

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Tel Aviv cracks down on Palestinians

— PAGE 7

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At the UN, Cuba blasts U.S. economic embargo

UN approves resolution opposing int'l trade restrictions

BY LAURA GARZA AND GREG ROSENBERG

UNITED NATIONS — "Not only has the economic, commercial, and financial blockade carried out by the United States against Cuba not been reduced in any way, but on the contrary, it has been strengthened; that government has not even attempted to moderate the extraterritorial nature of the blockade, but through its actions, it has ignored the requests made by the General Assembly and the international community, including numerous and ever-widening sectors of U.S. society itself."

With these words, Fernando Remírez, permanent representative of Cuba to the United Nations, introduced a resolution opposing Washington's 35-year economic and trade embargo of the island. The resolution, entitled "Necessity of Ending the Economic, Commercial and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America Against Cuba," was approved in the UN General Assembly October 26, with 101 governments voting in favor, 2 opposed, and 48 abstaining. Only the representative of Israel joined Washington in voting "no."

Unlike the UN Security Council, the General Assembly has no enforcement powers, so the resolution is not binding. The Assembly passed similar resolutions in 1992 and 1993.

This year's resolution reaffirms "the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation."

Regarding restrictions on freedom of trade and navigation, the resolution "once again urges States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible," without specifically naming the United States. It also "requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report" on the implementation of the resolution for debate at next year's session of the General Assembly.

In the report submitted this year, the government of Cuba explains the embargo's devastating impact on its ability to acquire food and medicine. It notes Cuba could save four of every five dollars now spent on shipping goods from Europe

Continued on Page 12



Militant/Brian Williams

Fernando Remírez, Cuba's UN ambassador.

Activists build march in defense of Cuba

BY DAMON TINNON AND GREG McCARTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.— "A lot of people were enthusiastic about the march and approached me to get flyers," said Lisa Zimmerman, the program coordinator for the Nicaragua Network. Zimmerman, a supporter of the November 12 demonstration to be held here in defense of Cuba, reported the response by participants in an immigrant rights demonstration of 3,500 across from the White House.

The Nicaragua Network has sent out a mailing to its 300 affiliates, many of whom have been building the march around the country by sending out information in local newsletters. The group has turned its office into an organizing center for the demonstration. Chuck Kaufman, the network's

co-coordinator, said the "word is going out around the country. Local chapters are publicizing the march."

Organized by a coalition of some 90 national and local groups, the November 12 march and rally provides an excellent opportunity for all opponents of Washington's decades-long policy of seeking to overturn the independence and sovereignty of Cuba and the socialist course its people have pursued for more than 35 years, say activists here and around the country. March demands include: "End the U.S. Economic Embargo of Cuba!"; "Normalize Relations Now!"; "Stop Using Hunger as a Weapon!"; "Lift the travel ban!"; and "U.S. Out of Guantánamo and Haiti!" The march begins at 12:00 noon at Malcolm X Park followed by a rally at

2:30 p.m. at Lafayette Park across from the White House.

"I've found that building the march is the best way in a long time to both get young people and others involved in protest activity and at the same time to get out the truth about Cuba," said Brad Downs a local activist who has been leafleting area campuses.

'Get out and tell people about Cuba'

Robert Van Meter, a student at Temple University in Philadelphia, takes a similar approach. Students on his campus are building a meeting for a representative of the Cuban Interests Section. "After people hear what he has to say, after they hear first hand from a representative of Cuba," Van Meter said, "they will be more interested in participating in the demonstration. Most people don't know about Cuba or U.S. policy, so we have to get out and let people know." The impact of the U.S. embargo in terms of lack of food, medical supplies, and other necessities in Cuba "is alone enough to oppose the blockade," he said. "I also think a government should be for the people, by the people—not by the rich elite and for the rich elite. That is why people should go to Washington November 12."

Lisa Stolarski reports that "Pittsburgh is the place to be the night before the march. Our committee is strong and we're going to be able to bring a lot of people." Stolarski is a member of the Pittsburgh Cuba Coalition and the Young Socialists, both sponsoring organizations of the march. Sixty students from Carlow College will be on a bus, one of two buses planned from the Pittsburgh area. There will be a local

Continued on Page 9

Caterpillar workers step up union fight

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

PEORIA, Illinois — United Auto Workers (UAW) members and their supporters here are stepping up their activity on the picket lines in response to Caterpillar's union-busting campaign.

The company is now increasingly using local police to harass and target strikers. Caterpillar is also taking advantage of a healthy third-quarter profit report to launch a propaganda blitz against the union, aimed at convincing strikers that they are losing the battle in their four-month-long strike against the earth moving equipment giant.

Some 200 strikers and others picketed Caterpillar's Mapleton, Illinois, foundry October 14. When Peoria County police grabbed Don Brown, head of the union grievance committee, strikers locked arms and surrounded the police in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent his arrest. Rather than deter the strikers, the cop action enraged union members. The following Monday morning several hundred more went back to Mapleton for picket duty.

In the biggest picket line action of the current strike, 1,000 union members and their supporters rallied October 19 at the Mossville engine plant for the afternoon shift change. "We built it by word of mouth. All the gates were covered, including the Technical Center," reported UAW member Steve Cordle.

The next day, UAW Local 974's Families in Solidarity welcomed 350 people to the weekly protest at Caterpillar's corporate headquarters. A sizable contingent of UAW members from the struck plant in Decatur, Illinois, participated, some of them making the 2-hour trip to arrive by 6:00 a.m. to visit picket lines, have discussions with fellow strikers, and give a fitting greeting to Caterpillar vice presidents Jerry Brust, Jerry Flaherty, and Wayne Zimmer-

Continued on Page 11

Washington dictates to Haiti gov't

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Under pressure from Washington and the business class in Haiti, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide indicated he will call upon Smarck Michel, a U.S.-trained commodities trader and wealthy businessman, to be the new prime minister of the country. While the Clinton administration denied any responsibility for the soon-to-be-made appointment, Aristide decided on Michel after Washington indicated it disapproved of his choice for the post, Foreign Minister Claudette Werleigh. Haitian capitalists had lobbied against Werleigh because of her supposed radical views.

Two economic experts closely allied with Washington — former World Bank economist Leslie Delatour and former education minister Leslie Voltaire — threatened not to participate in key government posts if Michel was not named prime min-

Continued on Page 12

Build the National March on Washington



End the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba!

Lift the travel ban!

Normalize relations now!

U.S. Out of Haiti and 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 at (202) 544-9355 in Washington or (212) 620-0072 in New York City. Call today!

Rail strike in France

Rail workers walked off their jobs for 24 hours in France on October 20, demanding pay raises and an end to job cuts. The French government's restructuring plan has cost the rail workers 73,000 jobs over the past 10 years, according to union officials.

Some 450 news broadcasters demanding higher pay shut down the state-owned radio stations for a second week. Librarians and meter readers also joined the protests against the government's restructuring plans as they entered the second week on strike.

In a related development, the General Confederation of Labor staged a strike against Charbonnages de France, the state-run coal company, to protest its announcement October 19 of plans to shut down completely by the year 2005. With coal production in France dropping from 18.5 million tons in 1986 to just over 10 million tons today, the workforce has been slashed from 41,000 to 16,000 miners. The French government plans to run its power generating plants with coal imported from outside of Europe.

British cops attack protesters

One thousand riot police, some on horseback, attacked a demonstration of 2,000 people in London October 19. This was the second assault by the cops against a protest opposing the Criminal Justice Bill being debated in the British Parliament. Another 25,000 people demonstrated against the proposed measure October 9.

The crime bill eliminates workers' rights to remain silent if arrested and establishes a new crime of "aggravated trespass." The aggravated trespass charge could apply to any outdoor gathering of 10 people or more — workers on a picket line, homeless workers, or people engaged in political protest actions.

Beijing discusses arms deals

U.S. defense secretary William Perry ended a four-day visit to China where he promoted business between the U.S. arms industry and the Chinese military. Washington has maintained a ban on arms sales and high-technology transfers to China since 1989, allegedly to protest Beijing's massacre of protesters at Tiananmen



Dimas David Muñoz

People lining up for water in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The island's worst drought in 30 years reveals years of government neglect, with 1.8 million people forced to ration water since May. The drought has eased, but some 250,000 people remain on the rationing program.

Square.

U.S. capitalists, who have lost millions of dollars in potential business deals, are anxious for sanctions to end. Hughes Asia Pacific, a subsidiary of General Motors, lost a \$100 million contract to build satellites for China to a German firm. Raytheon Co., another military contractor, won a \$24.5 million contract that includes a \$7.5 million deal with Beijing's international airport. The company wants to invest in China's air traffic control systems. Raytheon head Jon Reynolds enthused, "Perry is opening the way to do that."

Australian troops occupy island

A South Pacific "peacekeeping" force of 400 troops under the command of the Australian government arrived on the island of Bougainville October 9 to monitor planned talks between the Papua New Guinea gov-

ernment and representatives of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA).

The BRA, fighting for secession from Papua New Guinea, refused to participate in the conference. It accused the Papua New Guinea government of violating a cease-fire, failing to consult with them on the creation of the "peacekeeping" force, and not guaranteeing safe passage to the conference for the BRA leadership. BRA leader Sam Kauona condemned the intervention by the Australian government, which has supplied the Papua New Guinea regime with financial assistance and military equipment. He said Sydney is keen on reopening the giant Australian-owned Panguna copper mine in Bougainville, which has been closed for five years by the war.

Chrysler to build Vietnam plant

The Chrysler Corporation is planning a \$100 million joint venture to build minivans and four-wheel drive vehicles in Vietnam. Chrysler chairman Robert Eaton met with Vietnamese officials in late October to discuss the project. This would be the first venture by a U.S. automaker since Washington ended a two-decade-long economic embargo against that country earlier this year.

Rival auto companies have also entered into joint ventures with the Vietnamese government. Mitsubishi Motors became the first Japanese car manufacturer to do so. The French car company Renault intends to open an assembly plant in the country, while BMW and Mercedes Benz, the German car makers, hope to do the same.

Mexican gov't opens financial markets to international banks

For the first time in decades, Mexico's government will issue licenses to all international banks, brokerages, and insurance companies seeking to enter the Mexican market. This is one of the results of the North American Free Trade Agreement which became effective Jan. 1, 1994.

Mexican officials say the licenses will attract about \$1.2 billion in direct investment. J.P. Morgan, a giant in the banking industry, plans to bring about \$100 million in capital to Mexico and expand its staff from 20 to 100. Other banks now authorized in Mexico include Chemical Bank, Bank of America, the Bank of Boston, Banco Santander of Spain, and the Bank of Tokyo.

U.S. wages increasing?

According to a glowing report in the October 17 *New York Times*, "Most of the 5.5 million new jobs the economy has added in the last two and a half years are in occupations that pay more, not less, than the average, which is now about \$15.50 an hour." It adds that average hourly pay actually rose 2.5 percent, after inflation, in the early 1990s.

The *Times* goes on to explain, however, that the bulk of these jobs have been for managers and professionals. Bigger bonuses for executives also pushed this figure upward.

The average hourly pay for workers, the article notes later on, continues to decline, not increase. Statistics from the Labor Department show that average hourly pay for production and nonsupervisory workers has fallen steadily for the last 20 years. The *Left Business Observer* states, "The real pay cut over the last two decades is more on the order of 40 percent or more, rather than 15 percent as measured through the abstraction known as the consumer price index."

—MAURICE WILLIAMS

Bob Aiken in Sydney contributed to this week's column.

WHEN WRITING FOR THE 'MILITANT'...

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The *Militant* can be reached via CompuServe at: 73311.2720 or via Peacenet at: themilitant.

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THE MILITANT

U.S. troops out of Persian Gulf!

The U.S. rulers' hostile moves against Iraq, like their attacks on the Cuban revolution and the occupation of Haiti, are part of their assault on working people in the United States. The 'Militant' tells the truth about these aggressions and offers a working-class perspective on how to oppose them.



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U.S., North Korean gov't sign nuclear pact

BY PAT SMITH

Representatives from the U.S. and North Korean governments signed an agreement October 21 on a series of steps over the next several years, which begin to open up trade and diplomatic relations in exchange for changes in Pyongyang's nuclear program. Under the accord, the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) agreed to return to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to allow inspection of a nuclear complex in Yongbyon. In turn, Washington will set up an international consortium that will build two light-water nuclear reactors in North Korea by the year 2003.

Once completed, these reactors would yield 10 times the power of the graphite reactors currently under construction and produce plutonium less suitable for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. The new plants, worth \$4 billion, will be dependent on imported uranium. Pyongyang agreed to stop erecting the two graphite reactors and to phase out operations of its five megawatt nuclear facility. Under the accord, all three plants will be dismantled once the light-water project is completed.

South Korean companies will construct the complexes. After initial hesitation, Seoul agreed to pay more than 50 percent of the cost of building them. Tokyo will pay about 30 percent of the cost, and German, Russian, and U.S. investors are expected to become minor partners.

Washington and its allies agreed to supply alternative energy sources to North Korea until the new facilities are finished. Some 50,000 metric tons of oil are to be provided free the first year, growing within a year to 500,000 metric tons annually.

The North Korean government agreed to full inspection of all its nuclear sites after a "significant portion" of the light-water project is completed.

Under the terms of the accord, Pyongyang and Seoul will resume negotiations on implementing their 1991 non-nuclear pact. The Clinton administration pledged that its nuclear weapons will not be used against the DPRK and has agreed to suspend the annual large-scale U.S.-South Korea "Team Spirit" military exercises. The annual joint maneuvers are practice invasions of the North. Washington has 40,000 troops in South Korea.

The U.S. government, which has maintained a trade embargo against North Korea, agreed to lower trade and investment barriers and improve diplomatic ties with Pyongyang. "This agreement is good for the United States, good for our allies, and good for the safety of the entire world," President Bill Clinton said of the agreement. "It's a crucial step toward drawing

North Korea into the global community."

Support for the deal is not unanimous in the U.S. ruling class. Some backers of capitalism propose a tougher stance to undermine the workers state in North Korea. A *Wall Street Journal* editorial on October 21, for example, criticized the administration's tactics. "The Western allies, after 40 years of deploring everything [deceased North Korean leader] Kim Il Sung stood for, are conspiring to prop up his Orwellian state at its moment of maximum vulnerability," the *Journal* wrote. The editors predict that what will be remembered about

the accord "is that the world started pouring money into the Kim regime just as it should have been allowed to crash."

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said the accord "shows it is always possible to get an agreement when you give enough away." It "sounds more like a one-way street than prudent diplomacy," he added.

An article in London's *Financial Times*, however, reported, "Promises of improved diplomatic ties, and security guarantees, should encourage North Korea to open to foreign investment and goods, as well as energy supplies." The pact lays the

"foundation for a smooth merger of the two Koreas in perhaps the next decade or two."

Leading corporations in South Korea are already preparing to establish light industrial factories in the North. Officials in Seoul announced plans to relax restrictions soon on travel and investments by businessmen to the DPRK. Under current South Korean law, travel to the North is considered treason. Investments in the DPRK by South Korean companies began in the early 1990s but ground to a halt in 1993 after Pyongyang threatened to pull out of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Dispute erupts in South African army

BY GREG ROSENBERG

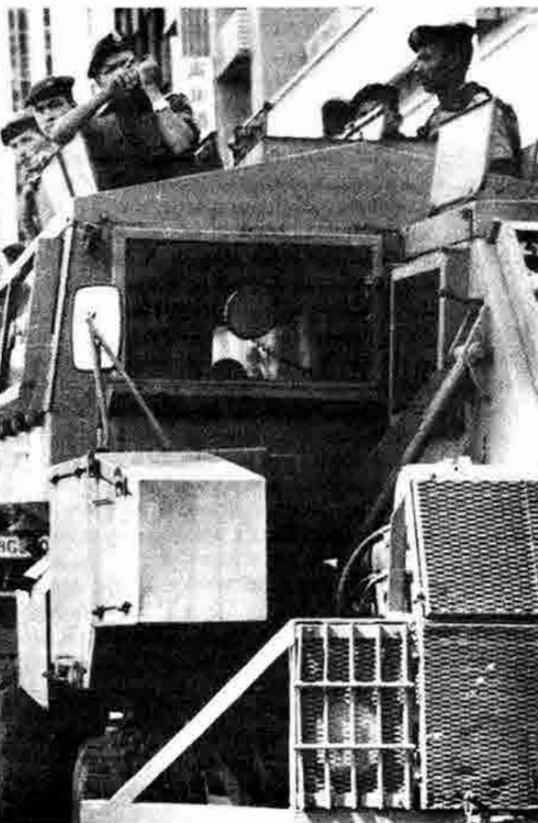
Tensions have emerged in the South African National Defense Force (SANDF), the South African army, over the incorporation of troops from the now-disbanded armed wing of the African National Congress, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

Thousands of members of Umkhonto we Sizwe, or Spear of the Nation, began protests in October. Some 7,000 of these troops went absent without leave October 5 from Wallmanstal military base near Pretoria, the country's administrative capital.

