

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Auto workers' strike
forces GM to retreat

— PAGE 10

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 58/NO. 36 OCTOBER 17, 1994

Safety is ignored in ferry wreck

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN

More than 900 passengers died as the ferry *Estonia* sank in stormy weather at midnight September 28 traveling from Tallinn, Estonia, to Stockholm, Sweden.

Some 100 people were rescued from the chilly waters during the first hours after the accident. Nearly as many dead bodies were also recovered.

This is the third serious ferry accident in Scandinavia in recent years. In 1990, 158

Continued on page 3

U.S. troops exert control over Haiti

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

A 21,000-strong U.S. occupation force is now policing Haiti, exerting its control throughout the country. Much to the dismay of the Clinton administration, the Haitian security forces are in disarray as exiled Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide makes plans to return to the country October 15. While Washington continues to try to prop up the army and police apparatus, the U.S. military is increasingly the real authority.

Col. Michel Francois, the notorious police chief of Port-au-Prince, fled Haiti October 4 following U.S. military raids on the headquarters of the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti (FRAPH). The FRAPH, which is a terrorist outfit tied to the military and police, is despised by the people of Haiti. The Clinton administration has faced mounting criticism because of its backhanded support of these thugs during recent clashes with Haitian workers and peasants.

While Haitian workers and peasants have demonstrated their hatred of the security forces, Lt. Gen. Henry Shelton, head of Washington's operations in Haiti, still insists that U.S. troops will continue to work with the Haitian cops. "That institution, which we are helping to reform, must survive as an institution," Shelton said at an October 3 news briefing.

"What appears to be the U.S.'s principle fear," an article in the *Wall Street Journal* noted, is that Haitian workers and other Aristide supporters will "go on a rampage against the wealthy Haitians and supporters of the military regime." Aristide, who addressed the United Nations General Assembly on October 4, continues to balk over granting general amnesty to all those — in and out of the military — who terrorized the Haitian people during the past three years. At a news conference following his UN presentation, Aristide said that political amnesty cannot be granted to those who committed criminal acts while in power. "When you talk about crimes against humanity, you don't talk of a general amnesty," he stated.

While saluting the U.S. occupying force, Aristide added, "Despite the presence of a multinational force, acts of violence toward the people are continuing. The disarming of paramilitary groups, namely FRAPH and their attachés, is indispensable

Continued on page 4

Cuban leader condemns U.S. occupation of Haiti

Foreign Minister Robaina speaks out at United Nations

BY LAURA GARZA

UNITED NATIONS — "While we are here delivering speeches, a small and impoverished Caribbean nation is being militarily occupied. The amazing deal struck with the generals responsible for the coup d'état — who yesterday were threatened as murderers but today are transformed into complacent partners — ignores the decisions of the international community and the will of the Haitian people."

So began the speech by Cuba's foreign minister, Roberto Robaina, as he addressed the United Nations General Assembly on October 3.

The U.S. delegation stalked out of the assembly hall before Robaina reached the podium. Moments earlier they had been enthusiastically applauding the speaker for the Kuwaiti government, who profusely thanked the UN Security Council for its role in sponsoring the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Few if any of the dozens of government delegates who have spoken here in the past week have criticized Washington's invasion of Haiti.

Washington installed dictatorships

In sharp contrast, Robaina declared, "It was the guns of the invaders and the boots of the foreign occupiers that installed in Haiti the dictatorships of this century and trained and supported those who today still tyrannize their people. How, then can we trust that they will bring democracy tomorrow?" Robaina asked.

"Cuba," he underlined, "always supported and promoted efforts to restore the



Cuba's minister of foreign affairs, Roberto Robaina, addressing UN General Assembly in October 1993. "Our sovereignty, independence, and the socialism we freely choose will never be a bargaining chip," he said in recent assembly.

constitutional order in Haiti with the return of President [Jean-Bertrand] Aristide without conditions or restrictions, and rejected attempts to resort to foreign intervention as a means of resolving the conflict.

"Cuba denounced the Security Council's decision to support the violation of the [UN] Charter by some of its members and

to join in their interventionist aims.

"Now, faced with a fait accompli, we can only reiterate our government's position: those who applaud the invasion today could become its victims tomorrow."

Robaina scored the Security Council for

Continued on page 8

Framed unionist fights detention ruling

BY JOHN STUDER

"Your supplemental appeal is denied," concludes a memo sent to political activist Mark Curtis by Debbie Nichols, a public services supervisor at the Iowa State Penitentiary where Curtis is being held in disciplinary detention.

"I have reviewed your disciplinary report, the disciplinary committee decision and your supplemental appeal," she writes. "The majority of the information you presented in your supplemental appeal was addressed either at the time of the hearing or in your original appeal." Nichols's memo, which was dated September 22, took 6 days to reach Curtis.

Curtis was convicted in a kangaroo hearing at the prison September 12 on a trumped up charge of assaulting another inmate. He was sentenced to the maximum penalty under prison regulations — 30 days in the hole — and a year in lockup.

Curtis has served more than six years in Iowa prisons on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. He was arrested and brutally beaten by Des Moines police March 4, 1988, because of his participation in a public campaign to defend 17 coworkers at the Monfort meatpacking plant. The 17 workers — from Mexico and El Salvador — had been seized by immigration police in a raid on the plant three days earlier.

The decision by Nichols exhausts Curtis's appeal within the state penitentiary. On September 30 he filed an appeal with Sally Chandler Halford, director of the Iowa Department of Corrections, contest-

ing the ruling and sentence. The department has 30 days to consider his request.

In the appeal, Curtis argues that there is no evidence to demonstrate he assaulted anyone. Curtis has served six years in prison without a single charge of violent activity and has received consistently good conduct ratings.

He protests the blatant denial of his rights in the prison hearing — he was kept shackled hand and foot, denied the right to a lawyer, and refused the right to confront his accusers. The testimony of one witness

was in the form of quotes in a statement from a prison guard. The other was identified only as a "confidential informant." Even Administrative Law Judge Charles Harper, the prison disciplinary committee representative who conducted the hearing, was forced to admit this was "not the best evidence."

William Kutmus, Curtis's lawyer, also wrote to the Department of Corrections to ask for a meeting to discuss the appeal.

"There is a lack of any quality evidence

Continued on page 7

SPECIAL OFFER

\$20 BOOK AND 12-WEEK SUBSCRIPTION TO THE 'MILITANT'

TO SPEAK THE TRUTH

Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End

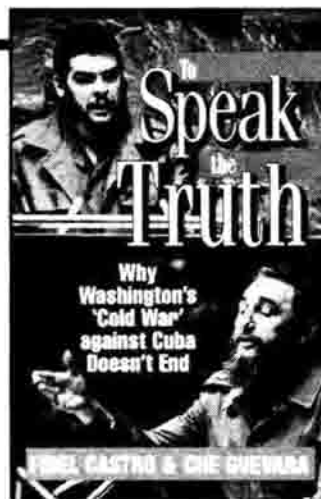
FIDEL CASTRO AND CHE GUEVARA

Why the U.S. government is determined to destroy the example set by the socialist revolution in Cuba and why its effort will fail. Introduction by Mary-Alice Waters.

\$12 book only (normally \$16.95)



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212)727-0150. If ordering by mail please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.



Guantánamo: gaping wound on Cuban soil — page 9

Italian government calls for austerity; unions begin protests

The Italian government is moving to cut costs by closing hospitals, increasing costs to patients for the country's national health system, and taking other measures to curtail social spending. In one move, the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is seeking to save some \$3.3 billion by increasing the qualifying age for pension benefits and chopping pension increases that match inflation.

Spontaneous strike actions against the cutbacks took place in several parts of Italy at the end of September, with workers blocking traffic on some highways. On September 27 transport workers began a three-day series of stoppages to protest the government's failure to renew contracts. Civil servants are planning a national strike October 13 to rally against stalled pay negotiations. And national union leaders have set October 14 for a four-hour general strike to protest the austerity budget, which includes attacks on pensions and health care.

Swedish capitalist slurs Blacks

Peter Wallenberg, one of Sweden's most powerful industrialists, drew sharp rebuke after slurring South African Blacks recently. During an hour-long television interview in mid-September, Wallenberg was asked why he had objected to the Swedish government's vocal criticism of the apartheid system in South Africa. "There are a few well-educated Blackies," he replied, adding that Blacks did not have the competence to run South Africa without help from the white minority.

U.S. calls for air strikes in Bosnia

U.S. defense secretary William Perry recently called for "more vigorous application of NATO air strikes" against Serb forces in Bosnia led by Radovan Karadzic if they harass United Nations troops stationed in the former Yugoslavia. The Clinton administration set an October 15 deadline for Karadzic to accept a U.S.-backed deal. U.S. president Bill Clinton has retreated on a pledge he made several months ago to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian government if the rightists do not accept an agreement. Clinton's public pledge to lift the embargo is



More than 100,000 Berbers marched October 3 in Tizi-Ouzou in northern Algeria to demand language rights from the government. They also rallied to condemn the kidnapping and murder of a popular Berber political singer.

opposed by the governments of Russia, France, and Britain.

Moscow searches for investors

The Russian government is looking for capitalist investors to salvage its declining oil and gas industry. Russia's oil reserves of 48.4 billion barrels and natural gas reserves of 47.6 trillion cubic meters are among the world's largest. Some of the companies ready to invest include Texaco, Amoco, Exxon, and Norway's Norsk Hydro. However, corporate officials are awaiting legislation that will provide future production rights to foreign-owned companies.

Azerbaijan oil deal signed

An \$8 billion oil deal was signed

September 20 in Baku, the capital of the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan. Moscow protested the agreement, demanding the pipeline route pass instead through its territory. The Russian government has threatened to halt all oil and gas exploration in the Caspian Sea unless it gets its way.

A consortium of 10 companies, including U.S. and British firms, signed the 30-year contract with the Azeri government. Lukoil, a Russian semi-private oil company, received a 10 percent stake in the agreement after strong pressure from Moscow for its inclusion.

Monitor almost complete in Iraq

UN inspectors are completing the installation of high-tech monitoring equipment throughout Iraq. The spy equipment will be linked to UN headquarters in Baghdad by microwave radio signals. This gear is supposed to prevent the Iraqi military from building long-range missiles, and nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons.

Frequent, surprise flights over different parts of Iraq are planned with no respect for the country's sovereignty. A UN senior officer told the *Wall Street Journal*, "There has never been a monitoring program like this.... We have pretty much the right to do anything we want in Iraq."

Pollution threat spreads in China

China is in the midst of a national environmental crisis according to Chinese and

U.S. scientists. The problem is a looming economic catastrophe. Hundreds of factories are allowed to dump toxic waste into rivers or pump them into the atmosphere. In mid-August, when scores of factories flushed their waste tanks into the Huai River, more than 26 million pounds of fish were killed and dozens of fish farms were wiped out. Losses totaled \$75 million.

More than 14,000 people died from poisons in fertilizers and pesticides used in agriculture in 1992 and 1993, says China's Agricultural Ministry. The number of deaths from lung cancer due to atmospheric pollution has climbed 18.5 percent in major cities, according to the country's National Environmental Agency.

Labor unrest increases in Peru

Labor protests in Peru escalated September 20 when workers at the main mining complex, Centromin Peru, and at the National Railroad, began an indefinite strike to demand better wages.

Centromin, which is going through a privatization process, has 8,500 workers in seven mines and a foundry northeast of the capital city of Lima. One rail union leader said their strike is a result of a three-year wage freeze and the government's plan to end collective agreements.

The mining and railroad shutdowns come on top of a two-day strike by 20,000 university teachers and hospital workers.

Teacher rejects silent moment

Brian Brown, a high school teacher in Georgia, was fired September 22 for refusing to observe a state-mandated moment of silence, which became law earlier this year. The Gwinnett County School Board dismissed Brown for insubordination and "conduct unbecoming a teacher." Brown has filed suit in Federal District Court in Atlanta challenging the constitutionality of the law, which undermines the provision for the separation of church and state. Brown's lawyer said his termination would be appealed to the state school board.

—MAURICE WILLIAMS

WHEN WRITING FOR THE 'MILITANT'...

Whenever possible articles for the *Militant* should be sent by electronic mail.

The *Militant* can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311.2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant. Internet email can be sent to: 73311.2720-@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org

Articles that come in by E-mail save valuable labor time because they don't have to be typed or scanned, also making it less likely that errors will be introduced. So if you don't have a computer with a modem and E-mail, ask a friend or coworker who does to help you out.

THE MILITANT

U.S. troops out of Haiti

The 'Militant' tells the truth about the U.S. military invasion of Haiti. It exposes the hypocrisy of the Clinton administration policy towards the working people of Haiti. Washington's attempts to dominate and exploit the people of the Caribbean and Latin America are explained each week in the pages of the 'Militant.' Don't miss a single issue!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$10 for 12 issues

☐ \$15 for 12 weeks
RENEWAL

☐ \$27 for 6 months

☐ \$45 for 1 year

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____ PHONE _____
CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A15 • Britain, £7 • Canada, Can\$12 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$15 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £8 • Belgium, 375 BF • France, FF80 • Iceland, Kr1,300 • New Zealand, NZ\$15 • Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 58/No. 36
Closing news date: Oct 5, 1994
Editor: GEORGE FYSON
Managing Editor: ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
Business Manager: NAOMI CRANE
Editorial Staff: Naomi Craine, Hilda Cuzco, Martin Koppel, Sara Lobman, Paul Mailhot, Greg Rosenberg, Pat Smith, Brian Williams, and Maurice Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the *Militant* (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

The *Militant* can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311.2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant. Internet email: 73311.2720@compuserve.com or: themilitant@igc.apc.org

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The *Militant* Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Subscriptions: U.S.: for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address. Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a

U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to *Militant*, 4581 St. Denis, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2L4. Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to *Militant* Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East: £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to *Militant* Distribution at above address. France: Send FF300 for one-year subscription to *Militant*, 8 allée Berlioz, 94800 Villejuif cheque postale: 25-465-01-S, Paris. Belgium: BF 1,900 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of IMei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 5,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to *Militant*, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 500 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to *Militant* Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia. Pacific Islands: Send Australian \$75 or New Zealand \$100 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

Scourge of capitalism fuels plague in India

Government inaction is to blame for conditions afflicting the working class

BY PAT SMITH

Government officials in India report the appearance of 1,800 cases of pneumonic plague, a variant of bubonic plague, which wiped out large hunks of the population of Europe six centuries ago. "It is certainly an epidemic, and it is the most serious outbreak of the disease in many years," said Thomson Prentice of the United Nation's World Health Organization.

The Indian government claims 50 people have died from the recent outbreak, mostly in and around the western port city of Surat. But medical personnel and residents of the diamond-cutting and textile-weaving center put the figure at 300 or more. Doctors say the government is understating the severity of the epidemic by counting only those people who have died in Surat's New Civil Hospital, which is designated to receive patients with the disease. The government ordered paramilitary troops to surround the hospital after 100 plague-stricken patients fled the facility because of lack of confidence in the medical care they would receive.

Hundreds of thousands of people, including at least 500 doctors, have left Surat since the first confirmed death September 21. Thousands are out of work as factories remain closed. Government officials insist the spread of the disease has been contained. But at least 20 different cities and towns have reported cases of the plague, including Bombay, New Delhi, and Calcutta, the three largest cities in India.

Governments in other parts of the world are contributing to the panic. The Pakistani government sealed all air, land, and rail routes to India. The Gulf states banned flights and closed ports to ships from India. Mitsui, the Japanese trading company, is repatriating the families of India-based executives. Doctors in Frankfurt boarded early morning flights from India September 27 to check passengers for fever and other symptoms. All other flights from India



Modern buildings overlook a slum in Bombay. Expansion of capitalism in India draws peasants into the working class and creates the miserable conditions that fueled spread of plague.

dia will be monitored. Similar measures are being taken in Paris.

The appearance of the plague takes place as the development of capitalism in India is expanding. Modern factories are being built. But the holdovers of precapitalist society still exist and most working people are living under miserable social conditions.

Growing class differentiation

Seventy percent of India's 880 million people are farmers and some 15 million people are held in debt bondage. Millions of peasants are moving to the cities where they can earn more than the 20 cents a day they get working the land. Men, women, and children are pushed into urban slums and are forced, under the most wretched conditions, to compete for jobs to survive. The transformation of the peasantry into urban wage workers is fueling an investment boom for the capitalists.

Surat has been one of the fastest growing industrial cities in India over the past decade. Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, General Electric Capital, and other corporations have invested millions of dollars in plants and equipment in India since 1991 when the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao imposed an economic restructuring program designed to lure foreign capital into the country. Investment in paper values has also mushroomed since the Indian government opened its stock market to international capital in 1992 and eased rules for issuing stocks overseas. Investment from these sources has soared from almost nothing three years ago to an estimated \$4 billion in the last year.

The expansion of capitalism in India is creating a much larger and better-off middle class and a growing home market. At the same time, class differentiation is increasing. Some 200 million working people don't have enough to eat. About half

the population is illiterate.

The government has imposed austerity measures that further squeeze the living standards of workers and peasants. The proportion of the gross domestic product the Indian government spends on social services, including health care, has dropped to a paltry 4.8 percent, according to the World Bank.

Many of New Delhi's 9 million residents live in squatter camps. The local government is on a campaign to bulldoze these homes and take the land. More than half the city's residents live in substandard housing, many lacking running water.

"It is virtually impossible to obtain electricity, telephone service or a cooking gas line without a bribe," reports the *Washington Post*. The air is so polluted that police wear masks over their nose and mouths at the busy intersections. A recent World Bank report lists New Delhi as one of the seven most polluted cities in the world. Hundreds of the city's schools lack electricity, bathrooms, and running water.

One theory gaining ground among epidemiologists and bacteriologists in India is that migrant workers from rural areas carried the bubonic plague bacteria with them to Surat, where its development into the easily spread airborne pneumonic form of the disease was hastened by poor sanitary conditions.

Poor sanitation feeds spread of plague

Surat residents say government inaction to the devastation from monsoon rains was to blame for the reemergence of the plague. Large areas of the city were submerged by as much as 10 feet of water in early September, driving rats from their nests and killing hundreds of animals. When the water receded, more than 1,000 animal carcasses and other debris littered the streets. The government made no effort to clean it up, creating a breeding ground for disease.

