

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Local coalitions gear up for 'Cuba Lives' festival

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Brazil oil workers strike, say 'no' to privatization

Cardoso gov't calls out troops to occupy refineries

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — The government of Brazilian president Fernando Henrique Cardoso responded to a three-week-old strike of nearly 50,000 oil workers by sending army units to occupy four refineries May 24. The strike, reinforced by work stoppages by thousands of rail workers and truckers, has become the first big political crisis for Cardoso, who took office in January. The oil workers are protesting the government's privatization and layoff plans and are demanding wage improvements.

Delegates arriving here from Brazil to attend the fifth meeting of the São Paulo Forum, a gathering of political parties from around Latin America and the Caribbean, reported on the battle taking shape there. One refinery

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Oil workers rally against privatization outside Petrobrás offices in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Thousands turn out for Tehran book fair

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

TEHRAN, Iran — Despite the soon-to-be-implemented U.S. embargo against Iran, the Eighth Tehran International Book Fair opened here May 16 with 470 foreign publishers from 38 countries participating. Publishers from Cuba are participating in the book fair for the first time since 1990.

The book fair is a major cultural, educational, and commercial event in Iran and the whole region. Tens of thousands of people flocked to it on the first day. Opening the fair, President Hashemi Rafsanjani explained, "We believe it is beneficial to attract knowledge from abroad and that a cultural exchange of books will have a positive effect in the long run."

The government here has allocated 50 billion rials this year for subsidizing the purchase of books from abroad, most of which will be used by people buying books at the 10-day book fair at government-subsidized prices. Individual Iranians can get a card giving them permission to buy books up to a certain limit at subsidized prices, by showing their drivers license or similar identification.

At the exchange rate that operated three weeks ago (4,000 rials to US\$1) the subsidy for books would be equivalent to \$12.5 million. However, uncertainty over being able to complete trading contracts and over the strength of the Iranian economy in the face of Washington's proposed sanctions sent the rial plummeting in the foreign exchange markets. At its lowest level two weeks ago — 7,500 rials to the dollar — the purchasing power of the book budget would have been reduced considerably. The government has recently imposed a fixed rate of 3,000 rials to the dollar for all foreign exchange transactions.

Many publishers here oppose the U.S.

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'Best opportunity for peace in years'

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams gets good response on U.S. tour

BY BARBARA BOWMAN

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — "I thought Gerry Adams was very encouraging and positive. He has gained the respect of a lot of Irish who might not have agreed with his views prior to the cease-fire," stated Ronan Collins.

Collins, 30, moved to this Midwestern city from Dublin, Ireland, a year and half ago. He now heads up Celtic Fringe, a group that deals with the problems of recent Irish immigrants to Kansas City. He was part of a crowd of 220 who heard Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams speak at

Rockhurst College here May 15. The Kansas City chapter of Irish Northern Aid and a number of other Irish-American organizations from Kansas City and St. Louis sponsored the meeting.

Asked whether the Irish Republican Army (IRA) should turn in its arms to further the "peace process" as the British government has demanded, Adams responded, "There are five armed groups in Northern Ireland and the IRA is only one of them. By far the largest armed force is the British government. There are 30,000 British troops, state police, and RUC [Royal Ulster Constabulary] forces in an area the size of Rhode Island.

"Sinn Fein wants all the guns taken out of Irish politics and will move with the others to advance the process until disarmament is brought to a reality," he said.

Another man asked Adams how the "Catholic ethos," would be preserved in the unified Ireland of the future. "No church should have to depend on the state to enforce its doctrine," responded Adams. "We need to be building an Ireland where people have total religious freedom. And it's fundamental that we have civil liberties. It's not a religious war in Ireland. The cause of the division of the people in Ireland is the British government, not religion," the Sinn Fein president emphasized.

Adams reported that since he has been allowed to travel to the United States and speak publicly in this country, the British government has lifted the Broadcast Act, which banned his voice and those of other Sinn Fein leaders from British radio and television. "Up until now when you were in RUC custody you had to speak, but you couldn't speak on the BBC," he said.

One questioner, noting empty seats in the theater, asked if the bombing of the U.S. federal building in Oklahoma City had made it more difficult for Sinn Fein

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Western miners win contract preserving eight-hour day

BY DAN FEIN

WINDOW ROCK, Arizona — After eight days on strike, union coal miners here won a victory, gaining a new contract with Pittsburgh and Midway (P&M) Coal Mining Co. that preserves the eight-hour day and makes other gains. Members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1332, most of whom are Navajos, began the strike at midnight May 5 after voting 214-55 to reject a company offer. The new contract was approved by a vote of 199 to 13.

Miners at P&M's McKinley surface mine here extracted more than 8 million tons of coal from the 27,000-acre mine last year. Half of the mine is located on the Navajo Nation.

P&M wanted to introduce a new work schedule of four 10-hour days Monday through Thursday at straight time; and force some "weekend warriors" to work for 10 hours on Friday, 12 hours on Saturday, and 12 hours on Sunday at 50 hours' pay. No one crossed the picket line during the strike.

Lawrence Oliver, president of Local 1332, told the *Militant* in an interview that "the 80 percent rejection of the company's alternative work schedule was motivated by members wanting to keep the eight-hour day with weekends off. However, some miners liked the idea of three or four days off work." Oliver explained the

eight-hour day was a safety issue, as well as a question of having a life outside of work. "Many of our members operate heavy earth-moving equipment and will experience more back injuries by working longer hours," he said.

The new five-year contract allows the company to ask for volunteers for week-end work. With business booming, P&M's McKinley mine began running coal on some Saturdays over the past year by asking for volunteers who get time-and-a-half pay. No coal was run on Sundays. The new contract allows volunteer overtime on the weekends with time-and-a-half for Saturday work and double-time for Sunday work.

"The unions fought hard for the eight-hour day," Oliver commented. "Anything more than eight hours a day or 40 hours a week must be at premium pay. We refuse to go back to the 1930s."

The other main issue in the strike was over pensions. The new contract increases pension payments 30 percent for retired miners. Before, some miners in their 70s remained on the job because the pension was so small. Oliver said the new contract will allow them and others over 65 years old to now retire with dignity.

The new contract also includes an across-the-board 30-cents-per-hour raise per year and a reduction in the probation

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Help sell 1,500 more subscriptions

Dear 'Militant' readers and distributors,

Supporters of the socialist press have a challenge and an opportunity between now and June 11 to sign up new readers to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and sell the *New Internationalist* magazine. With less than three weeks left in the 10-week campaign, we have sold just under half of the international sales goals. To complete the circulation campaign on time and in full, supporters need to sell 1,518 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 346 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 633 copies of *New Internationalist*. The political opportunities to do so are there for the taking.

Workers and farmers across Latin America are striking and demonstrating against government austerity measures and assaults by the employers on their wages and living standards. Young communists in Cuba are reaching out for soli-

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Clinton breaks Korea oil deal

Clinton administration officials told the government of North Korea May 18 that Washington will delay oil shipments agreed to last October, accusing Pyongyang of "diverting" the fuel. In talks last year, the U.S. government promised more than \$4 billion in new nuclear technology and oil supplies to North Korea if Pyongyang froze its nuclear program, which Washington contended was aimed at developing nuclear weapons. The U.S. government sent 50,000 tons of oil earlier this year. Representatives of the United States and North Korea began a new round of talks on the nuclear program May 20.

U.S. soldiers beat man in Seoul

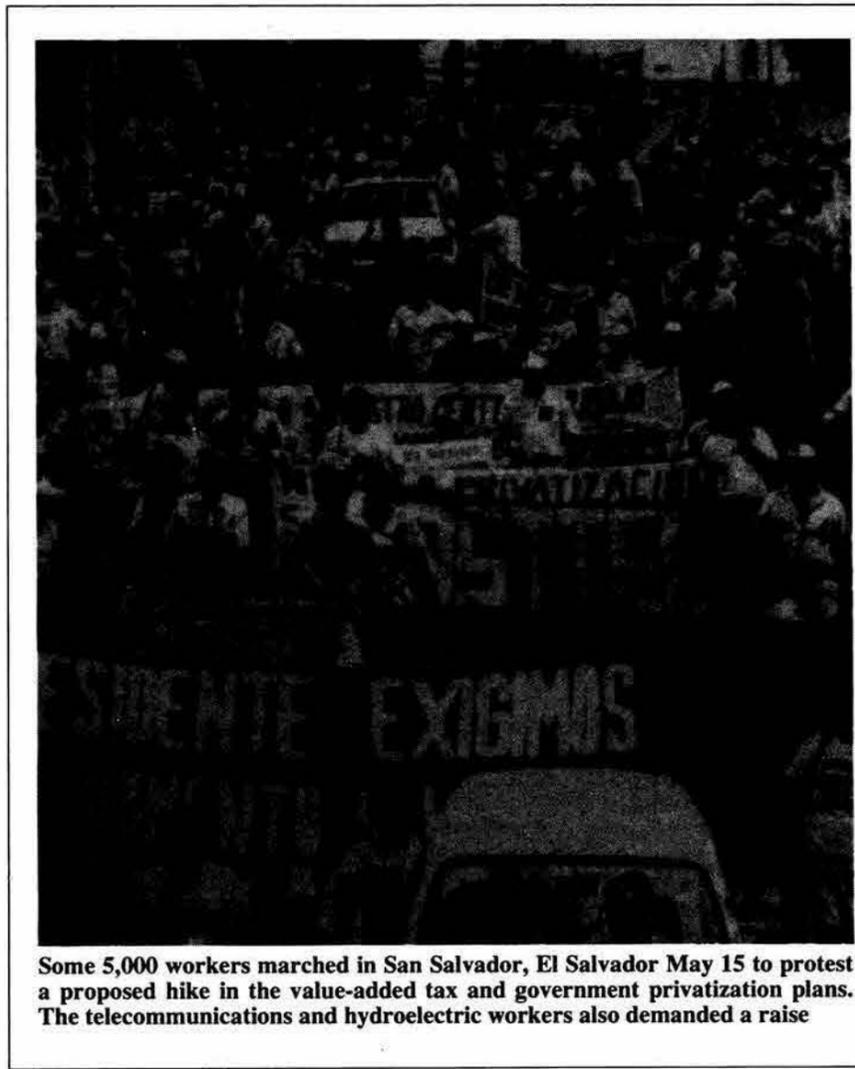
South Korean police detained 12 U.S. soldiers in Seoul for beating a Korean man. According to police, the drunken soldiers dragged Cho Chung-ko, 28, out of a subway car and beat him May 19. Cho said the soldiers attacked him after he protested their sexual harassment of a Korean woman. About 60 protesters gathered in front of the police station demanding punishment for the soldiers. Washington maintains 37,000 troops in South Korea.

