africa's first-ever democratic elections set for April 27, 1994. Its formation effectively marks the end of 45 years of whites-only National Party rule.

The TEC together with legislation creating an Independent Electoral Commission, Independent Media Commission, and Independent Broadcasting Authority are essential for leveling the political playing field during the electoral process.

The council, along with the mobilization of millions of

working people in South Africa, will be essential to insuring a democratic election.

The vote on the TEC will be taken at a special session of South Africa's white-minority parliament, which is expected to approve this legislation as one of its last acts before going out of business.

The creation of this body sets the stage for intensified election campaigning over the coming months by all the contending political parties in South Africa.

From house meetings in Soweto to campaign rallies in Cape Town, the ANC is stepping up its efforts to win support for its candidates and political perspective.

The tremendous response that Mandela received during his two-week visit to the United States this summer shows the potential that exists for winning solidarity for the ANC-led fight for a democratic South Africa. Working people in the United States and throughout the world should rally around the ANC's campaign effort and do everything possible to ensure that it's a success.

A victory for the ANC in South Africa's first free elections will be a victory for working people and all democratic-minded fighters throughout the world.

# 'A picture's worth a thousand words'

The on-the-scene pictures in the *Militant* recently of young abortion rights fighters confronting and defeating Operation Rescue's Cities of Refuge campaign this summer gave truth to the statement "a picture is worth a thousand words."

In April the *Militant* took this column to ask our worker-correspondents to provide sources with their first-hand reports. Writers have responded well to the appeal, helping

## DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

the *Militant* maintain its high standards for accurate reports and objective news analysis.

We want to turn to our readers again with another request to help make the *Militant* more lively and informative. We need your assistance in providing current photographs to accompany articles. A good photo can be as revealing as an article and can encourage readers to pick up the paper. For example, the pictures of Friendshipment activists loading vans with 100 tons of humanitarian aid to Cuba, speaking out in cities across the United States against the U.S. government embargo of that Caribbean island, and carrying boxes of aid over the border into Mexico helped capture the breadth of opposition to Washington's attempts to strangle Cuba and the opportunities that exist to continue that fight.

Old pictures or pictures that have already been run once in the paper, don't have the same impact. The problem we face was brought home to us last week when we were forced to run several photographs that were outdated. So we're putting out an international plea for more pictures!

Since a good photograph adds so much to an article, it's helpful to consider some of the pictures you'll be trying to take before you actually get to the rally, picket line, or campaign event. Think about the article and the points you would like to bring to life for the readers. We urge our readers to take cameras with them when they build and attend political events.

Posed shots can be good — for example to pull together a group of striking workers on a picket line — but the most interesting photographs are of people engaged in an activity, especially when the photographer captures their expressions.

### Photo boxes

A good picture can even be run as a photo box and need not be accompanied with a complete article, just a few facts. This is especially true for local labor battles that can be run in the "On the Picket Line" column. In fact, the picture in this week's column was taken by an alert reader while on vacation.

We have a few special requests. We have very few pictures that portray the impact of the world economic crisis on working people. Recent photographs that illustrate the housing crisis, effects of unemployment, and deteriorating health care and education would be useful. Of course, we also need pictures of any protests against these conditions. Pictures of industrial workers on the job would also be useful.

Supporters of socialist campaigns around the world should make sure to send in a few decent portrait shots of the candidates. And pictures of the candidates campaigning are even more important.

We also need pictures of *Militant* supporters introducing our press to fellow unionists and fighters at plant gates, street corners and political events, as well as of supporters of Mark Curtis winning backing for his parole efforts. Photos of workers and youth participating in discussions at Militant Labor Forums would also be good.

### Timeliness counts

The *Militant* relies on you for the on-the-scene photos that are an important part of bringing the truth to workers and youth. It is essential that photographs are sent in rapidly so they can accompany news articles. Often that means sending rolls of film express mail. A good rule of thumb: if the article's worth faxing, the film is probably worth getting to New York quickly as well. The paper goes to press every Thursday. We need to have the film or prints in hand no later than Tuesday at noon, although for late-breaking news we can occasionally use a picture that arrives Wednesday morning.