Surat, a city of 2.7 million people, has no sewage treatment system. Raw sewage is channeled through storm drains to open-air "soak pits." Only half of the garbage generated in the city each day is collected, according to accounts in local newspapers. The poor sanitary conditions have bred a huge rat population, but local officials say there has never been a program to combat the scourge. The plague is generally a disease of rodents and is spread mainly from rats to humans by fleas.

The UN World Health Organization said world statistics on the plague are incomplete. However, the figures that exist show a dramatic increase in deaths from the disease over the past 15 years, despite the fact that the plague is easily treated with antibiotics. In 1992, nine countries reported 1,768 cases, including almost 200 deaths. For the entire 14 years prior to this, a total of 14,856 cases, including 1,451 deaths, were reported in 21 countries.

Safety ignored in Baltic ferry disaster

Continued from front page

people died when a fire broke out on board the *Scandinavian Star*. Fire safety installations on board proved to be completely insufficient or malfunctioning. In January 1993, the ferry *Jan Heweliusz* sank between Poland and Sweden, killing 58 people. Unsecured cargo — mostly commercial trucks on the vehicle deck — shoved about by a storm that night, caused the ferry to capsize and quickly sink.

Some of the surviving passengers on board the *Estonia* report that water flooded the car deck through an open bow door as the ferry made its way through 20-foot-high waves in a storm. Water on the main car deck will cause high ferries to destabi-

lize. Lacking bulkheads and interior walls on the vehicle deck that would constrain the movement of water, the ferries quickly become unstable in the event of a leak of little more than a foot of water, experts say. With nothing to stop it once inside the vessel, the water sloshes freely around the vehicle hold, building momentum. Experts say it is nearly impossible to right a ferry once this movement has started. But equipping the ferry with bulkheads would diminish the number of vehicles it can hold.

Safety defects previously reported

Security inspectors from the National Maritime Board in Sweden had reported defective seals on the *Estonia* recently on

the inner bow opening where vehicles are loaded into the ferry.

Several days after the accident, on September 30, the National Maritime Board reported that they had been informed of six recent near accidents involving the failure of outer bow sections on other ships, including on the *Diana*, a sister ship of the *Estonia*. The incidents had not been determined to be a pattern and no changes in construction of the ferries were made. However, after the *Estonia* disaster a number of ferries were checked and several deficiencies were found, some requiring repair before the vessels could traffic the Baltic Sea again.

The ferry traffic on the Baltic Sea and the North Sea is intense. Much of the merchandise between Scandinavia and the rest of Europe is loaded on trucks and trailers and transported via ferries over the seas. Just-in-time inventory systems make this traffic even more vital.

Workers in factories around Stockholm are seriously discussing the catastrophe. Ferries are also a popular and comparably cheap mass transportation system between many countries used regularly by workers. Many workers also take part in courses and conferences aboard ship. Several such groups were on board the *Estonia* the night it capsized.

"You just have to look at the shape of these ferries, high and narrow, to realize they are dangerous," said a former sailor now working in a meatpacking plant in Stockholm. "Money really comes before security," said another as more information about incidents with other ferries has come to light.

"If the wind is more than 10 meters per second, I never travel on a ferry like that," said a former chief engineer at Kockums shipyard in Malmö where many such ships have been built.

Catharina Tirsén is a member of the Swedish Food Workers union at Pripps Breweries, Bromma, Stockholm.

Sinn Fein leader denounces British gov't stalling on talks

BY DON MACKLE

CLEVELAND — Speaking to several hundred supporters at two meetings here September 20, Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams called for the release of Irish political prisoners, an end to the British troop occupation of Northern Ireland, and the termination of death squad activities by supporters of British rule.

"The Irish people must have restored to them their right to national self-determination," said Adams. "That is part of what must be negotiated in the talks," he said, referring to proposed constitutional talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

Adams's second visit to the United States came on the heels of the announcement of a "complete cessation of military operations" by the Irish Republican Army. He called for similar "demilitarizing" in Northern Ireland by the British army and the right-wing forces who support union with British rule.

"We have confidence in the unionists,"

Adams said, "We're not talking about people's religion but about their political affiliation. We have confidence unionists will be more willing to come to an agreement than their leaders."

He called for the Royal Ulster Constabulary to be disbanded and replaced with an unarmed police force. He added that former members of the RUC must be permitted to apply to join the new police force.

"An Ireland without the unionists is not an Ireland worth fighting for," said Adams. Asked if he would support a bill of rights and the separation of church and state similar to those guaranteed in the U.S. constitution, Adams replied, "We have argued for a new charter which would include freedom of religious beliefs and the UN Charter on Human Rights."

Adams said the demilitarization process should include the release of Irish political prisoners. "There are 700 political prisoners. At some point in the process they must be sent home."

THE 'MILITANT': SOON AVAILABLE VIA COMPUTER

Militant readers around the world will soon be able to pick up the paper on their computers. This will make the news and analysis in the socialist newspaper available to fighting workers and youth at the same time — whether they live in Sydney, Australia, or Peoria, Illinois. In fact, the paper should be available electronically even before it hits the presses here in New York.

With the almost instant delivery of the paper, readers of the *Militant* can be more quickly armed to defend Cuba's socialist revolution, and to tell the truth about the U.S. military occupation of Haiti and labor battles around the world. Supporters of the paper will be able to read, study, and discuss the articles in each issue well before they go out to sell the paper at plant gates, picket lines, and campuses.

Next week's issue will carry information on how to get the *Militant* via computer, including needed equipment and how to get on line.

Big effort is needed for Pathfinder Fund

BY PAUL MAILHOT

With just six weeks to go, supporters of the Pathfinder Press book publishing program around the world have a substantial challenge ahead of them to meet the \$125,000 goal. We now stand at \$31,880. This past week was the biggest collection to date, with \$11,385 coming in. This amount was nearly double what was sent in the previous week.

Even with the big progress made this week, the fund is substantially behind schedule and we have not made our target of having in hand \$50,000 by October 1. To be on target for this scoreboard local areas would have to be over 54 percent.

Many supporters of the Pathfinder Fund got a late start in organizing the effort and are just now beginning to collect pledges that were made more than two months ago at an international socialist conference in Oberlin, Ohio. Top priority needs to be given in every area to collect on those pledges so that we don't fall farther behind. Fund supporters have only just begun to tap into the potential for contributions that can be made by coworkers, fellow fighters, and friends who value Pathfinder's unique contribution of keeping the writings of revolutionary and communist leaders in print.

Supporters to organize fund events

Supporters of the fund in Atlanta, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Paul, Minnesota; Washington, D.C. and other cities are making plans to give the drive a boost in their areas by organizing public Pathfinder Fund rallies. Such meetings can help to explain the importance of Pathfinder's publishing program for working-class fighters today and garner new pledges from workers and youth who are becoming more familiar with Pathfinder.

Supporters of the fund in New Zealand got an early start on organizing rallies and

collecting on their pledges. As a result they were able to raise their goal earlier and are at the top of the chart.

Pathfinder will soon release *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. This new edition of the book, by one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution, marks one of Pathfinder's most important and ambitious publishing projects this year. The introduction to the *Bolivian Diary* by Mary-Alice Waters was printed in last week's issue of the *Militant*. As Waters points out, many facets of Che Guevara are revealed in other collections of his writings and speeches available from Pathfinder, but "without the Che of the *Bolivian Diary*, the rounded communist is missing."

'Case of Legless Veteran'

Pathfinder will also soon be reprinting a new edition of *The Case of the Legless Veteran* by James Kutcher. This book, which has been out of print for some time, brings to life the story of how, in a key civil liberties case during the McCarthy era, a broad defense campaign for Kutcher took on the witch-hunters and defeated them. The eight-year fight by Kutcher, a World War II veteran who had lost both legs during the war and was fired from his civil service job because of his communist views, was supported by unions across the country. The book is a moving account of how working people can fight for their rights today.

The pledges made to the Pathfinder Fund are an invaluable aid in keeping a vast arsenal of communist books in print for fighting workers and youth today and future generations who will mine these works for the lessons they provide about the working class struggle. Every contribution, big or small, is needed and can help make the \$125,000 goal.

To get your collection totals into the next scoreboard checks must be received no later than Tuesday, 12 noon EDT.

\$125,000 Pathfinder Fund

	Goal	Total Paid	Percent
\$125,000			
Australia	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
Britain	\$1,500.00		12%
London		\$70.00	
Manchester		\$0.00	
Sheffield		\$105.00	
Canada			
Vancouver	\$150.00	\$20.00	13%
Montreal		\$120.00	
Toronto		\$117.00	
France		\$252.00	
Greece	\$100.00	\$0.00	
New Zealand			
Wellington	\$100.00	\$119.00	119%
Auckland	\$1,850.00	\$1,063.00	57%
Christchurch	\$550.00	\$186.00	34%
Puerto Rico	\$75.00	\$75.00	100%
Sweden	\$710.00	\$160.00	23%
United States			
Portland	\$50.00	\$100.00	200%
Albuquerque	\$100.00	\$100.00	100%
Denver	\$100.00	\$100.00	100%
Cincinnati	\$150.00	\$100.00	67%
Philadelphia	\$6,500.00	\$3,950.00	61%
Salt Lake	\$5,000.00	\$2,810.00	56%
Des Moines	\$3,000.00	\$1,330.00	44%
Pittsburgh	\$5,500.00	\$2,381.00	43%
Brooklyn	\$8,000.00	\$3,420.00	43%
Chicago	\$7,400.00	\$2,215.00	30%
San Francisco	\$10,000.00	\$2,650.00	27%
Detroit	\$6,000.00	\$1,485.00	25%
Twin Cities	\$7,500.00	\$1,820.00	24%
Newark	\$6,500.00	\$1,365.00	21%
Seattle	\$5,000.00	\$1,040.00	21%
St. Louis	\$3,750.00	\$745.00	20%
Birmingham	\$2,800.00	\$550.00	20%
Cleveland	\$3,500.00	\$680.00	19%
Los Angeles	\$8,500.00	\$1,280.00	15%
Miami	\$2,900.00	\$356.00	12%
Houston	\$3,250.00	\$310.00	10%
Greensboro	\$2,500.00	\$190.00	8%
New York	\$7,500.00	\$270.00	4%
Washington, DC	\$3,000.00	\$101.00	3%
Boston	\$5,000.00	\$150.00	3%
Atlanta	\$5,000.00	\$70.00	1%
Morgantown	\$2,175.00	\$25.00	1%
Edinboro	\$625.00	\$0.00	0%
Peoria	\$750.00	\$0.00	0%
TOTAL	\$125,000.00	\$31,880.00	26%

Enclosed is \$_____ I pledge ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zip_____ Country_____

Send contributions to Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014

Washington's troops exert control over Haiti

Continued from front page

for peace to prevail throughout the country."

As a demonstration of its supposed resolve to deal with the paramilitary gangs, U.S. soldiers raided FRAPH offices in Port-au-Prince and Cap-Haitien on October 3. The raids occurred three days after the attachés fired on a march of several thousand in Port-au-Prince that had been organized to mark the third anniversary of the military coup that overthrew Aristide. Eight people were killed, most of them shot by the attachés.

The rally and route of the march were announced well in advance by Aristide's supporters. Police trucks were seen loading up armed men in civilian clothes near the FRAPH headquarters. U.S. soldiers, who were out in strength the morning of the march, were nowhere near the demonstration. Instead, they took up positions along the main commercial street in the center of town that leads to Pétionville, the lavish area of where the ruling class elite lives. Fire trucks were parked on the side of the road in position to hose down the marchers.

Raid targets Aristide supporters

The first U.S. weapons raid, staged October 2, was directed not at the paramilitary groups but at supporters of Aristide. Several hundred U.S. troops backed by tanks surrounded the grounds of a dance troupe in Port-au-Prince while it was practicing. According to the *Times*, the tip for the raid came from a well-known attaché who said the area was a terrorist training camp stashed full of weapons.

The next day several thousand Haitians cheered while U.S. forces faced off at the FRAPH headquarters and the adjacent bar, which many members of the paramilitary group frequent, and began making arrests. A large cache of weapons was seized and 35 people were arrested. Another 75 people were arrested in a raid by U.S. soldiers on FRAPH headquarters in Cap-Haitien.

In Port-Au-Prince, Haitian police came to the FRAPH headquarters brandishing

automatic weapons shortly after the U.S. military action. They were apprehended by the U.S. troops, who confiscated their weapons. Some policemen had their mouths taped shut. The U.S. forces then drove off and later released the cops.

Shortly afterwards, thousands of Haitians poured into the streets chanting pro-Aristide and pro-U.S. slogans. They broke through the wire fence set up by U.S. forces and began to smash the windows of the FRAPH headquarters and the adjacent bar. Furniture, computers, light bulbs, and other equipment were destroyed. People shouted, "Don't steal, break!" Posters of former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier were discovered and ripped to shreds. The crowd was about to burn down

the buildings when the U.S. troops returned and stopped them.

While U.S. forces were pressured to go after some of the most brutal and discredited elements of the paramilitary structure, the leader of FRAPH, Emmanuel Constant, spoke at a news conference in Port-au-Prince October 4. The U.S. embassy helped to organize the meeting. Constant told the conference he would lay down his arms and not oppose the return of Aristide. U.S. soldiers and military vehicles had to be set up to protect Constant, as angry Haitians jeered him and shouted for his arrest. The Clinton administration had earlier called Constant a thug and murderer.

In another development marking Washington's growing control over Haiti, for-

mer New York City police commissioner Raymond Kelly has been assigned by Clinton to rebuild a credible police apparatus in the country. Kelly announced that a new Haitian police academy will open to train cops soon after Aristide's anticipated arrival on October 15. The U.S. government will foot the bill for the Haitian cops' wages.

Kelly headed the New York City police department during a recent rash of cop beatings and corruption scandals. A commission set up to investigate uncovered incidents of rape, drug trafficking, robbery, and beatings by police during Kelly's tenure as the city's chief cop. Kelly openly attacked the commission hearings as "one-sided" and "scripted."

Miami demonstration marks Haiti coup

BY SETH GALINSKY

MIAMI — More than a thousand people marched in Miami's Little Haiti September 30 to commemorate the 1991 coup that overthrew the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The overwhelming majority of participants expressed support for the U.S. invasion and occupation of Haiti. Hundreds danced in the streets, chanting slogans about what many expect to be Aristide's quick return to the island. The demonstration was organized by the Coalition of Haitian Organizations in Florida, which includes *Veye-Yo*, the largest Haitian-American group here.

Veye-Yo leader Samedi Florevil led demonstrators in a chant in Creole. "Whether they want it or not, Aristide must return. They must learn to respect us. Cédras must go," the marchers shouted.

"I am proud to have been for the U.S. intervention from the beginning," Jack Lieberman told the crowd. Lieberman, a member of the American Jewish Congress, added that he had "argued with my friends on the left who disagree with me. But recent events show that I am right. The U.S.

entrance has started an unprecedented upsurge of the Haitian masses. The military is dissolving."

At the same time Lieberman, like other speakers on the platform, criticized the role of former president Jimmy Carter in the negotiations and said that a reorganization of the army and police is not enough. A new police force, "appointed by Aristide," is needed, he said.

The only organization present that opposed the intervention was the Socialist Workers Party. The Socialist Workers campaign distributed leaflets in French and English titled "No U. S. intervention in Haiti: Open the U.S. border to Haitian refugees." The socialist candidates in Florida are Ernest Mailhot for U.S. Senate, Francisco Picado for Governor, and Maureen Coletta and Laura Garza for U.S. Congress.

The socialist literature sparked discussions among many of the protesters. "Yes to the intervention," said one young woman passing by.

"You are right about the United States," said another. "But we have no alternative. We needed someone to come from outside

to save us. Soon we will have our president back."

A handful of demonstration participants came to the socialist campaign table and said they also opposed the U.S. intervention. "It will end up being just like 1915," said one Haitian worker, referring to the U.S. invasion earlier this century. That time, U.S. military forces occupied the country for nearly 20 years.

Socialist Workers gubernatorial candidate Francisco Picado was one of the speakers at the demonstration.

"The U.S. troops are not and have no intention of bringing democracy to Haiti," he said. "True democracy for working people can only come through self-determination. The U.S. goal is to protect the interests of the ruling rich in Haiti and those in the United States who profit from the suffering of Haiti's people."

Picado pointed to the examples of working people in Cuba and South Africa and their successful fights against U.S. imperialism and apartheid.

While some people in the demonstration were obviously upset with Picado's presentation, others applauded his remarks.

WHERE WE STAND end of week four

Special teams aid target week

BY GREG ROSENBERG

"Send us 125 Militants, 8 more copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 3 pounds of subscription blanks," reads a note from distributors of the working-class press in Salt Lake City. Supporters of the *Militant* there mapped out ambitious plans during a target sales period October 1-9. They organized three teams to visit coal mining regions in Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming, along with high school and college campuses in Nevada and north-central Utah.

The target week provided an opportunity to get the international drive to win new readers to the *Militant*, the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* on track. Complete figures for the effort will be included in next week's sales column.

While all the figures aren't in yet, using the momentum generated during the special effort will be important to get on schedule for the rest of the drive, which culminates November 13. Fighting workers and young people need the news and analysis provided in the pages of these publications. This is especially true as Washington reinforces its occupation of Haiti and continues its decades-long campaign to crush the Cuban revolution. Working people need the facts about these developments, which can't be found in the pages of the big-business press.

Distributors in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area report continued success in reaching out to working people and youth in Minnesota. Railroad workers at Canadian Pacific Soo Line are now back to



Militant/Phoenix Kendrick
 Sales of socialist press at Miami rally calling for return of exiled Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

work after a lengthy strike against the rail carrier. Interest in the *Militant* continues in the yards. Supporters of the socialist newsweekly who work at CP Rail have gone over their goal of selling ten subscriptions to fellow workers and are raising it for the second time during the drive.

Young Socialists member Lisa Rottach joined a sales team to the western Minnesota town of Worthington, where a Monfort packinghouse is located. She sold two subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and one to the *Militant* to packinghouse workers angry over high injury rates and long hours of forced overtime. Rottach reported the workers were glad to see a publication that took the side of the working class.