The soldiers are demanding more rapid integration into the army, higher pay, and better conditions. They charge some of the white officers with racist conduct, and have demanded the resignation of Defense Minister Joe Modise and SANDF chief of staff Siphwe Nyanda, both of the ANC.

South African president Nelson Mandela told a press conference following a trip to Wallmanstal on October 20 that "their grievances are genuine, but some...may take time — weeks, months, or even years to resolve." Only 4,500 of the soldiers had returned to the base by the time of Mandela's address there.

"I have now told [SANDF chief] Gen. Georg Meiring that I am giving all those who have not returned seven days...to return or they must consider themselves dismissed," the South African president stated. He added that he had "stressed the fact that discipline is of the utmost importance to everybody and that's the reason why all those who have not returned must



South African troops patrol Johannesburg in April. Soldiers from the ANC's former armed wing are demanding faster integration into the army, higher pay, and better conditions.

do so."

A statement released October 6 by the ANC's Department of Information and Publicity said the soldiers' absence from the base "is not in the interest of their own welfare and it also undermines the integration process. The ANC also discourages marches by ex-MK soldiers to Premiers and ANC offices as their discontent cannot

be addressed at a party political level but through the SANDF and the ministry of defence."

The SANDF combines the 90,000-strong army of the apartheid state, with the addition of some 13,000 troops from Umkhonto we Sizwe along with several thousand from the Pan-Africanist Congress and from former Bantustan armies. The force is to be downsized to a full-time army of 80,000 over the next four years.

Mandela queried on Haiti

The South African army has yet to be used abroad since the apartheid superstructure was dismantled. Mandela has rejected sending troops to Rwanda as part of a United Nations force.

In Washington October 10, on a trip seeking U.S. investments in South Africa, Mandela responded to an interviewer's query about a request by the Clinton administration to send troops to join the U.S.-led occupation of Haiti.

"We regard the operation in Haiti as an operation of the United Nations, the first phase of which is being undertaken by the United States," Mandela stated. "The essence of that operation is to restore democracy in Haiti, an objective which we fully support, and we have been asked to help by providing personnel for policing. Our difficulty is that we are presently restructuring our security forces, and, second, the people who might be available for this operation from our side are urgently required for the purpose of the forthcoming local government elections. Nevertheless, we are discussing the matter."

As the debate on the role of the armed forces unfolds, the South African defense ministry and officer corps have been pressing for more funding. "We are becoming weaker and weaker," complained Major General Philip du Preez to a parliamentary committee, requesting an increase in funding for the military. The South African military is the most heavily equipped on the continent.

Hungarian gov't announces austerity measures

BY MARK WYATT

BUDAPEST, Hungary — In response to demands by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Hungarian government has announced a new round of austerity measures with the hope of winning increased investment from capitalist firms abroad.

Pensions, unemployment benefits, welfare, and funding for health and education are all targeted for cuts under the plan. Government subsidies for basic services such as heating gas and public transportation are to be eliminated. The price of a local bus ticket, which has already increased by 200 percent in the last three years, will go up another 100 percent this year, bringing it to \$1 a ride. In comparison, the average pension for a retired worker is \$100 a month.

While the cost of living has skyrocketed, wages have fallen and joblessness is increasing. Nationally, the unemployment rate is 16 percent, but exceeds 20 percent in many industrial cities. In Ozd, for example, home to Hungary's largest steel mill, thousands of workers were laid off after the mill was sold to a German company in 1991. In early October, a French chemical company handed out pink slips to more than 500 workers in the highly industrialized region surrounding Szeged.

Capitalist companies that have invested in Hungary are in the forefront of demanding concessions from working people. However, they have met some resistance. General Electric recently announced it will

stop investing in Tungstam, a maker of lighting products, that it purchased in 1990. A GE spokesperson blamed the company's decision on the workers' "lack of understanding of the need to satisfy the customer."

Workers at Tungstam average \$2 an hour. Some 36 percent live below the official poverty line, a far higher figure than in 1988, before GE bought the enterprise. During its tenure, General Electric has laid off nearly half of the company's 20,000 workers. "Human engineering was much more difficult than product engineering," Charles Pieper, a GE executive said.

Meanwhile, the government commission on banking announced recently that as much as 35 percent of all bank loans are uncollectable. The report shattered widely-held government and international expectations that the banks could be quickly privatized. The *Budapest Business Daily* now suggests that such sales are unlikely before the year 2000.

A scandal erupted after more than 40 people were hospitalized for lead poisoning after eating paprika that had been mixed with lead. Manufacturers of the spice had been mixing it with red-colored lead shavings to boost their profits.

Despite the obvious health risk, the government waited a month before informing the public and taking the popular spice off the market.

The government has also launched an aggressive anti-immigrant campaign. In a month-long series of raids on workplaces,

restaurants, and hotels from early September to early October, the police checked the immigration status of some 100,000 people. A new law went into effect in October that allows the cops to enter the private homes of people they suspect of being "foreigners."

Get the 'Militant' on Peacenet

Militant articles are again available this week via computer. On the *Militant's* new Peacenet conference, readers can pick up the three editorials, an article on the National Committee meeting of the Young Socialists, and articles: on the United Nations debate on the U.S. embargo of Cuba; the November 12 march against U.S. policy on Cuba; the United Auto Workers strike against Caterpillar Inc.; and the U.S. occupation of Haiti.

The *Militant* staff and volunteers are working to make virtually the entire issue available each week in this way. Many readers don't get the paper for up to a week after it goes to press Thursday night. It will be available electronically by Friday morning.

Readers need a Peacenet account to get the *Militant* via computer. Peacenet, which is a part of the Institute for Global Communications, has affiliates in many countries. In the United States it can be reached at (415) 442-0220. The *Mili-*

tant's conference name is: militant.news. We are also working on making the paper available on the Internet in the near future.

Here's how to get articles from the *Militant* conference (Type enter after each step): First dial into Peacenet or its affiliate and type your account name and password. Pick "c" for conference. At "conf?" type g militant.news

The screen will ask "conf?" again. Type "i" for index. Type the number identifying the article you want to read. To print the article type "c" for capture at the "conf?" prompt. Type "d" for download and "t" for topic. Then pick your modem protocol. (At the *Militant* we use z-modem.) Pick a file name. To read or print another article, type its number. If you don't remember it, you can always type "i" for index. To exit Peacenet, type "q" for quit and then type "bye." The articles will be in the directory where you saved them.

Pathfinder Fund drive helps 'print the truth'

BY PAUL MAILHOT

"We are fortunate to have people who will print the truth," said United Auto Workers member Robert Shields to those attending a meeting for the Pathfinder Fund in Atlanta. The union members and young activists in attendance contributed \$1,126 to help Pathfinder continue its book publishing program, including \$166 not previously pledged.

In addition, \$175 more was pledged at the meeting. An activist in the Atlanta Network On Cuba, which set up a table to build the November 12 demonstration at the event, explained to the audience that Pathfinder books, such as *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End* by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, allowed her to get "reoriented and updated so that I could speak in an informed way."

A Pathfinder supporter in Athens, Georgia, who was unable to attend the event, sent in a \$7 contribution after receiving a mailing on the fund. Atlanta jumped to near the top of the chart this week, sending in \$1,000 toward its goal.

Almost \$13,000 came in for the Pathfinder Fund this week, bringing the international total to \$67,275. With only three weeks left in the drive, almost \$58,000 remains to be collected. The drive now stands at 54 percent. To be on schedule for this scoreboard, areas should be at 77 percent or better. The final scoreboard for the Pathfinder Fund will appear in the *Militant* newspaper printed on November 17, so all contributions to the fund should arrive in New York by the November 15 deadline.

While a number of areas are behind in collection of pledges, supporters of the Pathfinder Fund around the world report a good response for the fundraising effort to keep the writings of working class and communist leaders in print. The scoreboard this week reflects raised goals by supporters in Atlanta, Philadelphia, and

Salt Lake City. Fund organizers in every area should concentrate in the next three weeks on collecting the pledges that have already been made and reaching out for contributions from the broad spectrum of fighting workers, farmers, and students who value Pathfinder's contribution to the working class struggle and will contribute—if asked.

Supporters of the Pathfinder Fund in Britain are sending out a letter this week to help pull up from behind on their fundraising effort. The letter, signed by Pathfinder Fund coordinators Alan Harris and Celia Pugh, explains, "Twenty-one different books and pamphlets have been published this year, and more are on the way. The new generation of fighters coming into political activity are finding these books to be invaluable tools in the fight against capitalism."

"The work of publishing and getting Pathfinder titles into the hands of those who want to fight for a better world is stimulating and rewarding. It also costs money," the letter concludes, inviting everyone to participate in the campaign to raise \$2,625 as their contribution to the international goal.

A series of Pathfinder Fund events are projected in the last three weeks of the drive to inform the broadest number of people possible about the books published by Pathfinder and to enlist their help in distributing them.

In Des Moines, Iowa, a program will feature Laura Garza, who recently returned from a reporting trip to Cuba for the *Militant* newspaper, as well as David Appelhous, a member of United Auto Workers Local 450 at John Deere, and Larry Ginter, Secretary of the American Agricultural Movement in Iowa.

To be on schedule for next week's chart areas should be at or above 85 percent. All contributions that arrive by Tuesday at 12 noon EST. will be counted for the scoreboard.

\$125,000 Pathfinder Fund

	Goal	Total Paid	Percent
\$125,000	\$1,000	\$657	66%
Britain	\$2,625		7%
London		\$70	
Manchester		\$0	
Sheffield		\$105	
Canada	\$3,360		13%
Vancouver	\$500	\$182	36%
Toronto	\$1,430	\$137	10%
Montreal	\$1,430	\$120	8%
France	\$275	\$275	100%
Greece	\$100	\$0	
New Zealand	2,500		91%
Wellington	100	\$119	119%
Auckland	1,850	\$1,735	94%
Christchurch	550	\$417	76%
Puerto Rico	\$75	\$75	100%
Sweden	\$710	\$660	93%
United States			
Albuquerque	\$100	\$100	100%
Denver	\$100	\$100	100%
Brooklyn	\$8,000	\$6,475	81%
Atlanta	\$5,200	\$3,920	75%
Salt Lake City	\$5,700	\$4,090	72%
Philadelphia	\$8,000	\$5,650	71%
Pittsburgh	\$5,500	\$3,746	68%
Cincinnati	\$150	\$100	67%
Portland	\$150	\$100	67%
Birmingham	\$3,300	\$2,035	62%
Des Moines	\$3,000	\$1,695	57%
Newark	\$6,500	\$3,470	53%
San Francisco	\$10,000	\$5,215	52%
Detroit	\$5,000	\$2,545	51%
Miami	\$2,900	\$1,451	50%
Washington, D.C.	\$3,000	\$1,486	50%
St. Louis	\$3,300	\$1,610	49%
Twin Cities	\$7,500	\$3,640	49%
Chicago	\$7,400	\$3,165	43%
Los Angeles	\$8,500	\$3,520	41%
Seattle	\$5,000	\$1,965	39%
New York	\$7,500	\$2,785	37%
Greensboro	\$2,200	\$785	36%
Morgantown	\$2,175	\$725	33%
Cleveland	\$3,500	\$960	27%
Boston	\$5,000	\$930	19%
Houston	\$3,250	\$460	14%
Edinboro	\$625	\$0	0%
Peoria	\$750	\$0	0%
TOTAL	\$125,000	\$67,275	54%

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

Sweden election reflects capitalists' shift to right

BY LARS JOHANSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — "The September 18 election for the Swedish Parliament reflects the sharp rightward shift in bourgeois politics in Sweden in the first half of the 1990s," Carl-Erik Isacson, an auto worker at Saab-Scania and Communist League candidate for Parliament, said at a Militant Labor Forum here. The campaigns of all the major parties focused on lowering the social wage of working people under the guise of reducing the deficit.

The Social Democratic Party (SAP), which has traditionally presented itself as representing the interests of working people, won the election with 46 percent of the vote. This reflects the extent to which the coalition government of outgoing prime minister Carl Bildt was discredited by several years of attacks on the social wage in a period of economic depression.

But, it is an illusion to think that the Social Democrats will put an end to these austerity measures, Isacson said at the September 24 meeting. Their candidates promised no reforms and said they would work together with the capitalist parties toward the joint goal of "reducing the deficit," he noted.

The SAP election manifesto promised cuts of more than \$4 billion in social services and tax increases of another \$4 billion. The platform called for reducing social benefits indexed to inflation, making cuts in the benefits workers receive when they are forced to stay home with a sick child, and putting a 5 percent tax on incomes of more than \$28,000 a year.

In spite of this assault on workers' living conditions, the chairman of the social democratic youth organization, Petter Thorwaldsson, criticized the SAP for being too cautious.

Isacson also pointed to the rightist forces around Ian Wachtmeister, whose New Democracy won more than 6 percent of the vote in 1991. While the organization has since split and its membership declined, in 1994 Wachtmeister helped found a new group called Good for Sweden.

Capitalists intervene directly

It is being supported by several prominent individuals, including Birgitta von Otter, a columnist and wife of former SAP finance minister Kjell-Olof Feldt; and Ulf Nilsson, a columnist for the daily *Expressen*. Good for Sweden did not run candidates in the parliamentary elections, but their aggressive campaign for reduction of the deficit was financed and supported by some Swedish capitalists.

New Democracy won less than the 4 percent of the vote required to win any seats in Parliament.

Peter Wallenberg, Sweden's largest capitalist who controls 40

percent of the country's industry, intervened heavily in the elections. In an article in *Dagens Nyheter*, Wallenberg argued for deep cuts in social spending. The employers association, which is dominated by the Wallenbergs, demands cuts of some \$21 billion.

Wallenberg repeatedly referred to the Swedish kingdom and proposed a broad coalition government of all the major parties, including the Social Democrats and the Conservatives. In the past, for example during World War II, the monarchy has played a role in such a government. A coalition, Wallenberg argued, would be in the strongest position to drive through the deepest austerity measures.

In a television interview in mid-September, Wallenberg said there had been some advantages to the apartheid system in South Africa; referred to Blacks as *svatingar*, a racist term; and said Blacks did not have the competence to run South Africa without help from the white minority.

"In the past, the Wallenbergs were known for acting behind the scene in Swedish politics," Isacson commented. "Now, concerned with maintaining stable capitalist rule, they are intervening more directly in the elections. Wallenberg's program and his racist statements show what the bosses, regardless of which party they are in, have in store for working people."

In the wake of the SAP victory and their subsequent announcement that they will form a minority government, sections of the capitalist class have expressed concerns that the SAP will not go far enough in driving down the social wage. The challenge facing the Social Democrats is "reform of the Swedish welfare state," the *London Financial Times* said after the elections. The "party's electoral campaign was noticeably short on talk of fiscal austerity," the *Times* added.

Isacson, however, noted that it was the SAP that first imposed restrictions on the right to asylum for refugees and cuts in sick-leave payments, and offered unreserved support for the U.S. assault on Iraq

in 1990-91.

In addition to Isacson, the Communist League ran Maria Hamberg, a food industry worker at GomanChark, and Dechor Hien, a transport worker at Bilspedition. The communist campaign put forward a program to strengthen the unity of the working class in the face of the rulers' offensive by fighting to shorten the work-week with no cut in pay; demanding affirmative action for the most oppressed layers of workers, including women and immigrants; and extending social benefits like unemployment and sick leave to all workers.

Communist League campaign

"While all the other parties campaigned for austerity under the guise of reducing the deficit," Isacson said, "the Communist League candidates explained that the deficit is not a big problem for either the bosses or the workers. Rather it is a club the rulers use to weaken and divide the working class."

The Communist League candidates also spoke out against the recent hostile imperialist moves against Cuba and North Korea as well as the U.S. invasion of Haiti.

"The Swedish government recently sent a new contingent of 1,000 soldiers to Bosnia and is actively backing U.S. intervention in the Caribbean, which targets first and foremost the socialist revolution in Cuba," Isacson said, pointing to a statement by the Swedish foreign minister that the "root of evil" in Cuba is the "communist dictatorship." The Communist League helped organize picket lines outside the U.S. embassy in Stockholm in August and September protesting Washington's moves against Cuba and the U.S. troop occupation of Haiti.

"The discussions we had on Cuba and Haiti on campuses, universities, and at work was the highpoint of the election campaign," Isacson said. "We found considerable interest in discussing the central place of the Cuban revolution in rebuilding an international working-class leadership."



Militant/Eric Simpson

Carl-Erik Isacson

Step-up needed in sales campaign

BY SARA LOBMAN

Participation in building activities for the November 12 action in Washington, D.C., and other picket lines, conferences, and protests opposing Washington's aggression against the Cuban revolution will be a major factor in making all three international goals in the campaign to win new readers to the socialist press. With a marked step-up in the pace and organization of the drive by supporters in every city, the goals can be met by the November 13 deadline. To make these goals, supporters of these periodicals need to sell some 1,500 *Militant* subscriptions, more than 300 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 862 copies of *New International* in the three remaining weeks of the campaign.