U.S. gov't seizes Japanese boats

The U.S. Coast Guard seized two Japanese fishing boats in mid-May for allegedly fishing in Pacific waters controlled by the United States. The two ships' captains admit casting their nets inside the U.S. fishing zone around the Northern Mariana Islands, a group of islands south of Japan. U.S. troops occupied the islands in 1944 to use as bases for a direct attack on Japan.

Protest says U.S. out of Okinawa

More than 13,000 demonstrators formed a nearly nine-mile-long human chain around a U.S. military base in Okinawa May 14 demanding the return of land. The Pentagon keeps some 40 U.S. military bases and facilities on Okinawa, scene of heavy fighting in World War II. Washington maintained military control of the island until 1972 when it was turned over to Tokyo. The protesters say the U.S. bases can lead to more war, and that the air bases especially are a hazard to nearby



Some 5,000 workers marched in San Salvador, El Salvador May 15 to protest a proposed hike in the value-added tax and government privatization plans. The telecommunications and hydroelectric workers also demanded a raise

communities.

New Delhi condemns atomic pact

New Delhi rejected the indefinite extension of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty by the 174-member governments that signed the agreement in early May. The pact maintains the status quo by allowing Washington, Beijing, Moscow, London, and Paris to keep nuclear weapons while other governments must promise not to acquire them.

The Indian government, which did not sign the treaty and stocks nuclear weap-

ons, claims its position is that all nuclear weapons should be destroyed. "The indefinite extension of the nonproliferation treaty means that the international community has accepted the institutionalization of nuclear double standards," an Indian government spokesperson said.

Jaswant Singh of the rightist Bharatiya Janata Party, the largest opposition party, has called on the government to develop its nuclear arsenal. The party vowed to build atomic weapons if it wins power.

Truckers from Mexico protest

Truckers from Mexico blocked the international bridges between Mexico and Laredo, Texas, May 8, to protest a drop in import traffic and tough new inspections by U.S. Customs agents of northbound goods. The rigorous inspections, part of "Operation Hardline," have cut down the number of trips a day a trucker can make from four to two.

The truckers also shut down the Laredo bridges — the busiest border point in U.S.-Mexico long-haul trucking — in late April to oppose Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) crackdowns. INS officials conceded they were lifting border-crossing cards of truckers returning to Mexico with empty trailers. After the April shutdown the INS backed off and re-

turned the cards.

N.Y. officials rig housing lottery

Officials of a New York suburb violated the Fair Housing Act when they rigged a lottery for subsidized housing to exclude Blacks and ensure homes went to well-connected individuals, a judge ruled. Former village clerk Harold Scully testified that Republican senator Alfonse D'Amato ordered him to add his cousin to the list of people eligible to purchase one of the 44 financed houses. Officials tipped off politically-connected residents to get their names on the top of the list before others had the opportunity to apply.

The judge found Island Park, Long Island, liable for millions of dollars in damages. A U.S. magistrate will determine the exact amount at a later hearing. No Blacks received any of the homes.

Bill would outlaw anti-gay bias

Rhode Island may soon become the ninth state to outlaw discrimination against gays. Gov. Lincoln Almond said he will sign the bill, which the Senate passed May 19 and the House approved last March. The measure forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, credit, housing, and public accommodation, except by religious organizations. An amendment allowing the Boy Scouts to refuse to hire homosexuals was defeated.

House votes to ease water control

The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation May 16 to ease pollution controls contained in dozens of programs under the Clean Water Act of 1972. The bipartisan vote would rewrite major sections of environmental law. The bill would give more authority to state governments, and more weight to the considerations of corporations, in setting water-quality standards. President Bill Clinton threatened to veto the measure.

Court to reconsider vote ban

A three-judge appeals panel recently ordered a federal court to reconsider a lawsuit by Black and Latino inmates in New York who challenged a state law that prohibits them from voting. Nine prisoners filed suit last year arguing that forbidding inmates convicted of felonies from voting dilutes Black and Hispanic voting power in New York City, in violation of the Voting Rights Act. The plaintiffs noted that 75 percent of people in state prisons are members of oppressed nationalities from New York City and that Blacks are statistically more likely to be imprisoned than whites for the same felonies.

The court must decide if the state law violates the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits any practices that disenfranchise voters because of race. Plaintiffs are not required to prove that discrimination was intentional, only that it occurred. Thirty states bar inmates convicted of felonies from voting.

— PAT SMITH

THE MILITANT

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S. Africa gov't to set up truth commission

BY GREG ROSENBERG

South Africa's National Assembly on May 17 approved the Truth Bill, which will provide for public airing of crimes committed under apartheid rule. The legislation is expected to be approved by the Senate and signed into law by South African president Nelson Mandela.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in political violence over the past decade alone in South Africa. The army, police, special hit squads, and political parties receiving arms, funding, and training from the white regime — particularly the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) — were responsible for most of these deaths.

The bill would establish an 11- to 17-member Truth and Reconciliation Commission to probe violence, murder, and other abuses committed under apartheid rule. The commission would be empowered to grant amnesty to those who admit to the details of crimes they committed prior to Dec. 5, 1993, and to grant compensation to the victims.

The bill passed after a five-hour debate that followed months of intensive public discussion on its final provisions. Only the Freedom Front, a right-wing party campaigning for a *volkstaat* — an Afrikaner homeland — voted against the measure. The Freedom Front counts several former and current top military and police officials in its ranks, and is led by former general Constand Viljoen.

Inkatha deputies abstained from the vote stating they favored a judicial inquiry rather than a truth commission. Responding to this, Water and Forestry Affairs Minister Kader Asmal of the African National Congress said, "we must make it impossible for those who were part of an evil past to present a sanitized, white-washed version to future generations."

Both the Freedom Front and National Party, led by South African deputy-president F.W. de Klerk, argued that the date for the amnesty should be extended to May 10, 1994 — the date of ANC president Mandela's inauguration as president of the republic. This was necessary, said Freedom Front spokesman Corne Mulder, to prevent "disunity and further conflict."

In the parliamentary debate, Mandela said he sympathized with the call for extending the cutoff date, but that those who were promoting this idea would first have to cooperate to bring down the level of political violence inside the country.

Rising violence in KwaZulu-Natal

Opponents of the democratic revolution are stepping up their violent opposition to its course, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal province. On November 1, nationwide local government elections will take place — the first in which citizens will be able to cast ballots in a majority-rule election.

Registration is picking up. More than 57 percent of those eligible are now registered to vote in the November 1 elections.

Inkatha is resisting the approaching elections and steps taken toward forging a nation. Inkatha thugs stormed the provincial parliament in Ulundi May 9 disrupting government functions.

They have also been implicated in the massacre of more than a dozen ANC members in May. From May 1 to 24, at least 66 people were killed in political violence. On May 9, 1-1 ANC supporters were killed in three attacks at Isithebe on the



Militant/Greg Rosenberg
Aftermath of rightist bombing near Johannesburg offices of ANC, April 24, 1994. Freedom Front and National Party want amnesty date extended to May 10, 1994.

northern coast. According to a report in the *New Nation* newspaper, "Hostels around Durban are being turned into armed camps, with residents being forced out and Inkatha Freedom Party fighters trained at the Mlaba camp in northern KwaZulu-Natal being deployed to replace them."

Inkatha leaders continue to demand in-

ternational mediation to advance their demands for provincial autonomy to preserve the wealth and privilege they derived from running the KwaZulu homeland under apartheid.

Mandela told a May 20 rally in KwaMthethwa in KwaZulu-Natal that the province "is under the dark cloud of a reign of fear and destruction perpetrated

by criminals who want to return us to the past... These acts of thuggery have intensified since some senior politicians called on their followers in this province to rise and resist the central government....

"I want to warn again: Should they dare abuse government funds to finance the agenda to 'rise and resist' central government, I will not hesitate to stop the funding and find alternative channels of servicing the people of this province."

Mandela added that "the ANC is ready to meet any interested party, including the IFP on constitutional matters. But we don't believe that the involvement of foreigners at this stage will take us any closer to an agreement. Our view is that all parties are capable of representing their own viewpoints."

"More than 20,000 innocent people have been slaughtered in this senseless violence since 1984. It is my duty to stop that cruel slaughter," said Mandela in a May 10 interview with the *Sowetan*.

"There must be free and fair elections in the forthcoming local government elections in every part of our country, including KwaZulu-Natal. I am not going to allow a situation where other political parties are not allowed to contest in KwaZulu-Natal."

The ANC's stance has brought reproach from the big-business press. The *Johannesburg Star* wrote that the threat to cut off funds to the provincial legislature "will inflame rather than cool temperatures." The editors of *Business Day* described Inkatha's course as a protest against "ANC duplicity on international mediation."

Tel Aviv suspends seizure of Palestinian land

BY PAT SMITH

The Israeli government retreated May 22 and suspended its plan to usurp more than 130 acres of Palestinian-owned land in Jerusalem. Marwan Kanafani, a spokesperson for the Palestinian Authority, said the administration hoped Tel Aviv's about-face represented "an ultimate retreat [from] the whole policy of land confiscation," not simply a domestic political maneuver.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government was facing mounting criticism internationally and a no-confidence vote in Parliament that threatened to bring down his government.

Officials throughout the Middle East and Europe had condemned the proposed land seizures. Many Israelis interviewed by the media also expressed their disapproval of the proposed government action.

Washington stood alone May 17, as it killed a United Nations Security Council resolution asking Tel Aviv "to rescind the expropriation [of land] and to refrain from such action in the future." The mild decree would have laid no sanctions or other punishment against Israel if the government went through with its plan to take land in the Jerusalem neighborhoods of Beit Safara or Beit Hanina.

Representatives of the governments of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria welcomed the reversal and called off a May 27 summit in Rabat, Morocco, to discuss their response to the Israeli government's planned confiscation and Wash-

ington's UN veto.

Although Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman Yasir Arafat had said the confiscations would not interfere with talks with the Israeli government, others in the PLO leadership warned Tel Aviv that the land issue could spark a new uprising among Palestinians. "There is a serious and continuing attempt to swallow Jerusalem land piece by piece," said Nabil Shaath, a PLO negotiator. "And this threatens the whole peace process."

Israeli foreign minister Shimon Peres met with Arafat May 22 in Gaza to try to smooth over the situation. In a gesture aimed at keeping the talks going, Peres agreed to increase the number of Palestinian laborers allowed to work inside Israel by several thousand to 35,000. He also pledged that Palestinians in the West Bank may assume authority over electricity, energy, and a few other areas before the July 1 deadline agreed to in the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian accords. Implementing the next stage in the accords, including Israeli withdrawal from more West Bank towns, is already a year behind schedule.