In Morgantown, West Virginia, distributors began their week by selling two *Militant* subscriptions at West Virginia University, where eight students signed up to get more information on the Young Socialists. Dennis Richter reports expanded efforts to reach out to

coal miners throughout the area to help spread the word about the October 15 national rally in Decatur, Illinois to support striking workers at Caterpillar and Bridgestone/ Firestone along with workers fighting a lockout by A.E. Staley. Dozens of *Militant* distributors from the Midwest and beyond are making plans to participate in this important activity.

A special sales team to the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico netted 16 *Perspectiva Mundial* and 2 *Militant* subscriptions. Distributors in New York and Washington

D.C. organized to join a supporter in San Juan for the annual *Grito de Lares* demonstration to demand independence from Washington's colonial hold over the country. Thousands of mostly young people attended the day long event of political speeches and music commemorating the first revolt for independence in 1868.

There was special interest in the publications' extensive coverage of the socialist revolution in Cuba and Washington's provocations against Havana.

Joining a demonstration of 200 at the University of Puerto Rico against a proposed reduction in the right to bail, the team sold two subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Along with subscriptions, readers are encouraged to send in brief stories or anecdotes about successful sales. And anyone who would like to order a weekly bundle of the *Militant* can do so by calling the business office at (212) 243-6392.

Workers show interest in Cuba book

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

As the campaign to sell the Pathfinder book *To Speak the*

Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End enters its final week, every indication is that there is serious interest in what leaders of the Cuban revolution have to say. More than 300 copies of the book have been sold.

Supporters of the campaign in Des Moines have just about wrapped up their effort, selling 17 out of a goal of 20 books—85 percent. Jose Alvarado, a member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) union at Eagle Iron in Des Moines reports that he sold a copy of *To Speak the Truth* and a subscription to the *Militant* newspaper to a worker at the John Deere plant in Ankeny, Iowa. The Deere worker, who is also a member of the United Auto Workers, told Alvarado, "All the U.S. did was rape the island, considering what they had before the revolution. I know Fidel Castro for being the revolutionary he is in overthrowing Batista. They don't want a socialistic government in this hemisphere, but they got it," he added.

Jason Redrup, another IAM member, who works at Eagle Systems in Seattle, reports that a team of socialists went to Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. The team set up a literature table on the campus with signs that

said "U.S. hands off Cuba" and "End the Embargo." Redrup said the signs drew people to the table and two copies of *To Speak the Truth* were sold along with two subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Robert Dees from Greensboro, reports, "Two North Carolina textile workers bought *To Speak the Truth* recently." One, who works at the big Cone White Oak mill, met a salesperson at the plant gate. After a followup visit at his home, the worker bought the book. Both people decided to take advantage of the special offer to buy the book and get a subscription to the *Militant*.

The campaign to sell 500 copies of *To Speak the Truth* still faces a big challenge with nearly 200 books left to sell. This goal can be met if supporters reach out broadly to workers and young people.

Supporters in the industrial unions are a key component of this campaign. One rail worker in New York, Ruth Robinett, has sold seven copies of the book to her coworkers at Amtrak.

Robinett, who recently visited Cuba, said that many workers want to learn more about the Cuban revolution since the recent U.S. provocations. Reading the book *To Speak the Truth* is one good way to do it.

SOLD 32 %

SHOULD BE 40%

	Militant			Perspectiva Mundial			New International		
	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	%
France	4	4	100%	2	5	40%	12	20	60%
Australia	18	35	51%	0	8	0%	5	18	28%
Puerto Rico	1	2	50%	7	5	140%	2	4	50%
Greece	5	11	45%	0	1	0%	3	6	50%
New Zealand									
Wellington	3	5	60%	0	0	0%	0	4	0%
Christchurch	17	35	49%	0	1	0%	3	8	38%
Auckland	26	75	35%	2	5	40%	4	30	13%
N. Z. total	46	115	40%	2	6	33%	7	42	17%
Canada									
Vancouver	36	75	48%	1	10	10%	7	20	35%
Toronto	37	90	41%	2	17	12%	10	40	25%
Montreal	18	80	23%	3	25	12%	9	45	20%
Canada total	91	245	37%	6	52	12%	26	105	25%
Sweden	14	40	35%	8	20	40%	4	15	27%
United States									
Portland, OR	3	2	150%	0	1	0%	0	2	0%
Denver, CO	4	5	80%	1	3	33%	0	2	0%
Cincinnati, OH	6	10	60%	0	5	0%	0	4	0%
Hartford, CT	3	5	60%	0	1	0%	0	4	0%
Houston	38	66	58%	6	12	50%	10	12	83%
Albany, NY	5	10	50%	1	1	100%	1	3	33%
Edinboro, PA	3	6	50%	0	1	0%	1	3	33%
New Haven, CT	5	10	50%	1	2	50%	0	8	0%
Twin Cities, MN	63	125	50%	3	17	18%	10	35	29%
Seattle	37	80	46%	5	12	42%	7	23	30%
Washington, D.C.	35	85	41%	18	30	60%	6	35	17%
Peoria, IL	12	30	40%	0	2	0%	2	10	20%
Salt Lake City, UT	44	110	40%	1	16	6%	1	35	3%
Des Moines, IA	32	85	38%	7	36	19%	2	35	6%
Detroit, MI	38	100	38%	3	11	27%	5	27	19%
Greensboro, NC	23	65	35%	3	4	75%	3	15	20%
Philadelphia	40	115	35%	5	30	17%	8	47	17%
Cleveland	31	95	33%	0	16	0%	0	20	0%
Brooklyn	35	110	32%	9	36	25%	16	65	25%
San Francisco	48	150	32%	10	42	24%	12	70	17%
Boston	36	115	31%	10	36	28%	18	52	35%
Los Angeles	68	230	30%	23	101	23%	10	105	10%
Pittsburgh	30	105	29%	5	12	42%	3	26	12%
St. Louis	22	80	28%	1	6	17%	4	22	18%
Miami	32	120	27%	20	55	36%	13	70	19%
Birmingham, AL	19	75	25%	0	5	0%	1	15	7%
Morgantown, WV	14	55	25%	0	1	0%	0	17	0%
Chicago	33	145	23%	6	32	19%	2	50	4%
New York	32	145	22%	9	40	23%	5	70	7%
Newark, NJ	28	140	20%	10	35	29%	10	50	20%
Atlanta	19	105	18%	1	15	7%	0	25	0%
Albuquerque, NM	1	7	14%	0	2	0%	6	2	300%
Ft. Madison, IA	0	2	0%	0	1	0%	1	2	50%
U.S. total	839	2588	32%	158	619	26%	160	961	17%
Britain									
London	24	70	34%	0	3	0%	5	37	14%
Manchester	12	50	24%	0	3	0%	2	20	10%
Sheffield	7	40	18%	0	1	0%	0	14	0%
Britain total	43	160	27%	0	7	0%	7	71	10%
Iceland	2	13	15%	0	1	0%	0	4	0%
Belgium	0	2	0%	0	2	0%	0	1	0%
TOTAL	1063	3204	32%	183	726	25%	226	1,242	18%
SHOULD BE	1320	3300	40%	280	700	40%	500	1,250	40%

IN THE UNIONS

AUSTRALIA									
AWU	1	3	33%	0	0	0%	0	1	0%
FPU	1	3	33%	0	1	0%	1	2	50%
BRITAIN									
TGWU	2	7	29%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
RMT	3	22	14%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
AEEU	0	6	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
NUM	0	2	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Britain Total	5	37	14%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
CANADA									
CAW	9	12	75%	0	0	0%	0	1	0%
USWA	4	9	44%	0	1	0%	0	3	0%
IAM	3	18	17%	0	0	0%	0	1	0%
ACTWU	0	2	0%	0	3	0%	0	7	0%
CEP	0	5	0%	0	1	0%	0	3	0%
Canada Total	14	46	30%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
NEW ZEALAND									
UFBGWU	1	5	20%	0	0	0%	0	1	0%
MWU	1	4	25%	0	0	0%	0	1	0%
EU	0	6	0%	0	1	0%	0	1	0%
N.Z. Total	2	15	13%	0	1	0%	0	3	0%
SWEDEN									
Food workers	1	3	33%	0	0	0%	0	2	0%
Metal workers	0	2	0%	0	0	0%	0	2	0%
Sweden Total	1	5	20%	0	0	0%	0	4	0%
UNITED STATES									
UFCW	9	15	60%	8	17	47%	0	5	0%
UTU	44	85	52%	1	10	10%	0	25	0%
OCAW	17	46	37%	6	2	300%	0	15	0%
UAW	44	135	33%	1	15	7%	0	30	0%
USWA	22	87	25%	1	3	33%	1	19	5%
ILGWU	5	20	25%	5	20	25%	2	15	13%
IAM	19	80	24%	0	3	0%	1	14	7%
ACTWU	3	25	12%	6	11	55%	0	14	0%
UMWA	4								
U.S. Total	167	493	34%	28	81	35%	4	137	3%

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

BOOKS SOLD		
City	Goal	Sold
Atlanta	20	12
Birmingham	15	4
Boston	20	10
Brooklyn	40	29
Chicago	30	9
Cleveland	20	9
Des Moines	20	17
Detroit	18	12
Greensboro	10	9
Houston	17	11
Los Angeles	40	8
Miami	25	17
Morgantown	10	5
New York	50	31
Newark	30	10
Peoria	10	1
Philadelphia	22	7
Pittsburgh	20	3
Salt Lake City	20	5
San Francisco	30	20
Seattle	25	18
St. Louis	12	6
Twin Cities	25	12
Washington D.C.	20	12
France	2	1
Auckland	10	10
Christchurch	5	2
Sydney	10	6
Montreal	10	5
Vancouver	10	10
Total	601	311
Unions	Goal	Sold
ACTWU	8	2
IAM	40	9
ILGWU	10	1
OCAW	24	3
UAW	35	5
UFCW	6	2
USWA	20	6
UTU	35	21

'We see how callous the justice system is'

BY DAN GRANT AND
NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — More than 30 people jammed into the Pathfinder bookstore here to discuss Iowa prison officials' latest attacks against framed-up union and political activist Mark Curtis. An impressive panel of speakers defended Curtis, who has been in prison more than six years on false charges of rape and burglary.

Speakers included David Milgaard, who was released from prison in 1992 after serving 23 years for a murder he did not commit; Alicia Barsallo, a human rights activist wrongfully jailed by Peruvian authorities in early September; Frances MacQueen, a member of Amnesty International and a representative of Survivors of Torture; Mike Barker, a member of the Hospital Employees Union in Vancouver; and Lisa Ahlberg representing the Socialist Workers Party in Seattle.

Paul Kouri, a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 2952, chaired the meeting. He read a letter from seven coworkers at Storkcraft demanding Curtis be released from lockup and that his conviction by a kangaroo court and sentence of one month in the "hole" and one year in lockup be overturned.

Kouri also shared a letter of support from Tim Bettger, a member of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers (CASAW) Local 4 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Bettger is one of scores of unionists who have sent

messages to Iowa prison officials protesting the recent attack on Curtis. He has spent eight months in jail on trumped-up charges resulting from an 18-month strike by gold miners against Royal Oak Mines.

"We are seeing with the despicable treatment of our friend, Mark Curtis, a very graphic example of just how callous and shallow the justice system and its subordinates can position themselves to be," the fighting unionist wrote.

"This seems to be the case wherever men stand in judgment of other men, be it Caracas, Venezuela; or Yellowknife, Canada; or Fort Madison, [Iowa], USA. It is to those few that we must address ourselves and today is a very good day to say 'Release Mark Curtis, an injury to one is an injury to all.'"

"We're in a position to fight for Mark," Milgaard told the crowd. That's something we should never forget. It's by putting pressure on the authorities and getting people involved that will help free Mark. I see my case as very much parallel with Mark's case.

"I'm fighting for compensation and exonerated for being wrongfully convicted," he continued. I want a public apology from the authorities responsible for putting me in prison and I want a public inquiry that studies all the facts in my case to show that I had nothing to do with the rape or murder I was convicted of."

Curtis was convicted because he stuck his neck out and worked with people "at the bottom of North American society,



David Milgaard, who served 23 years in a Canadian prison for a murder he did not commit, speaking at meeting to defend Mark Curtis in Vancouver, British Columbia.

foreign-born workers who are exploited," Barsallo said. "This is a political fight and a fight for a human being." Barsallo is planning to organize a meeting to defend Mark Curtis at the University of British Columbia where she is a law student.

"We're in a heavy duty battle," MacQueen said. "We have to concentrate on freedom for Mark Curtis because I don't think he will get justice. The United States has conveniently used criminal charges

against political activists. And I believe this will increase," MacQueen said. "We have to fight to stop this for Mark Curtis and for ourselves."

'We are defending ourselves'

Barker said that as a unionist who struck against concessions in 1992, he could see "the kinds of things workers face when we stand up for our rights. In defending Mark we are in fact defending ourselves."

"Mark Curtis is part of a layer of rebellious workers who find themselves behind bars because of their resistance to the offensive by the bosses," Ahlberg said, pointing to Roger Warren as another example. Warren, a member of CASAW from Yellowknife, is in prison on frame-up charges of murdering nine replacement workers. "The campaign to free Curtis is a campaign for the future. Curtis sets an example for other fighting workers from the Caterpillar strikers to auto workers who recently walked out to demand G.M. hire more workers."

The participants at the meeting contributed \$482 to the defense campaign. A member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union pledged \$5 a month until Curtis is released. The meeting also sent a message to the prison officials demanding Curtis be released from lockup and granted parole.

Dan Grant is a member of USWA Local 3495. Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 692.

Seattle meeting backs Curtis defense

BY LISA ANDERSON

SEATTLE — "Mark Curtis has won the support of many feminists, including myself," said Sue Kawakubo, a student at the University of Washington and chairperson of a September 23 meeting sponsored by supporters of the framed up union and political activist.

Forty participants gathered here to protest the recent conviction of Curtis by prison authorities for allegedly assaulting another inmate at the Iowa State Penitentiary where he is incarcerated. Attending were long-time supporters of Curtis's fight, as well as many who were just learning about his case.

"Mark keeps fighting," Nell Wheeler, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, Iowa, told the crowd. "He can keep fighting because of meetings like this."

"This most recent frame-up is an attempt

by Iowa prison authorities to break Mark," Wheeler said. She stressed the importance of sending protest messages. "We may not always win," she noted, "But if we don't fight, we're guaranteed to lose."

"The fight to free Mark is more difficult the closer we get to his release," the defense committee leader said. "Prison authorities will attempt to put more roadblocks in his way to try to extend his sentence until he breaks. Their target is not just Mark, but the millions of Mark Curtises around the world — unionists resisting the bosses' attacks and young people coming into politics." Wheeler concluded by urging supporters to "Drop the charges and parole Mark Curtis now!"

Messages to Iowa prison officials demanding Curtis be released from lockup were read at the meeting from members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 289 at the Kenworth truck as-

sembly plant in Seattle; 12 IAM members who work at Alaska Airlines and other carriers; and anti-police brutality activist K.L. Shannon.

"It's not a question of Mark Curtis finding a good lawyer, it's up to us to win his justice and freedom," Rodrigue Paul, a Haitian activist, said during the discussion.

Participants unanimously agreed to send a protest message demanding Curtis's immediate release from lockup and contributed \$980 to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Meg Novak, a member of the Young Socialists, pledged donate \$5 each month "until Mark is released!" She also volunteered to spend a week in Des Moines in October helping out with the defense effort.

After the meeting, several people watched the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*.

— YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

Mark Curtis campaign aided by Young Socialists

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists, an international organization of young workers, students and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS or to join write: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009, or call (212) 475-6482.

This week's column is dedicated to the defense of Mark Curtis. Following is a collection of reports from Young Socialists around the United States on their campaigns to win Curtis's parole.

On September 20, the Chicago Young Socialists wrote a letter to the prison officials in Iowa. Curtis "has served his time without incident and with dignity, unable to be broken when he perhaps could have admitted guilt for a crime he did not commit and gone free earlier," the letter said.

"Mark would not compromise his principles and so he remained in prison. The courts have attempted to punish him and break his spirits. They have succeeded in neither of these goals and are now on a new offensive against Mark to build a case against his parole. Mark and his international supporters will continue to fight this gross injustice and we demand Mark's re-

lease," they wrote.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, five new members of the Young Socialists watched a video on the Curtis case. "It's the same here, or worse," Cristobal Estrada Silva said, referring to the political repression in Puerto Rico. Many of these Young Socialists are active defending democratic rights, including demonstrating on the largest campus in Puerto Rico against a referendum to end the right of bail for repeat offenders.

"It is not surprising that nothing happened when the cops beat up Rodney King. But Mark's case shows that they don't care what color skin you have, you will still be repressed," Mariana Reyes Anglerio said. The Puerto Rico Young Socialists will be sending in letters to the Iowa Department of Corrections demanding Mark's release.

The Young Socialists in Puerto Rico are familiar with the reality of political repression and imprisonment. They know of the many fighters for Puerto Rican independence still held in U.S. prisons. Twenty nine people at the September 23 Grito de Lares annual pro-independence event signed a letter to Iowa prison authorities demanding Mark's release.

The weekend of September 24-25 was

an exciting one for the Young Socialists in Los Angeles to build support for the Mark Curtis defense case. Saturday started with a regional student conference under the title, "The October Student Movement." The 150 plus conference participants came from campuses and high schools in the Los Angeles area, as well as from Irvine, Berkeley, and Claremont, California.

Young Socialists and other supporters of the California Socialist Workers Campaign participated in all the meetings and workshops while also staffing a campaign table. The conference, organized by different student groups, like the Chicano group MEChA and the Central American Student Association, called for teach-ins and rallies on October 6 to protest the scapegoating and racist attacks on immigrants, especially proposition 187-Save Our State, which is one of the tools that the government is using to attack immigrants.

Discussing the Curtis case was a focus for the Young Socialists, along with getting out the *Militant* and *Pathfinder* books. Many of the participants were interested in finding out more about Curtis's case and took information with them.