A terrific photograph that arrives too late to appear with the article will probably never make it into the paper.

Black and white film is preferable, since it provides a much clearer picture in print. But in a pinch, color works OK.

It is important that the rolls of film or prints be identified, including the date and location of the event and the name of the photographer. Accurately labeling photographs is as important as having reliable facts in a news article, so sources should accompany pictures when possible to verify spelling and identification. Whenever possible, each individual in the picture should be identified. A caption is more interesting if the people in the photo can be described by name, organization, occupation, etc.

One final point. While the *Militant* appreciates the photographs sent in from worker-correspondents, we regret that because of the expense and time involved in developing the film and maintaining professional files we are unable to return prints or negatives. — PAT SMITH



# W. Virginia garment workers beat back pay cuts

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 in your union, at your workplace or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Union (SEIU) Local 660 voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike when their contract expires September 30, if negotiations fail to produce a settlement. The union represents 40,000 Los Angeles County workers who are clerks, librarians, and health-care workers.

The evening's vote followed a labor march and rally. Seven thousand workers took part in the demonstration, including SEIU locals, other labor unions, and students. Many county workers walked off the job for the day to attend.

One of the most prominent signs

## ON THE PICKET LINE

Union garment workers stayed off the job and rallied outside Morgan Shirt Co. in Morgantown, West Virginia, on August 23 to protest wage cuts. At the end of the day a victory was won when the company gave in to the union's demands.

At a union meeting July 16 union members had agreed to accept stiffer company control over the use of time slips, which allow workers to earn their average wage rather than piece rate when work is unavailable or unable to be done at usual speed due to machine or product difficulties.

The company, which was threatening bankruptcy, used this concession to sharply reduce workers' earnings. Many workers became increasingly angry at the drop in take-home pay.

"When we came back from vacation, my earnings went down a dollar and something an hour," said Shirley Shaffer, a button and button hole machine operator.

The agreement, reached with Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 347, states, "Effective immediately any rate changes enacted since vacation will be reversed and any compensation lost as a result of these changes will be reimbursed to the appropriate operator."

### Los Angeles County workers authorize strike

On August 31, members of Service Employees International

at the march was "Not on our backs," referring to the budget proposal to lower wages of county workers by 8.25 percent. Several homemade signs read, "Chop from the top."

The county is facing a deep financial crisis and recently passed a budget that projects cuts in services, hitting especially hard on health and welfare. Besides the 8.25 percent cut, the budget calls for closing 24 health clinics, 4 health centers, up to 43 public libraries, laying off 2,000 employees, and slashing general relief benefits to \$212 per month.

### Poultry workers walk out in Alabama, join UMW

Workers at Quality Foods Inc. — a Tuscaloosa, Alabama, poultry plant voted 174-6 to unionize and join the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

A report in the September *United Mine Workers Journal* says that after working from early morning to eight at night May 11, workers on the deboning line were ready to call it a day. But the bosses brought out more chicken. On an average day, a deboner cleans more than half a ton of chicken breasts in the factory.

Shirley Wilson, vice-president of the newly chartered UMW Local 417, told the *Journal*. "We just couldn't take it any more. We never did know when our quitting time would be."

When workers told a supervisor



More than 200 members of the Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers' Union struck the Lantic sugar mill in St. John, New Brunswick, September 2, to protest the suspension of a coworker who did not come in Saturday after working overtime for many weeks. The company has laid off many workers, forcing the rest to work longer hours.

they needed to get home to their children, the boss just laughed and said he didn't have any kids.

A few minutes later, about 175 workers walked out of the plant.

Contacting a Southern Christian Leadership Conference activist who put them in touch with the UMW, the workers rapidly organized a union vote.