Distributors from Boston, New York, and Montreal sold nine subscriptions — seven to the *Militant* and two to *Perspectiva Mundial* at an October 22 conference on Cuba held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Boston area. One woman who is Black explained that until her recent trip to Cuba she had accepted many of the lies about the revolution peddled by the U.S. government. "But I was very impressed with what I saw there," she said, "especially the relative lack of racism." She learned about the conference on her return and snapped up a subscription to the *Militant* because of its news and analysis of the revolution.

Supporters in Boston, who got a real boost from the conference, have mapped out a detailed battle plan for the October 28-November 8 target week. It includes several all-day teams to colleges in the region; stepped-up community and



Many at October 22 Boston conference on Cuba were interested in *Militant's* socialist perspective.

plant gate sales; and getting the press out at a local rally to support locked-out Staley workers, a conference on women's fight for equality in Haiti, and a symposium on the Gulf war.

Bob Braxton reports from Atlanta that 11 people bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and two to *Perspectiva Mundial* during the Georgia leg of the tour of José Ponce, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. In addition, four people got copies of *New International*.

Distributors in Morgantown, West Virginia, and in Pittsburgh put their forces together to come up with an ambitious eight-day schedule of sales at mine portals, plant gates, door-to-door, and at college campuses in the Appalachian coalfields. One supporter has volunteered to be on the team for the entire week; more than a dozen others will join for one or more days.

Twelve miners bought copies of

the *Militant* and one got a subscription at a recent sale at the Bailey mine, the largest nonunion mine in the area, Steve Craine reports.

"Subscriptions are starting to come in from our regular campus teams," Mary Nell Bockman wrote. "Two auto workers from the GM Tarrytown plant set up a weekly table after work at the State University of New York at Purchase. They have sold eight *Militant* subscriptions and several copies of *New International* and [the book] *To Speak the Truth*."

As we head into the final weeks of the drive, it is increasingly important that supporters organize to get subscriptions into the business office by the deadline of Tuesday at 12:00 noon EST. The best method is to send them overnight delivery on Monday afternoon. This will give campaign participants around the world the most accurate information on how we are doing.

Keep up pace in Cuba book campaign

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Defenders of the Cuban revolution have sold copies of the book *To Speak the Truth: Why Wash-*

ington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End to more than 500 people so far. Those who have joined the campaign to get out this book, published by Pathfinder Press, are using it to build the November 12 national march on Washington protesting U.S. policy toward Cuba.

The book contains speeches given at the United Nations by Cuban revolutionary leaders Fidel Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara.

Maceo Dixon, a ramp worker at Northwest Airlines, reports that five people purchased *To Speak the Truth* at an October 22 conference on Cuba in Boston. In addition, seven participants in the conference bought the newly released Pathfinder edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Che Guevara*. Dixon said one of his coworkers at Northwest, who just bought the book, attended the conference.

Several people at the event sought out Pathfinder books after hearing a panel presentation by Mary-Alice Waters, who spoke on internationalism and the role of the Cuban revolution in the world today. Waters is the editor of *The Bolivian Diary* and editor of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

Dixon reported, "We also sold the book to a Kenyan coworker who has been a supporter of the Cuban revolution for a long time. He wants to learn more about the Cuban revolution in order to make changes in Kenya. So these books

are very important to him."

Susan Anmuth, an auto worker at the Ford plant in Edison, New Jersey, has sold *To Speak the Truth* to 12 people, 6 of them coworkers. She reported, "I sold two copies of the book to Haitian coworkers. They both had a 'wait and see' approach to the U.S. occupation of their country. They love Cuban president Fidel Castro and the Cuban revolution. But they don't think that the Haitian people can do it alone."

Anmuth noted, "One of those two Haitian coworkers bought the book and a subscription to the *Militant* after listening to a discussion I was having with some other Haitian workers in the plant. He became interested in the political discussion and decided to buy the book and the subscription."

Anmuth said that she participated in meetings organized to build support for the Cuban revolution, where another six people purchased the book. Several people bought the book at events sponsored by Pastors for Peace, the group that is organizing a U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan in November.

These experiences illustrate the potential for winning more workers and youth to the defense of the Cuban revolution. By keeping up this momentum, it is possible to make and surpass the goal of selling 600 copies of *To Speak the Truth* by November 12, when the campaign concludes.

WHERE WE STAND end of week 7

SOLD 55%

SHOULD BE 70%

	Militant		Perspectiva Mundial		New International	
	sold	goal	sold	goal	sold	goal
Belgium	2	2 100%	0	2	0	1
France	4	4 100%	2	5	12	20
Greece	9	11 82%	0	1	3	6
Australia	23	35 66%	2	8	8	18
Canada						
Vancouver	57	75 76%	8	10	12	20
Toronto	66	90 73%	9	17	22	40
Montreal	36	80 45%	11	25	20	45
Canada total	159	245 65%	28	52	26	105
Sweden	25	40 63%	12	20	11	15
Iceland	8	13 62%	0	1	3	4
New Zealand						
Wellington*	8	10 80%	0	0	1	4
Auckland	45	75 60%	4	5	9	30
Christchurch	19	35 54%	1	1	4	8
NZ total	72	120 60%	5	6	14	42
United States						
Portland, OR	4	2 200%	0	1	0	2
Cincinnati, OH*	18	13 138%	2	2	0	4
Denver, CO	5	5 100%	1	3	0	2
Albany, NY	9	10 90%	1	1	1	3
Hartford, CT	4	5 80%	0	1	0	4
Houston*	53	70 76%	7	12	13	16
Seattle	58	80 73%	13	12	12	23
Salt Lake City, UT	71	110 65%	9	16	2	35
Twin Cities, MN*	86	135 64%	5	17	10	35
Des Moines, IA	53	85 62%	12	36	5	35
New Haven, CT	6	10 60%	1	2	3	8
Detroit, MI	59	100 59%	5	11	7	27
Los Angeles	136	230 59%	64	101	42	105
Boston	67	115 58%	21	36	25	52
Cleveland	54	95 57%	11	16	0	20
Peoria, IL	17	30 57%	0	2	2	10
Philadelphia	65	115 57%	12	30	13	47
Pittsburgh	59	105 56%	6	12	10	26
Washington, D.C.	47	85 55%	24	30	18	35
San Francisco	81	150 54%	22	42	19	70
Edinboro, PA	3	6 50%	0	1	1	3
Greensboro, NC	32	65 49%	3	4	3	15
Birmingham, AL	36	75 48%	1	5	1	15
Miami	58	120 48%	34	55	36	70
St. Louis	38	80 48%	1	6	4	22
Atlanta	49	105 47%	5	15	6	25
Brooklyn	51	110 46%	19	36	34	65
Albuquerque, NM	3	7 43%	0	2	0	2
Chicago	59	145 41%	14	32	2	50
New York	59	145 41%	19	40	20	70
Morgantown, WV	19	55 35%	0	1	0	17
Newark, NJ	42	140 30%	13	35	10	50
Ft. Madison, IA	0	2 0%	0	1	1	2
U.S. total	1401	2605 54%	325	616	300	965
Puerto Rico*	1	2 50%	7	10	4	6
Britain						
London	38	70 54%	1	3	5	37
Manchester	23	50 46%	0	3	2	20
Sheffield	17	40 43%	0	1	0	14
Britain total	78	160 49%	1	7	7	71
TOTAL	1782	3237 55%	382	728	388	1253
SHOULD BE	2310	3300 70%	420	700	750	1,250
IN THE UNIONS						
AUSTRALIA						
FPU	2	3 67%	0	1	1	2
AWU	1	3 33%	0	0	0	1
BRITAIN						
TGWU	2	7 29%	0	0	0	0
RMT	4	22 18%	0	0	0	0
AEEU	0	6 0%	0	0	0	0
NUM	0	2 0%	0	0	0	0
Britain Total	6	37 16%	0	0	0	0
CANADA						
CAW	11	12 92%	1	0	2	1
USWA	6	12 50%	0	2	0	3
IAM	8	18 44%	2	1	0	1
ACTWU	1	2 50%	0	3	0	7
CEP	1	5 20%	0	1	0	3
Canada total	27	46 59%	3	7	2	15
NEW ZEALAND						
UFBGWU	2	5 40%	0	0	0	1
MWU	2	4 50%	0	0	0	1
EU	1	6 17%	0	1	0	1
N.Z. Total	5	15 33%	0	1	0	3
SWEDEN						
Food workers	1	3 33%	0	0	0	2
Metal workers	0	2 0%	0	0	0	2
Sweden Total	1	5 20%	0	0	0	4
UNITED STATES						
UFCW	12	15 80%	11	17	0	5
UTU	61	85 72%	1	10	0	25
OCAW	29	65 45%	3	5	2	27
UAW	71	135 53%	4	15	0	30
IAM	38	80 48%	4	3	1	14
USWA	23	87 26%	1	3	1	19
ILGWU	6	20 30%	12	20	2	15
ACTWU	7	25 28%	6	11	0	14
UMWA	5					
U.S. Total	167	512 33%	42	84	6	149
*raised goal						

BOOKS SOLD		
City	Goal	Sold
Atlanta	20	21
Birmingham	15	10
Boston*	24	23
Brooklyn	40	44
Chicago	30	9
Cleveland	20	16
Des Moines	20	20
Detroit	18	12
Greensboro	10	13
Houston*	20	17
Los Angeles*	50	47
Miami	25	19
Morgantown	10	10
New York	50	43
Newark	30	18
Peoria	10	1
Philadelphia	22	16
Pittsburgh	20	8
Salt Lake City	20	11
San Francisco*	42	36
Seattle	25	25
St. Louis	12	6
Twin Cities	25	19
Washington, D.C.	20	15
France	2	1
Auckland	14	11
Christchurch	5	3
Iceland		2
Sydney	10	6
Toronto	20	14
Montreal	10	5
Vancouver*	18	15
Total	657	516
Unions		
ACTWU	8	2
IAM	40	12
ILGWU	10	2
OCAW	29	14
UAW	35	16
UFCW	6	2
USWA	20	8
UTU	35	23
*raised goal		

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-Union of Workers; OCAW-Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT-NationNational al 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.

Rulers debate anti-immigrant measure



Some 70,000 marched in Los Angeles October 16 against immigrant-bashing Proposition 187. Students organized school walkouts before and after demonstration.

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The political impact of the October 16 immigrant rights demonstration here was readily apparent in the week that followed.

Some 70,000 marchers had registered their anger over immigrant-bashing Proposition 187, which will be on the November 8 ballot in California. The measure would bar undocumented workers and their children from schools, hospitals, and social services.

Within days of the October 16 march and rally, the Clinton administration, which for months had attempted to avoid taking a public stand on the initiative, stated it favored a "no" vote. Doris Meissner, the Immigration and Naturalization Service chief, flew here October 18 to oppose 187. Three days later, President Bill Clinton called for a "no" vote.

Prior to the march, Attorney General Janet Reno had emphasized that the administration was "neutral" on the issue.

Meanwhile, two prominent conservative Republicans have demonstratively come out against 187. They are Jack Kemp, who served in the Bush cabinet, and William Bennett, secretary of education in the Reagan administration. Earlier, Bennett had called for a "yes" vote on 187.

Diane Feinstein, Democratic nominee for U.S. senator from California, who had dodged the issue, now says she favors a "no" vote, arguing that it would cost too much. Ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan embraced the measure as "Pro-family and pro-American."

None of the Republicans and Democrats who came out against 187 did so with even a shred of concern for the rights and well-being of immigrants. Rather, they have apparently concluded that the initiative is proving counterproductive — that it is provoking immigrants and other workers into action, instead of frightening them into passivity.

Biggest such march in city's history

The size of the march, and the broad support that it enjoyed, testifies to this. It was not only the biggest immigrant rights march in the city's history but also, for the first time, involved a modest but significant number of unionists.

Students marched in large numbers and also organized school walkouts and other actions both before and after the demonstration. On October 6, students at 20 college campuses held protests against 187. More than 1,500 students from eight area high schools and junior high schools staged protest walkouts October 14. In the week following the demonstration, hundreds of students at four junior high schools marched out of their classrooms. More than 500 joined in two schools alone.

A front-page headline in the October 18 *Los Angeles Times* declared: "Some See New Activism in Huge March." It reported that 187 has "galvanized Latino students."

It cited the view of a Chicano graduate student: "I read about these things [big protest marches] but it wasn't until yesterday that I felt involved in a mass movement.... People of my generation haven't experienced that."

Regardless of the outcome of the vote on 187, march organizers are projecting more such actions.

Socialist candidates in California campaign against Proposition 187

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

LOS ANGELES — The Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters here have received a favorable hearing from working people as they use the election campaign to promote working-class solidarity and opposition to the Clinton administration's military moves abroad.

The socialists are running garment worker Ken Riley for governor of California, airline worker Thabo Ntweng for state attorney general, and aerospace worker Carole Lesnick for Secretary of State. Eli Green, an oil worker, is the socialist nominee for Congress in the 32nd District, and Roger Calero is running for Congress in District 33. These workers are part of a statewide slate that also includes candidates from the San Francisco Bay Area.

The socialist campaigners joined with many others in building and participating in the October 16 march of 70,000 to defend immigrant rights in Los Angeles. Riley was the featured speaker at a campaign open house following the march. Some 60 people attended the event, including of 10 students from Monroe High School.

Opposition to anti-immigrant measure

Marchers opposed Proposition 187. If approved in the November 8 elections, it would revise California law to deny those without papers such basic rights as education, health care, and social services.

"Proposition 187 is a racist and reactionary ballot measure that is a frontal assault on immigrants, labor, and all of our democratic rights," Riley told participants in the open house. "Its aim is to split and divide the working class. It is designed to try to turn some of us into immigration agents who turn in the rest of us — coworkers and fellow students — to the cops."

"The fight in Los Angeles around the attacks against immigrant workers and the fight in Decatur of striking workers are the same," Riley said, referring to ongoing struggles by workers at Caterpillar, Bridgestone/Firestone, and A.E. Staley Manufacturing in Decatur, Illinois, and other cities.

On October 22, Calero spoke and offered solidarity at a picket line of 100 outside the gates of the Santa Fe Railroad, sponsored by the Latin American Truckers Association. The truck drivers and their supporters were protesting the beating of a trucker by the railroad police.

Young Socialists play key role

Young Socialists have played a key role in the campaign, hitting the streets daily and visiting local campuses to introduce other youth to the socialist alternative.

At a campaign rally, Young Socialist

campaign coordinator Gloria del Cid said, "The socialist campaign has stood side by side with youth in [abortion] clinic defense, students fighting cutbacks in education, and in defense of Cuba's socialist revolution. We socialists don't just want the votes of young people, we want you to join with us, to build a movement like in South Africa against apartheid, or like in France

where youth successfully fought a subminimum wage law proposed by the government.

"Young people here face the same miserable prospects of lousy wages, and part-time and temporary jobs," she said. "We have the right to work no matter where we were born. So join the socialist campaign and join the Young Socialists."

N.Y. socialists denounce death penalty

BY ABBY TILSNER

NEW YORK — In the final stretch before the November 8 elections, the New York Socialist Workers campaign has been getting out a working-class alternative on street corners, in public debates, and in the media.

Nancy Rosenstock, socialist candidate for attorney general, and campaign supporters spent a day speaking with passersby at busy Fulton Mall in downtown Brooklyn from atop a soap box. The soap-boxers explained that one of the main goals of the socialist campaign is to involve people in political activity. They urged listeners to take part in the November 12 rally in Washington, D.C., to oppose the U.S. embargo of Cuba. Several hundred people took copies of the campaign brochure.

Earlier in the week Rosenstock took on a spokesperson for Democratic contender Karen Burstein at a candidates' debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters in Putnam County. Burstein says that although she opposes the death penalty, she will enforce it if it becomes law in New York state. Rosenstock countered by explaining that the employers are driving to expand the use of the death penalty to undermine the democratic rights of working people under the banner of "fighting crime."

The socialist's defense of the rights of prisoners provoked one member of the audience to exclaim, "What do you mean that prisoners have rights? How can a convict have a right to education over my child?"

The rulers target the rights of the most vulnerable sections of the working class, Rosenstock said in response. This includes prisoners, immigrant workers, and citizen-soldiers. In this way, they hope to divide the working class, making it easier to increase their exploitation. Working people, on the other hand, have an interest in demanding full rights for everyone. This is the only way to wage a successful fight for education, housing, and jobs.

Campaign supporters also participated in an October 20 rally in support of International Union of Electronic Workers members on strike against Telescope Ca-

son's furniture plant in Granville, New York. The rally was called to protest the sheriff department's role in escorting scabs off company property. Seven people on the picket line bought copies of the *Militant*.