On Sunday there was a fundraiser for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at the

home of Hollywood writer and film director Nick Castle, who produced the video on the frame-up of Curtis. A member of the Young Socialists, Laura Anderson, gave greetings to the meeting. "This attack on Mark doesn't discourage us, it angers us and makes us double our efforts to win his freedom," she said.

The highlight of the meeting was that a member of the Young Socialists brought a friend to hear about the case. Coming out of the meeting she wanted to organize a video showing and begin building a Young Socialists group on her campus.

New York Young Socialists held a video showing of Curtis's case in Spanish. One woman, Ada, who they had met earlier at a restaurant workers' strike, was outraged by what happened to Mark. She agreed to write a letter.

Members of the Young Socialists will be participating in a rally to support Curtis on Saturday, October 8, in Des Moines, Iowa. They will also be bringing other interested youth to the rally.

Robin Kissinger in Chicago, Brock Satter in New York, and Diana Newberry and Ken Riley in Los Angeles contributed to this column.

'We have power to organize a new society'

Labor's Giant Step: The First Twenty Years of the CIO, 1936-55
by Art Preis. 538 pp. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1994. \$26.95.

BY MARK CURTIS

The increase in strike actions this year is a positive sign that more workers across the United States are answering a capitalist assault that is making work increasingly dirty, dangerous, and dictatorial. Even so, the owners of industry are not giving up. They are

IN REVIEW

getting nastier, in many cases using replacement workers to break strikes. At Caterpillar, where the most important battle now is being fought, bosses are even trying to cripple a major union in an important industry.

Capitalists are getting plenty of help from the government too, and from union officials who are scared to death of a real fight. For top officials in the United Transportation Union recently, an ink pen seemingly took on magical powers when President Bill Clinton used it to sign an order to end the strike by thousands of Canadian Pacific-Soo Line railroad workers. Union officials immediately accepted the injunction and told their members to return to work.

These facts raise two important questions: (1) Can working people win strikes today against injunctions and strikebreakers? and (2) How did the unions get into the weakened shape they are in and how can they be transformed into combat battalions of the working class?

Immense battles to organize unions

Labor's Giant Step: The First Twenty Years of the CIO, 1936-55, written by Art Preis and recently reprinted by Pathfinder Press, helps answer these questions. It shows how workers started from a low level of organization during the Great Depression of the 1930s and fought immense and heroic battles to organize the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).

In the 1930s, the global economic collapse of the capitalist system stunned the working class. Unemployment soared to 25 percent. Millions of men left their families and roamed the land looking for work and food. President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" bailed out the banks and sought to stabilize capitalism, only giving minor concessions to the workers when it became politically necessary. The American Federation of Labor organized primarily skilled workers along craft lines; not the so-called "riff-raff" who did factory work, mining, and agricultural labor.

It was not until 1934, during an upturn in the economy, that the workers shook off their paralysis and moved into action. Auto workers in Toledo, Ohio, truck drivers in Minneapolis, and seamen in San Francisco blasted through the patterns of defeat and won hard-fought strikes. How could they do it? How could they shut down the waterfront and the factories, when there were millions of hungry workers desperate for any job who might have taken a striker's job? And how did they respond when



Some 2,000 UAW members and supporters picketed in front of GM's AC Spark Plug plant in Flint, Michigan, December 18, 1945. Today's labor battles are living proof that the unions still "retain their basic class character and function" despite bosses' attempts to break them.

judges issued injunctions that limited picketing to just a token few or when faced with the armed force of company guards, cops, and National Guard? Art Preis's book tells the dramatic story of how trade union militants at the time surmounted those obstacles.

Unemployed are part of working class

The young militants of the day saw the unemployed as part of the same working class that did have jobs. Twenty-two-year-old Art Preis was one such militant who helped organize the Unemployed League of Toledo. He explains, "The League made it a policy to call for unity of unemployed and employed workers, it mobilized the unemployed not to scab, but to aid all strikes." The Auto-Lite workers came to the Unemployed League for help after a judge issued an injunction limiting pickets to a small number. Their answer to the injunction was direct. "We will deliberately and specifically violate the injunction," they wrote, because it "is an abrogation of our democratic rights" and "contrary to our constitutional liberties."

Soon there were more than 10,000 on the picket lines. The National Guard was sent to Toledo and killed two strikers and wounded others with gunfire.

But the workers fought back. Like David they slung bricks at the enemy, using inner

tube slingshots. They engaged the Guard in running battles with only their bare fists and rocks. One evening rally mobilized 40,000 workers to support the strikers.

When Auto-Lite gave in and recognized the union it opened the path to organize the entire auto industry. By the end of 1934 700,000 workers had joined in a wave of strikes, inspired by the victories in Toledo, Minneapolis, and San Francisco.

Pressured by the outpouring of labor militancy, a section of the AFL leadership broke away and formed the Congress of Industrial Organizations. John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers, saw "the revolutionary handwriting on the wall" and realized that new methods were called for if the old union leadership was to remain in control of organized labor.

The key to the CIO's success was its vision of organizing all workers in an industry regardless of craft, skill, color, national origin, religion, or politics. Inspired by other strikes, millions of workers shut down their plants then called on one of the CIO unions to come in and "organize us."

The power of the sit-down strike

That is what happened in Flint, Michigan. Preis gives an absolutely thrilling account of the 1937 strike against General Motors. What started as a spontaneous sit-down strike at the Fisher Body No. 1 plants

quickly spread to 140,000 GM workers. By staying inside the plants, Preis writes, production could be stopped as long as the auto workers could defend the doorways and get food. Victory or defeat "depended on a simple strategy: keeping their buttocks firmly planted on \$50 million worth of GM property until they got a contract."

General Motors and the governor of Michigan begged CIO president Lewis to ask for an end to the strike, but Lewis refused and the workers would not give in. But GM did. The Flint victory can best be measured by the tremendous response it inspired among the working class. For the rest of 1937 the sit-down weapon was used by nearly half a million strikers, from bindery workers to dime-store salespeople to movie projectionists.

Today, more than a half a century after the historic battles that forged the CIO, a bureaucratic leadership is well entrenched at the top of the unions. Even so, other changes tip the scales in favor of the workers interests. Blacks are today overwhelmingly working class; not share croppers as in the 1930s. Most women are now in the workforce, including many in industry. Millions of working people from other countries have cosmopolitanized nearly every small town that has a factory. These developments help unify the working class, they break down racist, sexist, and chauvinist ideas that divide us. This weakens the bosses strikebreaking methods and ability to use scabs.

Unions retain basic class character

Most importantly, although weakened the unions still exist, with their tremendous inherent power. They "retain their basic class character and function." The battles that created them, documented in *Labor's Giant Step*, remain proof that "Any strike, however small, can be won if organized labor recogniz[es] the principle of class solidarity and does not shrink from mobilizing the great mass of the working populace to active, militant defense to the picket lines."

This history of the industrial labor movement in the United States by Art Preis, who himself developed into a revolutionary socialist and was labor editor for the *Militant* for 24 years, poses the ultimate question for the working class: Why submit to capitalism's exploitation, insecurity, and misery when you have the power to organize a new society?

Mark Curtis is a framed-up union and political activist currently incarcerated in Ft. Madison, Iowa.

Framed unionist fights appeal ruling

Continued from front page
against Mr. Curtis," Kutmus says in his letter. "For instance, the record states there was no physical harm to anyone and Administrative Law Judge Harper found Curtis not guilty of causing any property damage."

"I am perplexed by the decision and concerned that the sanctions were motivated by factors other than on their merits," he added.

Since Curtis was thrown into lock-up, unionists and political activists from around the world have lodged protests with prison officials and with the Department of Corrections urging that he be released.

Attack on Curtis 'totally unacceptable'

"Mark Curtis has now served more than the five-year sentence imposed on him for sexual assault," wrote William H. Taylor, President of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-507 in Argo, Illinois. "He continues to assert his innocence, and has won worldwide support among trade unionists and human rights activists. Mr. Curtis' exemplary conduct record had recently earned him a gate pass for work outside prison grounds. He had marshaled an impressive level of community support for his upcoming appeal to the parole board. To contend that a man with his record has suddenly taken to assaulting other inmates strains the imagination to say the least."

"I urge you to overturn this conviction, to release Mark Curtis from lockup and to grant him the parole he so obviously deserves," said Taylor.

"I find it totally unacceptable [that you] continue to attack Mark's good name and seek new means of imprisoning him for a longer period of time," wrote Robert Uzmack, president of local 12 of the Aluminum, Brick & Glass Workers International Union in Creighton, Pennsylvania.

"The recent severe punishment handed to Mark Curtis for an alleged assault is just

another chapter in the long drawn out effort to support the claims of the 'system' that has sought his removal from society from the very beginning," Uzmack said.

Mohamad Alsadi, president of the Ottawa & District Labour Council (Canadian Labour Congress) wrote to express his "outrage at the most recent injustice perpetrated against Mark Curtis, and to urge that he be released from lockup. As long-time supporters of Mark and his struggle, we recognize that his September 12th sentence of thirty days in the 'hole' and one year in lockup on the basis of dubious charges is a political move to undermine his chances of being released on parole. Furthermore, we protest the undemocratic 'procedures' followed in arriving at the sentence and urge you, on that basis alone, to overturn it."

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is asking supporters of political and union rights to continue to fax or mail letters to Iowa authorities urging that the conviction of Curtis be overturned and he be released from lock-up.

Letters should be sent to Sally Chandler Halford, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, fax (515) 281-7345.

Copies of protests messages, along with financial contributions to aid the campaign, should be mailed to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, or faxed to (515) 243-9869.

From Pathfinder

Labor's Giant Step The First Twenty Years of the CIO—1936-1955

BY ART PREIS

The story of the explosive labor struggles and political battles that built an industrial union movement and transformed U.S. society in the 1930s.

\$26.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, please add \$3.00 to cover postage and handling for the first book and 50 cents for each additional item.



Cuba condemns U.S. occupation of Haiti

Continued from front page
giving cover to other imperialist military interventions "based on vague arguments of humanitarian protection."

"Somalia is still fresh in our minds," he noted. "The drama of hunger and starvation in that sister nation has continued, even if TV newsreels no longer show the horrible images that served as a prelude to the so-called humanitarian invasion sponsored by this organization."

"In spite of these military interventions, Haiti and Somalia will not cease to be poor countries. The evils afflicting the Third World are not resolved through military occupations, which are used only to serve selfish interests."

The Cuban representative condemned the veto power wielded by the five permanent members of the Security Council. He called for "the democratization of the United Nations," including the addition of Latin American, African, and other Asian countries as permanent members.

'Cuba has not collapsed'

Robaina also took up the 32-year U.S. economic embargo against Cuba. In the past two years, the UN General Assembly voted by an overwhelming majority to adopt a resolution entitled "Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial, and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America Against Cuba." The motions condemned laws restricting international trade and navigation and attempts by governments to impose such laws on other countries. A similar motion will be introduced during this session.

Calling the embargo illegal and unjust, the Cuban leader stated, "The United States is attempting to deny my country, Cuba, the place it deserves as a sovereign nation. It would seem...that the Cold War had frozen forever over that small portion of land and sun, simply for having committed the 'sin' of wanting to be free and truly independent while only 90 miles from the mightiest power in the world."

Referring to the collapse in aid from the former Soviet bloc, Robaina added that Cuba "has been subjected to hardships as probably no other country has had to bear. With the disappearance of socialism in Europe, we were left overnight without markets, sources of raw materials, and financing." The effort to overcome this was made more difficult, he said, by Washington's "reinforcement of a policy of isolation and strangulation that our people had already been stoically facing for years."

In spite of all these difficulties, "and predictions of Cuba's fall since 1989, my country has not collapsed, nor will it collapse," he stated emphatically.

Foreign Minister Robaina rejected demands that Cuba accept policies dictated by the United States or other govern-

ments — usually in the name of "democratization" and "human rights" — before Washington lifts the inhuman embargo. "A great power is blockading us, blockading its own people, and blockading the sons and daughters of my people living on its territory, preventing them from aiding and reuniting with their families. Such cruelty has no parallel in the history of massive violations of human rights."

'Poverty is not a preordained fate'

Taking up the international economic situation, the Cuban representative condemned the austerity policies being imposed in many underdeveloped capitalist countries, "which are bringing about backwardness and misery for millions of people." He also called for an end to the unequal trade relations, in which nations oppressed by imperialism must sell raw materials at low prices while forced to buy machinery and other imported products at high prices. "Poverty is not a preordained fate and much less a human right, no matter how hard the rich countries try to prove otherwise," he said.

Robaina cited the hypocrisy of those who feign concern for human rights while profiting from the exploitation and brutalization of millions. "War, xenophobia, neofascism, and racism are proliferating in our midst; despicable forms of degradation of women and children are increasing; unemployment is on the rise; the environment is being destroyed; the culture of entire populations and nationalities is being crushed. Millions of human beings are living in poverty, are afflicted by hunger, are denied access to basic medical care and ed-



Haitian policemen who were arrested, disarmed, and gagged by U.S. troops on October 3. Military occupation will not solve the problems of Haiti, explained Cuban leader Roberto Robaina.

ucation. Yet little, very little, has been done by the United Nations to deal with these issues as the clear violations of human rights they really are.

'Our socialism is not a bargaining chip'

Robaina stated Cuba's intention to sign the Tlatelolco Treaty on nuclear nonproliferation saying, "It is well known that warships carrying nuclear weapons dock in the part of our territory illegally occupied by the United States [the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo], and in neighboring Puerto Rico. Without renouncing our demand for their withdrawal, we subscribe to the noble aims of this agreement as testimony of our desire for the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean; as a gesture toward our brothers and sisters in the region; and to broaden our means of dialogue and reaching agreements."

He also mentioned the recent immigration agreement between Washington and Havana saying, "the spirit of seriousness and respect that prevailed in those negotiations" made it possible to reach an accord that "if complied with in full, will lay the foundations for normalization of migratory relations between the two countries."

Robaina stated, "We desire peace with all our neighbors, but peace with dignity. Our sovereignty, independence, and the socialism we freely choose will never be a bargaining chip on any negotiating table."

As the Cuban foreign minister ended his speech, dozens of spectators in the visitors' gallery stood to applaud, many of them Cuban-Americans. Some joined a protest against the U.S. embargo that was held outside the building. A dozen or so right-wing opponents of the Cuban government held a picket in support of the embargo.

Trade union conference against U.S. embargo of Cuba meets in Canada

BY JOHN COX
AND SUSIE BERMAN

WINDSOR, Ontario — "The U.S. blockade [against Cuba] was implemented to punish us for the sin of standing up for the rights of the workers, the peasants, the poor," stated Pedro Ross Leal, general secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC).

Ross was addressing the International Trade Union Conference in Solidarity with Cuba, which was held at the Canadian Auto Workers Local 444 hall here September 23-25. The conference was organized by two groups, the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange and Worker to Worker/ Canada-Cuba Labour Solidarity Committee. Approximately 200 people, primarily from Canada and the United States, participated.

The first full day of the event focused on the political situation in Cuba, especially the role of the working class and trade unions in advancing a socialist perspective and defending the Cuban revolution against the U.S. government's trade embargo and other attacks. Ross, who headed up a five-person delegation from the CTC, gave a short presentation and then answered numerous questions from other conference participants.

Cuban workers discuss problems

Ross described a series of 80,000 workplace meetings that were organized throughout Cuba at the beginning of this year to discuss the economic crisis and proposals on how to deal with it. These "workers' parliaments" were initiated after a meeting of Cuba's National Assembly last December that deferred decisions on a series of proposed measures aimed at reviving industrial and agricultural production. These included price increases for certain basic necessities sold at subsidized rates; charging for previously free sporting and cultural events; and some form of income tax.

"Working people are deciding what measures should be implemented, which prices should be raised, which services should remain free," Ross said. "Workers

in effect designed the program passed in the National Assembly" during its meetings in May following the workers' assemblies and in August. He said that the finance ministry had initially proposed to tax wages, but that it became clear that the workers opposed this. Instead, a tax law was passed that exempts workers' wages, while levying taxes on income from other sources, such as self-employed trades. "Fidel [Castro] said the workplaces have become schools of economics," the CTC general secretary said.

Ross also explained Cuba's opposition to U.S. military intervention in Haiti and its solidarity with the democratic revolution in South Africa. Asked whether Cuba anticipates material aid from the new South African government in return for the Cubans' contribution to the fight that led to the end of the apartheid regime, Ross replied, "More than expecting South Africa to help us, it is important that the South African people be able to consolidate their gains. That alone would be the greatest assistance to us."

Impact of U.S. embargo

At a public forum that evening, other members of the Cuban delegation gave concrete examples of the U.S. embargo's impact on working people. Olga Rosa Gómez Cortés, a national leader of the CTC, said, "Cuba has public transportation, but doesn't have parts and fuel. We have free education, but we don't have enough paper and pencils."

Augustín López Gómez, general secretary of the Communications Workers Union in Cuba, described how telephone repair workers often have to carry their ladders and equipment around town by hand, due to a lack of fuel. In spite of the difficulties, López said, "Cuban workers are standing firm because we are determined to resist and win."

In addition to the Cuban unionists, a panel of speakers addressed the public forum. These included Jean-Claude Parrot, vice-president of the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC); Dale Clarke, first vice-

president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers; and Tom Hansen of Pastors for Peace.

"I bring you greetings on behalf of 56,000 members," Clarke said. "Workers are tired of this aggression; we won't tolerate bullying tactics against Cuba."

Frank Travis, a member of United Paperworkers International Union Local 7-837, which is engaged in a protracted struggle with A.E. Staley Company in Decatur, Illinois, was also on the panel. Travis described the impact that meeting a young Cuban revolutionary, Pável Díaz, had on him. Díaz was on a speaking tour of the U.S. at the time, and he received a tremendous welcome when he spoke at a meeting of Travis's union local in April. "I learned something from him, and I learned more about Cuba tonight," Travis said. "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Discussion on how to defend Cuba

During the two-day meeting, participants put forward varying perspectives on how to oppose the embargo and promote working-class solidarity with Cuba.