### Rail union officials call off strike threat

Officials of the United Transportation Union (UTU) at Amtrak, the largest passenger carrier in the United States, called off a nationwide strike August 25. Just a few hours before the deadline a federal judge issued an injunction against the walkout. On September 21 the judge will either decide that the UTU can "legally" go on strike, or will order arbitration.

UTU officials say this is a fight against job eliminations. Over the last period Amtrak has organized the mechanical department at Taylor Yard in Los Angeles to do the

work of conductors, assistant conductors, and engineers in addition to their own jobs. The mechanical department is now performing general yard switching as well as making up and breaking up trains.

If Amtrak is allowed to continue this procedure it sets a precedent that can be applied in other yards. Combining jobs could lead to the layoff of many rail workers.

### Taconite miners end their 35-day strike

A 35-day strike by thousands of taconite miners on Minnesota's Iron Range and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan ended on September 5. Miners at the Hibbing Taconite mine in Minnesota and at Cleveland Cliffs' Empire and Tilden mines in Michigan accepted a tentative agreement on a six-year contract between the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) and the mine owners.

The members of USWA Local 2260 at the National Steel Pellet Co. in Keewatin, Minnesota, re-

main on strike. A miner taking a turn answering the phones at the local's hall explained, "Our strike is still strong. We'll stay out as long as we need to."

The Steelworkers won guarantees for retirees' health and pension plans, increased "incentive" pay, higher hourly wages, and more days off. They gave up strict job categories and will allow the company to broaden job descriptions and allow for more "flexibility" in work assignments.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Maurice Peret, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 347 in Morgantown, West Virginia; Sherrie Love, member of United Transportation Union Local 1544 in Los Angeles; Margrethe Siem, member of United Transportation Union Local 1470 in Washington, D.C.; and Marea Himelgrin, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 9198 in Roseville, Minnesota.

## LETTERS

### Origins of philosophy

In the "Discussion with our Readers" column of *Militant* issue 26, Argiris Malapanis correctly explains that while class-conscious workers give support for courses in school curriculums on sex education, or for Black and women's studies departments, "many of these programs do little to advance the fight against racist, sexist and antigay discrimination, but instead point away from the unity in struggle that is essential for the working class to defend its interests in the face of the rulers' attacks."

His argument however is weakened when he writes that "'Afrocentrists' attempt to rewrite history by arguing that philosophy did not have its origins in the cities of ancient Greece and Asia Minor but was stolen from Egypt. These unscientific and false portrayals of history promote ignorance and disarm working people."

Petty-bourgeois nationalists, like the "Afrocentrists," can only have a narrow, unscientific view of history and therefore distort the achievements and contributions of oppressed people since their starting point is "my nation" or "my race" and not humanity as a whole.

Working people, through mass social struggles like the fight for black rights in the U.S. and elsewhere, shattered considerably the racist view that African people not only didn't make a collective con-

tribution to the history and civilization of humanity, but that they never had history or civilization.

The view that philosophy had its origins exclusively in the cities of ancient Greece is as false as saying that "philosophy was stolen by the Greeks from Egypt."

Gianis Kordatos, a founder and leader of the communist movement in Greece in the 1920's, said in his well researched book *History of Ancient Greek Philosophy* that "Greek philosophy, as much as it had its beginning and origin the priesthood of Egypt and Asia, it developed further and gave the world... eternal monuments that became the foundation for the development of newer civilizations."