Protest cop brutality

Socialist candidate for comptroller Brock Satter also participated in an October 25 meeting organized to protest the recent killing of Jason Nichols by a parole officer. The cop claims he mistook the 27-year-old Black man for another person.

After a day of campaigning at the Hud-

son Valley Community College in Troy, New York, a group of campaign supporters, including a high school student and a student from the college, got together to discuss socialism and to watch the video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*, about the fight for justice for an imprisoned union and political activist in Iowa. Three people subscribed to the *Militant*, and the two students expressed their eagerness to organize meetings on their campuses to discuss Cuba and building the November 12 rally in Washington, D.C., against the U.S. government's anti-Cuba policies.

1994 Socialist Workers candidates

Some socialist candidates running for office in several states were left off the chart published in last week's *Militant*. They appear below.

Office	Candidates	Member of*
CALIFORNIA		
Secretary of State	Carole Lesnick	IAM
U.S. Congress: 32nd CD	Eli Green	OCAW
U.S. Congress: 33rd CD	Roger Calero	
GEORGIA		
Governor	Ellen Haywood	ACTWU
Lt. Governor	Derek Bracey	
U.S. Congress: 5th CD	Ed Hill	UFCW
U.S. Congress: 6th CD	Miguel Zárate	UAW
U.S. Congress: 11th CD	Linda Joyce	UAW
MASSACHUSETTS		
Governor	Maceo Dixon	IAM
U.S. Senate	Jason Coughlin	UTU
Attorney General	Karen Ray	ILGWU
OHIO		
U.S. Senate	Peter Thierjung	UAW
Governor	Mike Italie	UAW
U.S. Congress: 11th CD	Roni McCann	USWA
U.S. Congress: 10th CD	Carol James	CTU
TEXAS		
U.S. Senate	Sandra Choo Lee	UFCW
Governor	Jerry Freiwirth	OCAW

*ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; CTU — Cleveland Teachers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union.

Tel Aviv cracks down on Palestinian rights

BY GREG ROSENBERG

The Israeli regime launched a major crackdown against the rights of Palestinians and a deadly raid in southern Lebanon following the October 19 suicide bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv. The bombing, carried out by Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) member Saleh Abdel Pahim al-Souwi, for which the organization took responsibility, killed 21 and injured 48. Sealing the borders of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin declared "We need a separation between us [Israelis] and the Palestinians, not just for days but as a way of life." He also said the Israeli regime would attack the "homes and homes of the families" of those accused of carrying out attacks within Israel.

Responding to reports that the Israeli government had ordered "hit squads" to begin killing Hamas leaders, Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet said, "I don't think Israel should remain with its hands tied behind it back and not able to take the most stern and strict action."

The attack on the bus was the third terrorist action by Hamas in recent weeks. Rabin has insisted that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) bears responsibility for the Hamas actions since the organization functions in areas under Palestinian National Authority (PNA) administration. The PNA was established to administer limited autonomy for the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank after an accord between the Israeli regime and the PLO was signed last year.

The Israeli government, meanwhile, with Washington's backing, is pressing ahead to normalize relations with a number of other capitalist governments in the Mid-

dle East. On October 17 Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan initialed a pact widening trade and water cooperation, returning Jordanian land taken by Israel, and easing travel restrictions.

The PLO protested the deal, since a provision recognizes a "special role" for Jordan as guardian of Muslim shrines in Jerusalem, infringing on Palestinian sovereignty.

Israeli-Syrian talks

In September, the Moroccan and Israeli governments established diplomatic relations. And officials in Tel Aviv and Damascus are holding talks on a possible treaty between Israel and Syria. In September, Syrian president Hafez al-Assad told parliament he was ready to reach an agreement with Tel Aviv, provided Israel return the Golan Heights which it seized in 1967.

U.S. president Bill Clinton announced he would travel to Damascus to urge Assad to make a deal as part of a Middle East trip in late October. The administration wants to showcase its "progress" in regional diplomacy, as well as get the agreement of the Saudi regime to pay for Washington's troop deployments to the Persian Gulf.

At the October 21 press conference announcing his trip to Syria, Clinton said he had ordered an expansion of FBI operations against alleged supporters of Hamas in the United States.

Hamas has expanded its attacks within Israeli borders. On October 9 two gunmen associated with the group opened fire with automatic weapons on a street in central Jerusalem, killing one and wounding 14 people before they were killed by Israeli police.



Militant/Melhem Mashriki

Palestinian refugees camped out in Beirut street to protest their eviction from the Federal Hotel, where they had been squatting.

On October 14, Hamas kidnapers killed Israeli soldier Nahshon Waxman, who they had taken hostage earlier that week, when Israeli commandos burst into the house where he was being held. Hamas said it took the soldier captive to demand an exchange for Palestinian prisoners, 5,000 of whom remain in Israeli jails.

Crackdown on Hamas supporters

In response to Rabin's demand for action, PLO chairman Yasir Arafat ordered a crackdown on Hamas supporters. The 9,400-strong PNA police force rounded up 400 alleged Hamas supporters and jailed them without charges. When it became clear that Waxman had never been held in Gaza, but just north of Jerusalem, thousands of demonstrators turned out at the Gaza central prison to demand the detainees' release. Hamas warned that if the arrests continued, it would "reply by setting the Gaza Strip ablaze on the heads of the Zionists and their lackeys." It accused Arafat of being Tel Aviv's "poodle."

Following the bombing of the bus, which was condemned by the PLO, Tel Aviv moved to cut off the entire population of the occupied territories from entering Israel. The Israeli cabinet voted to increase by 19,000 the number of workers who would be allowed in from other countries to replace Palestinian laborers in agriculture and construction. Nabil Shaath, a PLO leader protested that the territorial closing, "means siege and starvation for Palestinians."

The cabinet also granted unspecified "additional means" to go after its opponents. Rabin spoke of expanding the use of detention without trial. In reference to a 1987 report forbidding the torture of suspects but permitting "moderate physical and psychological pressure," Rabin said "if we'd been so careful to follow the Landau Commission, we would never have found

out where Waxman was."

Hours after the bus bombing, Tel Aviv once again rained death on southern Lebanon. The Israeli government and its client militias in the south of the country bombarded the town of Nabatiyeh, a town of 60,000 people, with 155 mm howitzers, killing seven Lebanese civilians.

The Israeli army used anti-personnel shells packed with hundreds of steel darts in its bombing of civilian areas. In response, Hezbollah fired volleys of Katyusha rockets at northern Israel. There were no reported casualties.

Hamas, which opposes Zionist rule and the agreements reached between the PLO and Tel Aviv, calls for the creation of an "Islamic state." The group has gained adherents as Israeli government repression against Palestinians continues and because of the disastrous economic crisis gripping Palestinian areas, especially the Gaza Strip. Unemployment there runs between 40 percent and 50 percent.

Expanding Israeli settlements

Hamas cloaks its perspectives in religious garb, and has built up a network of schools, clinics, and clubs which fill a vacuum in the area. It has drawn support from growing numbers of people disoriented by the PLO leadership's political course, including the results of the agreement signed last year with Israel.

The Israeli regime, despite promises to the contrary, has been expanding its settlements on Palestinian land. The Jerusalem municipality's yearly report indicates that 31,413 new housing units for Jews are planned in East Jerusalem, and an additional 4,000 will possibly be added to existing buildings. To the north, south and east of the city, Tel Aviv continues to support large-scale expansion of settlements as part of its goal of fortifying a goal of "Greater Jerusalem."

Washington maintains military pressure on Iraq

BY SARA LOBMAN

In the wake of the U.S. government's massive military buildup in the Persian Gulf, Washington and London each issued "diplomatic notes" October 20 threatening aerial bombardment if Baghdad sends troop reinforcements into southern Iraq, below the 32nd parallel.

"We have made it clear we would not wait to use very strong military force," a U.S. official said.

The two statements follow the October 15 decision by the United Nations Security Council to approve a resolution condemning the recent deployment of 70,000 Iraqi troops to the southern part of Iraq, and demanding the soldiers be returned to their earlier positions and that no additional forces be sent south in the future.

As part of increasing the U.S. military presence in the region, Lt. Gen. Howell Estes announced October 20 that Washington would keep some 34,000 U.S. soldiers in the area, including 13,000 ground troops, 275 aircraft, and one aircraft carrier group. This is in spite of Baghdad's decision to redeploy its troops back to camps north of the capital. The U.S. military also maintains squadrons of bombers at bases in Saudi Arabia and on aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf.

Faced with persistent resistance from Paris and Moscow, however, Washington retreated from earlier plans to establish a no-troop zone in southern Iraq and scaled back the size of the U.S. military force that was headed for the region. At one point 155,000 U.S. ground troops were on alert for possible deployment to the Gulf, along with some 600 planes and helicopters. Some government officials in Saudi Arabia have also expressed concern over the number of U.S. troops stationed in the area. Washington hit Riyadh up with a bill of \$55 billion, half the country's gross domestic product, after the 1990-91 Gulf war.

The diverging interests among the imperialist powers continue to manifest themselves. The French government, for example, has not agreed to join London and Washington in policing southern Iraq. In recent months, Paris, Moscow, and Beijing — three of five permanent mem-

bers of the UN Security Council — have been pushing to ease the four-year embargo on Iraq. The Russian government hopes to collect some of the \$10 billion debt it is owed by Baghdad and both governments have already lined up lucrative contracts that take effect with the end of the embargo. Paris, as well, is more interested in profitable investments in Iraq than in U.S. efforts to squeeze and eventually overturn the government of Saddam Hussein.

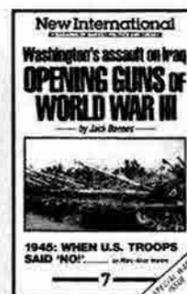
Washington, however, insists that the embargo be maintained. On October 23, a U.S. warship intercepted a vessel suspected of carrying Iraqi fuel and forced the freighter into a Kuwaiti port. This was the second time in 10 days that U.S. forces had boarded ships in the Gulf suspected of circumventing the embargo.

A recent article in the London *Financial Times* pointed to the devastating effect the embargo is having on working people in Iraq. Last month the government cut in half the rations of flour, sugar, oil, and rice that every Iraqi has received since the 1990-91 war. The new rations meet less than 40 percent of the nutritional needs of the population. Because farmers have not had access to pesticides or fertilizers for four years, agricultural production is down by one-third from last year's already poor crop. Doctors at a Baghdad children's hospital say that the number of children with marasmus, a severe form of malnutrition, is up more than 700 percent compared to before the war. Prices have risen by 5,000 percent since then.

In addition to the embargo, U.S. and UN forces already impose two "no-fly" zones in Iraq — one south of the 32nd parallel and another in northern Iraq — and have carried out dozens of bombing raids against Iraqi positions in the last two years.

On October 19, a bomb exploded in the office of the Iraqi Ministry of Religious Affairs, killing one person and seriously wounding five others. A group called the Islamic Iraqi Vanguard for National Salvation claimed responsibility for the blast. A report on Iraqi television said the bomb had been planted by "paid agents of foreign elements."

For Further Reading



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Cuban diplomat on tour: U.S. gov't hates example of socialist revolution

BY ALICIA MEREL

ATLANTA — On the Georgia leg of his three-state Southeast tour, José Ponce, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., spoke to nearly 600 people at campus and community meetings in several cities in October. The tour was initiated by the Atlanta Network on Cuba.

Answering a question about whether the recent wave of emigration from Cuba reflected majority opposition to the government, Ponce said he was in Havana August 5 when thousands of workers and students left their workplaces and schools and came out to the streets to demonstrate their support for the revolution and opposition to an antigovernment riot by several hundred people.

Ponce was also part of a crowd of half a million that gathered at a rally in Havana to honor a young policeman killed by hijackers of a boat.

He said 30,000 had left the island this summer because of economic hardships, which he said were caused in part by the U.S. embargo on Cuba. He condemned the recent U.S. moves to restrict travel and the sending of cash to Cuba by Cuban-Americans.

"You said you had decided that it was a mistake to copy the Soviet model, but what is the difference between the Cuban model and the Soviet model?" asked one questioner. Ponce began by explaining that "too much bureaucracy kills the revolution.

"So in 1986," he said, "even before the word 'perestroika' had ever been pronounced by anyone, we started a rectification campaign to correct all of the mistakes that we were making in our economy. We began reversing domination of the economy by bureaucrats. And we went back to the ideas and methods that made the revolution so popular and powerful in the first place. We appealed to the voluntary participation of the masses in the construction of society and the solution of our problems. Thousands volunteered to build new day-care centers, schools, hospitals, and family doctors houses. We went back to the economic ideas of Che Guevara to involve the people more in economic decisions.

"But in 1989 with the collapse of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries we had to slow down that process. Almost overnight we lost 85 percent of our trade. This is a blow from which we have still not recovered. From 13 million tons of oil imported in 1989 our oil imports dropped to less than half by 1993. So transportation, industry, and agriculture have all been affected by the lack of oil.

"At this point we are making tremendous efforts to become self-sufficient in food production. State farms are being divided up and given to workers willing to form cooperative farms. October 1 we opened the new agricultural markets where farmers can sell their surplus produce. We hope this will give farmers an incentive to produce more food so that we can meet the basic needs of the population.

"But for that we need time and it is understandable that some people who are used to having a higher standard of living do not want to live under the difficult economic conditions that we have today and



José Ponce (right), first secretary of Cuban Interests Section, speaks with students at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Ponce toured Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina.

have chosen to emigrate for economic reasons."

Several of the meetings were attended by Cuban-Americans, some of whom were opposed to the revolution and wanted to debate Ponce, and others who supported a dialogue with Cuba and an end to Washington's economic embargo of the island.

At Emory University, one Cuban-American in the audience read a statement. "Señor Ponce," he said, "Welcome. I'd like to assure you that a growing number of Cubans in the U.S. favor an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba and normal relations between the U.S. and Cuba."

Another participant asked, "Why does the U.S. continue this policy against Cuba?" "Maybe it's because in Cuba we are showing that socialism can work," answered Ponce.

Meetings for Ponce were hosted at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and at the University of Georgia in Athens. In Atlanta, Ponce spoke at Emory, Georgia Tech, and Georgia State University as well as to SAMECA, a group that is involved in collecting medical aid for Cuba. His final

appearance was at a community pot-luck dinner at the First Iconium Baptist Church.

Ponce also conducted a successful two-day speaking tour in Birmingham, Alabama, including a meeting of 150 at the University of Alabama.

BY ROBERT DEES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — "Nelson Mandela came to Cuba in 1991 to thank the Cuban people for helping to defeat the South African army. Mandela said that without Cuba, Namibia would not be independent, he himself would still be in prison, and South Africa would still be under the apartheid system," said José Ponce, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington D.C., as part of his presentation to audiences across North Carolina.

Ponce spoke to more than 500 people at eight engagements in Asheville, Chapel Hill, and Greensboro in October. The Cuban official was interviewed on the Greensboro-area public radio station, on public access cable TV, and received

front-page coverage in one local newspaper.

"Cubans have shed our blood for Angolans, Namibians, South Africans. We have always been very supportive of the fight of African-Americans for their rights," Ponce said to applause at a meeting of 200 held at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (A&T) State University, a majority-Black school.

At the University of North Carolina (UNC) Greensboro, an older man who had left Cuba in the mid-1960s took the floor first and was critical of the Cuban revolution. At the end of the discussion, however, after listening to Ponce's responses, this man took the floor again and thanked Ponce for coming.

In response to a question from among the 100 mostly young people who attended at UNC-Chapel Hill, Ponce explained Cuba's approach to human rights. "The first human right is the right to be alive," he said, noting that Cuba has achieved the lowest infant mortality rate in the Third World, lower than in most U.S. urban areas.

"Once alive, you have the right to good health," pointing to the resources dedicated to providing free medical care to all in Cuba. The government assures "the right of women to equal pay for equal work, and the right to abortion," Ponce continued. The Cuban representative also took part in a lively exchange with students at Chapel Hill High School.

Ponce explained Cuba's stance toward the 30,000 refugees being held in forced detention by Washington at its naval base on Cuban soil at Guantánamo Bay at all three events. He said they are welcome to return to Cuba. If they wish to return, the Cuban government is ready to assist them in getting started again, as many of them sold or gave away all their possessions before leaving. Or if they prefer, they can apply to emigrate legally.

Ponce said Washington's "blockade is a unilateral, unjust, and immoral act of aggression that has been condemned twice by the United Nations General Assembly... We think that all people of conscience throughout the world must raise their voices to demand that the U.S. government end its criminal blockade of Cuba," he concluded.

Cuban youth tours Britain: 'We will survive with or without the blockade'

BY CHRIS MORRIS

MANCHESTER, England — Cuban youth leader Pável Díaz, on a month-long tour of Britain, addressed a meeting held here at the Student Union of the Manchester Metropolitan University.