Armando Ramirez, an official from United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 600 in Detroit, said recent reported statements by former U.S. president Jimmy Carter that the embargo should be lifted are "a window of opportunity" for those who oppose U.S. policy toward Cuba.

James Warren, a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 7773 in Chicago and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, stated, "It's very important not to deny the reality of what we face with the U.S. government. Look at what the Clinton administration is doing right now to tighten the embargo and travel ban," he said. He pointed to Clinton's August 20 decrees further restricting travel to Cuba and prohibiting cash remittances by Cuban-Americans to their relatives on the island.

The discussion continued at the closing session of the conference. The co-coordinators of the conference, Sarah

Continued on page 12

**Build the National
March on
Washington**

**End the U.S. economic
blockade of Cuba**

End the Travel Ban

U.S. Out of Haiti!

**U.S. Out of
Guantánamo!**

Saturday, November 12

**11 a.m. Gather at Malcolm X Park
(16th and Euclid streets, NW)**

12:30 p.m. March to White House

2:30 p.m. Rally at Lafayette Park

For more information, contact:
November 12 Cuba Coalition, c/o
Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida
Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. Tel:
(212) 620-0072.

Guantánamo: gaping wound on Cuban soil

Article in 'Granma' explains history of illegal U.S. occupation of naval base

Reprinted below is an article from the September 14 issue of the Cuban newspaper *Granma Internacional* on the history of the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo.

Located on Guantánamo Bay, in eastern Cuba, the U.S. military facility covers approximately 45 square miles of dry land and water.

The base has a firing range for planes and two airports, one of them abandoned and currently being used as a concentration camp for thousands of Haitian refugees and Cubans who have taken to the sea in an effort to reach the United States. There is also an artillery range, radar sites, observation and command posts, warehouses, a hospital, an ammunition dump, infantry and tank firing ranges, and barracks for troops. About 7,000 U.S. soldiers, family members and support personnel are normally stationed at the base.

Some headings for this article have been added by the *Militant*.



Cuban border guard points out to *Militant* reporter Laura Garza the area of Cuban territory occupied by the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay.

the country through the naval base. Do such actions not encourage illegal emigration and other extremely dangerous threats to the region's peace and stability?

In 1963, Senator Barry Goldwater proposed that a provisional Cuban government in exile be set up on the base; the initiative did not flourish because President John Kennedy did not approve of it.

The United States began surrounding the base with mines in October 1960, despite the fact that it is a foreign military installation in a country with which it does not even have diplomatic relations. Now, the 24-mile-long fence enclosing the base sits in an anti-personnel and anti-tank minefield that is calculated to contain about 70,000 explosives, making it one of the most extensively mined areas in the world.

During 1957 and 1958, Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista's army supplied itself from the Guantánamo naval base to bomb areas liberated by the Rebel Army in eastern Cuba. It was from here that U.S. troops embarked in 1965 to put down the up-

rising in the Dominican Republic.

An abandoned airport on the base has been used since the Bush administration to contain Haitian refugees. This barbed wire enclosure is now also being used to hold Cuban illegal emigrants. The forcible repatriation of approximately 15,000 Haitians confined to the base was condemned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Nevertheless, Clinton's administration repeated the mistake.

In 1991, approximately 2,500 Haitians revolted, dissatisfied with the poor food and housing conditions and angered by the death of an expectant mother from lack of medical care. What might happen now with an even larger population in the concentration camp?

Platt Amendment imposed on Cuba

Numerous studies of the legal documents regarding the establishment and presence of that naval base in Guantánamo, expressly against the wishes of the Cuban state, prove it to be a violation of international law.

In the first place, the delegates to the Constituent Assembly of 1901 did not have the jurisdiction to agree to something that was beyond their powers. Nor was a time limit established.

"But it is no less true that no civil contract or international treaty can be formalized if both parties do not enjoy the same conditions and are not free to express their opinions. The Platt Amendment was approved by the U.S. Congress and imposed upon the Cuban Constituent Assembly, at a time when the country was under military occupation. The leasing agreement stipulated in Article VII of the Amendment is, therefore, in view of international law, null and void," according to statements made by former Cuban Foreign Minister Raúl Roa at the UN General Assembly in 1960.

"In addition to the agreement forced upon Cuba in 1903, we are also faced with the ridiculous situation where it was the lessee who set the rent and stipulated, or rather, ordered, that the lease would be 2000 dollars gold annually," declared General of the Army Raúl Castro in an interview with the Mexican daily *El Sol*. He added that the revolutionary government had not cashed a single one of those checks.

On the other hand, the 1934 Reciprocal Relations Treaty and Agreements grants the United States the right to stay on the base until both parties agree to change or revoke the clauses. If one bears in mind the principle of "fundamental change in circumstances," established by the Vienna Convention on Treaty Law, the same treaty cannot continue to be applied once the circumstances under which it was drawn up have changed.

As General of the Army Raúl Castro affirmed, "The call for the return of the base's territory is not only a unanimous demand on the part of Cuba, but also the source of international clamor."

United States the right to use and occupy the adjacent waters and to improve and deepen the entrances and anchorages and do whatever else was necessary to prepare the sites, which were to be used exclusively as coaling stations or naval bases, but "for no other purpose."

The first occupants of the naval base arrived at the end of May 1903, on board the *Olympia*. Nevertheless, six months before the end of the war, in 1898, a battalion of U.S. Marines were already occupying Guantánamo Bay.

That same year, on December 10, the United States took possession of the base and surrounding waters, "leased" for 2,000 dollars gold annually. In 1911 the base was increased by 10,737 square meters and reached the Yateras River.

The agreement implied returning the Bahía Honda coaling station in 1912, but this was not carried out until 1934.

By virtue of the Reciprocal Relations Treaty of May 20, 1934, the United States was given the right to keep the base until both parties agreed to change or repeal its terms.

Less than a year after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, the U.S. Navy stated that there was no time limit to the base's lease. This position was an absolute violation of the 1934 Treaty and international law. Evidently circumstances had changed.

A destabilizing factor

Since its establishment, the base has been a destabilizing factor, a generator of tension and a means of intimidating Cuba. Abuses, torture, murders and provocations, the concocting of possible incidents and heightening of tension have been a constant in this area of Cuban territory, this "dagger thrust into the heart of the Cuban nation," as President Fidel Castro described it in 1962.

Between February and May of 1964, the U.S. government dismissed the majority of Cuban citizens who until then had worked on the Guantánamo base, many of them with over 20 years service and irreproachable records. All of them had paid six percent of their monthly earnings into a pension fund. Today Washington's Office of Personnel Management occasionally informs them of the amount of money accumulated in their accounts, to which they are denied access by virtue of the blockade. These people, whose accounts now total around four million dollars, survive thanks to the pensions they receive from the Cuban government.

It is estimated that since 1959, 12 500 provocations have emanated from the Guantánamo naval base, the equivalent of nearly one a day. Disregarding the rude, obscene behavior of U.S. Marines with prostitutes in plain sight of the Cuban Border Patrol guards, the United States has carried out innumerable acts of aggression, including preparations to receive large numbers of people disaffected with the Revolution who presumably attempt to flee

"...Putting aside all the moral considerations that oblige us to view with indescribable repugnance the idea of accepting foreign bases in our homeland, we cannot ignore the evidence that those installations will be destined to bring war to our country. Even if we overlook the fact that they could serve the United States to strike us..." declared Cuban patriot Juan Gualberto Gómez, at the Constituent Assembly of March 26, 1901. He concluded his speech by describing this clause as a "mutilation of the motherland" and a "constant threat to our national peace."

About that same time, U.S. Secretary of War [Elihu] Root warned that the U.S. occupation forces would not leave until every single word of the Platt Amendment was approved. The Constituent Assembly rejected the conditions imposed, but U.S. pressure resulted in a scant majority of the delegates voting for the Platt Amendment.

Lease holds 'as long as necessary'

According to the Agreement between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America (dated February 23, 1903), signed by Presidents Tomás Estrada Palma and Theodore Roosevelt, the naval base of Guantánamo and Bahía Honda would be leased "for as long as necessary." Article III of the agreement additionally gave the

BY CINO COLINA

The popular rallying cry *nada de carboneras* (no coaling stations) made in 1901 by demonstrators against the Platt Amendment, marked the initiation of a protest that has grown louder throughout the century. In the meantime, Washington has turned a deaf ear to international law and shown blatant disregard for the taxpayer's pocket-book.

The end of the Spanish-Cuban-U.S. war in 1898 allowed the United States, at Spain's expense, to increase its possessions and spheres of influence. Spain, by virtue of Article II of the Paris Treaty (December 10, 1898), yielded to the United States the island of Puerto Rico and others under its jurisdiction in the West Indies, the island of Guam, and the Marianas Archipelago.

Although Cuba was not handed over to the United States, the documents of surrender ignored Cuban patriots and truncated the island's full independence by the imposition of the Platt Amendment on the first Constitution. The Amendment enshrined the United States' right to intervene under Article VII, which states that the Guantánamo naval base is a means to "enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba and to protect the people of the same."

SPECIAL OFFER

25% OFF for members of the
PATHFINDER READERS CLUB
OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 31, 1994

The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara

Guevara's account, newly translated, of the 1966-67 guerilla struggle in Bolivia. A day-by-day chronicle by one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution of the campaign to forge a continent-wide revolutionary movement of workers and peasants capable of contending for power. New translation includes material published in English for the first time. \$21.95

SPECIAL OFFER \$16.45



The Leninist Strategy of Party Building The Debate on Guerilla Warfare in Latin America BY JOSEPH HANSEN

In the 1960s and '70s, revolutionists in the Americas and throughout the world debated how to apply the lessons of the Cuban revolution to struggles elsewhere. A record of that debate.

\$26.95 SPECIAL OFFER \$20.25

The Second Declaration of Havana BY FIDEL CASTRO

A call for revolutionary struggle from Tierra del Fuego to the Río Bravo. \$3.00 **SPECIAL OFFER \$2.25**

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, add \$3 for postage and handling.

Ernesto Che Guevara Bolivian diary



Auto workers' strike forces GM to retreat

BY JOHN SARGE

FLINT, Michigan — General Motors' drive to cut its workforce while increasing speedup suffered a blow recently as the strike by 11,500 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 599 forced the auto giant to retreat from its campaign to make auto workers work ever harder and longer.

The UAW scored this victory after only a few days on the picket line at the sprawling Buick complex here, with its more than 20 plants that make parts and full-size cars. The walkout began September 27, after the company refused to address any of the union's demands on "manpower, overload, and safety." A tentative agreement was reached September 30. The local union membership ratified the agreement at a meeting on October 1 by a vote of 1,850 to 151.

GM transmission plants in Warren, Michigan, and Toledo, Ohio, and assembly plants in Shreveport, Louisiana, Ste. Thérèse, Québec, and Lansing, Michigan, were forced to close due to lack of parts during the strike. With GM's just-in-time inventory system, the shutdown at the Buick complex quickly had an impact across the company.

The agreement calls for hiring 531 new workers and 212 new apprentices to relieve the overloading of many jobs. It blocks GM plans to outsource the loading of cars onto trains, which would have cost 35 to 40 union jobs. It settles some 300 health and safety grievances, and expands the afternoon shift medical staff. The company also agreed to set up a rehabilitation center to help workers with repetitive motion and other types of injuries. There are nearly 1,000 union members presently on medical leave. The agreement does not address the issue of overtime.

The settlement sets November 14 as the last day that 76 temporary workers will be allowed in the plant. The company agreed to hire temporary only for vacation relief in the summer. GM temporary workers make only 70 percent of the wage of other workers and receive no benefits.

The 531 new workers will be hired first from lists of laid-off UAW members who have lost their recall rights. These workers will start at the 70 percent wage but will progress to full wages in three years and will get full benefits under the contract.

'We forced GM to back off'

Most workers leaving the ratification meeting here saw the outcome as a big victory for the union. One 27-year Buick veteran explained, "I didn't expect all our demands to be met but they were." Another with 24 years in the plant said he voted for the agreement because "we forced GM to back off on the job overloads. It's great."

Ken Scott, the local's bargaining committee chairperson, told the media that the contract reflected what the local had been fighting for and that the union "made no concessions."

The contract is the first break in GM's often repeated pledge not to add "new social security numbers," meaning new workers, as the company tries to gain profitability by slashing the workforce to be able to compete better with Ford and Chrysler. While Ford and Chrysler have hired 5,000 new workers over the last year, GM has cut 15,000.

As the auto giant sold off plants and cut jobs, GM operations where workers are represented by the International Union of



Striking auto workers picketing in front of the Buick City complex in Flint, Michigan on September 28. The 11,500 union members forced the auto giant to retreat.

Electrical Workers have been expanded by at least 1,500 workers this year. New hires in those plants start at \$10.37 an hour, more than \$2 less than workers under the UAW contract. IUE-organized workers

earn the lower wage for at least 10 years and receive fewer benefits. J.T. Battenberg III, president of GM's parts-making subsidiary, boasts that his operations have hired no UAW-organized workers for at

least six years.

GM's drive to increase productivity, which has meant average workweeks of 57-hours and increased injuries, led many workers here in Flint to relish the chance to take on the auto giant.

As one body shop worker on the picket line explained, "People were literally running to keep up. They sped up the line from 55 1/2 to 72 cars an hour after they cut personnel. They just doubled up the work. I would have been disappointed if we hadn't walked out. Management would have won."

Local 599 members gave solidarity to other struggles as they prepared for their own fight. Many local union activists visited central Illinois, where UAW members are on strike against Caterpillar, United Rubber Workers members are striking Firestone/Bridgestone, and A.E. Staley workers are involved in a fight against a company lockout. Local 599 is organizing two buses to attend the October 15 union solidarity demonstration in Decatur, Illinois.

The media estimates the five-day strike cost GM the production of at least 10,000 cars and trucks, which translates into \$50 million in lost profits.

John Sarge is a member of UAW local 900 in Wayne, Michigan.

Striking workers call rally in Illinois

BY BETSY FARLEY AND JIM GARRISON

DECATUR, Illinois — Striking and locked-out workers here have put out a nationwide call for solidarity with their struggles. October 15 is set for a march and rally backing the locked-out unionists at A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co., members of the United Auto Workers on strike against Caterpillar Inc., and United Rubber Workers members on strike against the Bridgestone/Firestone company.

"We need as many people as possible to come to Decatur for the weekend to really send a strong message to these companies," explained Dan Lane, one of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) members helping to organize the protest action.

Supporters will assemble at 2:00 p.m. at the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 751 hall at 2365 East Geddes in Decatur.

The protest action follows a series of company and local government attacks on the right of workers to freely assemble and express their views. An attempt by the Decatur City Council to enact a law requiring a 15-day advance application for a permit to hold a gathering on public property was turned back by the unionists and their supporters two weeks ago.

But the city fathers retaliated by convicting eight Staley workers on charges of "residential picketing" September 23.

Media violence-baits union

Following the April 9 Decatur march in commemoration of Martin Luther King, which included contingents of union members, some of the labor organizers announced a picnic in Scovill Park to celebrate the successful action. The park adjoins the home of J. Patrick Mohan, a Staley vice president. Two months after the event, nine locked-out Staley workers were

served court summonses.

Throughout the four day trial prosecutor Jay Scott attempted to paint a picture of a conspiracy to intimidate Mohan and his family. Among the evidence cited was the fact that workers wore union T-shirts and sang union songs.

Jeanette Hawkins, one of the defendants, said, "I was found guilty of a crime I did not commit. Justice did not prevail here." UPIU member Frankie Travis added, "This is typical of what they're trying to do to union people — trying to control our right to protest and assemble. We were on public property. I didn't even know that Mohan's house was next door." The unionists plan to appeal the convictions.

The third anniversary of the UAW contract dispute with Caterpillar and the lock-out of the Staley workers was marked by a rally here October 1. Some 300 union members and supporters participated in the day's events.

On the morning of the rally, Decatur's *Herald and Review* ran a banner headline saying "Unions deny call for militancy." The article quoted extensively from a provocative flyer distributed at local high schools by the Revolutionary Workers League (RWL), an ultraleft political sect based in Detroit. The flyer advises in part that "civil disobedience and other suicide tactics are perspectives that have not and will never win."

UAW Local 751 president Larry Solomon told the rally, "We will continue to be nonviolent, but don't be misled by media reports that we are planning to step back a little. We need to escalate our activities if we are going to win." Dave Watts, president of UPIU Local 7837, took the microphone next and urged everyone to "join us in our nonviolent fight against corporate greed — working to defend our dignity."

A dispute broke out prior to the rally when RWL supporters began distributing a second leaflet calling on strikers to "sound our own declaration for all-out war," and to "elect joint rank-and-file strike committees."

Initially, rally marshals and others removed the RWL supporters to the outside edge of the rally. Solomon then took the microphone to disassociate the unions from the RWL flyers, explaining that they could not be passed out in the union hall. "But everyone who supports our fight is welcome," he said, as long as they abide by the nonviolent nature of the demonstration. "And any of our members who wants to can take the leaflets," he continued. The RWL members then rejoined the rally.

Building October 15 rally

Support is building for the October 15 action elsewhere in the region. John Sarge, who works at Ford Motor Co. in Wayne, Michigan, reports that UAW Local 900

voted to send 20 members to Decatur.

"We expect several delegations from Detroit UAW locals," Randy Morrell of UAW Local 751 reports, "including Local 599 at Buick City." Auto workers there just waged a successful strike to force General Motors to hire more workers.

Morrell also spoke before a regional convention of the carpenters union in Chicago Heights, Illinois, and two classes at Sangamon State University in Springfield, Illinois. "The class was supposed to be one hour long, but it stretched out to two and a half hours because the students had so many questions to ask," Morrell said.

Steelworkers from the LTV mill in East Chicago, Indiana, will also be participating in the solidarity rally. Members of United Steelworkers of America Local 1011 voted to charter a bus for union members to attend. Central Illinois coal miners are also gearing up for the October 15 protest. Members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1968 at the Freeman United Crown Number 2 Mine scheduled two roadside meetings September 26 to discuss the struggles in Decatur. Due to rain, the morning meeting was held in the bathhouse.