Some 400 Palestinians rallied in east Jerusalem May 19 to demand an end to land seizures. In a leaflet distributed May 21 in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, rank-and-file activists from Fatah, the dominant group in the PLO, called on the organization to suspend talks until the Israeli government canceled the land seizures.

U.S. veto condemned

Officials in Europe and the Middle East berated Washington for vetoing the Security Council resolution. Legislators in Jordan proposed suspending that country's treaty with Tel Aviv. "It is inappropriate that a veto be used against a resolution which aimed to defend the peace process," Egypt's foreign minister Amr Moussa said. "True, the Israeli position is backed by America, but it is rejected by Arabs, and it is with the Arabs that the peace process is being conducted."

"We are furious with both the Israelis and the Americans," a European Union official said after the UN vote.

The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem condemned the latest confiscations. The group said that since Tel Aviv took control of Jerusalem in the 1967 war the Israeli government seized one-third of the 17,500 acres that used to be under the Jordanian government's control. Not one of the more than 38,000 housing units Tel Aviv constructed there went to Palestinian

families.

"We inherited this land — it's important to us," said Mohammed Jadallah, a Palestinian physician whose two acres of land were scheduled to be seized by the Israeli government. "Unfortunately, this is the last area that we have as a family because of other confiscations over the last 25 years." The Israeli government has refused to grant Jadallah construction permits. Tel Aviv said it planned to build a police headquarters and housing, including 440 apartments for Palestinians, on the land. "Instead of giving us houses the way they want it," Jadallah said, "why don't they let us build houses our way?"

The Israeli government told property owners they would be able to appeal the expropriations or apply for compensation. However, the government never made a serious compensation offer. It was also clear that Palestinians would continue to reject payments that amount to legitimizing Tel Aviv's "right" to their land.

Status of Jerusalem

The latest land-seizure announcement propelled the question of the future of Jerusalem to center stage. Faisal Husseini of the PLO called for immediate talks with Tel Aviv on the status of Jerusalem May 18.

"The battle for Jerusalem has begun," Israel's housing minister said.

Rightists like Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert backed the confiscation plan. "This is a Jewish city. I think that having more Arabs is calling for trouble. I have to show who is the *balabusta*," he said, using the Yiddish word for master of the house. He condemned the government's suspension of the seizures saying, "This is a government of surrenderers, a government lacking self-respect and principles, a bunch of cowards."

Washington's rejection of the Security Council resolution came only a few weeks after it won indefinite extension of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty despite strong opposition from the Egyptian and other Arab governments, who sought to force Israel to sign the agreement. After the U.S. veto at the United Nations, Cairo's foreign minister warned, "If things go on like this, there will be a nuclear race in the region."

He said there can never be peace in the region while Israel possesses nuclear weapons. "In the past we have wasted numerous opportunities to build up a power that can stand up to the Israeli nuclear armaments program. We cannot afford to do this any longer."

Miners hold onto eight-hour day

Continued from front page

period for new hires from 45 to 30 days.

The union wanted a Training and Education Fund whereby the company paid for schooling for active miners, their dependents, and those laid-off. This was omitted from the final contract.

A "Labor-Management Positive Change Program" similar to that included in the 1993 National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement was incorporated into the new contract. UMWA International Secretary-Treasurer Jerry Jones, who negotiated for the union, said in the March-April *United Mine Workers Journal* that this set up "empowers our members and gives them a stronger voice to keep their mines competitive..."

Oliver said the union introduced its version of a labor-management committee in

order to avoid the company's proposal.

Although the strike lasted only nine days, (an article in issue no. 20 of the *Militant* mistakenly reported that the union had returned to work after three days on strike) many unions called to offer support including Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers locals, nearby UMWA locals and the teachers union in Gallup, New Mexico.

Train crews at Gallup's Santa Fe facility were affected by the strike — they usually load two trains per day at the P&M McKinley mine. One conductor, a member of the United Transportation Union (UTU), told this reporter he was glad to see the miners stand up to the company.

Dan Fein is a member of UTU Local 1416 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

New Jersey protest: 'We want cop in jail'

BY DAN FURMAN

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey — Some 500 people marched through the driving rain here May 17 to protest police brutality and demand justice for Julio Tarquino. Tarquino, 22, was visiting New Jersey from Palm Springs, Florida, with his fiancée when he was arrested, handcuffed, and brutally beaten by off-duty police officers May 8. He died five days later from his injuries.

The march drew participants and gestures of solidarity from nearby apartment dwellers as it wound its way from the gas station where Tarquino was attacked to a rally in front of the county administration building in downtown Jersey City. Tarquino was a Bolivian native, and many participants carried Bolivian flags, as well as flags from Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and other countries in Latin America. A soccer team joined the march in uniform. Speakers at the rally included a broad array of Latino community leaders, victims of police brutality, and other activists.

Tarquino had stopped with Jenny Fiallos, his fiancée, and a friend at a gas station on the way home from a nightclub. After a confrontation with two men outside, off-duty cop John Chiusolo ran up and began hitting Tarquino. According to witnesses, Tarquino was handcuffed, struck with a blackjack and then repeat-

edly kicked in the head by Chiusolo while on the ground.

All three were arrested and taken to a hospital after the scuffle. There they were examined for head injuries and then released back into police custody. Five hours later, Tarquino was discovered slumped over in his cell. He died from bleeding on the brain caused by multiple skull fractures.

The incident provoked particular outrage because Chiusolo has a history of brutality. In 1991, he shot and killed Maximino Cintrón Ortiz, a 22-year old from Puerto Rico who was tinting the car windows of a friend in Jersey City. Despite organized protests, Chiusolo was cleared by a grand jury three months later. After Tarquino's arrest, a Puerto Rican man came forward to complain about being beaten by Chiusolo after he was stopped on the highway. On May 9, nearly 150 protesters stormed into the Jersey City Council meeting to demand justice for Tarquino.

Under increasing pressure, Jersey City authorities charged Chiusolo with murder. Chiusolo turned himself in and was released on \$100,000 bail, provoking further outrage. "This is not enough to pay for Julio's life," said his brother Milton Tarquino, who flew up from Bolivia. The Bolivian government has asked for an investigation into the death of Julio Tarquino.



Militant/Martha Pettit

Some 500 demonstrators demand justice for Julio Tarquino, who was killed by Jersey City cops. Officer who beat Tarquino had a history of police brutality charges.

Speakers addressed the May 17 rally for two hours, mostly in Spanish, with speeches frequently punctuated by cries of "Justice for Julio!"

"I was brutalized myself," said Isabel Espinoza, a local activist against police brutality. "It is not just abuse — it takes away our dignity, our self-esteem. We have to fight back. And it is not just Latinos who understand this. We are a mixed community — whites, Blacks and Latinos must fight this together."

Others raised that the problem lay

within the police department. "The police are charged with upholding the law," said Maynard Banks, president of the Jersey City chapter of the NAACP. "We need to have an independent civilian review board appointed so that we can ensure that they do their job right."

De Lacy Davis, an East Orange policeman and founder of "Black Cops Against Police Brutality" stated, "We, as Black and Latino police officers, must stand up and not allow this kind of thing to happen." "We need officers that look like us, understand us, and that come from the same background as us," chimed in a Jersey City detective who joined him onstage. Jersey City police organizations have come out in support of Chiusolo.

Many in the crowd expressed the view that the arrest of Chiusolo was just the beginning of the struggle. "We want him tried on homicide charges," said Tony Morales. "We don't want him to get a slap on the wrist — we want him in jail."

"This is a fight for all working people," said Robert Miller, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in New Jersey's 29th District, who spoke at the rally. "As an auto worker, I can tell you that this is being discussed in every language among workers across the state. A victory is possible in this case — we can win the conviction of Chiusolo — but only if we keep organizing and reaching out to draw more people into the struggle against police brutality."

Girvies Davis is executed in Illinois

BY RAY PARSONS

CHICAGO — Early May 17, officials at Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill, Illinois, injected three lethal chemicals into the arm of Girvies Davis, killing him over the course of six minutes.

The state convicted and sentenced Davis to death in the 1978 murder of Charles Biebel. No physical evidence linked him to the murder. The case was based mainly on confessions police claim Davis offered to make in a written note to his jailers, then freely read and signed. But Davis was illiterate at the time of his arrest, a fact not made known to trial jurors.

The confessions were produced after police took Davis on a late night ride "looking for evidence." Davis explained that he had been taken to an isolated spot, his handcuffs removed, and the offer made: try running away, or sign the papers presented before him.

"I signed everything they had," Davis said. "I was fearful for my life. I found out later I had signed statements for 10 murders and 10 attempted murders and my Miranda rights." Included were confessions to nine other murders. The prosecution now acknowledges that three of these murders were committed by other people.

During the trial against Davis, who is Black, the prosecution used preemptory challenges to exclude all Blacks from the jury. This practice was later held to be unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. The ruling did not apply retroactively.

The Girvies Davis Clemency committee led a campaign for justice in Davis' case that involved a wide array of death penalty abolitionists, religious figures, civil liberties activists, and youth from area colleges and high schools. Several street protests were organized including one of 300 people May 6. The case received wide attention in the media in Illinois and around the world. Lawyers for Davis put defense information on the Internet, and Illinois Governor Jim Edgar's office received some 1,200 e-mail messages of protest from around the world.

The Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty has campaigned tirelessly against Davis' death sentence. Seth Donnelly, the group's executive director, said the obvious frame-up nature of this case was responsible for bringing together a broad opposition.

Prof. David Protes and a team of graduate students at Northwestern University's school of journalism worked extensively to uncover the trial inconsistencies key to Davis' appeal for clemency. Protes was joined by eight area law professors at a press conference May 14 to call on Edgar

to block the scheduled execution.

At DePaul University, student activists of Students for a Democratic Society, Amnesty International, and other groups sponsored a campus forum in defense of Davis on May 11, drawing 30 participants. At a May 15 rally outside the State of Illinois Building in downtown Chicago, Darby Tillis spoke in defense of Davis. Tillis spent nine years in prison on frame-up charges, four of those years on death row. It took five trials, with three hung juries, before Tillis was acquitted.

U.S. Congressman Donald Payne, representing the Congressional Black Caucus, wrote to Edgar, "There are just too many inconsistencies in the beyond-a-reasonable-doubt decisions that were

made in this case."

Even proponents of capital punishment felt compelled to distance themselves from the Davis execution. Former Chicago police chief Richard J. Brzezczek came forward, worried that "I'm very much in favor of the death penalty, but this is the kind of case that gives capital punishment a bad name."

In an interview with the *Militant*, Donnelly pointed to the importance of fighting the use of capital punishment. "This struggle is becoming more central to the struggle for human rights," he said. Promotion of the death penalty "is one of the primary tools used by politicians to divert attention from the real source of the problems of society."