"We are taking necessary steps backward in order to survive, to advance again," Díaz said, describing a series of economic measures the Cuban government has taken, such as a new farmers market that allows farmers to sell their surplus produce to the public, charging for certain

cultural and sporting events, increased rates for some utilities and services, and a new social security tax.

Díaz said debate on these measures and other political questions has increased among the Cuban people. "You can find some people who consider it a step forward. This debate is taking place not only at bus stops and workplaces but in the National Assembly."

He described the popular outpouring in defense of the revolution that occurred August 5, when an antigovernment riot broke out on Havana's waterfront, known as the Malecón. "The people who in less than an hour went to the Malecón [to oppose the rioters] are the same people who have to spend two hours waiting for a bus, and then find the electricity is off for four hours when they get home."

"I was one of them," he continued. "It was the first test in my lifetime when there was a threat to the revolution," he said, referring to the rioters. "I went there. I thought, 'this is my place.' When people saw Fidel Castro arrive there, we were taken aback. Two thousand people were throwing stones at us, and at this very moment, in a group of people coming from the Prado [boulevard], Fidel Castro was among them. He surprised the majority of us. This was a very big demonstration in favor of the revolution, full of anger. It was a test, a chance for the people to show their real support. And people in the other

provinces also went into the streets in support of the revolution."

Díaz was asked about recent speeches and interviews by Raúl Castro, the second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, which sharply criticized administrators and party leaders who offer excuses for the economic problems instead of proposing ways to tackle them. "Raúl has said we need more debate. We call it a double standard when people say one thing in the meeting and another in the corridor. I saw it in the USSR in 1982, and it was also part of the mistakes we committed — not copied, but committed ourselves."

The day's event finished with a rally of protest against the British government's participation in the hostile policies against Cuba. Paul Laycock, who was a member of the signal worker's strike committee in Manchester during the recent national rail strikes, commented, "In our strike a small number of workers rediscovered a slice of our humanity and dignity. It Cuba a whole nation has rediscovered its humanity and dignity." Díaz said "Our country is alive in 1994 and we will be alive in 2000, with the blockade or without the blockade We are not resisting alone, and we are going to win. It will be a victory for the working class of the whole world."

Those at the rally voted to call a day of action in Manchester on November 26 to coincide with a world solidarity conference to be held in Havana.

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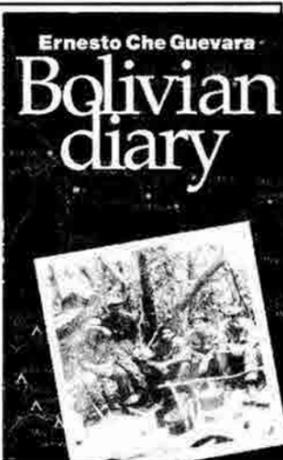
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Boston conference discusses Cuba and its role in the world

BY NANCY BOYASKO

BOSTON — Some 150 people participated in an October 22 teach-in here titled, "The Cuban Revolution and 35 Years of Continuing U.S. Hostility." The one-day conference, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was sponsored by the Boston July 26 Coalition and the *This/le*, an alternative newspaper on the campus. Cosponsors included the Latin American Ministries Program, Cuba solidarity groups throughout New England, Workers World Party, Socialist Workers Party, and others.

A panel of speakers kicked off the conference by leading a discussion on the Cuban revolution, its role in the world, socialism, and why the U.S. government has maintained its determination to crush the Cuban revolution for more than three decades.

Miguel Núñez, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., led off the discussion. "Cuba is facing a difficult economic situation as a consequence of three main reasons," he stated. "First, the distressing circumstance that arose from the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Second, the continued and reinforced U.S. commercial and economic blockade on Cuba. And third, our own failures to achieve our economic targets."

He described the impact of the so-called Cuban Democracy Act, which tightened Washington's embargo against Cuba by prohibiting subsidiaries of U.S. companies in other countries from trading with Cuba, and how this is an attempt to increase the economic pressure on Cuba. "My country is willing to discuss all issues with the United States," Núñez said. "But Cuba cannot make concessions that will destroy the revolution and our social achievements."

Cuba's internationalism

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the new English-language edition of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara* as well as editor of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, spoke about internationalism and the role of Cuba's socialist revolution in the world today. She began by quoting the October 3 speech given to the United Nations General Assembly by Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina condemning the U.S. occupation of Haiti.

The speech "was in the finest tradition of the Cuban revolution," Waters stated. Cuba has always used international platforms like the United Nations "to speak the truth to, and on behalf of, the oppressed and exploited the world over." As the imperialist order established by the victors of World War II today unravels and the social crisis of capitalism deepens, she noted, Cuba's revolutionary course is a powerful beacon for fighting workers and youth everywhere. "Socialist Cuba is not alone."

Waters, as well as other panelists, urged participation in the November 12 march on Washington against U.S. policy on Cuba.

Also on the panel were Andrés Gómez, a founding leader of the Antonio Maceo

Brigade and editor of *Areíto* magazine; and Lucius Walker, executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization and a leader of Pastors for Peace.

Gómez described the shifts and growing political openings in the Cuban-American community to win support for the Cuban revolution. Walker spoke about the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba and the refugee crisis that led up to the recent immigration accord between Washington and Havana. He noted that "as of two weeks ago, Cuba had met all the conditions of the agreement, and the United States government had met none of them." Walker urged participation in the fourth U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan, which will travel to Cuba at the end of November.

There was a broad range of issues raised during the discussion period. One participant asked about the status of Cubans being held at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and other places. Gómez replied, "We hold the U.S. morally responsible for the immigration crisis because of its encouragement of illegal immigration. We demand that all Cuban refugees be allowed entry into the U.S."

One man attending the conference said, "We need to drop fighting words such as communism, socialism, imperialism, and capitalism." He advocated "conflict resolution" instead. Another participant replied, "I believe in calling things by their right names."

How to build opposition to embargo

The panelists and conference participants put forward varying views on how to reach out broadly to new people, explaining the importance of the Cuban revolution and building opposition to U.S. policy.

Waters said defenders of Cuba "need to make clear and concrete the reality of what has changed in Cuba over the past 35 years, beginning with the declaration of independence from U.S. domination in 1959, and why only a socialist revolution could have accomplished what they have done."

BY WENDY LYONS

PHILADELPHIA — A World Conference in Solidarity With Cuba will take place in Havana November 21-25. The call for the event, signed by a wide variety of Cuban mass organizations, invites all who oppose the U.S. embargo of the island. Some 2,000 people are expected to participate from around the world.

The Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples, Central Organization of Cuban Workers, Union of Young Communists, National Association of Private Farmers, and the University Students Federation are among the organizations sign-

ing the conference call. A letter from Cuba urging participation says, "In spite of the tightening of the criminal U.S. blockade and of the present adverse international situation, our people are united in the struggle to preserve the independence, national sovereignty and social conquests we have achieved."

The conference was called "precisely to defend such sacred rights and to demand the end of the U.S. government's economic, commercial, and financial blockade against Cuba," the letter adds. Members of the National Network on Cuba, a nationwide umbrella group of organizations that do work in defense of Cuba, have set up a task force to organize participation from the United States. Also planning to attend the conference are participants in the upcoming U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan bringing material aid to the island, as well as a delegation that will be in Cuba organized by U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange.

Leslie Cagan of the National Network's Solidarity Conference Task Force said in an interview, "Participating in the conference will not only make a statement from the U.S. but will be an opportunity for those from the U.S. to join forces with people from every corner of the globe who understand the historic role Cuba plays and want it to be able to continue" that role. She reported that the U.S. delegation will be discussing proposals to put forward at the conference. These include organizing an international week of education on the Cuban revolution, protest actions in April,



Militant/Eric Simpson

New England conference on Cuba, October 22, drew 150 participants.

Explaining how working people in Cuba have built a society run in their own interests, based on different social values, and how they have stood strong against U.S. aggression, is the only way to understand the conflict with Washington, she said.

"You don't influence new people if the message you bring is beyond their experience and language," Walker stated. "We must couch what we believe in the terms and world view that others have."

The discussions and debates were carried into various workshops led by the panelists and other activists in the campaign to defend Cuba. At the workshop on how Cuba fought race and sex discrimination a debate that began in the panel discussion continued on whether Blacks are kept out of leadership positions in the Cuban government. Workshop panelist Maceo Dixon explained the policies of the communist government to uproot racism and sex discrimination and that Blacks in Cuba were the first of any country in the Americas to win economic, social, and political equality.

A workshop on the perspectives of Cubans living in the United States, led by Gómez, took up the process of breaking the political grip of right-wing forces on the Cuban community and the fight for free speech in Miami.

Many young people attended the workshop led by Waters on the internationalism of Cuba's socialist revolution. There were lots of questions and discussion on what is

internationalism, what is socialism, are there democratic elections in Cuba, and do events in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union prove socialism is finished.

While many of those attending the conference were already involved in building solidarity with Cuba, some came simply to learn more. Dan Shaw, a high school student, said, "I came here because I wanted to get an insight into the Cuban revolution beyond what you read from the American headlines." Shaw said he wants to march in Washington November 12. Other young people from area campuses came for the same reasons, after seeing ads in various community and campus newspapers.

At a table set up by the Young Socialists, six people signed up for information on a January youth brigade to Cuba. Nine bought copies of Robaina's speech to the United Nations, which the Young Socialists have published as a pamphlet.

The conference ended with a call to support the fourth Pastors for Peace U.S.-Cuba Friendship and urged everyone to build the November 12 march on Washington, D.C., which calls for lifting the U.S. embargo, getting U.S. forces out of Guantánamo, and opposing Washington's occupation of Haiti.

Other activities discussed included lobbying governmental representatives and organizing a delegation from the United States to participate in an international solidarity conference to be held in Havana in November.

Cuban organizations call November world solidarity meeting in Havana

and a worldwide shipment of aid in the summer of 1995.

Those unable to travel as journalists or licenses researchers will be challenging the unconstitutional character of the travel restrictions announced in August by the U.S. Treasury Department.

For information on the conference contact Leslie Cagan at (212) 227-3422. Travel is being organized by the Freedom to Travel Campaign, P.O. Box 401116, San Francisco, CA 94140; tel: (415)558-9490; fax: (415)-255-7498. A package, including transportation from Cancún, Mexico, plus hotel, two meals per day, cost of the conference, and transportation in Cuba is \$725. The cost of the same package leaving from Montreal is \$875.

Activists build November 12 march

Continued from front page demonstration with similar demands in the city November 11.

At the University of Minnesota, activists organized a slide show about Cuba, October 25, to build for the march. Student groups such as La Raza Cultural Center at U of M, Adelente at Macalester College, and Presente and CUBE on the campus of St. Olaf have been involved in educational activities around Cuba in the recent past as well. Efforts are under way to involve as many students on those campuses as possible in building the demonstration.

In Cleveland, the local Cuba solidarity coalition is shooting for two bus loads of people to attend the march. George Brown, a leader of the coalition, said a folk concert is scheduled for November 5 in conjunc-

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YS leaders set campaign to defend socialist Cuba

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.

BY DAMON TINNON
AND KEN RILEY

BROOKLYN, New York — "The time is now to put action to our words," announced Jack Willey at an October 22-23 National Committee meeting of the Young Socialists in New York. The YS launched four major campaigns in defense of the Cuban Revolution, centering all their activities around building the November 12 National March on Washington, a world meeting in solidarity with Cuba taking place in Havana, an international brigade of 100 youth to Cuba, and a U.S. speaking tour of youth leaders from Cuba. This effort will build the Young Socialists and lead into an international convention in the spring of 1995.

The Young Socialists are launching a \$16,000 International Travel Fund to begin October 29 and run through Jan. 1, 1995, in order to advance these campaigns, sustain the YS, and take advantage of opportunities to recruit to the YS internationally.

International youth brigade

At the center of all the activities of the YS is helping to build an international youth brigade of some 100 people to Cuba taking place January 6-20. The brigade will be an excellent opportunity for young people from all over the world to come together and show their solidarity with the Cuban revolution.

The brigade will allow young people to see firsthand the only socialist nation in the world and relate their experiences when they return through speaking and writing articles in community and campus newspapers and other media. Youth on the brigade will spend much of their time at an agricultural camp in Cuba. They will also visit factories, farm cooperatives, schools, and historical sites like the Museum of the Revolution in Havana.

Pável Díaz Hernández, a leader of Cuba's Union of Young Communists (UJC), is touring Britain right now and is signing up young people to go on the brigade, encouraging as many youth as possible to participate. He will be going to Denmark in November and do the same.

The Young Socialists is an endorser of the November 12 National March on Washington to oppose the U.S. embargo on Cuba and to demand U.S. forces get out of Guantánamo and Haiti and is actively building the demonstration in local chapters. The YS will help organize buses and

cars of students and young workers to Washington, D.C., to participate in this action. In cities where local November 12 Coalition groups do not exist, ad-hoc committees will be organized to raise funds to defray travel costs and to build the action as broadly as possible, reaching out to other groups and individuals who oppose the criminal embargo against Cuba.

YS National Committee member Robin Kissinger will be moving to Washington, D.C., from Chicago to help organize the demonstration nationally. The Young Socialists will be hosting a meeting on the youth brigade to Cuba after the demonstration.

The YS produced its first pamphlet, a reprint of the speech Cuban foreign minister Roberto Robaina gave at the United Nations denouncing the U.S. military occupation of Haiti and restating the resolve of Cuba to maintain the socialist course of their revolution. The pamphlet contains an advertisement for the youth brigade to Cuba and will be used to help build the November 12 demonstration, the youth brigade, and the tour of Cuban youth leaders.

Tour of Cuban youth leaders

The Faculty-Student Lectures Committee based out of Twin Cities, Minnesota, is organizing a national speaking tour of youth leaders from Cuba in March of next year. Coming directly out of the success of the youth brigade, the Young Socialists will have the opportunity to get out to campuses and other places to build this tour as broadly as possible.

Last spring's tour of Pável Díaz Hernández demonstrated the great opportunity of another tour to win more young people to the defense of the Cuban revolution through the words and experiences of young fighters from Cuba. This tour will allow thousands of people who may not be able to get to Cuba, to hear from Cuban revolutionaries firsthand what the political situation is like in Cuba, what fighters are doing to defend the revolution, and why workers and youth around the world should join them in this battle.

Everyone is encouraged to set up local committees and begin reaching out to college professors, student groups, and others to send formal invitations to the Cuban youth who will be touring. A broad list of invitations from academics and student groups will maximize the chances of the Cuban youth to get visas to visit the United



Militant/Dennis Chambers
Young Socialist member at August protest in Chicago against U.S. policies toward Cuba. YS National Committee meeting mapped out activities to mobilize youth to defend and learn from Cuba's socialist revolution.

States.

One or two members of the Young Socialists will be attending the international solidarity conference in Cuba, November 21-25. An estimated 2,000 Cuba solidarity activists from throughout the world will come together in opposition of the U.S. embargo of Cuba. The YS National Committee urged YS members around the country to help broaden participation in this conference by working with local Cuba coalitions, student organizations, young socialists, and others.

Speaking tours

The UJC will be hosting a speaking tour of two Young Socialists from the United States in Cuba December 5-25. The two YS members, Naomi Craine and Brian Taylor, will be speaking at factories and campuses throughout Cuba, explaining the conditions of the working class in the United States and the resistance that is taking place against the bosses' assaults on wages and democratic rights. They will discuss the strike wave and the world political situation as capitalism continues to move deeper into crisis.

Three YS speaking tours will be launched November 14-20, coming directly out of the November 12 demonstra-

tion. Young Socialists will be speaking at political events in Canada, Minnesota, and Puerto Rico, where the YS recently recruited five new people, to draw more people into our major campaigns and sign up young fighters to the YS.

Rebecca Gettleman, a YS leader in San Francisco, is currently touring Australia and New Zealand. Five people joined the Young Socialists in the first three days of her trip. She is meeting with young people interested in going on the youth brigade to Cuba and working with them to reach out and bring more people on board.

Strengthening YS leadership

In order to respond to the upcoming challenges and opportunities in the next six months, two YS National Committee members transferred into New York to help strengthen and centralize the leadership of the Young Socialists. Ken Riley and Diana Newberry, both from Los Angeles, will be helping to implement the decisions made at the National Committee meeting and lead the YS. This will also allow for the first time two steering committee members to go into industrial unions to meet young

workers, recruit more people to the YS, and strengthen the effort to build a YS chapter in New York City.

As the Young Socialists move deeper into the political campaigns in defense of the Cuban revolution and into world-wide working-class struggles, the study of revolutionary communist literature will become more necessary.

The YS Educational Series, already being used by many local chapters, will become more relevant as Young Socialists and other fighting youth grapple with the challenges involved in building the type of movement that can defeat the capitalist class and extend the socialist revolution throughout the world.