Day-shift workers preparing to go underground and night-shift workers coming out of the mine listened intently as the locked-out Staley workers and UMWA officials explained the stakes in the fight and urged a large turnout for the October 15 protest. More than \$700 was collected in donations to help the struggle. Similar meetings are planned with several other UMWA locals leading up to the action.

For more information and leaflets to build the demonstration, contact UPIU Local 7837 at 2882 North Dinneen, Decatur, IL 62526. Tel: 217-876-7006.

THE CHANGING FACE OF U.S. POLITICS

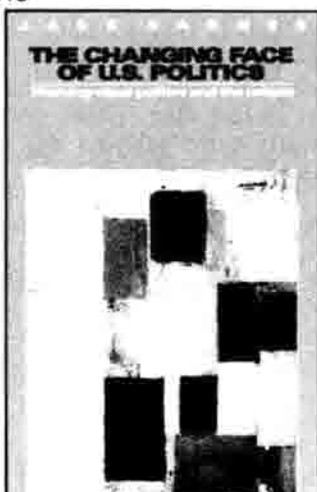
Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions
by Jack Barnes

A handbook for workers coming into the factories, mines, and mills, as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality that will accompany the arrival of the twenty-first century. It shows how millions of workers, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions, and all of society. \$19.95. (special offer \$14.95)



for members of the
Pathfinders Readers Club

Available at bookstores, including those on page 12, or from
Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax:
(212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, add \$5 to cover
postage and handling.



Locked-out at A.E. Staley...
On strike at Caterpillar...
On strike at
Bridgestone/Firestone...

**COME
RALLY IN
DECATUR,
ILLINOIS!**

**October 15, 1994
12 Noon**

Nationwide Rally in Support of
Locked-Out and Striking Workers
Non-violent Direct Action

Meet at: UAW LOCAL 751 • 2365 EAST
GEDDES AVENUE. For information,
CALL (217) 872-2205 OR (217) 876-7006.

California marches planned to oppose anti-immigrant laws

BY BARRY FATLAND
AND WILLIAM JUNGERS

LOS ANGELES—In response to growing attacks on the rights of immigrant workers, efforts are under way to build an October 16 demonstration here and in other cities. A major theme of the actions is opposition to an anti-immigrant measure called Proposition 187, which will be on the November ballot in California.

The proposed measure threatens to bar from public schools all children of undocumented immigrants. It would deny medical care to immigrants who are unable to prove legal U.S. residency. If approved, the bill would force teachers, medical personnel, and social service workers to report to the immigration police all those whom they "suspect" of being undocumented. Most public employees' unions in California have opposed the bill.

Among the most prominent backers of this anti-working-class legislation are former Immigration and Naturalization Service chiefs Alan Nelson and Harold Ezell.

Demonstrations are planned in 13 other cities, including San Francisco; Seattle, and Sunnyside, Washington; Tucson, Arizona; Chicago; New York; and Houston, Austin, Harlingen, and El Paso, Texas.

Supporters of the march in Los Angeles have been publicizing it widely. Hundreds of thousands of leaflets have been distributed and announcements about the march have been broadcast on radio and television.

Meetings of the coalition building the march are held at the offices of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). Other unions endorsing the action include the California Conference of

Machinists, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union Local 11, Service Employees' International Union Western Conference, and many more. Representatives of the United Auto Workers, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, the International Association of Machinists, and the ILGWU have participated in planning meetings.

The Latin American Truckers Association, an organization of independent truckers who virtually shut down the Port of Los Angeles six months ago in a fight to obtain a living wage, has pledged to mobilize 100 big trucking rigs for the march. The United Electrical Workers endorsed the march at its recent convention in Pittsburgh.

Students are also actively seeking to mobilize their forces. At a September 7 meeting against immigrant bashing on the University of California's Los Angeles campus, Carlos Martinez, a leader of the Chicano student organization MEChA, announced plans for statewide protests on October 6 involving both university and high school students.

On September 24, more than 1,000 people marched in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles to oppose Proposition 187 and other attacks on immigrant rights. The big majority were Mexican, Chicano, and Central American youth.

As support for the protest builds, Democratic Party forces are stepping up their pressures on groups and individuals to call off the march. José de Paz, a representative of the California Immigrant Workers Association, announced at a planning meeting that some forces are increasing their campaign to get the unions and others to withdraw their support for the march.



Militant/Laura Anderson

Demonstration in Los Angeles May 1994 protests assaults on immigrant workers. October 15 march will oppose anti-immigrant Proposition 187 on November ballot.

Major opposition to the march comes from Democratic gubernatorial candidate Kathleen Brown's campaign.

The New York Spanish-language daily *El Diario/La Prensa* reported October 5 that some liberal opponents of the march have argued that "if thousands of Mexican-Americans march in the streets, instead of encouraging Californians to vote against the anti-immigrant law, it might spur them to vote for it."

In contrast, Ken Riley, the Socialist Workers candidate for governor, is using his campaign to educate and mobilize for

the biggest possible turnout for the march.

Riley, a garment worker and ILGWU member, argued that, "these kinds of actions in the streets are the best way for workers and young fighters to push back the government's attacks on all working people."

The march begins in East Los Angeles at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Lorena and Cesar Chavez Boulevard and will end in a rally at Los Angeles City Hall. Weekly planning meetings are at the ILGWU hall, 675 S. Park View Street, every Monday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

N.Y. housing cop kills 13 year old

BY ELIZABETH LARISCY

BROOKLYN, New York—In an unprovoked shooting, a housing cop killed a 13-year-old boy here September 27, sparking anger among residents of the public housing project where the incident occurred.

Nicholas Heyward was playing cops and robbers after school with his friends that afternoon in the Gowanus Houses where they lived. He had a plastic toy rifle with a cork in the barrel. The children's play became a horrifying reality as the boys descended from the rooftop.

Nicholas was the first of the children to enter the stairwell on the 14th floor. Housing police officer Brian George had entered the building several minutes earlier, according to the tenant patrol at the door.

Katrell Fowler, a friend of Nicholas, told the media, "I heard Nick say, 'We're playing' and then I heard a boom." Nicholas died at St. Vincent's Hospital eight hours later from a gunshot wound in the abdomen.

Two days after the killing, 2,000 people attended the wake, including many of the youth who live at Gowanus Houses. The following day a thousand were at the funeral, which Mayor Rudolph Giuliani felt compelled to attend.

The housing cop claims he thought the boy had a real gun and feared for his life. Joseph Leake, chief of the New York housing police, said, "We are not trying to establish blame, it was an incident that happened, period." The police have tried to defend Officer George's character. The killing is portrayed as a tragic—but understandable—accident by the big business media. The day of the funeral the *New York Times* ran an article alongside coverage of the outpouring of mourners entitled, "To Police, Play Guns Are Real Nightmares."

Two days after the killing, Mayor Giuliani presented a Police Combat Cross to another housing cop for his involvement in a rooftop gunfight, declaring, "You and your performance are what it means to be a housing officer day in and day out. The exceptions are the officers who act improperly. You are the rule."

Other newspaper articles have blamed the parents for allowing their children to play with toy guns. They portray the youth as gang members responsible for the violence.

Many working people in the area had a different reaction. One of several handmade signs on the walls outside Gowanus Houses angrily states, "Shoot Kids First, Ask Questions Later. Eh! Mr. Mayor." Another asks, "Whose 13-year-old is next for

Robocop?" referring to George's nickname among the tenants.

James Green, a friend of the Heyward family and a resident of the building where the killing occurred, described in an interview how the housing cops operate. "They are very aggressive. They aren't from the neighborhood and they deal with it like a little army coming in to keep the peace. They isolate themselves from us." Green noted that George was known by residents as a cop who always had his gun out.

The Brooklyn District Attorney's office stated it had begun a preliminary inquiry into the shooting. George remains on duty and has not been charged or reprimanded.

At the funeral Rev. Herbert Daughtry read aloud the names of other Black youth who have been the victims of police killings. He said he found "something just incredibly strange, unreal, about children being killed by the people we pay to protect us." Giuliani also spoke, saying love is the answer. He made no mention of the cop or an investigation.

Nancy Rosenstock, Socialist Workers candidate for New York Attorney General, was also at the funeral. She called for the arrest and trial of Officer George. "George demonstrated a wanton disregard for human life and should be held accountable. This was not an accident; it was the result of the role played by the cops, who have no respect for the residents of the projects."

New International no.7

Opening Guns of World War III

Washington's Assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes

The U.S. government's murderous blockade, bombardment, and invasion of Iraq heralded sharpening conflicts among imperialist powers, more wars, and growing instability of international capitalism. Also includes "Communist Policy in Wartime as well as Peacetime" by Mary-Alice Waters. \$12



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write **Pathfinder**, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

Maggie Pucci

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the writings and speeches of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

Pathfinder will ship out the new edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara* the week of October 17. Bookstores, book wholesalers, and libraries have ordered more than 1,000 copies in advance of publication. A promotional campaign to garner reviews and increase advance orders is underway. A poster for the book will soon be available.

A presentation on the book by Pathfinder editor Mike Taber was a highlight of the New York Pathfinder bookstore's participation in the recent "New York Is Book Country" book fair, which drew some 300,000 people and closed off 20 blocks of Fifth Avenue to traffic. The bookstore's total sales from the weekend's activities were \$535.

Pathfinder's labor titles reach readers in many different places. A member of the Teamsters union in Massachusetts purchased *Mother Jones Speaks* at his local bookstore. After seeing the ads in the back of the book, he called to join the Readers Club and ordered the four-book series by Farrell Dobbs on the 1930's Teamsters struggles.

A reader from Decatur, Illinois, wrote Pathfinder for information on how to get a copy of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes. Decatur is

currently a hub of strike actions, including walkouts by workers at Caterpillar Inc.; A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co., and Firestone/Bridgestone.

The Pittsburgh Pathfinder bookstore had a book table at a labor symposium on the Great Steel Strike of 1919. Participants purchased nearly \$250 worth of books and pamphlets including three copies of *Mother Jones Speaks* and one copy each of *Eugene V. Debs Speaks*, *The First Ten Years of American Communism*, *American Labor Struggles: 1877-1934*, and *The Great Labor Uprising of 1877*. Three people joined the Readers Club.

The Newark Pathfinder bookstore reports sales of \$270, including 5 copies of *To Speak the Truth*, at the New Jersey Book Fair in New Brunswick on September 17. Many titles in Spanish were also sold, including 2 copies of *Nueva Internacional* no. 1, which includes the article "Opening Guns of World War III," and one copy of *Nueva* no. 2, which includes articles on "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism." Some 100 Pathfinder catalogs were distributed.

Pathfinder will hold a special sale for members of the Readers Club from October 15 through December 31 on the basic works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, the founders of the modern communist movement, and of V.I. Lenin, a central leader of the Russian Revolution. Sale titles will include *The Genesis of Capital and Wage Labor and Capital* by Marx, *The Housing Question* by Engels, and the 12-volume *Selected Works of Lenin* in Spanish.

Labor conference condemns U.S. embargo of Cuba

Continued from page 8

Shartal of Worker to Worker and Ignacio Meneses of the U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange, kicked off the discussion. Shartal advocated the formation of Cuba solidarity caucuses in the unions. Meneses, Shartal, and many other participants pointed to resolutions passed in the CLC and other unions as a way to advance the defense of Cuba in the labor movement.

Workers share their experiences

Several unionists related their experiences in carrying out work in defense of the Cuban revolution among their coworkers and through their unions. Kitty Loepker, a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 16 from Granite City, Illinois, said she had raised over \$600 on the job to help finance her participation in the U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan earlier this year. Loepker sold raffle tickets that read, "Send a worker to Cuba to get the facts. Defend Cuba."

Others said the best way to convince workers in the United States and Canada to oppose the embargo is on the basis of perceived direct material gains. Tim Yeagar of UAW Local 2320 contended, "We have to explain what's in this for U.S. workers — what kind of jobs can be created with trade."

Miguel Figueroa, chairperson of the Communist Party of Canada, stated that "the survival of the Cuban revolution hinges on defeating the blockade. Based on that, how do we approach working people?" He added, "we need to build opposition to the embargo on the broadest possible basis — on the basis of self-determination for Cuba, Canadian sovereignty, jobs and trade, and even on workers' sense of justice and injustice."

In his closing remarks, Cuban union leader Leonel González said, "There is a group of political figures in the United States talking about ending the blockade." He mentioned Carter, a few other politicians, and recent editorials in papers such as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. "Their idea is very different from what we need," González said. "They want to end the blockade in order to overthrow the Cuban revolution from within."

'Promote political solidarity'

"It is true that there are shortages in our country, and any material aid you can give us is needed," said González. "But what we need more than anything else is that you work to tell the truth about Cuba; that you promote political solidarity with Cuba." The Cuban leader called on those present to "be a voice, a diplomat for the Cuban revolution."

John Cox is a member of the United Transportation Union Local 1006 in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. Susie Berman is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1285 in Toronto.

—CALENDAR—

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge

The Cuban Revolution and 35 Years of Continuing U.S. Hostility. A Conference on the state of U.S.-Cuban relations. Speakers: Andrés Gomez, founding member of the Antonio Maceo Brigade and editor of *Areito* magazine; Miguel Nuñez, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C.; Lucius Walker, director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organizing; Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the *New Internationalist* magazine, and editor of *The Bolivian Diary of Che Guevara*. Sat., Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Building 10, room 25. Sponsored by the July 26 Coalition and the *Thistle* newspaper at MIT. For more information, call (617) 492-8699.

OHIO

Columbus

Anti-Fascist Conference. Midwest Anti-Fascist Network (MAFNET) Founding Conference. Sat., Oct. 15 and Sun., 16. North High School. For more information, call (614) 294-5226 or write to Anti-Racist Action (ARA) P.O. Box 02097, Columbus, OH 43202.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Why Working People Should Defend Revolutionary Cuba. Panel discussion: Lydia Sanchez, Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba; Paula Solomon, Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba; Ved Dookhun, San Francisco Young Socialists; and Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers candidate for attorney general. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Dinner: \$5. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Defend Framed-Up Unionist Mark Curtis. Speaker: Danny Booher, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St.

(corner of Massachusetts Ave.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

U.S. Out of Haiti! Speakers: Dr. Frantz La-tour, Philadelphia Lavalas and Philalink for Haiti; Marie LaForest, Young Socialists; Hattie McCutcheon, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, District 1. Sun., Oct. 16, 6 p.m. 1906 South Street. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Pittsburgh

Behind the 'Crime' Hysteria: A Socialist View of the Crime Issue. Speaker: John Cox, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania. Sun., Oct. 16, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6707.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

U.S. Out of Haiti: The Truth About the U.S. Occupation. Speakers: Rodrigue Paul, Haitian peasant organizer; Harvey McArthur, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison Ave.. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Eyewitness Report: The Struggle in South Africa Today. Speaker: Greg Rosenberg, staffwriter for the *Militant* newspaper, just returned from South Africa where he attended the national convention of the Congress of South African Trade Unions held in Soweto. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd., NW. Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

Blacks in S. Africa intensify fight for land

Continued from page 16

63 restitution cases, a number that is expected to increase markedly.

In addition, the ANC has called for redistributing some 30 percent of all agricultural land in South Africa over the next five years. Other legislation calls for measures such as loans and training to enable Africans to be able to establish tenure on the land.

The current measures put forward by the government to advance land redistribution center around buying vacant land from farmers and making some state land available. There are approximately 320,000 hectares of state land currently unoccupied.

Rural toilers are determined

"Our program is not based on repossessions and evictions," said Land Affairs minister Derek Hanekom of the ANC. "These measures will only be used in cases of extreme urgency. But if this program is not successful, we will then have to look at more drastic measures."

In the face of massive land hunger and millions of rural toilers determined to win the right to farm, there are growing divisions among white farmers. At the Orange Free State Agricultural Union congress, held in Bloemfontein in August, leaders of the white farmers' organization put forward divergent views about how to respond to the proposed land reform.

OFSAU president Pieter Gous said he accepted in principle the idea of land redistribution and agreed to a joint ANC-



Striking lumber workers, joined by labor tenants who support them, gather on an occupied farm in Iswepe, South Africa, to discuss negotiations with the company.

Militant/Greg Rosenberg

OFSAU commission to study how to best implement it. Gous also said that Zairian president Mobutu Sese Seko had offered the rightist Afrikaner Homeland Council a piece of land 50 km wide to resettle landless Afrikaner farmers. (1km=.62 mile).

In Harare, Zimbabwe, August 26, Mandela emphasized that rapid measures were needed to begin the land reform. "This should include the improvement of the

working conditions of millions of farm workers, he said. "We also have to intensify the program to resettle or compensate those who were unjustly dispossessed, distribute available state land among deprived communities, and assist small-scale farmers to set themselves up and prosper."

James Harris, who recently returned from South Africa contributed to this article.

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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

UNITED STATES

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

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 782-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516. Tel: (203) 688-5418.

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

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 803 Peachtree NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 724-9759.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018. Peoria: P.O. Box 2817, East Peoria. Zip: 61611. Tel: (309) 672-6443.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

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

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: St. Louis: 1622 S. Broadway. Zip: 63104. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Mailing address: 1188 Raymond Blvd., Suite 222. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Albany: P. O. Box 2357, E.S.P. Zip: 12220 Tel: (518) 465-0585. Brooklyn: 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Zip: 11217 Tel: (718) 399-7257; New York: 214-16 Avenue A. Mailing address: P.O. Box 2652. Zip: 10009. Tel: (212) 388-9346; 167 Charles St. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip 27406. Tel: (910) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 662-1931. Cleveland: 1832 Euclid Ave. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. Pittsburgh: 4905 Penn Ave. Zip 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 6969 Gulf Freeway, Suite 250. Zip: 77087. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E. 900 S. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 1802 Belmont Rd. N.W. Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills 2010.

Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 2000. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 071-928-7993.

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839-1766.

Sheffield: 1 Gower St., Spital Hill, Postal code: S47HA. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Montreal: 4581 Saint-Denis. Postal code: H2J 2L4. Tel: (514) 284-7369.