Toronto meeting exposes frame-up cases

BY MARGARET MANWARING

TORONTO — "If you want to know who this happens to, look in the mirror," explained Kirk Bloodworth. He was addressing the conference of the Association in Defense of the Wrongly Convicted (AIDWYC) held in Toronto May 5-6.

Bloodworth was one of several victims of wrongful convictions who spoke at the conference. He was released from prison in 1993, nine years after he was framed for the rape and murder of a nine-year-old girl in Maryland. DNA testing of the evidence led to his release.

"It Could Happen to You" was the title of the final session of the conference where Bloodworth spoke. He was joined on the panel by Guy Paul Morin, Marshall Thompson, David Milgaard and Thomas Sophonow. All of them had done time in Canada's prisons for murders they did not commit, up to 22 years in the case of Milgaard. Joyce Milgaard, David's mother and untiring activist in the campaign for his release, chaired the session.

Their testimony provided a moving conclusion to the conference of about 130 participants which also heard from lawyers, judges, a forensic scientist, representatives of the media and activists involved in defense campaigns.

The Executive Director of AIDWYC, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, also spoke. Carter, who spent 19 years in U.S. prisons for a 1966 murder he did not commit, drew out some lessons about the fight for justice in the United States and elsewhere. "Once you become a suspect, once you become a target of the police, you're in trouble. Forget about innocent until proven guilty," he said.

Several speakers answered those who would argue that the fact these victims of wrongful conviction are free today proves that "the system works." Kirk Makin, author of *Redrum the Innocent* that documents the case of Guy Paul Morin, explained that his story is rather "a saga of the miscarriage of justice."

Both James McCloskey, founder of Centurion Ministries, a U.S. organization dedicated to freeing the wrongly convicted, and James Lockyer, one of Morin's lawyers, pointed to the similarities between different cases of unjust conviction. Prosecutorial and police misconduct are common, involving the suppression or manipulation of evidence, the willful use of jailhouse informants, and the wringing of false confessions through grueling and confusing interrogations.

"We should be concerned about those who are sworn to uphold the law and who knowingly send innocent persons to prison. What else is this but a crime? They kidnap an innocent person, there's forceful confinement, torture and in the case of the death penalty, conspiracy to commit murder," Carter said.

One of the powerful indictments of the "justice" system presented at the conference was the case of Donzel Young, a Black youth who did six and a half years in Ontario's prisons for a murder he did not commit. Young was known to his friends as "the peacemaker." Despite ample evidence that Young was not the murderer, he never received proper legal representation before his conviction.

In 1994 AIDWYC decided to take up a public campaign to win Young's freedom. Key eyewitness testimony was unearthed.

A documentary about his innocence aired on a prime-time news program. The request for a new trial was filed with the Minister of Justice. In March 1995 Young was murdered in prison trying to protect a fellow inmate from thugs.

Among those participating in the conference were supporters of the campaign to defend Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist sentenced to 25 years in Iowa on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. John Cox, a member of the steering committee for the defense campaign, reported that many new supporters were won at the conference. Ten copies of the new Pathfinder pamphlet, *Why is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* were sold and 20 conference participants signed up to receive more information about Mark's fight for freedom and justice.

"This is outrageous!" said Joyce Milgaard after getting information about the Curtis case. She pledged to write to Curtis in prison and send a letter to the Iowa parole board demanding that he be released.

Cox noted that many people involved in defense campaigns, such as those represented at the conference, are fighters who readily understand the nature of Curtis' frame up. "This conference provided a vivid illustration of the injustice that the so-called criminal justice system metes out every day to working people in the United States and Canada," Cox said.

Demands raised by conference participants included the need to ban the use of jailhouse informants, the formation of a public body responsible for inquiries into wrongful convictions, and provisions for speedy retribution for those freed from prison.



international campaign to win new readers



Militant 2,950
Perspectiva Mundial 675
New International 1,200

sold 49%
should be 70%

Sales drive enters final weeks

Continued from front page
darity around the world and building the August "Cuba Lives" International Youth Festival. Supporters of self-determination for Ireland — in Northern Ireland, Ireland, England, the United States, and elsewhere — are taking the initiative in the fight to end the British occupation and division of Ireland. Mine workers from Window Rock, Arizona, to Mt. Isa, Australia, have pushed back attacks by the bosses on their unions.

Thinking workers, young people, and others who want to stand up against the effects of the worldwide crisis of the market system need to know about these struggles and need to know how they can be part of the fight to get rid of capitalism and build a new society. They need to read the *Militant* and other socialist publications.

Over the next few weeks, the *Militant* will feature first-hand reports by correspondents traveling to Argentina, Cuba, Haiti, and Uruguay. It will also feature coverage on how defenders of the Cuban revolution and other young people are building the Cuba Lives festival, which begins August 1 in Havana. This gives an added incentive not to miss a single issue.

Successfully reaching the goals in the circulation campaign is a big job, but it is completely possible. It means making maximum use of the international target week announced in last week's *Militant*, which will run from May 27 through June 4. Supporters of the socialist press internationally need to use that week to gain momentum in the drive. At meetings

during Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams's tour of the United States, activities in defense of the Cuban revolution, picket lines, rallies against police brutality, and many other events, supporters have sold hundreds of single copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Now is the time to follow up with these readers to sign them up for a subscription.

The items that follow give an idea of some of the sales experiences *Militant* supporters have had over the last week. If you would like to help with the international effort to get out the papers that tell the truth about working people's struggles, please get in touch with the nearest distributor listed on page 12, or contact the *Militant* at (212) 243-6392.

In Solidarity,
Paul Mailhot
Paul Mailhot
Acting Editor

A sales team of *Militant* supporters traveled to Window Rock, Arizona, on the Navajo reservation May 18-19 to talk to miners at the P&M surface mine who recently returned to work following a successful nine-day strike. Team members sold 32 single copies of the *Militant* and two subscriptions at three shift changes at the mine gate. The team also interviewed local union officers, one of whom purchased the Pathfinder pamphlet *Genocide Against the Indians* by George Novack.

Miners expressed particular interest in the fight to free Canadian gold miner and union activist Roger Warren, who is serving a prison term on frame-up charges,

and in the articles on the struggle for land by Maoris in New Zealand.

The team also went to the Santa Fe railyard in Gallup, New Mexico, just a short distance from the mine, and sold one subscription and six single issues of the *Militant* to brakemen and engineers.

Supporters of the *Militant* in Greensboro, North Carolina, report that one activist bought a subscription to the *Militant* after participating in a recent picket line protesting former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to the state.

Supporters cite new opportunities for selling subscriptions to the Spanish-language magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*. Hundreds of workers from Mexico and Central America have recently moved to the area. A sales team is being organized to visit Morganton, where Guatemalan workers recently struck a poultry processing plant.

Supporters of the socialist press in Atlanta are contacting 21 youth who subscribe to the *Militant* to consider buying the Marxist magazine *New International*. A sales team, which will include a member of the Young Socialists, will also travel to the coal fields in Alabama for several days.

Militant supporters will participate in the national Rainbow Coalition conference in Atlanta May 24-27, a youth concert and a Caribbean festival over the Memorial Day weekend, a meeting protesting the U.S. Army School of the Americas, and a meeting with garment workers in Union Point, Georgia.

An appeal to our readers

Dear Reader,

During the next few weeks, *Militant* reporting teams will bring our readers on-the-spot coverage of the impact of the capitalist economic crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean and working people's response, as well as continue our eyewitness reports on developments in Cuba.

This week Argiris Malapanis, who has written extensively about developments in Cuba, and Martin Koppel, editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, are covering the São Paulo Forum taking place in Montevideo, Uruguay. The forum is a gathering of political parties from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean that identify with the fight for national sovereignty and against imperialist domination.

Koppel and Malapanis will also spend a week in Argentina covering political developments there, interviewing strikers, human rights activists, and others.

A team of *Militant* correspondents — Mary-Alice Waters and Luis Madrid from New York and Emie Mailhot from Miami — will

Help the 'Militant' provide eyewitness reports from Argentina to Cuba



spend two weeks in Cuba in June and participate in a conference of U.S. and Cuban philosophers and social scientists. They will visit Havana and Matanzas and speak with workers, farmers, and youth on the measures being taken to confront Cuba's economic crisis and defend the socialist revolution.

Another feature of *Militant* coverage in upcoming weeks will be first-hand reporting from Haiti. Correspondents Simone Berg from Newark, Jean Luc Duval from Detroit, and Emie Mailhot will be attending the May 26-28 congress of the National Popular Assembly in Port-au-Prince, as well as interviewing workers, youth, and others active in the fight for democratic rights in Haiti.

These trips make possible the kind of unmatched coverage the *Militant* has been able to consistently provide on Cuba and working-class struggles

throughout the Americas. The cost of these trips will exceed \$14,000, so your generous help is needed.

The *Militant* depends on the contributions from our readers to make these trips possible. Please send your contribution today!

Sincerely,

Naomi Craine
Naomi Craine
Business Manager

Make your contribution payable to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014, and specify "Travel Fund."

Enclosed: \$250 \$100 Other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

	Militant			Perspectiva Mundial			New International		
	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	sold	goal		
Sweden*	28	40	70%	10	15	41	45		
Greece	7	10	70%	0	1	4	4		
Iceland	9	15	60%	0	1	1	3		
Canada									
Vancouver	40	70	57%	5	8	14	20		
Toronto	47	85	55%	8	15	9	45		
Montreal	32	75	43%	4	25	25	45		
Total	119	230	52%	17	48	48	110		
Puerto Rico	1	2	50%	3	8	3	5		
New Zealand									
Wellington	8	10	80%	0	0	2	4		
Auckland	38	80	48%	1	6	7	20		
Christchurch	17	40	43%	2	2	4	10		
Total	63	130	48%	3	8	10	34		
United States									
Atlanta*	66	90	73%	17	25	27	25		
Greensboro	47	70	67%	5	8	10	20		
Seattle	58	90	64%	11	15	20	25		
Los Angeles	114	180	63%	60	90	58	90		
Miami	61	105	58%	19	45	34	60		
Salt Lake City	61	105	58%	12	20	13	35		
Washington, DC	45	80	56%	16	30	17	35		
Boston	56	100	56%	9	30	17	35		
Houston	44	80	55%	6	15	13	20		
Morgantown	30	55	55%	1	2	6	20		
Peoria	27	50	54%	2	2	11	20		
Twin Cities*	58	120	48%	20	17	12	35		
Philadelphia	50	115	43%	7	30	18	45		
Pittsburgh	45	105	43%	6	12	9	30		
San Francisco	63	150	42%	9	45	49	75		
Des Moines	34	85	40%	12	36	7	30		
Detroit	37	95	39%	2	10	15	28		
Brooklyn	48	130	37%	14	40	32	65		
Chicago	45	130	35%	8	30	1	20		
New York	45	135	33%	14	30	27	75		
Cleveland	19	65	29%	10	12	4	50		
Birmingham	20	70	29%	5	5	1	20		
Newark	37	130	28%	14	35	14	60		
Tucson	7	10	10%	1	2	2	5		
Cincinnati	0	12	0%	0	2	0	3		
New Haven	0	15	0%	0	3	0	3		
Total U.S.	1117	2372	47%	280	591	417	929		
Australia	17	40	43%	4	6	8	15		
Britain									
Sheffield*	8	15	53%	1	1	0	10		
London*	34	70	49%	7	8	21	30		
Manchester	10	60	17%	4	6	6	25		
Total	52	145	36%	8	13	21	65		
France	2	10	20%	2	5	14	20		
Belgium	0	3	0%	0	4	0	10		
Other	17			2					
International	1432	2997	49%	329	700	567	1240		
Should be	2065	2950	70%	472	675	840	1200		