Bobbis Misailides  
Salonika, Greece

### Protests of 'Rising Sun'

The Times Square opening of the new movie *Rising Sun* drew a spirited and youthful picket of about 70 people protesting the racist and sexist content of the movie. It was part of an educational campaign against the film that is taking place in several major cities. Protesters — who included youth of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Filipino descent — carried handmade signs and attractive banners reading, "Stop Pitting Asian-American and African-Americans Against Each Other" (referring to scenes in the movie), "We're Sick Of Playing

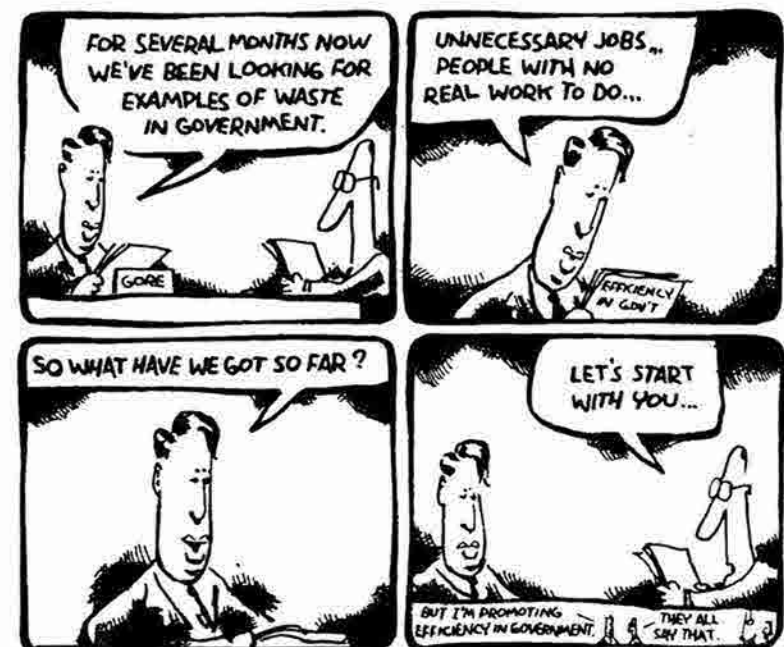
Gangsters, Businessmen and Waiters — Better Roles For Asian Actors," "Rising Sun — Loaded with Hate," and "The Sun Must Set On Racism."

Kwong Hui, a young member of the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAAUV), which helped organize the rally, explained that films like *Rising Sun* (based on Michael Crichton's best-selling novel) and the current slew of so-called scholarly Japan-bashing books blame a stereotypical "Japanese culture" of "unfair trade and sinister means, instead of capitalism" in general for the evils and economic woes in society.

Diana Cantú  
New York, New York

### Cancer of capitalism

I know what is wrong with America. It is a spiritual sickness called capitalism. The desire for profits poisons the human spirit, requiring us to surrender our capacity for selflessness, community, compassion, and moral integrity. Capitalism glorifies individual gain at the expense of society and the common good. We need only look at the tragic state of public wealth such as our environment, our schools, our cities, our wildlife, our bridges and roads, our young people, our trust, and our hope, to see the horrors of private enterprise. Capitalism forces us to deny our humanity and do whatever it takes to turn a dollar.



Only workers and the poor can save America. The rich have no interest in peace and justice. They benefit from war, pollution, and injustice. We need not fear gays and lesbians, foreign workers, or environmentalists. They only want, and deserve, civil rights, jobs, and a green planet.

It is those few who now own the factories who eliminate jobs, poison air and water, and destroy lives and communities. The rape of America will continue until working people learn that only workers

produce wealth. I urge all workers and patriots to learn more about the cancer of capitalism.

Michael Jones  
The Plains, Ohio

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.



## Farm dispute between U.S., France threatens to become new trade war

BY GREG ROSENBERG

There are new rumblings of a trade war between Washington and Paris.

A looming dispute threatens to unravel "European" agricultural policy and torpedo the current round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks.

GATT was set up in 1948 by the representatives of the most powerful capitalist ruling classes to negotiate agreements governing international trade. More than 100 countries are part of its deliberations today.

Driven by the pressures of the world depression, French prime minister Edouard Balladur is demanding that European Community (EC) negotiators reopen talks with Washington on agricultural trade. Paris says it will use its veto to block EC approval of a farm trade agreement with Washington that was tentatively agreed to last November. The accord comes up for a vote September 20 in Brussels, Belgium.