Toronto: 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

FRANCE

Paris: 8, allée Berlioz 94800 Villejuif Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

SWEDEN

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

The rational society — "Demand for cars rides a boom in India's growing economy," one headline declared. Meanwhile, it was reported that nearly 2,000 people

P.S. — If the previous item gives the impression that everyone in India now has wheels, the answer is not quite. One person in 279 has a car in "booming" India.

Jones charged in the media that conditions at the site posed the risk of a "catastrophic release" of nerve gas. Jones had been fired for refusing to sign a finding that the risk was acceptable.

joint ventures will report losses this year. Many of these, it said, are "artificial" losses for tax-dodging purposes.

Declares one trade ad: "You can learn how to turn threatening trends into profitable opportunities.... Turn direct disposals [cremations] into full services.... Understand how to sell all cremation merchandise, not just urns."



Harry Ring

ple have fallen victim to a spreading plague. The deadly affliction is born by rats, which by some estimates outnumber the 850 million people in India.

Wonder why? — "CHICAGO (AP) — Black women are more than twice as likely as whites to die of breast cancer, in large part because their disease more often reaches an advanced stage before it is diagnosed, researchers reported."

Damn troublemaker — The army is checking the safety of its new chemical weapons incinerator at Toole, Utah. It acted after former senior safety inspector Steve

Part of the green movement — A Swiss company designed a functional, diamond-studded bicycle. \$950,000.

Capitalist know-how — Capital continues to flow into China, but all is not rosy. The official *China Daily* said many companies come solely to take advantage of tax breaks and split when the breaks run out. The paper anticipates that some 51 percent of all

Bread-and-butter issues — Two L.A. cops are being tried for shooting at a highway motorcycle cop. The lawyer for one said his client was simply blowing off steam. The other explained his client was frustrated and had a few drinks after learning he wasn't getting a raise.

A viable industry — Funeral companies used to scorn lower-cost cremations as "shake and bake." But with the growing demand, they're proving flexible.

Crackdown on bias — After a two-year probe, Japan's Labor Ministry concluded that 40 percent of the companies it checked discriminated against women employees despite a law barring them from doing so.

The culprits were directed to knock it off. "But," a news item added, "the law is toothless. It lacks any penalties to make employers comply."

The health-care crisis and the virus of panic

BY JAMES ROBB

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Medical scare stories are in the news here recently. Sensational stories about cases of invasive streptococcus-A, the so-called flesh-eating bacteria, accompanied by graphic pictures of people horribly disfigured by the disease and interviews with "survivors," are getting prominent play.

In a scarcely less hysterical tone, other stories have dealt with the fact that some diseases are becoming resistant to treat-

AS I SEE IT

ment by antibiotic drugs. A recent issue of *Time* magazine carried a cover story complete with panicky headlines such as, "Some microbes can reproduce in just 20 minutes. The price of doing nothing will be millions of lives."

Having looked at several of these articles, I can't see any new facts that come to light, nor any scientific basis for panic.

For example, invasive streptococcus-A is neither a newly-discovered disease, nor difficult to treat with antibiotics. The *Time* article points to a "notorious flare-up" in the town of Gloucester in Britain. But this so-called flare-up consisted of a mere three cases — a statistically insignificant figure. In the case of this disease, at least, the panic is pure media-generated hysteria.

It is also not a recent discovery that disease causing micro-organisms can, over time, develop a resistance to antibiotics. Medical science can deal with this problem. Antibiotics can be modified as fast as the diseases develop resistance to the drugs currently in use. There is no prior limit to the degree to which this can be done. Moreover, recent advances in biochemical science open up possibilities for developing new kinds of drugs, which combat disease in different ways altogether.

Health-care crisis is real

The crisis in health care is real, and worsening epidemics are a part of it. Some of the diseases mentioned in these press reports are on the increase, but not because they are running ahead of medical science. Rather, they are running ahead of the means of prevention and treatment.

Tuberculosis (TB) is one such disease. After many years of decline, more people are contracting TB, and resistant strains are appearing. But this increased occurrence is not due to growing resistance to treatment. There is a simpler explanation. With the dismantling of public health systems worldwide, those who ought to be inoculated against the disease, or treated for it, are not getting the medical care they need. Also, because it is one of the diseases that people with AIDS succumb to, and most people with AIDS are homosexuals or intravenous drug users who are treated as terminal cases not worth spending money on, TB spreads.

In New Zealand in recent years there have been epidemics of measles, whooping cough, hepatitis B, and rheumatic fever. These are diseases that could be wiped out, or at the very least controlled, with known means of treatment and prevention. Some of them almost had been wiped out. But with cuts in health expenditure, inoculation programs have broken down. The occurrence of rheumatic fever in New Zealand is now one of the highest in the world.

Working-class movement needed

The cause of the health crisis is not to be found by looking down a microscope. Nor will it be solved by developing new drugs. What is required is a political movement of working people demanding free health care for all. This is actually how tuberculosis, a disease which once ravaged the working class, was driven back almost to the point of eradication a generation ago, at least in the industrialized capitalist countries.

It is often said that the discovery of antibiotics is what conquered TB. This is false. The discovery of antibiotics, important as it was, by itself never eradicated TB and other infectious diseases. These diseases, including TB, still claim the lives of millions of people in the semi-colonial world, in spite of the existence of powerful antibiotics.

What dealt the blow to TB was the rising workers movement, which fought for and won a measure of free health care. The workers movement fought for paid sick leave, so that workers who fell ill would not be prevented by poverty from taking the necessary time off work to recover. It demanded that new hospitals and other health facilities be built, including in rural areas, to meet the needs of working people in the countryside. It demanded that newly developed drugs be made available to everyone, not just those who could afford them. The lasting impact of this fight can be seen today in the tenacity with which people in small towns across New Zealand are fighting to save these very hospitals from closure.

By winning health care as a right for all, the workers movement also gave a big boost to the advancement of medical science along the way.

Only the working class can lead the fight for health care today. The middle class layers, to which most health professionals and scientists belong, are not capable of this task. In fact, it is their impotence in the face of the deepening health crisis that generates these moods of panic and despair, which we see expressed in the medical scare stories. In their battle for market share, the capitalist news media then spread the hysteria, with cynical indiffer-



Hospital workers in New York protest layoffs and bed closings September 23. Health crisis can only be solved by working people fighting for free medical care for all.

ence to the truth.

In order to confront the health crisis today, workers need to inoculate ourselves against the virus of panic. The responsibility for the health crisis lies not with mutating micro-organisms, but with the capital-

ists themselves, who provide health care only when there is a profit in it.

James Robb is a member of the New Zealand Meat Workers Union in Auckland, New Zealand.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People
October 17, 1969 Price 10¢

Washington is subjecting Laos to a genocidal bombing attack on the pattern of its horrendous B-52 missions against North and South Vietnam.

Facts and figures on this savage attempt to crush the revolutionary forces of the Pathet Lao were revealed in a startling dispatch by *New York Times* reporter T.D. Allman, written from Vientiane, Sept. 30:

"The main U.S. targets now, according to sources in both the Laotian government and the Pathet Lao rebels, are the rebel economy and social fabric.

"The restraints on the U.S. in bombing Laotian territory have been significantly relaxed over the last six months. The daily total of U.S. bombing sorties has risen to the hundreds with U.S. jets often refueling over Laos rather than returning to their Thai or South Vietnamese bases as they continue their round-the-clock search for targets...

"The war has also become increasingly a war for control of populations rather than territory. With U.S. bombers able to destroy almost at will, any given town, bridge, road, or concentration of enemy soldiers or civilians, control of specific territory has become increasingly less important."

The Laotian war, according to government figures, so far has produced more than 600,000 refugees, or about a quarter of the nation's population.

THE MILITANT

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

October 14, 1944

DETROIT — Some 1,000 delegates, representing 38,000 maintenance workers affiliated with the Maintenance, Construction, and Powerhouse Workers Council, CIO United Automobile Workers, met here last Monday and voted overwhelmingly to strike unless the War Labor Board granted their demand for a fact-finding panel to investigate the wage-structure of maintenance workers in Detroit auto plants. In a stormy session, in which all attempts of Council officials to prevent strike action were hooted down, the delegates voted to deliver a 24-hour ultimatum to the WLB.

On Wednesday morning, after the expiration of the ultimatum, maintenance workers in various plants throughout the city, fed up to the gums with War Labor Board stalling, began walking off the job. During the day, workers in 21 plants went on strike. Eleven plants were closed entirely, involving more than 60,000 workers.

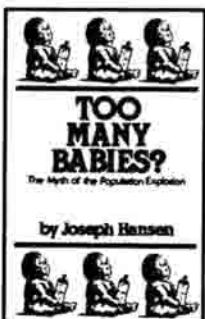
On Thursday, the delegates voted to return to work, pending action by the WLB. By this time 7,000 maintenance workers had struck in 33 plants. [UAW International Vice President Walter] Reuther told the delegates, "You can't pressure the War Labor Board by calling unauthorized strikes," and denounced the walkout as a violation of the no-strike pledge. But pressure the WLB is precisely what the men had done. The board decided by a vote of six to three to combine all cases involving maintenance men's wage disputes, and will hold immediate hearings. That's what the men wanted and they didn't get it until they struck.

FROM PATHFINDER

Too Many Babies?

The Myth of the Population Explosion
by Joseph Hansen

If in the midst of abundance part of the population goes hungry, Hansen explains, this is due not to the quantity of those without food, but to the quality of the economic system under which they live — one that dooms them to starvation in the shadow of bursting granaries and warehouses. Booklet \$3.



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.

Capitalism is cause of plague

"Capital," wrote Karl Marx, comes into the world "dripping from head to toe, from every pore, with blood and dirt." The reemergence of the plague, which in the mid-14th century consigned a quarter of Europe's population to their deaths along with the recent deaths of more than 900 ferry passengers in the Baltic Sea, is testimony to the truth of Marx's observation.

The spread of pneumonic plague across India, the sinking of the *Estonia*, and similar horrors, which have caused untold misery and taken the lives of innumerable working people, are rationalized to the last detail by the big-business press.

"Don't panic," said an editorial headline in the London *Financial Times* about the plague outbreak. It advised against "reacting irrationally to ancient fears." The ferry owners and government officials in Estonia and Sweden, with the fresh blood of hundreds of people on their hands, assure that their ferries are perfectly safe.

So-called natural disasters, "acts of God," and freaks of nature are taking place on a widening scale today and they are taking a greater and greater toll on the working class around the globe. But there is nothing natural or unexplainable about them. The blame lies with the owners of capital and the governments that do their bidding.

In the case of India, the arrogant imperialist bourgeoisie, as they always do, present the spread of disease as something natural to "those people." But it is the combined effects of hundreds of years of colonial rule and

imperialist exploitation of working people in India that bred the devastating conditions the toilers there face today. And it is the effort to expand capitalist industry and drive peasants from the land that is fueling the entry of millions into the urban centers.

The government in New Delhi bears criminal responsibility, first for doing nothing to eliminate the miserable conditions facing working people, and then refusing to take whatever measures necessary to save lives and stop the spreading disease, which can be easily cured with antibiotics.

In the case of the ferry, shipowners and government officials readily admit the open cavities bearing vehicles and cargo make the ships prone to sinking fast when water enters. They justify their refusal to upgrade safety on the simple basis that it would cut into their profits.

How can working people combat this situation? By building a political movement independent of the parties of the exploiters. As an article in this week's issue points out, tuberculosis was wiped out as a result of a growing working-class movement that fought for and won improved health care. Today rising disease, increased poverty, and "natural" disasters are a result of the workings of capital. The road to their elimination is through building a fighting working-class movement. Such a movement will draw the correct conclusion that the rulers of today are unfit to run society and need to be replaced with governments of workers and farmers.

GM workers win demands

Union members at General Motors plants in Flint, Michigan, scored a victory for all labor when they won their four-day strike and forced the auto giant to agree to hire more workers. The United Auto Workers (UAW) members rebelled against the brutal effects of GM's downsizing drive, in which the company has sought to compete with its corporate rivals by squeezing more labor out of fewer workers.

The GM workers' demand for more hiring reflects an important change in attitudes. Employers have often succeeded in dividing the workforce by getting "permanent" workers to view "temporary" and newer employees as competitors. At GM, many workers, pushed to the limit by the inhuman pace of work and grueling overtime demanded by the bosses, are welcoming the new generation being hired into the plants as a source of strength. The truth is that the employers regard all workers as temporary — or "disposable," as a typical article in the pro-boss *Washington Post* recently put it. Labor's only defense is to stick together and fight together.

The victory at GM reinforces other important labor battles, particularly the strike by 14,000 UAW members against Caterpillar, Inc. The stakes are high in this fight, with the bosses out to deal a crippling blow to the UAW and the entire labor movement. The Caterpillar strike is intertwined with two other fights: the strike by rubber workers against Bridgestone/Firestone and the fight by locked-out unionists at A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co. All three companies have plants in Decatur, Illinois, and workers from each have been picketing, rallying, and fighting together.

The employers are dead serious about defeating these

fighters, as shown by the strikebreaking role the government and police are playing. The latest example of this is the conviction of eight Staley workers for "residential picketing," that is, for the crime of holding a union picnic in a Decatur park near the home of a Staley executive.

The union battles at GM, Caterpillar, and elsewhere are especially important today as the capitalist ruling families step up their assault on the entire working class. Between 1989 and 1993, median real wages in the United States declined 2.6 percent. They have been pushed down even further in the past year. In spite of the current upturn in the business cycle, 14 million men and women are unemployed or underemployed; for young Black workers, the official level of unemployment is 36.8 percent, and the real level is even higher.

These stark facts, reflecting the overall economic depression gripping the capitalist world, underline the need for the union movement to fight for jobs for all and to champion the interests of the working class as a whole, beginning with the least-protected layers. The involvement of some unions in the projected October 16 rally in Los Angeles against government attacks on immigrant workers points in the right direction.

Workers at Caterpillar, Bridgestone/Firestone, and Staley have called a labor rally in Decatur on October 15. Mark this day with a big red circle on your calendar. It offers an important opportunity to mobilize much-needed working-class solidarity. Groups of auto workers, steelworkers, and coal miners are already preparing to go. Every effort to bring fellow workers, farmers, students, abortion rights defenders, and others with you to Decatur October 15 will help draw new forces into this fight.

Will invasion aid Haitian workers?

In his letter printed on the opposite page, Albert Fried-Cassorla asks whether the U.S. invasion of Haiti deserves support because many Haitians today welcome it.

First of all, have the U.S. capitalist rulers ever carried out a foreign military intervention that was in the interests of humanity? No. From the 1898 occupation of Cuba and Puerto Rico to the 1990-91 war against Iraq, Washington has justified its interventions by wrapping itself in the banner of "democracy" and pointing to situations in other countries that working people rightly considered intolerable. But the supposed solution — U.S. troops carrying out the "white-man's burden" — has always been designed to reinforce imperialist oppression of the country in question. The Haitian people themselves were subjected to such an invasion in 1915. The marines then stayed for two decades, propping up a string of dictators.

The fact that most Haitians welcome the U.S. troops is

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

not new. The same thing happened initially when U.S. forces invaded Somalia, Grenada, and Panama. In Somalia, as many working people experienced firsthand the brutality of the occupying troops, their attitude increasingly changed to opposition and protest. This contributed to Washington's fiasco in and subsequent withdrawal from that country.

As for "the delivery of food to hungry Haitians" cited by Fried-Cassorla, the U.S. invasion of that country is no more aimed at ending hunger than was the 1992-93 invasion of Somalia. Starvation in Somalia continues today; it has dropped out of the news because the issue is no longer convenient for the U.S. rulers' propaganda machine.

The real question is: Has the U.S. occupation somehow expanded political space and given self-confidence to Haitian fighters? The answer is no. It's important to distinguish between two separate things: one is the determined struggle of Haitian working people and the other is Washington's actions.

The U.S. rulers' goal is to stabilize capitalist rule in Haiti. Right now, the Haitian military is too discredited to serve that role, so the imperialists have drawn in both Aristide and major elements of the military regime to try to patch together a new government whose main job will be to keep workers and farmers under control. The last thing Washington wants is working people taking action in their own interests — in fact, the U.S. troops are trying to block off mass actions.

The fact that Haitian demonstrators have taken over some police stations and chased cops and *Tontons Macoutes* is not thanks to the U.S. marines. It only proves that in the last three years the Raoul Cédras regime did not succeed in crushing workers and peasants, who continue to seek every opportunity to uproot the tyranny, as they have since they toppled "Baby Doc" Duvalier in 1986.

Workers' strength comes from struggle

After overthrowing the U.S.-backed Duvalier dynasty, Haitian working people continued to fight a succession of short-lived tyrants. They won an important conquest: the first democratic elections in their country's history, electing Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president. They fought for land, for literacy, for the right to speak Creole as the official language, and for union and political rights. It's precisely these kinds of struggles and accomplishments by Haitian workers and peasants that the U.S. and Haitian rulers are trying to prevent.

U.S. troops are in Haiti to make sure that capitalist profits are protected and that hunger and other social problems are *not* solved as they were in Cuba — through a deep-going social revolution. The Cuban road — workers and farmers fighting in their own interests and replacing the capitalists' government with their own — is the only way forward.

It is true that opposition to the U.S. intervention in Haiti is a minority view right now; however, that doesn't negate the correctness of this position. It only reflects the damaging political blow that the invasion and occupation have struck. But the truth must be told, because, over time, working-class fighters can and will learn from their own experiences in struggle.

Fried-Cassorla sees a parallel between Washington's invasion of Haiti and the use of U.S. troops in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957 to enforce federal desegregation laws. But there is no comparison. The call for federal troops to Little Rock was to enforce the U.S. government's own laws — civil rights laws that registered the democratic gains working people had won in struggle.

In contrast, the U.S. government has no right — legal or otherwise — to decree or enforce laws in a sovereign country like Haiti, much less invade it. Only the Haitian people can determine who and what their government will be. Working people around the world should support the fight for Aristide's return, but not on the points of U.S. bayonets. The responsibility of supporters of the Haitian people's struggle is to get Washington off their backs.