IN THE UNIONS							
AUSTRALIA							
AMWU (Metal)	0	1	0%	0	1	0	0
AWU-FIME	0	2	0%	1	1	0	0
Total	0	3	0%	0	2	0	0
CANADA							
CAW	1	0	0%	1	0	0	0
CEP	2	7	0%	0	1	0	1
IAM	7	11	0%	1	5	2	5
USWA	1	0	0%	0	0	0	0
Total	11	18	61%	2	6	2	6
NEW ZEALAND							
EU	3	5	60%	0	1	1	2
MWU	0	4	0%	0	0	0	1
Total	3	9	33%	0	1	1	3
SWEDEN							
Foodworkers	0	2	0%	0	0	3	4
Metalworkers	1	2	50%	0	0	2	2
Transport	0	1	0%	0	0	1	3
Total	1	5	20%	0	0	6	9
U.S.							
IAM	51	75	68%	9	15	8	33
UTU	53	85	62%	2	7	3	44
UFCW	8	15	53%	3	25	0	12
UAW	52	100	52%	3	10	27	40
USWA	17	40	43%	1	3	1	7
OCAW	14	55	25%	0	6	5	25
UMWA	14	23	61%	0	0	0	12
ACTWU/ILGWU	13	30	17%	6	24	1	18
Total	222	423	52%	24	90	45	191
UNION TOTALS	237	457	52%	27	98	54	209
*raised goal							

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

Sinn Fein president speaks in U.S. cities

Continued from front page
 supporters to turn out for meetings across the country. "I don't know," Adams said. "I've spoken to large audiences during this tour. The British government spends up to a \$100 million in the U.S. every year. They are powerful in terms of making propaganda over here. It's very satisfying to come here and begin a dialogue. This is a great beginning."

BY DAVID ROWLANDS

CLEVELAND — Gerry Adams participated in two successful events to raise funds for Friends of Sinn Fein Inc. during his one-day visit here. He encouraged people in the United States to play a part in this turning point in the struggle for a united Irish republic.

Cleveland city councilman Patrick O'Malley hosted a \$250-per-plate buffet and reception with Adams as the guest of honor. This event drew nearly 150 supporters of Irish independence, including many elected city and county officials, candidates for office, a group of residents of Arab origin, and a few workers.

At the reception, Adams spoke of the tremendous response he has received in cities across the United States from many nationalities and ethnic groups. He said he was particularly pleased to have been able to meet with Native Americans.

Later that evening, Adams spoke to 350 people at a public meeting held at the West Side Irish American Club in Olmsted Township, west of Cleveland. Tom Coyne, mayor of Brook Park, introduced the Sinn Fein president. People attended from all over Ohio as well as Toronto, Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Buffalo, New York.

Activists in Saoirse set up a table to

pass out green ribbons and cards with the names of fighters for Irish freedom held in U.S. jails. Saoirse was set up to organize to win the release of all Irish political prisoners around the world.

Kevin Porter, a senior at Kirtland High School, said he had organized for a representative of Irish Northern Aid to visit his class. "It's excellent that Gerry Adams can speak in the United States," Porter said. "It's important to hear what Sinn Fein has to say, to listen to their side of the struggle."

David Rowlands is a member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 217.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

CHICAGO — "Britain failed to crush the Irish spirit in Ireland and here. The peace process is about getting our own back," Gerry Adams said with confidence, addressing more than 1,000 people gathered at Lane Tech High School here May 17. Irish resistance has remained undefeated because "the British have not been able to colonize our minds," he said. "This is the best opportunity for peace in 75 years. Let's not waste it."

Pointing to the green ribbon on his jacket lapel Adams encouraged the audience to become active in the Saoirse campaign, an international effort calling for the release of all Irish political prisoners. "There will be no peace until all the prisoners are released," said Adams.

He also encouraged the audience to support the Irish solidarity organizations and to appeal for support for the peace process from "elected politicians, women's organizations, unions," and others.

The audience included representatives



Gerry Adams addresses more than 1,000 people in Chicago May 17. London "failed to crush Irish spirit in Ireland and here," the Sinn Fein president said. Militant/Sukul Baul

from Native American organizations, the Union of Palestinian Women, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, and elected local politicians. Many participants drove long distances, coming from central Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. There were also activists there from the Irish-American Student Organization, which has chapters at five Midwest schools, and Irish Northern Aid of Chicago.

Prior to the Lane Tech meeting, the Sinn Fein leader was warmly received at a \$250 fund-raising luncheon attended by 230 people in downtown Chicago.

Adams also met with the editorial board of the *Chicago Tribune*. "During his first visit to Chicago...the reputed terrorist turned peacemaker was treated more like

a pop star," reported the *Tribune* the following day. In fact, his visit received more attention than the arrival of Douglas Hurd, British foreign secretary and former Northern Ireland secretary for London. Hurd, who was scheduled to speak to local businessmen here, "vehemently opposed President Clinton's decision in March to meet with Adams and allow him to raise funds in the U.S.," according to the *Tribune*.

While in Chicago, Adams also attended a successful book signing event for his work, entitled *Free Ireland, Towards a Lasting Peace*.

Frank Forrestal is a member of UAW Local 551 in Chicago.

Notes from Belfast: 'All we want is equality'

The following notes and observations were made by a Militant reporting team of Paul Davies, Ann Fiander, Tony Hunt, and Stephen Jenner that traveled to Belfast, Northern Ireland, May 5-8.

BY ANN FIANDER

BELFAST, Northern Ireland— Throughout the north of Ireland, Sinn Fein has held regular community-based meetings in every area. Leaders of Sinn Fein, the dominant political force in the fight for Irish self-determination, address these meetings and take questions and comments from local residents about the strategy proposed by the organization.

Micheal Gallagher, a student at Queen's University studying in the first full Irish studies course to be offered at the campus, described the meetings as "an opportunity for the wider community to voice concerns. When the cease-fire came it was dramatic and questions and clarification were needed in nationalist circles."

He added, "people now look to Sinn Fein in a much more positive light and they have a popular base of support. Look at me — it's good to be out showing support. Before the cease-fire I was afraid to be active. The bus from the university to my home went to a Catholic area and I could not have been active in the struggle and caught the bus. Now I can continue my studies and demonstrate."

Henry McKinley, a former political prisoner and now a school caretaker, explained that "ordinary Catholics who don't necessarily agree with Sinn Fein's tactics still want the peace process to go forward. They have concerns that they raise at the meetings."

"My cousin was shot dead by the B-Specials in 1969," McKinley said, referring to the elite police force that for years helped enforce British rule in Northern Ireland. "My family wants to know that the IRA will not disarm and leave us at the mercy of the British again. Others are interested in what the 'peace dividend' will bring," he said. "People ask when they can get moved from the 'egg boxes,' the small terraced houses of the Catholic enclaves. "They want decent houses like the Protestants."

Many actions for national self-determination are taking place across Belfast. Sinn Fein leader Gerry Kelly addressed this at a memorial lecture on the anniversary of the death of political prisoner Bobby Sands May 5. "To grow in strength we must grow in numbers and expertise," he said. "Activities on the ground are essential to making the momentum of the peace process unstoppable. If anyone does not know what part they have to play or can play, come forward and a role will be found."

In contrast, Irish foreign minister Dick Spring called for a halt to all Protestant and Catholic parades and protests during the peace process.

This reporting team was able to participate in several of these local activities during the time we were in Belfast.

The week before we arrived, 700 residents on the Lower Ormeau road organized by the Lower Ormeau Concerned Community (LOCC) blocked the Langan bridge to demand that the Orange Order parade be re-routed.

"The re-routing is not a victory but common sense," said Tom Holland, an ex-prisoner participating in the May 7 Belfast rally commemorating Sands and demanding freedom for Irish political prisoners.

Residents in the Catholic enclave, which is hemmed in by Protestant areas, have been demanding the re-routing of the "kick-a-pope bands" since five people were shot dead in a bookie's shop there by loyalist gunmen, said Bobby, who lives in that neighborhood. The pro-British demonstrators "march six or seven times a year and shout, 'Five,'" he said, holding up five fingers in a menacing gesture as they walk through the enclave. Bobby's cousin was one of the residents killed in the shooting. "They just want to walk down here to hurl sectarian abuse."

"We agreed to Sinn Fein's request to start the Bobby Sands Memorial March from town (Belfast city center) and not from here," he added. "We have a right to demonstrate from our area and there is no way to town that does not go near a loyalist area. But our marches are not triumphalist and we want a peaceful demonstration."

On Saturday, May 6, 250 people protested on the Lower Ormeau against the decision to re-route the rightist Orange order marches. One couple participating on the picket told the *Militant*, "It's not for Catholics to tell us to re-route our marches. The lodge has been marching for hundreds of years and the Catholics have only just moved into the area."

After the residents had stopped the third Orange Order march, Gerard Rice of the LOCC said he was prepared to meet with the Orange lodge. "The LOCC has promised to continue opposition to the sectarian marches," Rice said, "but at the end of the day we want this issue resolved."

In the New Lodge area of Belfast the residents have been fighting for 25 years to change the names of their flats, now bearing the name, "Winston Churchill" and other British names, to Irish names. In the 1960s the workers living in the buildings picked new names, but City Hall refused to accept the changes.

One of the people living in the flats is Hugh Quinn, a retired brick layer who worked for 40 years but never had a job in Belfast. He said he had been forced to work in England.

"All we want is equality," Quinn told us. "We want Irish names for the flats. The Protestants have the right to change the names of their flats — we want the same."

The general view of the residents is that this demand has now been won as a result of their protests and they are awaiting the city council to change the name plates.