Centering all the activities of the Young Socialists around the four major campaigns in defense of the Cuban revolution will give the YS the experience to recruit new members and move forward to a founding convention.

Damon Tinnon is a member of the United Steelworkers of America and a National Committee member of the YS. Ken Riley is a Steering Committee member and Socialist Workers gubernatorial candidate of California. Brian Miller from Philadelphia contributed to this article.

Caterpillar strikers fight union-busting campaign

Continued from front page

man, as they went to their corporate offices.

Strikers point to mounting experience that the police are targeting individual unionists for arrest, at the company's request. "The police respond to every call by Cat. They go straight to the company to find out their instructions. If they don't have the right law to get us, they change the rules," explained striker Ron Heller. The police feel especially emboldened when the picket lines are small. "Numbers really count," according to Carol Cordle. "Two weeks ago [UAW member] Dick Stolz was arrested when there were only 13 or 14 of us."

"We want everyone to concentrate on who we are fighting — Caterpillar," explained Don Brown about his recent arrest. "We have the right to picket. We provide one lane, that's what the law says. The police told us to move to the curb, but we would not move. At that point they arrested me. Forty people came down to the station to make sure everything was OK. And we're back with more today. I say we're winning."

On October 24, two UAW Local 974 members were arrested as they were leaving a plant-gate rally of 300 at the Maple-

ton foundry. John Schmidt and Rose McElory face felony charges for alleged damage to property over \$300 — a scratch to a police car. Despite immediate efforts by UAW members to post bond, the two were held overnight in jail.

Shortly before the arrests, a striker was hit by a scab speeding into the plant. The police claim the UAW member purposely walked in front of the car. No arrest was made.

Union member fired

Caterpillar recently fired Terry Ragle, president of UAW Local 2096 at Caterpillar's Pontiac, Illinois, plant, for obstructing the work of the Vance Security goons it uses to escort scabs in and out of the struck facility.

"This firing is serious," explained Local 2096 member Richard Jiardina. "The company is trying to dictate what we can say to people outside of company property. They say I can't let a scab know what I think of him when I run into him in town. That's a violation of our First Amendment rights."

More than 100 strikers from Pontiac traveled to Decatur, October 15, to join the march in solidarity with the fight against union busting. Morale here is good," said Jiardina, "It would be good to get more

unions involved in helping us out. And we need more rallies like the one in Decatur."

On the picket lines in Peoria and at other struck plants, UAW members are leafletting workers lured by Caterpillar's promises of long-term, high-pay employment if they scab on the strike. The leaflet explains, "We believe a better alternative would be to join our strike, with the chances of securing employment after our dispute is over." The flyer invites those crossing the picket line to come to the union hall to discuss the strike, and to sign up for strike pay and insurance rather than aid Caterpillar in its campaign to bust the UAW.

Caterpillar's profit report

Caterpillar reported record sales and profits for the third quarter of 1994, October 24. Commenting on the \$3.5 billion in sales, company chairman Donald Fites said, "The strike at eight U.S. facilities, which began June 21 had virtually no impact on the quarter.... We encourage employees to exercise their right to return to work. However, the company's performance worldwide proves we can operate successfully during a prolonged strike...and we can continue to do so indefinitely."

Wall Street financial analysts could

hardly contain their gloating. "Great quarter," Mitchell Quain, of Wertheim Schroder & Co. told the *Wall Street Journal*. "I'm not sure we want Cat to settle" with the union.

Workers see different picture

But workers see the picture differently. "Caterpillar's third quarter report will be less a financial picture, than playing a mind game with the people on strike," noted UAW member Roger Suddith before the report was released. "They don't give us credit for being able to think. There won't be a mad rush back after the report. We've heard their lies too many times before. A few trickling back in and a few back out. Our strike is solid."

Jerry Brown, president of UAW Local 974, explained at this week's Families in Solidarity rally, "we know we are hurting them. And we know that their profits come from us."

The UAW put out its own report titled "The real third quarter" to counter Caterpillar's claims that the strike is having almost no effect. The union explains that "the company can manipulate sales figures to show 'profits' in the third quarter that are really generated by production in an earlier period," before the strike began.

U.S. dictates to Haiti gov't

Continued from front page
ister.

Smarck Michel was Aristide's commerce minister during the first five months of his term in 1991. Michel resigned two months before the military coup that overthrew the Aristide government and sent the president into exile for three years. He broke with the Aristide government over a decision to lower food prices.

Now that Aristide has been reinstated as president on the bayonets of U.S. troops, Washington wants to make certain he runs the government in a way that will favor capitalist interests against those of the workers and peasants. The U.S. rulers expect Aristide to help lower the expectations of the Haitian masses. "Once reviled by the business class as an irresponsible demagogue who could excite crowds but not provide a plan to help them, Father Aristide now needs to show them that he can be a technocrat," lectured a *New York Times* article recently.

Haiti remains poverty-stricken

Aristide takes back the reins of government of one of the poorest nations in the world. Haiti, a country of 7 million people, has an infant mortality rate that is the highest in the western hemisphere. Half the children under 5 years old are malnourished.

Peasant income is estimated at about \$100 a year. Two-thirds of the population live on limited, severely eroded farmland, often on steep hillsides. Most peasants and urban workers live without public services such as schools, health care, electricity, or running water.

Despite the daunting economic problems, Washington does not plan to follow up its military occupation of Haiti with a "nation building" aid program, according to officials of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Washington's commitment of \$195 million toward a \$550 million international aid package is aimed primarily at getting an economic plan in place that is palatable to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and top business leaders in the United States and Haiti. It is also intended to get a military force together that can protect their interests. At the top of the list of bills to pay is the \$78 million in arrears that Haiti owes to international financial institutions, which will not discuss plans for future aid until those debts are cleared away.

The projected jobs program for Haiti includes \$5 million to employ members of the notoriously corrupt and brutal military forces that the U.S. invasion was supposedly aimed at doing away with.

Plans for police force in disarray

Washington's plans to build an effective security apparatus to police capitalist interests in Haiti remain in a quandary. Many of the 7,000 Haitian military personnel and cops who were to make up the force are either too despised by the masses of people to be of any use, or they have disappeared rather than take the chance of being exposed for their crimes. Some U.S. military officials, expressing exasperation over attempts to clean up the brutal image of the Haitian police too much, complained to a *New York Times* reporter, "How clean do their hands have to be?"

U.S. officials have recruited and trained about 1,200 Haitian refugees from the concentration camps at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. These candidates will be unarmed "public safety trainees" who will only function as clerks or traffic cops.

The difficulty Washington has in promoting former military servicemen as the new police can be seen all along the road heading out of Port-au-Prince where scores of ransacked police stations lie in ruins.

U.S. military commanders see this reaction by Haitian workers, peasants, and youth and wonder how long the Haitian people will cheer Washington's troops who are the main protectors of the remnants of the brutal military regime. "There is a time when the good will will start to melt," Gen. Wayne Downing, head of the U.S. Special Forces Command, said recently. "We're conscious of it.... We don't want to be there after that window closes."

Special Pathfinder Fund meetings

CALIFORNIA Los Angeles

Speakers: Esperanza López, member, Young Socialists; Luis Salazar, student, California State University, Northridge; Carlos Quintanilla, radio reporter; Arthur Mack, member, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-547; Pat Grogan, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Steelworkers of America, Salt Lake City. Sat., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. Reception 6:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$5. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

IOWA Des Moines

Speakers: Laura Garza, recently returned from *Militant* reporting trip to Cuba; David Appelhaus, member, United Auto Workers Local 450 at John Deere; Larry Ginter, secretary of American Agriculture Movement of Iowa. Sun., Nov. 6, 3 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MINNESOTA St. Paul

Speaker: Laura Garza, recently returned from *Militant* reporting trip to Cuba. Sat., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. Reception 6 p.m. 2490 University Avenue. Donation: \$6. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

TEXAS Houston

Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, co-author of introduction of *To See the Dawn: Baku, 1920-First Congress of the Peoples of the East*. Sat., Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. 6969 Gulf Freeway #250. (Woodridge exit off I-45 in the Woodridge Plaza). Donation \$5.

Class: The 1920 Baku Congress and its Place in the Historic Line of March. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani. Sun., Nov. 6, 10 a.m.

Film Showing on Baku Congress. Sun., Nov. 6, 1 p.m. 6969 Gulf Freeway #250 (In Woodridge Plaza, Woodridge exit off I-45). Donation \$3. per class. Tel: (713) 644-9066.

WASHINGTON Seattle

Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New Internationalist* magazine and editor of *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*; Prof. Fred Dube, member, ANC; Sarah Goodacre, participant Canada-Cuba Brigade 1994; Michelle Jacobson, Cuba solidarity activist; Mark Downs, member, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 19. Sat., Nov. 5, 7 p.m. Dinner 5:30 p.m. CAMP, 722 18th Ave. (near Cherry). Donation: Dinner \$7, Program \$5. For more information, call Seattle (206) 323-1755; Vancouver, B.C. (604) 872-8393.

Socialist Educational Weekend. **Class I:** The Revolutionary Potential of the Working Class. Sat., Nov. 5, 2 p.m. **Class II:** Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism. Sun., Nov. 6, 11 a.m.

Meeting of the Young Socialists. Sun., Nov. 6, 1 p.m. 1405 E. Madison Ave.

At the UN, Cuba blasts U.S. embargo

Continued from front page

were it not for current restrictions, which limit access to shorter routes controlled by U.S. companies.

Remírez blasted new travel and other restrictions announced August 20 and enforced by the U.S. Treasury Department that "include a drastic reduction of family visits between the two countries" and ban Cuban-Americans from sending remittances to relatives in Cuba.

Remírez called for "the dismantling of the aggressive policy against Cuba, the backbone of which is the economic, commercial, and financial blockade against my country." An embargo, he added, "which is today being suffered by Cuba, but of which tomorrow any nation might be a victim."

Imperialist competition

Victor Marrero, U.S. representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, urged a vote against what he termed "the inappropriate resolution before us today."

"The goal of United States policy is, through the careful application of sanctions directed at the Cuban regime, to promote peaceful transition to democracy," he said. Marrero claimed "the human rights situation in Cuba remains grim." He added, "The General Assembly should not appear to condone the abuses of a repressive regime."

The vote in favor of the resolution this year was larger than the 88 countries vot-

ing "yes" in 1993 and the 59 in favor in 1992. The vote indicates that in a world of sharpening economic competition, Washington's rivals are unwilling to let U.S. policy dictate international trade rules, especially if it affects their ability to exploit labor and raw materials abroad. The capitalist families in these countries share the goal of overturning Cuba's workers and farmers government, but often diverge over the best method to accomplish this objective.

Germany's representative, Gerhard Henze, spoke on behalf of governments grouped in the European Union, along with Austria, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. "The European Union," said Henze, "cannot accept that the United States unilaterally determines and restricts European Union economic and commercial relations with any foreign nation."

The embargo, said Henze, "is not the main reason for the difficult situation in Cuba. Because of its choices in economics and politics, the Cuban government is largely responsible for the deterioration of the situation in the country." Henze abstained on the vote, as did the representative of Italy. The governments of France, Norway, Austria, Sweden, and Finland voted in favor.

"We have voted in favor because we think there is an important underlying principle at stake with direct implications for economic and trading interests," said John McKinnon, representing the government of New Zealand. "We would have preferred,

however, a resolution on this subject to have been solely concerned with this principle," he said, emphasizing that "our vote is not to be interpreted in any way as support for the policies or practices of Cuba."

The representative of Indonesia spoke in favor of the resolution for the Non-Aligned Movement, and was joined by representatives of Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Libya, Laos, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Among those voting in favor were China, Haiti, Russia, and South Africa.

Most representatives who spoke for the resolution said they favored freedom of trade and international navigation, and advocated negotiations between Havana and Washington.

Mexico's representative referred to the recently completed U.S.-Cuba immigration accord, saying, "Dialogue has already given positive results."

The representative of Zimbabwe, citing a common theme, argued it was unfortunate "that the embargo, which has its roots in the 'Cold War,' has not ended." Ngo Quang Xuan, representing the Vietnamese government said, "Based on the spirit of understanding and solidarity with the Cuban people, the government and the people of Vietnam have undertaken and will undertake activities of solidarity and support to give assistance more moral than material to the Cuban people with the view to overcoming the difficulties and consequences...of the blockade."

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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. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. **Pittsburgh:** 1103 E. Carson St. Zip: 15203. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

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: Klappartíg 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 directors are "illegal aliens"? — In the past four years, McDonnell Douglas sliced the workforce at its Long Beach, California, aircraft plant from 43,000 to 10,000.



Harry Ring

Enjoy! — Even though it's illegal, European veal producers con-

tinue to inject calves with clenbuterol, which makes them grow faster and, also induces anemia, increasing the yield of the more expensive white meat. Toxic in trace amounts, clenbuterol induces increased heart rate, chills, fever, and nausea. Some 1,000 people in Europe have been hospitalized by it and at least five have died.

Not to hurry — Federal agents believe U.S. veal producers have been smuggling in clenbuterol since 1989. But they're on the case. In recent months, they've raided 12 of 1,200 veal-producing plants, seizing evidence of the use

of the drug. So far, no charges have been filed. Officials say no cases of illness have been reported. So they're not publicizing it or discouraging veal consumption.

Gov't standards vs. reality — The feds estimate that 150 people have died in fiery crashes in General Motors pickups in the last 15 years, but the company refuses to redesign them. GM pointed out that the trucks meet or surpass federal standards. Acknowledging this, Transportation Secretary Federico Peña responded that there's also an obligation to make vehicles that operate safely "in real-world

conditions."

The good old free market — The Carter-Wallace drug company was ordered to change its prescription drug Organidin, used to relieve asthma and emphysema. Its main ingredient causes cancer in rats. The company will market a new version—still \$50 a bottle—without bothering to inform people that it's now basically the same as various over-the-counter \$5 cough medicines.

The caring system — New Zealand's public health system for the Auckland area plans to cut

back on dialysis treatment for kidney disorders. An objecting Auckland city councillor wrote: "People over 75 would be excluded, also those who were blind, intellectually handicapped...or who displayed major antisocial behavior."

Fashion tip — At a cocktail party, they can knock a martini out of someone's hand, and one etiquette authority complains, "They obscure one of a woman's most erogenous zones, the nape of her neck." But backpacks are now in with high society folks. Not, of course, your ordinary cloth or nylon, leather from Gucci. \$995.

Book of Castro, Mandela speeches a 'treasure trove'

The following review of the book *How Far We Slaves Have Come! — South Africa and Cuba in Today's World* (New York: Pathfinder Press, 1991) appeared in the October issue of *Update on the Americas*, published in Rochester, New York.

The book contains the speeches given by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and Cuban president

gated in the popular media that the content of these speeches by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro, translated and transcribed only three years ago, will come as a shock to almost any US reader who is not immersed in the daily study of Cuban or South African history.

The speeches in *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* soundly contradict the official US media line, which holds that the goals and values of the African National Congress and the Socialist Republic of Cuba are both qualitatively different and historically unrelated.

As a progressive academic who listens to the mainstream media with a critical ear attuned for shards of actual information imbedded within ideological distortions and seeks information from alternative news sources whenever I can, I learned two important lessons from the surprise I felt while reading Mandela's and Castro's account of the relationship between Cuban internationalism and the fall of apartheid. I learned that certain things cannot be listened for in the mainstream press, because

they are completely omitted. And I learned that I must work considerably harder at informing myself through alternative channels.

This thin, engaging volume contains a treasure trove of historical information and perspectives that most American readers will never hear. Most significantly, Mary-Alice Waters' introduction, a skeletal but fascinating timeline and both speeches build up information concerning events leading up to and flowing from a key chapter in Cuban and South African history: the expulsion of South African troops from Angola at Cuito Cuanavale.

In November 1975, Cuba sent thousands of troops to Angola to help defend the Angolan people from the invading forces of the South African apartheid regime. Formal Angolan independence from Portugal, the last European country to relinquish its colonial grip in Africa, had been set for November 11, 1975, and the South African government had invaded to forestall the end of European colonial dominion outside of its own borders. By March 1976, South African troops were repelled across the southern border of Angola into Namibia, which was at the time, still a South African colony.

This victory struck an unprecedented blow to the apartheid regime and encouraged apartheid's opponents within South Africa. For the first time since the banning of the ANC following the Sharpeville massacre in 1960, waves of nationwide protests, sparked by the massacre of school children at Soweto in 1976, bore witness within and outside South Africa to a strong and unified mass resistance to apartheid. Over the ensuing twelve years, opposition to apartheid grew steadily.

During this same period, however, South Africa repeatedly penetrated Angola's borders. Together with the United

States, Pretoria armed and financed UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), a military group that carried out unspeakable atrocities against the Angolan people.