— MARTÍN KOPPEL

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: *The Militant*
2. Publication No.: 349-040
3. Filing Date: 9/26/94
4. Issue Frequency: Published weekly except for one week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 46
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$45
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4) (Not Printer): 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014-2570
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not Printer): 408 Printing & Publishing Corporation, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do Not Leave Blank). Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address): 408 Printing & Publishing Corporation, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address): George Fyson, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address): Argiris Malapantis, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.
10. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereafter the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Do Not Leave Blank): 408 Printing & Publishing Corp., 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Stockholders: C. Craig Gannon, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; Norton Sandler, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; Greg McCann, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; Cynthia Jacquith, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; Anchor Foundation, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: Anchor Foundation, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Does not apply.
13. Publication Name: *The Militant*
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: October 3, 1994
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: (a) Total No. Copies (Net Press Run): 6,616. (b) Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not Mailed): 2,986. (2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies): 2,490. (c) Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2)): 5,476. (d) Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free): 396. (e) Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means): 0. (f) Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e): 396. (g) Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f): 5,872. (h) Copies Not Distributed (1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled: 734. (2) Return from News Agents: 10. (i) Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2)): 6,616. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c / 15g x 100): 93.2%. Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date: (a) Total No. Copies (Net Press Run): 6,192. (b) Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, and Counter Sales (Not Mailed): 3,318. (2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies): 1,790. (c) Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2)): 5,108. (d) Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free): 384. (e) Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means): 0. (f) Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e): 384. (g) Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f): 5,492. (h) Copies Not Distributed (1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled: 700. (2) Return from News Agents: 0. (i) Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2)): 6,192. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c / 15g x 100): 93%.
16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the Oct. 17 issue of this publication.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: George Fyson, Editor (signed). Date: 9/26/94

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Grain elevator workers in Canada ratify contract

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions. We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about

radio. The restructuring moves demanded by the Wheat Pool, that provoked the strike, threaten the future of local elevators, she said. A main Pool objective is contracting out new construction in a program linked to abandoning smaller elevator facilities, thus increasing farmers' transportation costs.

ON THE PICKET LINE

and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or at other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

After 12 days on the picket line, Grain Services Union (GSU) members in Canada voted by a 70 percent majority to accept a two-year agreement with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, the province's largest elevator company. The settlement came only hours after GSU office workers set up picket lines outside the Pool's Vancouver, British Columbia, terminal. The picket line shut down the port facility when grain handlers refused to cross.

The new contract allows the big cooperative important concessions on the central issue of the strike—contracting out work now done by the 1,800 union members.

More than 1,500 union members walked off the job September 7, according to union representatives. But several days into the strike, Wheat Pool management claimed that 280 of its 413 elevators were open for business. Railway management and police were called in to identify cars at some Pool facilities when rail workers refused to cross GSU picket lines. Area farmers from Herbert, British Columbia, joined GSU members in picketing the local Pool elevator. The Pool's local farmer committee at Limerick urged cooperative members not to patronize the company.

Prominent National Farmers Union figures also spoke in support of the union. "This isn't just a union fight in terms of job security," former NFU women's president Nettie Wiebe told Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC)

Romano's workers: 'We have had enough'

"Workers here have had enough," a locked-out worker picketing Romano's Pizzas factory in Wellington, New Zealand, told a reporter with TV3 national news on September 9. Earlier that day, 35 workers set up a picket line in a dispute over pay and working conditions. They have been on strike ever since.

The workers are demanding a collective contract instead of individual agreements with the company. Currently workers are paid NZ\$6 to NZ\$8.50 an hour.

There are no standard hours of work at the plant. Workers can be called to start work at 6:00 a.m. and forced to stay up to 12 hours, with overtime rates paid only after 10 hours. On some days, there is as little as two hours of work.

The plant was organized by the Service Workers Union in March 1993. During the organizing drive, the union had to take court action just to enable its representatives to gain entry to the factory. At first they were allowed to meet with only one worker at a time.

On the day of the lockout, the manager called a meeting to explain to workers who had joined the union that they would not be getting a wage increase. Instead, they would have to see him individually if they wanted one.

The first worker to enter the boss's office was offered a substantial increase in pay, but only if he signed a company contract, which he was told he could not have a copy of. The union member refused, demanding a 2 percent pay raise and a collective contract.

At lunchtime workers decided to hold a meeting outside the factory. While they were meeting, the manager locked the doors. The



Union members at Fiberdye in Brooklyn appeal to worker to support their strike and not cross the picket line. On September 29, after a six-day strike, the 100 Fiberdye workers won a three-year contract and recognition of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at the plant.

Romano's workers promptly raided the rubbish bins for materials to make placards and began picketing the plant. They were later issued letters to return to work, but only if they agreed to give up the right to strike. The manager also would have to vouch for their good record.

With signs saying "Low pay, no way," "We want a collective contract," and "Food workers unite," the strikers have been picketing daily, demanding reinstatement and a collective contract.

On September 16, the Labour Court issued an injunction ordering the company to reinstate the workers and end the lockout, as well as to begin negotiating with the union.

Bridgestone/Firestone strikers are 'determined'

Members of United Rubber Workers (URW) Local 7 in Akron, Ohio, are staffing picket lines at five separate entrances to the sprawling Bridgestone-Firestone facility.

"We're hard-working, long-suffering, and determined," said Dick Clayton, a striker who works in the synthetics department. Clayton has been a URW member since 1961. Strike marshal Don Dobson

has worked at the plant for more than two years. Prior to that he was a member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) for 17 years at Republic Steel. "Other locals in the area are really starting to come in to help," he said.

"We were 'associates' back when they were losing \$1 million a day," said Clayton. "Three years ago we gave them back everything they asked for. We made all sorts of concessions. We took craft rules down. We saved them money on the health-care plan. Now that they're back on their feet again, we're disgruntled employees."

Irving oil workers launch boycott to aid strike

Two hundred eighty workers on strike since May 12 at the Irving Oil refinery in St. John, New Brunswick, are stepping up their fight against the company's drive to weaken their union and throw dozens of workers out of a job.

At a September 10 rally attended by 700 strikers and supporters, Local 691 of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP) announced that it was stepping up solidarity for its fight and calling on working people to boycott all Irving petroleum products. The

rally was attended by workers from across New Brunswick.

"We want more working people, not more working hours!" Larry Washburn, president of CEP Local 691, told the rally as he explained the central issue in the strike.

Irving wants to increase the regular workweek from 37.3 hours to 40 hours for day shift workers and to 42 hours for workers on the 12-hour rotating shift schedule. The union says that will mean some 30 jobs will be lost.

Striking workers estimate the refinery is producing about 130,000 barrels per day with scab labor, compared to prestrike production of more than 200,000 barrels per day. The many drivers passing by the picket line who honk their horns in sympathy are evidence of the significant local support won by the miners.

Contributors to this column include: Howard Brown, a member of National Farmers Union Local 609 in Rosetown, Saskatchewan; Christine Beresford, a member of the United Food & Beverage Workers in Wellington; Don Mackle, a member of USWA Local 6037 in Cleveland; and Roger Annis, a member of CEP Local 841 in Montreal.

LETTERS

Support Haiti invasion?

The *Militant* has rightly opposed every U.S. intervention abroad for the past 50 years. For the 25 years I've been reading, I've agreed. Yet somehow, I wonder if the current intervention in Haiti is different.

In the news media, we see Haitians jubilant that the Americans are there. Are these Haitians wrong, mistaken, or deluded? Do they incorrectly imagine they are being liberated? Possibly so, but I believe the case must be made stronger to be more convincing.

Perhaps the return to power of [Haitian president Jean Bertrand] Aristide is wrong, even though he was elected by 75 percent of the voters. But I would like to know why. Haitians taking over police stations and chasing police and the *tonton macoutes*—that looks like a good thing, like a people finding their power, even if only in a limited way. The delivery of food to hungry Haitians would also seem to be a prime consideration for dialectical materialists to weigh.

In the September 5 issue of the *Militant*, you reprinted Joseph Hansen's wise analysis of the progressive use of U.S. troops in Little Rock, [Arkansas], in 1957. I wonder if the current U.S. intervention cannot also be as ulti-



mately positive for the Haitian people.
Albert Fried-Cassoria
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Blame Tories for violence

I appreciate the coverage of the Irish freedom struggle in the last few issues of the *Militant*. While agreeing with the political analysis in Tony Hunt's article in the September 19 issue on the IRA [Irish Republican Army] cease fire, I urge a tactical change in the

coverage of the ongoing Loyalist terror campaign.

The *Militant* and spokespersons for the Communist Leagues should hold the current Tory government politically responsible for every Loyalist atrocity. We should treat the [John] Major government in the same way that the ANC treated [F.W.] deKlerk, holding him responsible for all the crimes of the so called "third force"—the Inkatha thugs and [Constand] Viljoen's neo-Nazis.

Let's be specific about the collusion between these right-wing death squads and the British state. The arms used by the Loyalists in their current attacks were purchased by a British SIS agent, Brian Nelson, in South Africa in 1988. British public funds bought 500 AK47 rifles, ammo, 100 pistols, 50 antitank rockets and lots of explosives, material that the British Secret Service then turned over to the right-wingers.

The best way to defend the peace process in Ireland is to demand that the British government round up and jail their right-wing allies, withdraw the troops and begin serious peace talks with Sinn Fein.

Roy Inglee
Wilmington, Delaware

Innu win court battle

On September 8, the Newfoundland government in Canada called off a plan to force the return of an exiled court to Davis Inlet, an island off the coast of Labrador where 500 Innu live. "Any possible confrontation has been avoided," said Peter Penashue, president of the Innu Nation. "We feel it's good news for the community."

The Newfoundland government provoked the confrontation when

it began plans for the return of the provincial court, which the Innu had kicked out of Davis Inlet last December. The Innu want to create a Native justice system that won't necessarily send offenders outside the area. In September, the provincial government declared the court would return with Chief Judge Donald Luther set to preside over the 77 cases that had accumulated since the court last met.

Innu leaders warned the government that residents would protest the court's return. In response, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had closed the airspace around Davis Inlet—cutting off the island so that it could only be reached by boat.

The Innu rallied their forces at the airport in protest. They threw debris on the runways to prevent the landing of the military helicopters carrying the RCMP and the provincial court officials.

Beverly Bernardo
Vancouver, British Columbia

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

'The land should go back to us'

Blacks in South Africa intensify fight for land and improvements in conditions

"The main problem is access to land. We can do everything. We don't need the white farmers' spoonfeeding. The land should go back to us. It was stolen from our forefathers."

— Timothy Msibi, chairperson, Panbult/Iswepe Labor Tenants Association

"You live on the farm, you work for the farm. There are no wages. For labor tenants, your rent is your labor."

— Zunaïd Kotwal, chairperson Iswepe branch, African National Congress

BY GREG ROSENBERG

ISWEPE, South Africa — In this swath of Eastern Transvaal province, tens of thousands of working people are intensifying their fight for land. In particular, they are battling for the abolition of the system of labor tenancy, which is widespread here and in neighboring KwaZulu-Natal province. Mirroring growing political ferment throughout the country, residents are organizing to win rapid improvements in their basic material conditions of life — potable water, housing, jobs, and medical care — little of which exists in the area.

Beginning with the 1913 Natives' Land Act — known among Blacks as the "law of dispossession" — and subsequent legislation decreed by Pretoria, Africans were consigned to 13.7 percent of the land in this country. The rest was set aside for whites. The laws had their origin in the need to create an ever-expanding pool of cheap Black labor for the capitalists' mines and factories. Since 1960 alone, more than 3.5 million people were forcibly removed from the land on which they lived. They were deemed "surplus population," "idle," "alien," or "unassimilable" by the regime.

Farmworkers fight for rights

Among the millions of Blacks fighting for land today are labor tenants. Despite the fact that the practice of labor tenancy was officially outlawed in 1979, conservative estimates put the number of tenants at 300,000.

Labor tenants are peasants who occupy a certain part of land owned by white farmers. They are allowed to stay on the land, often over the course of several generations. They keep their livestock in exchange for performing labor for the farmer. Many labor tenants never see cash wages. Instead, they are paid "in kind," receiving some food. In Iswepe, the rations consist of mealie-meal and brown sugar. Children inherit the "contracts" of their parents. Landowners, however, can decide to terminate the tenancy at will, expelling the residents off the land.

By rights, say tenants, the land is theirs. On a farm here occupied by 15-20 labor tenant families, residents explained the fight they are waging. A log of tenants'



Militant/Greg Rosenberg

Tenant farmer explains fight residents are waging to win land, education, health care, and a living wage. "Unless we settle the land question, we do not have a country," said ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa. Land bill is pending in Parliament.

complaints is kept by Zunaïd Kotwal, a local ANC leader who also runs the town's general store.

"Amos Mshayisa has been working for said farmer for the past 20 years for no pay," reads one entry. "No rations. Zero. He has to work for nothing because he lives on the farm."

"People here are demanding that the land be given to them," said Timothy Msibi, chair of the local labor tenants association. "That's our main demand. The farmers are dismissing us from work and telling us to go ask [South African and ANC president Nelson] Mandela for money. But the land should go back to us. We don't even have a place to graze our cattle. Everything belongs to the farmer."

"The farmers are part of this country. We want to work with them. But farmers in this area are seen to be on a campaign to get people to starve, to take their livestock. It's a problem," Msibi said.

In August, some 10,000 labor tenants and farmworkers struck and marched in the nearby city of Piet Retief. They carried banners reading "One Farmer, One Farm," "Give us our livestock now," "Stop Police Harassment," and "The Land is Ours. We belong on the land." Marchers demanded an end to escalating evictions and victimizations.

Working people on these farms are subjected to regular and arbitrary police ha-

arrassment and brutality.

"As it stands now, the farmers are intertwined with the police apparatus," said Signet Mashego, an organizer with the Farmworkers Research and Resource Project. "In this area, they are all in the reserve police. They have their uniforms and blue lights at home."

Police harassment

Msibi said the police "assault people on a regular basis. During the winter, there are a lot of fires [because of dry conditions]. The farmers take their anger out on the tenants, beating them up. Then the tenants are locked up by the police, who say they set the fires. When we report our cases to the police, they say it is the farmers' jurisdiction."

"And the magistrate is a police reservist," added Magdalene Twala, a labor tenant and vice-chairperson of the local ANC branch. Assassinations of peasant organizers have been widespread in this province.

Police are also complicit in the theft of peasants' livestock by farmers. "The problem around livestock revolves around law," said Msibi. "Farmers say they own the land. They plant trees by the plots that tenants work. As soon as a cow gets into the farmer's trees, he takes it. They have taken fences away, and then taken our livestock."

The size of the average farm in this area is 380 hectares. Most are forestry plantations which sell their logs to major logging companies. "These farmers do no work. All they do is kick the tenants in the back," said Msibi.

There is no running water for rural dwellers here. "People drink from the river, sharing it with the livestock," said Kotwal. "We get one doctor, who visits once a week to serve 30,000 to 40,000 people in this area," Kotwal added. The nearest medical clinic is 50 kilometers away.

"We want schools for our children and a clinic," said Twala. "And adult education. There is only one school here, a primary school that ends at Standard 5. Lots of people here want to read, to know something more, and to learn English." Most people in the area speak Zulu.

Unemployment is estimated at 80 percent here. Many of those who are working are fighting to break up the conditions imposed by the employers under apartheid.

More than 200 workers are on strike at the largest factory in town, the Silvacel board mill, where wages average \$35 a week. The mill is owned by the giant Anglo-American corporation. The workers have no union and during a visit here September 22 they had already been on strike for seven weeks. They survive by getting food on credit from the local trading store. Workers are paid 2 cents for every pole, which includes chopping and stripping each log.

When the workers struck, police attacked their picket lines, injuring dozens. Thousands of people from throughout the area came out for a rally to solidarize with them.

ANC proposals on land reform

"Unless we settle the land question, we do not have a country," said ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa at a conference on land redistribution in October 1993. "If we handle it badly, we tear South Africa to pieces. If we manage it well, we create the foundations for a truly united nation.... The claim to restore land rights is part of our history. If we turn our backs on the land question, we are no longer the ANC."

"Most of us in the leadership have an urban bias," Ramaphosa continued. "We belong to the towns.... The land question appears to difficult, so laden with emotion, so ridden with layers of competing interests, that we always wait for a more convenient moment to deal with it.... We have to deal with it, and now. The question is not whether to face up to the issue, but how," he said.

Ramaphosa outlined major components of what the ANC leadership has proposed for a land reform. This has been incorporated as a bill now pending in the South African parliament.

The scope of carrying out such a land reform is massive. Almost half the Black population was compelled to live in the Bantustans, so-called ethnic homelands to which the apartheid regime uprooted entire peoples. These constituted the most barren portions of the country. While the Bantustans have been reincorporated, millions still dwell in these areas, where per capita incomes are less than a quarter of the national average. Thirty percent of families in these areas are homeless.

The ANC's Reconstruction and Development Program estimates that at least 11 million people in rural areas of South Africa — more than a quarter of the entire population — live below the minimum poverty level. More than 12 million people in rural areas have no access to clean drinking water and 21 million do not have adequate sanitation. Less than half the rural population has a safe and adequate water supply. Illiteracy in the countryside is conservatively estimated at 55 percent.

The vast bulk of farms in South Africa are owned by capitalist farmers and enterprises who employ wage labor. There are some 1.4 million farmworkers today in South Africa. Nationwide, they receive an average monthly wage of \$63. Some farmworkers are paid as little as \$9 a month. The average farm size in white commercial farming areas is about 2,500 hectares. (1 hectare=2.47 acres.)

Land restitution and redistribution

The Restitution of Land Rights Bill was approved by the South African cabinet on August 17 and is now pending before parliament. If it becomes law, the measure will establish a land claims commission and court to investigate and adjudicate claims of those communities and individuals who were robbed of their land after June 1913. Their direct descendants will also be able to make claims. The Department of Land Affairs is already negotiating

Continued on page 12

From Pathfinder

New International no. 5

Featuring

The Coming Revolution in South Africa
by Jack Barnes

The Future Belongs to the Majority
by Oliver Tambo

Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola

two speeches by Fidel Castro \$9

Nelson Mandela Speaks

Forging a Democratic, Nonracial South Africa

Charts a course of struggle to open a deep-going transformation of political, economic, and social conditions in the former land of apartheid.

\$18.95



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail please include \$3 to cover postage and handling.