To fighters for national self-determination, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) is an arm of British colonial rule. On the streets the gray armored cars and the armed police create an atmosphere of fear and tension. The demand "Disband the RUC" is a key part of the fight by working people for the political space to organize and demonstrate in Northern Ireland.

In the two weeks leading up to the May 10 British government talks with Sinn

Fein, supporters of the democratic movement held pickets and demonstrations demanding equality in the negotiations. As Sinn Fein negotiator Kelly explained, "We will not accept a two-track approach which makes the Republican voter a second or third class citizen and neither will the republican community accept it. . . . There can be no democracy without equality of treatment."

Eight armored cars lined up in the road to "control" less than 100 demonstrators at a May 6 picket organized by Saoirse in central Belfast against the city council's refusal to allow a float from the prisoners' rights campaign on the Lord Mayors parade. One protester, Maria, commented, "We won't have trouble here — it's too public, the world can see." Things are different at the Equality Pickets, she said.

Maria described an RUC attack on a peaceful April 28 Equality Picket at New Lodge Road. There the cops dragged a pregnant woman off the sit-down protest in a neck hold, set dogs on the demonstrators, and hauled protesters repeatedly over the traffic bumps in the road, causing extensive bruising to their thighs and backs. "They are trying to intimidate people to stop the growing numbers joining the protests," the activist said.

The British government revealed its 100 percent backing for the police force when it announced in April even greater powers for the RUC. These include forced mouth swabs and searches, greater powers to enter premises without a warrant and to detain or arrest people, and random searches for incriminating evidence.

The upturn in political activities by opponents of British rule puts limits on what the cops are able to do, though. "The cease-fire has meant people feel safer to be seen peacefully demonstrating. The British government has had to control the RUC's open brutality against peaceful demonstrations because they no longer have the excuse of security," said Holland as we watched the gray armored vans at the May 7 demonstration.

Ann Fiander is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU) in Manchester, England.

Youth sign up for 'Cuba Lives' festival

BY LAURA GARZA

"I think it's an exciting opportunity to meet Cubans — and this becomes an act of solidarity," said Leslie Cagan, describing the plans for U.S. participation in an international youth festival to be held in Cuba August 1-7. Cagan is one of four national coordinators of the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), which groups more than 70 organizations working to oppose the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

The "Cuba Lives" International Youth Festival was called by several groups in Cuba who issued a public invitation to anyone opposed to the U.S. government's hostile policy against Cuba to participate in the event. The festival, Cagan added, "is also an opportunity to meet young people from all over the world."

In a number of areas local committees that campaign against the U.S. embargo have begun plans to sign people up for the festival. Some of those planning to attend will be writing articles for papers or newsletters and are working on confirming assignments from local media.

Twenty-three sign up in Boston

Twenty-three people have signed up to go to Cuba from Boston. They include high school and university students, one worker from a textile mill, and others involved in Cuba solidarity activities.

"An invitation was extended to us by Kenia Serrano Puig... Since then we have done everything possible to organize a group that would travel to Cuba," explains a letter sent out by a group of students

from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. Serrano, a leader of the Federation of University Students in Cuba, spoke at the high school while on a recent tour of the United States. There are seven students from the school confirmed to attend the festival.

"In these crucial times, we feel that it is very important for young people to learn about Cuba in the context of the US embargo," their letter explains. "Finally visiting Cuba would enable us to compare different models of development, by looking at alternative strategies and methods. We feel in today's shrinking world it is vital for us to be able to make judgments and decisions based on what we ourselves see and learn."

On June 2, a fund-raising dance featuring local bands will be held to raise money to ensure that those who are in need of financial assistance can make the trip. Other events will include a benefit performance by Teatro Latino, and a brunch. Ingrid LeClerc, a central organizer for the delegation and a member of the July 26 Coalition, explained it is "important that youth have an alternative view and alternative experience. This festival will empower youth politically and culturally." She hopes to sign up 100 people from New England.

A unique opportunity

"The festival is a unique opportunity because people will spend half the week out of Havana and in one of the provinces. That's important. To get a feel for life in Cuba you need to do both, you need to



Militant/Laura Garza

Youth agricultural contingent in Holguín province. Cuban youth have invited people around the world to see Cuba for themselves.

visit the provinces where life is different," explained Cagan. Several provinces will host meetings to discuss a particular theme such as employment, education and childhood, and the environment.

"This is an important gathering and I encourage people to go and then come home ready to do a lot of work," to oppose U.S. policy towards Cuba, Cagan said.

A brochure inviting people to the festival has been sent out all over the world listing the program for the festival. Among the activities planned is a "March against the blockade" and a concert in Havana on Saturday, August 5.

In Los Angeles, activists in the L.A. Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba are working to broaden participation in the festival, and already about a dozen people are planning to attend. A recent event organized by the coalition showed the interest in Cuba and gave a boost to their ef-

forts. More than 150 supporters of the Cuban revolution attended a May 19 event in celebration of the life and struggles of José Martí, the Cuban patriot killed in battle against Spanish colonial forces 100 years ago.

During the event, several participants signed up with the coalition to be a part of the delegation. Recently, the Los Angeles Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba formed a subcommittee to organize participation in the August Cuba Lives festival.

The May 19 event was sponsored by the coalition and was planned as part of an international day of solidarity with the Cuban revolution organized by the National Network on Cuba.

Cuban journalist Carlos Sario read some of Martí's poetry. Bill Estrada, a member of the Young Socialists, gave a presentation on the life and struggle of Martí.

Other speakers included Rafael Mariano, chairperson of the Peasant Movement of the Philippines (KMP); Viviana Trujillo, a student at the University of California-Los Angeles who is planning to attend the festival this August; Manuel Criollo, president of the Student Organization of Latinos at Los Angeles City College; and Carlos Ugalde, a professor at Glendale Community College.

Events commemorating the life of Martí were organized by local groups in solidarity with Cuba in a number of cities, including San Francisco where 200 people turned out to hear the featured speaker, Manuel Nuñez, deputy chief at the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C.

Contributing to this article were: Karen Ray from Boston, Laura Anderson from Los Angeles, and Eugene Craig from San Francisco.

Cuban youth leader begins Pacific tour

BY MARNIE KENNEDY

SYDNEY, Australia — Alejandro Herrera Agete, a leader of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba (UJC), began a nine-day speaking tour here with a May 24 reception attended by 30 people. Herrera was welcomed by Jamie Parker, the president of the National Union of Students (NUS) in New South Wales. The Cuban youth was invited by the NUS to visit, and he was granted a Public Lecturer's visa by the Australian government.

The tour is being sponsored by student associations and clubs, as well as academics and organizations active in support of the Cuban revolution. All participants are undertaking fund-raising to cover tour expenses.

In addition to meetings at five Sydney campuses, Herrera will be visiting maritime union members on the Sydney waterfront, who participated in a one-day national strike May 22, and meeting with students at a local Aboriginal college. A feature of the tour will be promotion of the "Cuba Lives" International Youth Festival in Cuba August 1-7.

Herrera will subsequently tour cities in New Zealand, and has been invited to speak in the Philippines.

—YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD — Utah high school bans socialist fliers

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.

The following is an excerpt from the article "Discrimination Feud Sees Clubs vs. Administration" that appeared in the April edition of the *East High Leopard*, the student newspaper of East High School in Salt Lake City, Utah.

BY TROY LANCE
Staff Writer

You wouldn't think that in a school such as East, where students in recent years have been very active in decision-making processes, and where in almost

every corner lurks, like a stain, an emphasis on school spirit, its own clubs would be the targets of "intimidation" by the administration. This just might be an issue worth looking at. When some of the posters being put up every week by members of the Socialist Club started disappearing, they discovered that their posters were in fact being torn down by the school's custodial staff. Robin Anderson, who is the head custodian here at East, was told by the administration to take the posters down because they were not posters which represented school activities. "Every activity has to be approved through the administration," and these, Mr. Anderson said, were not, also explaining it isn't very often that fliers have to be torn down. Most kids operate their clubs and organizations "properly."

The fliers themselves advertised Mili-

tant Labor Forums, which are frequently held off campus. They sponsor speakers, and suggest small donations to help pay for a dinner. The speaker advertised on the posters which [were] removed was Omari Musa, a "Representative of the Socialist Workers Party." "We try to stay away from any type of political advertising," Mr. Sadler said. "Any poster that has to do with a school [club] meeting [is] acceptable."

It stands to reason that going to see a Socialist speaker would be a legitimate meeting of the Socialist Club. And what is Sadler's definition of political advertising?... If this is, in his mind, political advertising, why does he allow the fliers to be put up which advertise enrollment in the military? Isn't that political?

"We don't accept posters promoting any type of commercial, enterprise, or fund-raising situation," Sadler also said. At the time of the writing of this article, there were bright yellow AT&T posters in every stairwell which announced "Permanent part-time positions," and "excellent benefits." The poster encouraged students to call AT&T's Job Hotline.

Robin Anderson claimed that this ripping of fliers from the wall "wasn't a direct attack on the Socialist Club..."

He explained that he "wants people to have political diversity, but there's a proper time, place and manner. Regulations that have to be adhered to." In fact, when this article was written, there was no written policy concerning which fliers could and could not be put up.

When the Socialist Club was founded, they passed a mission statement through the BOG which included a sentence specifically requesting the right to post fliers on school property pertaining to activities, meetings, and events. They were given that right.

Tami Peterson, head of the Socialist Club, expressed the opinion that this was an intimidation tactic. "It's a completely political issue, regardless of what Sadler says," she said. To end this article abruptly, it seems she was right.

Cuban youth and students invite the youth of the world to the

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'Lenin's Final Fight' presents battle to maintain communist course in Russia

Lenin's Final Fight—Speeches and Writings: 1922-23. 320 pp. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1995. \$19.95

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

"I think that a few dozen workers, added to the CC [Central Committee], can deal better than anybody else with checking, improving, and remodeling our state apparatus."

This proposal, made by V.I. Lenin in December 1922 to the approaching 12th

IN REVIEW

Congress of the Communist Party in Russia, captures the essence of the last political struggle waged by the central leader of the Russian revolution and the Soviet government in its early years.

Lenin's Final Fight, just published by Pathfinder, presents the record of that battle in Lenin's own words. In it, fighting workers, farmers, and youth will discover a gold mine of revolutionary politics and the real political legacy of the Bolshevik revolution.

Five years after the victory of the October 1917 revolution in Russia, Lenin was fighting to maintain the communist course along which the Bolshevik party had led millions of workers and peasants to take power over the landlords and capitalists, defeat invading imperialist armies, and begin to build a workers state.

This Pathfinder edition makes available the speeches, articles, letters, and other writings in which Lenin took up the battle inside the Bolshevik party that opened in September 1922. It compiles everything Lenin is known to have written from Dec. 21, 1922, until his last letter of March 6, 1923, addressed to Georgian communist leaders.