"If France were to maintain this stance," said the September 11 *Economist*, "it is hard to see how the EC could avoid splitting and a trade war with America be averted." The magazine's editors say Paris risks "demolishing the Community as a serious influence in international affairs."

### Body blow to 'united Europe'

The illusion of a "united Europe," grouping the rival national capitalist classes in the EC, has failed to recover from last month's shattering of the European Monetary System. The escalation of the current fracas could well wipe out existing agricultural agreements among those governments.

The Blair House accord, a draft farm trade agreement with the U.S. government, is the subject of the current dispute.

The French government's biggest objection to Blair House is that it would reduce the volume of its subsidized exports by 21 percent over six years. French farm unions claim that if the government stops paying farmers the subsidies, which allow agricultural products to be sold on the world market at more competitive prices, more than 30 percent of farmlands will be idled, pork production will be cut in half, and the output of cereals will fall by 25 percent.

All these developments would be of benefit to Washington, which wants to export more food to Europe.

"The U.S.-EC agreement on export subsidies and internal support was an important step toward completing an agreement that potentially can yield some significant benefits for U.S. agriculture, including increased



French farmers dump potatoes to protest European Community plan to cut subsidies

exports and higher farm prices for U.S. corn and other feed grains," said U.S. secretary of agriculture Mike Espy in a February 8 speech.

France, the second largest food exporter in the world, after the United States, is mired in recession. The Balladur government, along with other capitalist governments in Europe, is invoking austerity measures to make workers pay for the crisis.

The latest moves include Paris's demand

on trade unions to allow "flexible working hours," supposedly to resolve the 11.7 percent unemployment rate.

French officials are defending their position against the agricultural agreement in the strongest terms. Opposing the agreement is "important for reasons of culture and civilization," Foreign Minister Alain Juppé said.

A senior French official warned that "if the [European] Commission does not budge," Paris will use its veto. "And if it does not budge, the Commission, which is

charged with the solidarity of the Community, will be responsible for its breaking up," he said.

Initial moves by the European Commission to win a compromise September 7 had little effect.

In an opinion column in Britain's *Financial Times*, Luc Guyau, head of the French farmers' union FNSEA, argued that "in the end, only the U.S. would be allowed to carry on exporting — thereby enabling it to retain the possibility of using food as a foreign policy weapon. . . . Enough is at stake for France to be willing to take the risk of a crisis with the U.S. or even with its European partners."

"It is for Europe to build itself," he concluded.

The FNSEA has called for a nationwide protest September 20 to press for renegotiation of Blair House.

### GATT in trouble

The U.S.-EC farm agreement is a key piece of the current Uruguay round of GATT talks. Peter Sutherland, GATT director-general, warned that reopening the accord would endanger a December 15 deadline for concluding the talks, which have already dragged on seven years.

The German rulers have been visibly upset over such a possibility. As the strongest economic power in Europe, they have an interest in getting the GATT talks approved.

German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel bluntly told reporters, "We are interested in seeing that the Blair House package is not opened up."

Kinkel said that "we do not plan to give in unilaterally to French wishes."

## Greek gov't, facing crisis, resigns

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES  
AND NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, Greece — The defeat of the Greek rulers' policy toward the Republic of Macedonia led to the resignation of the New Democracy Party (NDP) government September 9. New elections have been called for October 10.

As a result of the government's fall, the stock market lost 8 percent of its value and interest rates had to be raised to 28 percent to stem a quick drop in the value of the drachma against other currencies.

The current crisis, which occurs during an economic depression in Greece, began with differences within the Greek ruling class after the United Nations Security Council agreed

in April to admit Macedonia to the UN under the name of "the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia." The government of Greece opposed this move, claiming that the name Macedonia implied territorial claims by the former Yugoslav republic on the northern Greek province of the same name.

This was a defeat for the Greek ruling class, which has used the debate around Macedonia to whip up a nationalist campaign. Two percent of the population of Greece is Macedonian.