Battle of Cuito Cuanavale

In November 1987, South African forces encircled Cuito Cuanavale in southeast Angola. Cuba sent thousands of volunteer reinforcements, weaponry and supplies to aid beleaguered Angolan and SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) forces at Cuito Cuanavale. In March 1988, the South African forces were decisively defeated. In subsequent negotiations the South African government ceded independence to Namibia, which established its own government in March 1990.

In his speech, Nelson Mandela reflects upon the ramifications of the victory at Cuito Cuanavale, calling it "a victory for the whole of Africa." He recalls, "the defeat of the apartheid army was an inspiration to the struggling people inside South Africa! Without the defeat of Cuito Cuanavale our organizations would not have been unbanned! The defeat of the racist army at Cuito Cuanavale has made it possible for me to be here today" (pp. 9-10).

The speeches in this book, taken with Waters' introduction, reveal a history of international solidarity and the fall of apartheid that will come as a surprise to many of us in the US. The information creates a fuller and more accurate picture of the role of armed resistance to imperial domination within a heterogeneous global struggle against apartheid undertaken by groups around the world.

The book can be purchased for \$8.95 from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. If ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping.

IN REVIEW

Fidel Castro in Matanzas, Cuba, on July 26, 1991, at a mass celebration of the anniversary of the Cuban revolution; the introduction is by Mary-Alice Waters. The review was entitled, "Your Struggle Is Our Struggle."

BY MARGOT GAYLE BACKUS

So radically have the fates of Cuba and the Republic of South Africa been segre-

Meeting honors life of socialist

BY DAN FEIN

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — A memorial meeting for Dan Priest, a socialist and active unionist, was held here October 16. Priest was killed in a bicycle accident October 4 after getting off work late at night. Priest, 39, worked as a crane operator at EIMCO, a steel fabrication plant, where he was a member of the International Association of Machinists for the past seven years.

Priest was a member of the Socialist Workers Party since 1985, when he joined in Cleveland. He first met SWP members at an anti-Klan demonstration and bought the *Militant* newspaper, which started him on the road to joining the socialist movement.

Priest moved to Salt Lake City a few years later to join with other socialist workers in building the party's influence among workers in the industrial unions here, especially coal miners in the western region of the country, where the United Mine Workers of America has been involved in important struggles.

Barbara Greenway, who worked with Priest at EIMCO, reported at the memorial meeting how he drew other unionists into support for the 1989-91 Eastern Airlines strike. Priest, she said, worked to introduce coworkers to communist ideas, petitioning

on the job to get the Socialist Workers candidates on the election ballot.

Jesse Smith, who also worked with Priest at the steel fabrication plant, told the audience, "Dan had other interests besides politics. He was a hiker, a bicyclist, and an environmentalist. He played classical music on an electric violin and electric keyboard."

"But," Smith said, "Dan found his satisfaction inside the party and voluntarily gave up music for revolutionary politics" as a vocation.

Defense of the Cuban revolution was one of the main political activities Priest was recently involved in. He participated in the picket lines held here in front of the Federal Building August 27 and September 6 as an emergency response to protest the Clinton administration's hostile moves against Cuba. He also rebuilt a bicycle to donate to Cuba as part of the last U.S.-Cuba Friendship caravan.

Some \$380 were collected at the meeting in Priest's name for the \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund, a fund to which Priest himself was contributing in order to put new books on class-struggle politics into the hands of working-class fighters and the new generation of revolutionary-minded youth.



Dan Priest (left) at August 27 protest in Salt Lake City against U.S. attacks on Cuba.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interest of the Working People.
November 7, 1969 Price 10¢

More than 280 of the 300 workers at Tallahassee's largest factory, Elberta Crate and Box Company, are on strike. It is the first strike against this company in its 70-year history.

The workers, most of whom are black, are members of International Woodworkers of America, Local 5-181. They walked out on Sept. 23 demanding a ten-percent wage increase across the board, an end to racial discrimination in pay, wage increases with the rise in cost of living, and about a dozen other improvements in working conditions.

Picketing is organized and rallies are held at the local's union hall directly across the highway from the factory. Every day one can hear for blocks around the spirited chanting of the picketers, "On strike — Shut it down!"

The SDS [Students for Democratic Society] chapter at Florida State University has helped organize support on the campus for the strike and has helped man the picket lines. They have also organized a couple of marches in Tallahassee in support of the

strikers, the largest of which was about 200 people.

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

November 4, 1944

Hard on the heels of Allied recognition of his counterrevolutionary provisional government, [Gen. Charles] de Gaulle has moved to disarm the revolutionary workers of France. This move has precipitated the most acute political crisis within France since the Paris uprising of August 19-24, a crisis containing the threat of civil war between the capitalist ruling class and the resurgent French proletariat.

The direct tie-up between the Allied recognition of de Gaulle and his action against the Workers' Militia is explicitly admitted by the capitalist press correspondents in Paris. The Allies announced recognition of de Gaulle on Tuesday, October 24. The following Sunday, October 29, de Gaulle's Cabinet issued a decree stating that "the insurrectionary period is over" and that the Patriotic Workers' Militia must give up its arms and its very existence in the interests of "order."

To implement and enforce this decree, the Cabinet brought these armed formations under the laws prohibiting the carrying of arms and providing for the punishment of those making illegal arrests.

All out for November 12 march

The *Militant* urges all of our readers to actively build and participate in the November 12 demonstration in Washington, D.C., against the Clinton administration's aggressive policy toward Cuba.

The march comes at a time when activities in solidarity with Cuba are attracting larger numbers of people who want to learn why Washington maintains its unremitting hostility toward the Cuban people and their communist leadership, and want to do something to oppose it. Opponents of U.S. aggression toward Cuba should participate and help to build all such activities.

The Cuban government successfully used the recent United Nations General Assembly session to highlight the criminal nature of the U.S. economic and trade embargo against Cuba.

The November 12 rally will call on Washington to end its three-decade-long embargo and its efforts to starve the Cuban people into submission. It will demand the Clinton administration normalize relations with the Cuban government, lift the travel ban imposed on U.S. citizens who want to visit the island, vacate the stolen Cuban land it occupies with a naval base at Guantánamo, and get out of Haiti.

These demands aid the struggle by millions of working people in Cuba to defend their independence, sovereignty, and the socialist course that they have chosen.

The demonstration is especially important in light of the occupation of Haiti by 20,000 U.S. troops, which also

represents a threat against Cuba. The November 12 action is a meaningful response to the recent provocations by the bipartisan government in Washington, including the continuing detention of thousands of Cubans at Guantánamo, and the strengthening of the embargo and travel ban.

Defenders of Cuba and all democratic-minded people should use the time remaining before November 12 to reach out to workers on strike, fighting farmers, and students on college and high school campuses, to get involved in this fight. Posters and flyers need to be distributed widely. Mailings have to be sent out and buses reserved. Fund-raising events that will make it possible for the maximum number of people to participate need to be organized.

This activity can build on and complement ongoing tours by Cuban speakers, and educational forums such as the recent conference in Boston on the Cuban revolution.

In addition to the November 12 action, other important activities in defense of Cuba are being organized. More tours by Cuban speakers are set for this fall. Mass organizations in Cuba will host a November 21-25 solidarity conference in Havana with delegations attending from around the world, including a delegation from the United States. In January, more than 100 people will travel to Cuba on a youth brigade.

All these activities deserve support. Get involved now! All out for November 12!

No to Canada social wage cuts

"Seasonal workers are reason enough to reform a program that unwisely subsidizes them," declared an editorial in the Canadian daily *Globe and Mail*, applauding the outrageous proposal by the federal government in that country to set up a two-tier system of unemployment insurance, as part of sweeping cutbacks in social programs.

Workers in seasonal industries such as logging, construction, fishing, and mining, who have work only a few months a year, would be most harmed by this proposal. But the plan would also affect increasing numbers of other working people who get hit by repeated layoffs and plant closings.

In effect, the government and employers propose to penalize workers for being unemployed — the more frequently bosses lay them off, the less unemployment benefits they will get. Trying to pit one section of the working class against another, they falsely portray unemployment benefits as a "tax on jobs" or a "subsidy" that burdens employed workers. Capitalist politicians have even called for cutting unemployed workers from benefits and forcing them into minimum-wage "workfare," similar to schemes used in the United States to wipe out welfare programs for pauperized workers. The employers will use a two-tier setup to try to gut unemployment insurance — won in struggle by the labor movement — for all.

Although the government's campaign tries to convince

workers with jobs that the unemployed are the source of their problems, the real cause of the crisis is capitalism. It's bosses who lay off and cut jobs, as they downsize in a cut-throat drive to protect their profit margins.

Canada, like most other imperialist countries, is currently in an upturn of the business cycle. But life isn't getting better for most working people in this epoch of overall world depression. There are currently 1.3 million people officially unemployed; another 400,000 discouraged workers; and 770,000 part-time workers who seek full-time employment. The employing class in Canada hopes to use this massive army of unemployed, living under increased conditions of poverty, as a downward pressure on wages and working conditions.

The labor movement needs to unite workers by leading an international fight for jobs for all. Demanding that the government reduce the legal workweek to 30 hours with no reduction in pay, combined with demands to reinforce affirmative action in hiring and raising the minimum wage, would cut across the employers' campaign to divide working people — in Canada, the United States, and across borders. Auto workers at General Motors in Flint, Michigan, set a good example when they went on strike against overtime and forced the company to agree to hire more full-time workers. This is the kind of fight that is needed to oppose the government's drive to slash entitlements and other social rights.

Vote Socialist Workers!

A columnist writing for a big-business paper in Schenectady, New York, the *Daily Gazette*, had trouble swallowing the comments of socialist gubernatorial candidate Larry Lane during a recent nationally televised debate. "No matter what the question was, [Lane's] answer was the same, 'the crisis of capitalism,'" he complained. "Listening to him, you could believe he had gone to sleep in the 1930s," the columnist sniffed, referring to the last major depression and the labor upsurge sparked by it.

But Lane's responses were accurate and to the point. The real question confronting humanity today is the social crisis caused by capitalism and the future of increased exploitation, fascism, and war that it offers.

The 1987 stock market crash marked a turning point announcing that, as the imperialist order imposed by the victors of World War II increasingly unraveled, the world capitalist economy was headed into the worst depression since the 1930s. These depression conditions mark the world we live in today.

Despite a temporary upturn in the business cycle, capitalists face declining profit rates and increased competition for markets, pushing them to ruthlessly downsize companies and cut costs. For working people — whether in Brazil, Sweden, the United States, or Hungary — it means lower wages and deep cuts in social programs. The depth of the crisis is manifest in rising infant mortality, greater numbers of workers left homeless, and the reappearance of epidemic diseases.

In spite of the pronouncements of capitalist spokespeople and misleaders in the workers movement, capitalism is not moving toward more democracy or peace. We are witnessing increasingly centralized use of state power,

the rise of Bonapartism and ultrarightist movements, and greater reliance on military "solutions" in the capitalist rulers' foreign policy — such as in Haiti, the Persian Gulf, Rwanda, and Somalia — as competition among the imperialist powers becomes sharper.

There is a power, however, that can stop the capitalist march toward fascism and war: the organized working class and its allies. The defensive struggles today — from the Caterpillar strike and the immigrant rights march in Los Angeles, to protests against government austerity by Brazilian metalworkers, to strikes by coal miners in Russia — are evidence of this.

The Socialist Workers campaign puts forward an action program for the labor movement to confront the economic crisis. These demands — to cancel the Third World debt, to fight for jobs for all by shortening the workweek with no cut in pay, and to enforce affirmative action — are key to uniting working people and overcoming the divisions fostered by the employers.

The socialist candidates are using the campaign to win new forces to oppose Washington's aggressive policies toward the Cuban revolution, and to learn from and emulate Cuba's socialist course.

The Socialist Workers candidates are the only ones who voice the interests of working people. They deserve the vote of every worker, farmer, and youth. But in addition, the socialists offer a political perspective that goes way beyond election day and that is decisive for the future — to join the worldwide fight for socialism. If you agree this is a battle worth throwing yourself into, you should join the Young Socialists or the Socialist Workers Party.

Iowa authorities stonewall on case of framed worker

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — In face of demands by many supporters of democratic rights that Mark Curtis, a framed-up political and union activist, be granted parole, Iowa prison authorities continue to stonewall.

Months ago Curtis wrote to Iowa state ombudsman William Angrick, an official charged with mediating disputes, requesting that his office investigate the refusal of the State Board of Parole to grant Curtis a hearing.

Curtis, framed on charges of rape and burglary and brutally beaten by Des Moines police in March 1988 after speaking out against the arrest of 17 of his immigrant coworkers at the Monfort meatpacking plant in Des Moines, argued that he was facing political discrimination. He has remained politically active during his six years in prison and his fight for freedom has won the support of thousands of people around the world.

Curtis was told by the parole board in October 1993 that they would refuse to consider his case for release until he had received an evaluation from the state prison psychiatric facility — the Iowa Medical and Classification Center in Oakdale — to determine whether he was a danger to society. Curtis was seen by a psychiatrist from Oakdale, who informed him after the interview that there was no reason for him to undergo any further psychological testing. She made the same report to Oakdale, which formally refused a transfer to Curtis. "No psychiatric issues in referral," they wrote to Curtis.

On Jan. 12, 1994, Curtis's lawyer, William Kutmus, wrote to the parole board noting that this decision satisfied their request for Curtis's psychological health to be evaluated. Kutmus requested that Curtis be granted a hearing on his application for parole.

"The Board is still making the same recommendation and when he has completed the program [at Oakdale], his case will be reviewed," the board responded.

Parole board imposes Catch-22

On October 10, Judith Milosevich, the assistant for corrections in the Iowa Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman Office, wrote to Curtis. "Unfortunately, I have been unable to find a resolution acceptable to the Department of Corrections and the Board of Parole.

"The Department of Corrections' policy under these circumstances [the request from the parole board] requires the consulting or staff psychiatrist interview the inmate, review the file and make the appropriate recommendation. That has all been done. The psychiatrist does not believe there is a need for a psychiatric evaluation, yet the parole board states they still want one.

"At this point, as you well know, there is a standoff," Milosevich writes. "The DOC says their psychiatrist has made the decision that there are no psychiatric issues in referral. They also will not consider the alternative of a private psychiatric review since they believe that issue has been addressed adequately. The Iowa Medical and Classification Center will not accept you for evaluation since the psychiatrist says there is no need. Neither side will budge."

Curtis received the letter from Milosevich the same week that the Iowa State Board of Parole refused him a hearing or parole again this year. A parole would not "be in the best interest of society," they wrote.

Curtis thrown into lockup

In August, while he was working with supporters in the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to prepare a campaign to demand the parole board grant his freedom, Curtis was thrown into lockup and slapped with trumped-up charges of assaulting another inmate.

At the time, Curtis and his supporters said that they believed the aim of prison authorities in engineering this attack was to throw a roadblock in the way of his fight for parole.

On September 12 Curtis was taken shackled before a prison kangaroo court, refused the right to confront his accusers or to be represented by a lawyer, convicted, and sentenced to the maximum punishment allowed under prison regulations — 30 days in "the hole" and one year in lockup.

Hundreds of letters from unionists, political activists and supporters of democratic rights around the world, from the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee to the League for the Rights of Man in France, have flooded the offices of prison authorities and the state Department of Corrections supporting Curtis's appeal of his conviction and sentence and urging that he be released.

Most recently, David Yard, mine committee chairman of United Mine Workers of America Local 1969 in Virden, Illinois, wrote "Justice and any appearance of credibility on the part of the Iowa Department of Corrections in this particular case will best be served by releasing Mark Curtis."

Messages urging that Curtis be freed from lockup should be sent to Sally Chandler Halford, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309, fax number (515) 281-7345.

Copies of protest messages should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, fax number (515) 243-9869.

Kentucky meatpackers fight for union contract

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines

fied us as strikers at Cook's Ham. They had heard about our strike through their unions," Mabry said.