Previously scattered documents

While much of this material was already available in the English-language edition of Lenin's *Collected Works* published in Moscow in the 1960s, it was scattered among several volumes. By putting all these documents together and in chronological order, including a few published for the first time, *Lenin's Final Fight* makes for powerful reading.

Readers will find it hard to put down this book as they follow Lenin's struggle week by week, sometimes day by day, taking up political issues that remain vitally relevant today. The chronology, detailed index, explanatory notes, and descriptive chapter divisions are a valuable aid to the reader.

Lenin discusses some of the burning questions of that day, including the need to forge a union of workers and peasants republics, to defend the rights of oppressed nationalities and combat Great Russian chauvinism, and to strengthen the alliance between the working class and the peasantry. He takes up the New Economic Policy and its place in the world struggle for socialism, and defends the state monopoly of foreign trade.

These questions, as the book's introduction notes, "deal with the most decisive piece of unfinished business in front of those who produce the wealth of the world and make possible culture: they deal with the worldwide struggle, opened by the Bolshevik-led revolution nearly eighty years ago, to replace the dictatorship of a tiny minority of exploiting capitalists families with the dictatorship of the proletariat," that is, a workers state. Today, these questions are especially relevant to the socialist revolution in Cuba — the first since the Bolsheviks to be led by a proletarian leadership.

The revolutionary government that came to power in October 1917 was based on councils of workers', peasants', and soldiers' delegates called *soviets*, the Russian word for council.

It mobilized peasants to expropriate the big landlords' estates and distribute the nationalized land to be worked by the

tillers. It freed oppressed peoples who had been under the tsarist boot of Russian oppression from Ukraine to Mongolia, and guaranteed their right to national self-determination — the first government in the world to do so.

The Bolshevik leadership organized workers to expropriate capitalist property in industry, banking, and wholesale trade, and established a state monopoly of foreign trade. It fought to draw workers into taking increasing control of industry and on that basis advance toward workers' management, making it possible to begin economic planning to meet social needs.

The Bolsheviks also launched an international communist movement to aid fellow workers and farmers around the world in emulating their struggle.

New Economic Policy

Lenin's Final Fight opens with a speech to the 11th Communist Party congress in March 1922, where Lenin takes up the main challenges facing the Soviet government. In refreshingly clear class terms and mincing no words, he evaluates the results of the past year under the New Economic Policy (NEP).

Lenin describes the NEP, dictated in large part by the economic and social devastation caused by the 1918-20 civil war

because we are not always able to tell enemies from friends," he points out in the March 1922 speech.

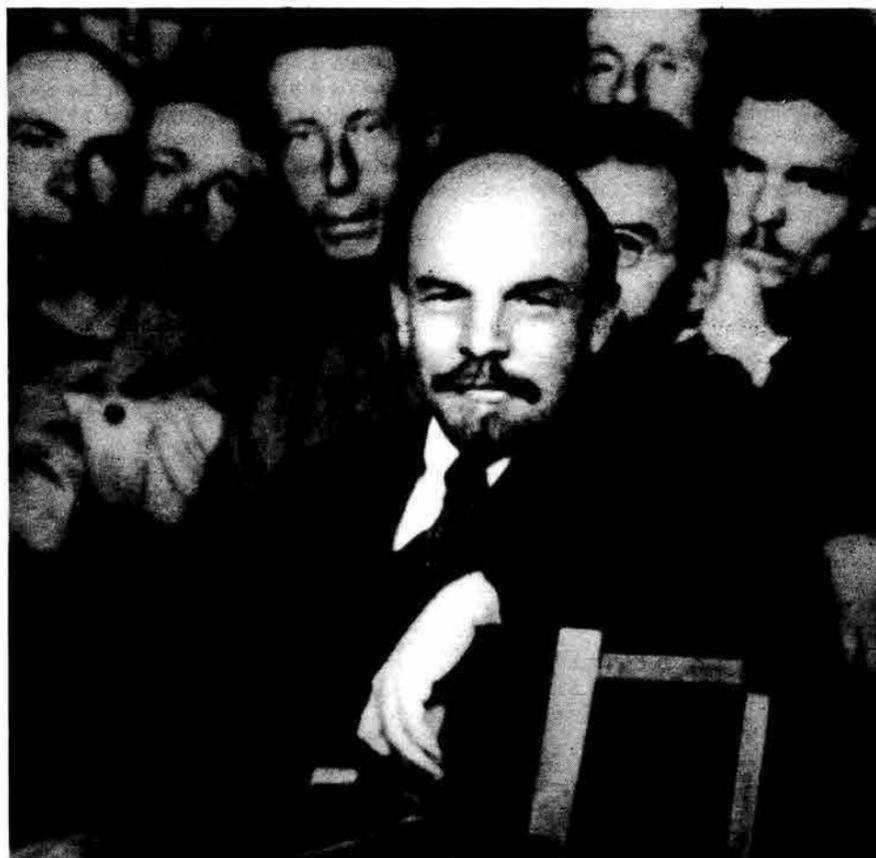
Calling for a halt to aspects of the retreat once its purpose had been achieved, Lenin says, "We now have a different objective, that of regrouping our forces." One of the measures advocated by the communist leader along these lines is dealt with in a later article, "On Cooperation," written in January 1923. There Lenin argues forcefully for encouraging peasants — most of whom tilled small family plots — to form cooperatives under the leadership of the working class to advance the building of socialism.

In his November 1922 speech to delegates at the fourth congress of the Communist International, Lenin explains the broader relevance that the NEP experience in Russia has for the worldwide struggle to overthrow capitalist rule and begin the transition to socialism.

Dispute over Georgia

In September 1922, just a few months before the stroke that finally debilitated him, Lenin launched a political fight around the question of the Georgian republic and of the voluntary union of Soviet republics.

In a letter to the party's Political Bureau



Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin with delegates to 10th party congress in May, 1921. Bolshevik leadership organized workers to expropriate capitalist property in industry, banking, and wholesale trade and establish first dictatorship of the proletariat.

and imperialist intervention, as a retreat aimed above all at preserving the worker-peasant alliance — the backbone of the revolution.

Under the NEP, among other measures, the Soviet government ended the requisitioning of peasants' grain surpluses and replaced it with a tax in kind, based on a sliding scale favoring small peasants and those producing most efficiently. A private agricultural market was authorized and foreign capitalists were encouraged to invest in nationalized factories under strict government control.

In the first year, modest advances were made in regaining the confidence of the peasants and reviving industry.

In several speeches and letters in this collection, Lenin emphasizes the proletarian foundations of the revolution that made the retreat possible and the limits that must be placed on this retreat in face of the inevitable strengthening of capitalist and capitalist-minded layers of society, including among thousands of functionaries in the state and party apparatus. "The fight against capitalist society has become a hundred times more fierce and perilous,

and addressed to Bolshevik leader Lev Kamenev, Lenin criticizes the proposal by Joseph Stalin, the CP's general secretary, to incorporate five independent Soviet republics — Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Georgia, and Ukraine — into the Russian Federation as "autonomous republics." The book reprints the text of Stalin's initial plan.

Lenin proposes a completely different approach: that Russia join with the other republics "on an equal basis into a new union, a new federation, the Union of the Soviet Republics of Europe and Asia."

This stance was crucial, given the strong pro-independence sentiments of working people in Georgia and other Soviet republics in the Caucasus because of Russian tsarist domination in the past. The Georgian Communist Party had rejected Stalin's "autonomization" plan and favored remaining independent as part of a Soviet federation.

Lenin's Final Fight documents how Lenin waged a political debate to win other members of the Bolshevik leadership to a proletarian internationalist stance on this question. This fight was based on

one of the major conquests of the October 1917 revolution: the right of oppressed peoples to national self-determination.

The appendix to the book includes several 1921 letters by Lenin on the national question. One, of particular interest today given events in the former Soviet Union, is addressed to communists in the Soviet republics of the Caucasus — including the Mountaineer Republic, which included what is now Chechnya.

Through the efforts of Lenin and other Bolshevik leaders, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was founded as a federation of equals at the end of 1922. But Lenin felt compelled to "declare war to the death on dominant nation chauvinism," as he put it in an October 6 memo to the party's Political Bureau.

In a series of notes addressed in December 1922 to the upcoming 12th party congress, Lenin makes some of his sharpest and most concise statements on the national question. Referring to the argument by some Russian Communist leaders that a single government is needed to rule over all the Soviet republics, he states, "Where did that assurance come from? Did it not come from that same Russian apparatus which...we took over from tsarism and slightly anointed with Soviet oil?"

Opposes Great Russian chauvinism

He adds that without a conscious approach of preferential treatment toward the historically oppressed nations — an affirmative action policy — all talk of a voluntary federation "will be a mere scrap of paper, unable to defend the non-Russians from the onslaught of that really Russian man, the Great Russian chauvinist, in substance a rascal and a tyrant, such as the typical Russian bureaucrat is."

Lenin condemns Stalin for his "spite against the notorious 'nationalist socialism.'" Stalin had accused the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party of "nationalist deviations," saying these should be "burned out with a red-hot iron."

Lenin's concern about Great Russian chauvinism was well-founded. Stalin and Grigory Ordzhonikidze, another Central Committee member, resorted to strong-arm tactics to try to ram through their policies on the national question. In protest, the Georgian CC resigned. The conflict flared up in late November when Ordzhonikidze struck one of the dissident Georgian communists during a verbal confrontation. This fact came to light through an investigation by a Political Bureau-appointed commission, headed by Russian CC member Feliks Dzerzhinsky.

Over the final months of 1922, Lenin's doubts about the conduct of Stalin and his allies around the Georgian question mounted. Lenin organized three of his personal secretaries to carry out a separate investigation in February and March 1923 to verify the Dzerzhinsky commission's account. They reported to Lenin that Dzerzhinsky had basically whitewashed the abusive policies of Ordzhonikidze and Stalin.

This report — kept secret by Moscow until the collapse of the Stalinist apparatus in the former USSR in 1991 — appears in this volume for the first time in any language.

The book also includes two letters Lenin sent in the last days of his political life. One, to Leon Trotsky, asked the Bolshevik leader "that you should undertake the defense of the Georgian case in the party CC. This case is now under 'persecution' by Stalin and Dzerzhinsky, and I cannot rely on their impartiality." Trotsky immediately agreed to defend their shared views on this question.

The last letter Lenin is known to have written, dated March 6, is addressed to Polikarp Mdivani and other Georgian communist leaders. In it he pledges his full support to their fight.

Fight for the foreign trade monopoly

Lenin's Final Fight also recounts the political battle the Bolshevik leader waged

around another life-and-death question for the workers and farmers government: the foreign trade monopoly, under which all exporting and importing activity was centralized in the hands of a state agency.