Last year, Antonis Samaras was sacked from his position as foreign minister. He had proposed an "aggressive policy against those that threaten Hellenism." As foreign minister, he tried to impose a complete economic embargo on Macedonia and declared that "Greece should never recognize Skopje under any name referring to Greek Macedonia." Under pressure from Washington, Bonn, and Paris, on the other hand, the government of Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis declared its willingness for a compromise and said it would accept recognition under the permanent name of "New Macedonia," which United Nations mediator Cyrus Vance is expected to propose at a meeting of the UN Security Council at the end of September.

Internal strife intensified when Samaras founded his own party, the "Political Spring," in late June 1993, with considerable support from a section of the rulers, including members of parliament. Because the government had a one-seat majority, it depended on the support of Samaras's followers to get its policies approved.

On September 6, after a call by Samaras, five members of parliament resigned, bringing the government down. From the beginning, Mitsotakis called Samaras a "traitor" and a follower of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). PASOK, which is expected to win the coming election, also uses nationalist demagoguery to rally opposition to

the recognition of Macedonia.

The government collapse takes place in the midst of a deep economic crisis. Public sector debt has reached almost 120 percent of the gross domestic product. Inflation has climbed to almost 15 percent and unemployment officially stands over 9 percent.

The capitalist government of Mitsotakis tried to implement a sweeping privatization program, selling off state-owned companies such as OTE, the state telecommunications company, and DEH, the electricity producer. It carried out cuts in public spending, such as for education and health care, while imposing a freeze on wage increases. While it has succeeded to some extent in carrying out its austerity attacks on working people, the government has failed to go as far as the Greek capitalists need and demand.

Resistance by working people over the past few months, including their participation in strikes and rallies, has focused on these privatizations, which have meant the loss of thousands of jobs and the intensification of their labor for those who still have work. In July there were two general strikes: a 48-hour strike by electrical workers and a four-day strike by workers at OTE and other public sector industries. For weeks workers also occupied a shipyard that was to be privatized.

Labor officials, taking the same reactionary stance as PASOK and Coalition of the Left, have placed the mobilizations of working people in a nationalist framework. They have presented "the foreign investors who will buy our national wealth," as the main problem confronting workers.

Indicative of the mood of working people — who have greeted the government's collapse with relief — was the protest of 10,000 against the policies of the NDP government in Salonika the day after the fall of the national government.

## Swedish steelworkers fight job cuts

BY DECHOR HIEN  
AND ANDERS JOHANSSON

HAGFORS, Sweden — For the past two years workers at Uddeholm Steel in this town 400 kilometers west of Stockholm have waged a fight against the company.

It started when the Austrian company Alpine Stahl bought the plant and announced substantial cutbacks in the work force.

Unemployment in Hagfors, a town of 12,000 people, stands at 20 percent, and the village is totally dependent on Uddeholm Steel.

In 1984 the plant and its subsidiaries employed 2,400 workers. Today the number is down to 800.

In April the workers decided to go on a wildcat strike against the cutbacks. Legislation in Sweden practically outlaws strikes and unions can be heavily fined if they support or organize them. The workers, therefore, walked out without the official backing of their own union, but they won wide community support.

The strike lasted three days and forced the bosses to reopen negotiations with the union on the future of the plant.

To organize the strike and subsequent protests, the workers set up an Action Group. It called a town-wide demonstration of 5,000 after the end of the strike. Stores and businesses shut down for two hours.

The Action Group also organizes public rallies every Thursday to keep the pressure on.

The company took the workers to labor court for striking illegally. The hearing was scheduled for November. But in September the steelmaker backed off. Peter Jansson, organizer of the Action Group, said the bosses were afraid to go to court.

"We planned three busloads of workers to go to court (in Stockholm) and we have raised 300,000 kronar (US\$37,000)," he said. "We are confident. If they try to shut the plant down, we plan to occupy it."

The bosses' latest threat is that 175 workers will be laid off in November.