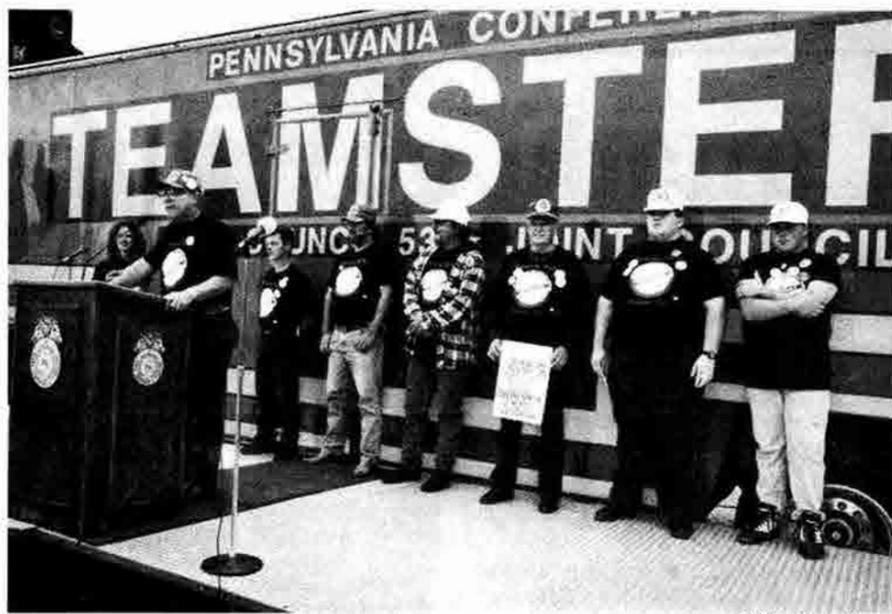
Cook's, a subsidiary of agricultural conglomerate Conagra, opened its Grayson plant in February 1991. In September of that year, workers voted to unionize. After two years of company resistance, the National Labor Relations Board certified the IBFO as

construction site at a Macmillan Bloedel pulp mill since September 30. The workers — most of them members of the British Columbia and Yukon Building Trades Council — are protesting the company's decision to hire employees of TNL Construction to work on the \$205 million mill expansion project. TNL is organized by the employer-dominated Canadian Iron Steel and Industrial Workers Union, which has accepted a longer workweek, no living allowance, and inferior rates for overtime. Bob Hansen, president of the Carpenters union in Nanaimo, explained that these "rat unions" are not recognized by the building trades unions or the B.C. Federation of Labor (BCFL).

Each day between 100 and 200 building workers and their supporters gather outside the construction gate at the mill. Cops arrive with the vehicles that bring in the nonunion workers and read the text of the injunction forbidding the unionists from blocking the entrance. The majority step aside, but those that don't are arrested.

"People have to go to jail to make other people aware of what's going on," said Brian Zdrillac, who worked in mills all over British Columbia.

The unions for the 12,000 workers in the pulp industry that are currently in negotiations with the forest companies have said that Macmillan Bloedel's decision to use nonunion construction will be a strike issue. During the first week of the protest hundreds of pulp workers joined building



Militant/John Sarge
Cook's Ham workers at October 15 labor rally in Decatur, Illinois. The members of the Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers are striking for their first contract.

ON THE PICKET LINE

about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Among the thousands of union members attending a labor solidarity rally in Decatur, Illinois, October 15 was a delegation of 12 workers from Cook Family Foods, Ltd., of Grayson, Kentucky. Some 400 workers at the plant have been on strike for the past 11 months.

"A number of us have family ties here in Decatur," said Dan Anderson, business representative for the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers (IBFO), which organizes the workers. "We learned about the lockout at Staley's from family and former coworkers up here and then some of the Staley 'Road Warriors' visited us while we were on strike to tell us about their situation," Anderson said.

The Road Warriors are members of the United Paperworkers International Union, locked out at A. E. Staley, Co., who travel around the country explaining their fight.

Ron Mabry, a worker with two years' service at Cook's, also joined the IBFO delegation. "It's brother for brother and sister for sister where the unions are involved," he said. The IBFO members brought fliers explaining their fight. "We got a real good response from people at the rally. Mostly people came up to us because we all had shirts that identi-

the official bargaining agent of the workers. When Cook's continued to refuse recognition of the union and to bargain for a contract, workers voted 365-15 to strike, business agent Anderson said.

According to Mabry, the strike remains solid. About 30 workers have crossed the picket lines and Cook's has maintained production with these workers plus another 100 scabs recruited from other areas. "But even some of those who crossed have come out during the strike," Mabry said.

The union is under several state and federal injunctions limiting its picket lines to four people at a time and allowing picketing only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Pickets must remain 500 feet from the plant entrance.

"We've gotten lots of support from other unions in the area, including the United Mine Workers, the Steelworkers, Boilermakers, and others. We've addressed their meetings fairly regularly and they've collected donations with bucket brigades at their workplaces time and time again," Mabry said.

He added, "Our morale remains high. Although not every day is an up day, certainly events like the one in Decatur help a lot."

Building workers protest in British Columbia

More than 50 workers have been arrested in Port Alberni, British Columbia, for defying a court injunction by blockading a

trades workers and others for a rally of 600 at the site. BCFL president Ken Georgetti addressed the protest.

"It's nice after all these years of the unions fighting each other to see everybody getting together to make a united stand," said Lonnie Kuipres, a member of the Laborers International Union. A rally of more than 400 was also held October 6 in front of the company's headquarters in Vancouver.

Saskatoon public service workers settle strike

Striking civic employees in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, ratified a settlement with the city government October 18. The 2,300 workers, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Amalgamated Transit Union, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, have been without a contract since 1991.

The key issue in the 10-week lockout and strike was the city council's refusal to match their earlier agreements with other public sector workers, organized by the Saskatchewan Government

Employees Union (SGEU), which included no pay raises for the first two years of a three year contract and a 2.5 percent pay raise in the last year of the contract. Saskatoon mayor Henry Dayday demanded the 2.5 percent increase be limited to the last six months of 1994, the last year of the contract.

The unions won an agreement that resembles the provincial pattern. In the course of negotiations, the other unions backed the transit workers, who won new protection against contracting out work.

The SGEU has now entered a new round of contract negotiations with the provincial government. Over the next few months agreements involving more than 50,000 Saskatchewan public workers in several unions will expire.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Jim Garrison from St. Louis; Beverly Bernardo, a laid-off member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in Vancouver, British Columbia; and Howard Brown, a member of National Farmers Union Local 609 in Rosetown, Saskatchewan.

LETTERS

Food for thought

I am very much interested in the *Militant* socialist weekly and its coverage of the Cuban revolution and of South Africa's seeming dismantling of apartheid, among other things.

I found volume 58, no. 27 of the *Militant* to be very informative. The articles on the plight of Mark Curtis and the exodus of troops from Rwanda, among other things, were food for thought.

A prisoner
Comstock, New York

Frame-up victim

In September, Frederick "Rick" Daye was released from prison after serving 10 years for a crime he did not commit.

Daye was arrested on Jan. 25, 1984, by police in San Diego, California. His arrest followed a complaint by a woman who said two men kidnapped, robbed, and raped her. Daye was convicted in spite of the fact that he did not fit the woman's description of her attacker.

Daye's attorney argued that Daye and a friend were at the American Legion hall when the crime was committed.

In addition, at a later trial of Charles Pringle, the second man arrested for the rape, a witness testified that another man, not Daye, had confessed to participating in the attack.

In 1992 Carmella Simoncini, an attorney familiar with the case, heard of Daye's continuing incarceration and requested she be appointed as Daye's counsel. She petitioned the California Court of Appeals for \$2,000 to conduct DNA testing on the woman's clothing. Results from the tests proved Daye was not involved in the attack and he was released from prison after 10 years.

The San Diego District Attorney's office claims they resolved the situation as quickly as they could. "If you look at the evidence presented at the trial, he was guilty. It's the only conclusion you could reach," said James Atkins of the DA's office.

Shirley Peña
Des Moines, Iowa

End the death penalty

A demonstration of 350 took place in Philadelphia October 1 to demand the end of the death penalty. The marchers went from the Ben Franklin Parkway down Market Street to rally at the Liberty Bell. The chants were led by the 20-person delegation from the Swarthmore College Civil Liberties Union.

Monica Patterson, one of the Swarthmore students, explained why she was at the demonstration. "I feel the death penalty is an inhumane act which discriminates against Black and lower-class peo-



ple who can't afford a decent defense."

Chris Santini, a high school student from the Germantown Academy, said, "I am opposed to the death penalty. It is counterproductive to punish a crime with another crime. It serves nothing. It is time to move on."

Helen Meyers
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Water rights

Ranchers gathered in Elko, Nevada, September 29 to voice their opposition over a proposed mining project which would adversely effect the region's water

supply. About 50 people were in attendance at the meeting, including local ranchers, miners, various federal, state, and local governments, as well as Native American rights activists from the Western Shoshone Defense Project (WSDP), including supporters from Salt Lake City.

The public hearing was in response to legal proceedings following an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), released by the Battle Mountain Bureau of Land Management.

The joint venture mining project is an expansion of Cortez mines, which is owned and operated by the Placerdome and Kennecott

multi-national mining companies. It would combine an open pit gold mine with a connecting pipeline, allowing for dewatering of the pit and thus threatening the water rights of local ranchers.

The proposal intends to dewater the mine at an initial rate of 30,000 gallons per minute, annually pumping 49,000 acre-feet of groundwater where it will then fill engineered ponds for infiltration into the water table. A private consulting firm hired by the Cortez joint venture claims there "would be no significant impact to the surrounding springs and seeps."

An Action Alert has been created by the Western Shoshone Defense Project in conjunction with the Citizen Alert Native American Program. They are requesting supporters respond to the "Cortez Pipeline Gold Deposit" Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

For additional information and updates contact the WSDP at P.O. Box 21106, Crescent Valley, Nevada, 89821 or call (702) 468-0230; fax (702) 468-0237.

James Gallanos
Salt Lake City, Utah

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

Canada gov't plans big social cuts

BY JANET FISHER

TORONTO — The Liberal Party federal government introduced a "discussion paper" October 6 that would impose deep cuts on the social wage of the working class. While the paper, to be discussed in public forums for two months, provides few details, a cabinet document leaked to the *Toronto Star* revealed that the aim is to slash \$7.5 billion from social spending over the next five years in the name of reducing the budget deficit.

A major proposal is to create a two-tiered unemployment insurance (UI) system, one for workers deemed "occasional users" who would receive regular benefits — already reduced since the last federal budget — and one for "frequent users" whose benefits would decrease with each claim and who would require a longer period of employment to qualify. The government paper notes that 40 percent of those receiving unemployment insurance had claimed benefits at least three times in the last five years.

This plan will particularly harm seasonal workers, like those in construction, fishing, tourism and lumber, who have work only a few months a year and who have been hard hit by the economic crisis. Politicians and the capitalist dailies have been leading a campaign to scapegoat the worst-off sections of the working class.

An editorial in the October 13 *Globe and Mail* proclaimed, "Seasonal workers are reason enough to reform a program that unwisely subsidizes them. UI effectively tells loggers, fishermen and miners, to name some of the major beneficiaries, that they should stay where they are, doing what they do, as a way of life. It offers them no incentive to train for other work or to change jobs or to find full-time employment elsewhere." The editorial argues, "All this largesse...comes out of a fund sustained by premiums paid by other workers and other employers, who are really paying a tax on jobs. All told, then, the sys-



Militant/Heidi Rose

Unionists protest budget cuts and unemployment in Ottawa in May 1993. Government proposal would create two tiers of jobless workers — "occasional users" and "frequent users," penalizing workers for being laid off repeatedly.

tem discourages efficiency and unjustly penalizes full-time work."

Many workers from towns or regions with only one industry are finding that government retraining programs do not lead to new jobs. According to economist Andrew Jackson of the Canadian Labor Congress, 1.3 million workers in this country are officially unemployed, 400,000 discouraged workers have stopped actively looking for work due to lack of jobs, and 770,000 are working part-time jobs but seek full-time work.

One idea floated by government officials is to cut frequently laid-off workers from unemployment benefits and push them onto "workfare," forcing them to

work minimum-wage jobs. Capitalist politicians have already raised such "workfare" proposals as a way to junk welfare benefits for impoverished working people.

Slashing funds for education

In addition, the government proposes slashing funds for post-secondary schools. In particular, it wants to eliminate grants to university students and replace them with loans, to be repaid. The cabinet document leaked to the *Toronto Star* admitted these budget cuts could cause tuition fees to double by 1997. "It would make university and college absolutely inaccessible," said Guy Caron, president of the Canadian Federa-

tion of Students.

Ian Howcroft of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, an employer group, advocated imposing "the necessary cuts no matter how hard they are for Canadians to swallow." He praised Premier Ralph Klein of the province of Alberta, which has carried out the deepest cuts so far in Canada. The Klein government has recently closed several hospitals and cut health services. Parents in Alberta now have to pay \$600 to send their children to kindergarten.

Some in big-business circles are urging the federal government to make even harsher budget cuts now. "Opportunities like the present one — a vigorously growing economy; the early part of a government's mandate; public expectation of change and concern about current trends — do not arise frequently," said a report by the C.D. Howe Institute, a capitalist think tank. "If the prospect of fiscal and social-policy reform is daunting in a boom, it is horrific during a slump. Putting off the pain is likely to magnify it."

Just days after the government document was leaked, students in Fredericton, New Brunswick, organized a protest outside a meeting hosting the federal prime minister, Jean Chrétien.

Placards read "\$40,000 for a BA," referring to a Bachelor of Arts degree, and, "Only the rich will be able to afford it. What about us?"

John Steele, Communist League candidate for mayor of Toronto, said in an interview, "We should take our lead from these students and fight any attempts to gut UI and education. Seasonal workers, workers forced on unemployment, don't need incentives," Steele explained. "They need jobs and guaranteed unemployment insurance at union-scale wages until they can find jobs." Steele participated in a protest action here against the cuts.

Janet Fisher is the Communist League candidate for Toronto City Councillor.

Protest French ban on Muslim students' scarves

Printed below is a statement distributed by the Communist Organizing Committee in Paris, France.

In several French high schools, including in the northern city of Lille, the Paris suburb of Goussainville, and Mantes-la-Jolie, west of Paris, hundreds of youth are mobilizing to demand that schools readmit female high school students wearing Islamic head scarves.

The protests broke out when Education Minister François Bayrou issued a letter calling for schools to bar students wearing "conspicuous" symbols — particularly re-

ligious symbols — at school, and officials barred the young women from returning to class. Twenty-four students at Mantes-la-Jolie, 4 at Goussainville, and 22 at Lille were suspended. The Ministry of Education cited 1,143 students as wearing head scarves in schools around the country.

At Goussainville, 800 students out of 1,200 signed a petition demanding the four young women be allowed to return to school. The Committee to Defend the Right to Education organized a demonstration September 30 in support of the four youths. Hundreds of students gathered in front of the school and then visited neighboring high schools, where more students joined them.

Youth, workers, and defenders of democratic rights must join these high school students who are demonstrating for an end to this racist campaign and for the right to education for all, regardless of religion.

Not about separation of church, state

The capitalist parties, as well as the Socialist and Communist parties, are all part of the government-promoted campaign around the supposed danger of "Islamic fundamentalism." They do so in the name of separation of church and state or women's rights.

But this is the same government that last year wanted to increase its financing of private religious schools by amending the Faloux law on state funding of schools. Private schools already absorb 13 percent of the education budget. The government would have dealt a serious blow to the separation of church and state. Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in Paris in January and forced the government to withdraw its bill.

Thus, the campaign organized by the government around the head scarf has nothing to do with separation of church and state.

Education Minister Bayrou attempts to justify the government order by speaking about equal rights for women. This is pure hypocrisy.

The French government just refused a visa to the writer Taslima Nasreen of Bangladesh, who is fighting for women's rights in her country and is standing up to the extreme right, which, under the cover of religion, demands she be put to death.

The youth who today are demonstrating to defend the young women who wear the scarf are not supporters of integrating religion into the schools. There are thousands of young Muslim women in France who do not want to be forced, as their mothers and grandmothers previously were, to wear the head scarf. The overwhelming majority of them view the head scarf, justifiably, as a symbol of the oppression and backward situation of women. They say, "We don't want to wear the head scarf anymore."

Attempt to scapegoat immigrants

But a majority of these youth also are aware that the effort to ban the head scarf and single out these young women is a racist attempt to make them into scapegoats for the social crisis.

In face of the capitalist economic depression today, the employers are stepping up their offensive against the wages and social benefits of working people. At the same time, the government is escalating its attacks on immigrant workers and democratic rights in order to divide, weaken, and repress the struggles of youth and workers who are resisting this offensive. In this

context, the government has tried to whip up a hysterical atmosphere against "Islamic fundamentalism," which is being blamed for a host of problems from violence to drug running.

The Bayrou letter is an attack not only on the right to privacy but on broader democratic rights, since political buttons or T-shirts can also be deemed "conspicuous symbols" and barred.

The government order also greatly curbs democratic rights in the high schools by forbidding "behavior likely to disrupt the functioning or the order in educational institutions."

In addition, the government, through Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, has recently presented a bill that seriously restricts the right to demonstrate. It would allow police to search vehicles in an unlimited area around scheduled demonstrations during the 24 hours prior to the actions.

The capitalists and their government have drawn their own lessons from the overwhelming victory scored by youth against the government last spring. Hundreds of thousands of youth, particularly in the high schools, mobilized against the government's attempt to introduce a special subminimum wage for youth, which called into question the minimum wage itself. Now the rulers, using racist propaganda, restrictions on democratic rights, and repression, seek to weaken the resistance of workers and young people before launching further major attacks.

We must all demand:
Immediate reinstatement of all high school students threatened with expulsion.
Immediate withdrawal of the Bayrou order. Withdrawal of the Pasqua security bill.
Stop this racist campaign.

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Edited by Doug Jenness

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