Several party leaders had made proposals to relax the state monopoly. Nikolai Bukharin, Gregory Zinoviev, Kamenev, and Stalin raised various arguments, including that the People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade and other state agencies were inefficient and contributing to "incalculable losses."

In an Oct. 13, 1922, letter addressed to Stalin, published in this volume, Lenin vigorously opposes the Central Committee's adoption of a package of measures — in his absence — that "wrecks the foreign trade monopoly" by giving foreign capitalists greater leeway to export and import products without control by the Soviet government.

Such a move, he argues, would allow Nepmen (the disparaging term for petty traders and swindlers who took advantage of the NEP for their enrichment) to flourish, diverting funds away from the revolutionary government. Even worse, it would increase the political influence of the Nepmen over the small peasants.

Lenin points to the foreign trade monopoly and the peasant cooperatives as important pillars of the fledgling workers state and the fight to maintain the alliance between peasants and the working class.

In a December 13 letter to Stalin, Lenin rejects Bukharin's arguments for weakening the state monopoly and partially replacing it with a system of protective tariffs. "No tariff system can be effective in the epoch of imperialism when there are monstrous contrasts between pauper countries and immensely rich countries," he writes.

"In practice, Bukharin is acting as an advocate of the profiteer, of the petty bourgeois, and of the upper stratum of the peasantry in opposition to the industrial proletariat, which will be totally unable to reconstruct its own industry and make Russia an industrial country unless it has the protection, not of tariffs, but of the monopoly of foreign trade."

In several letters to Trotsky, Lenin proposes that "at the forthcoming [CC] plenum you should undertake the defense of our common standpoint on the unconditional need to maintain and consolidate the foreign trade monopoly." Trotsky agrees.

After the December 18 CC meeting rescinds its previous decision and reaffirms the state monopoly, Lenin sends a congratulatory message to Trotsky and proposes they "continue the offensive" at the upcoming congresses of the party and the soviets.

Drawing workers into administration

In waging these struggles, Lenin keeps pressing to draw more workers into the leadership of the party and the government, and to cut down on bureaucracy. In his December 1922 Letter to the Congress, he proposes increasing the party CC to 100. "The enlistment of many workers to the CC will help the workers to improve our administrative machinery, which is pretty bad," he states.

As part of this campaign, Lenin calls for reorganizing the Workers and Peasants Inspection, which had become poorly organized and ineffective. This body had been initiated in 1920 to involve both party and nonparty workers and peasants into greater inspection and control of the state and party apparatus.

Lenin takes up this question in his March 2, 1923, article titled "Better Fewer, But Better." He proposes to recruit carefully selected communist workers into the Workers and Peasants Inspectorate and other bodies.

These vanguard workers, he states, must lead a fight for millions of workers and peasants to increase their training and education in order to learn, slowly but surely, how to run the government and economy. This includes, Lenin stresses, learning to apply the best techniques and

organizational methods from the capitalist world.

One of Lenin's many proposals, reflecting this political approach, is his recommendation that the Russian navy be cut back and that the freed-up funds be used to expand the school system.

Tied to the fight for culture and working-class leadership in the Soviet Union is Lenin's emphasis on the international prospects for socialist revolution.

This theme runs throughout the speeches in this volume, from his address to the Moscow soviet to his speech to the fourth congress of the Communist International in November 1922.

In the articles, letters, and speeches in this book, readers can see how Lenin functioned as part of a broader Bolshevik leadership team, a team he had assembled over a quarter century of party-building and five years of the world's first dictatorship of the proletariat.

Among these were leaders like Zinoviev, Bukharin, Trotsky, and Karl Radek, who together with Lenin are portrayed on the book's cover (taken from a painting, by Malcolm McAllister of New Zealand, that is part of the Pathfinder Mural in New York). These five leaders, who all served on the Executive Committee of the Communist International, held a range of views on the various disputed issues covered in *Lenin's Final Fight*.

Lenin's conclusions about Stalin

At that time, Stalin did not figure qualitatively more prominently in these disputes than many other Central Committee members. In the course of his fight, however, Lenin drew very damning conclusions about Stalin's character and capacity for political integrity.

Experiences like the Georgian conflict convinced him that Stalin, as the party's



Factory workers in Petrograd Red Guard patrol in 1917. Lenin called for bringing more revolutionary workers into the central leadership of the Bolshevik party and for drawing workers into taking increasing control of industry, and on that basis advance toward workers' management.

general secretary, was not qualified for such central leadership responsibility in the party and state, especially under the intensifying class pressures confronting the revolution.

In his Letter to the Congress, Lenin states, "Stalin is too rude and this defect, although quite tolerable in our midst and in dealings among us Communists, becomes intolerable in a general secretary." He proposes removing Stalin from that post.

Lenin was permanently incapacitated by a stroke on March 10, 1923, that ended his political life. His recommendation to remove Stalin and other proposals were not taken up.

Instead, a political struggle developed within the leadership of the Communist Party over whether the course charted under Lenin would be maintained or eroded and eventually reversed. Over the years, an increasingly privileged bureaucratic caste established its hold on the state and party apparatuses.

This petty-bourgeois caste carried out a political counterrevolution against the

workers and peasants.

Trotsky and others led the communist opposition to return to the proletarian course charted under Lenin's leadership. The caste, however, consolidated its rule, with Stalin emerging as its dictatorial arbiter. His brutal regime murdered thousands of communist workers and much of the central leadership of the Bolshevik party.

The bureaucratic regime also suppressed many of the writings contained in this book. Most of these were not published in the Soviet Union until after Stalin's death in 1953.

A book for the new generation

For today's new generation of workers and other fighters, *Lenin's Final Fight* comes alive with rich political lessons. Among the growing numbers of youth who are repelled by the prospect of fascism and war that capitalism offers, Lenin presents a convincing case — through argument and practice — for the perspective of joining the worldwide struggle for a communist future.

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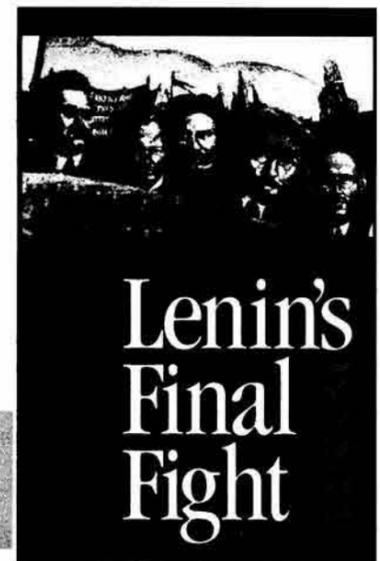
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Pathfinder: 'beacon of revolutionary light'

'L.A. WEEKLY' article highlights activities at bookstore in Los Angeles

The following article, "Reading the Revolution: Hanging out in a Pico storefront with Malcolm, Che and Karl," is excerpted from the May 12-18 issue of *LA WEEKLY*, a free paper that is widely distributed in the Los Angeles area. Sub-headings are by the *Militant*.

BY ERIN AUBRY

It is early Saturday evening. As twilight deepens into darkness, the city seems to take in a breath as it transitions into the hours of drink, dance and revelry, hours that will serve to efface the drudgery of yet another work week.

Along mostly shuttered Pico Boulevard near Vermont, one shop window is bright, its doors tinkling open as people file in. Hardly would-be revelers, they come seeking satisfaction of a radically different sort. They thread their ways through the neatly appointed bookstore, past the shelves into a backroom set with folding metal chairs and a podium where a thin, serious-looking man prepares to update the audience of about 25 on the so-called nuclear threat in North Korea, framing it in background history about the country and its fateful post-World War II split. A handful of Spanish speakers adjust headphones so they can listen to the simultaneous translation the bookstore unfailingly provides. There is no mood music, no mingling. A table spread with coffee and Cremora is the only concession to social niceties.

But there is a palpable hunger for information that propels people slightly forward in their seats, some scribbling notes, as the speaker delivers the goods in plain-wrap fashion. So much for aesthetics at Pathfinder Bookstore, a.k.a. Libreria Pathfinders, for 20-plus years a beacon of revolutionary light in the grittier Central Los Angeles cityscapes that don't show up on post cards.

CANCEL THE THIRD WORLD DEBT!
SHORTEN THE WORKWEEK!
ENFORCE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION!

Emblazoned with yellow, the Socialist Party pamphlet covers read like a wish list for the growing denizens of America's economically oppressed. In Pathfinder's airy confines, these and a wealth of other materials trumpet hope of imminent political change, of a long-awaited, monumental shift of power to the working class and socially subjugated ethnic groups.

Faces on the covers of other books raise a silent choral voice of popular revolution: Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Malcolm



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
Pathfinder bookstore under reconstruction after 1992 Los Angeles riots. *LA WEEKLY* reports "palpable hunger for information" at a recent forum there.

X, Che Guevara, Rigoberta Menchú, W.E.B. Du Bois, Karl Marx.

Here is that rare secular place in L.A. where age, skin color, gender and country of origin — in a word, image — matter far less than a common spirit and fiery ideology. Here, a '90s newspeak word like *multicultural* is rendered embarrassingly simplistic and beside the point.

Vibrant socialist optimism

Yet Pathfinder's vibrant socialist optimism seems at distressing odds with its neighborhood: a corridor of the Pico-Union district crammed with storefronts that beckon pedestrians with faded piñatas and 98-cent goods, while men and women with too much time to kill linger outside minimarkets and liquor stores, modern outposts for the unemployed and other dwellers on society's ragged fringe.

Drug users and pushers often wander in off the street, refugees from police-patrolled MacArthur Park to the east. But bookstore volunteer William Jungers says he has a mutual understanding with such visitors; they always leave without incident. "They pretty much respect our wishes," says Jungers, a fluent Spanish speaker and like many volunteers a member of the Socialist Workers Party. "Everyone around here knows who we

are, that we're a political center and we do things." Jungers recalls a neighborhood gang called the Playboys that used to hang around and at one time seemed poised for trouble. "But," he says with a shrug, "they moved on."

His voice has a hint of pride. 2546 Pico Blvd. is hardly considered a prime commercial spot, but Pathfinder would have it no other way. The bookstore, a retail outlet of Pathfinder Press in New York and a gathering place for local ranks of the Socialist Workers Party, has a history of locating in decidedly working-class neighborhoods.

Pathfinder moved from North Broadway to Pico-Union 13 years ago, and, in the heart of a Central American community populated by Nicaraguans, Salvadoreans and Guatemalans familiar with the ravaging effects of war, it seems to have found its niche.

Sandwiched between an abandoned electronics outlet and a discount store, Pathfinder is a well-lighted respite from the boulevard's smalltime capitalist hustle and bustle. The space is small but dense, the walls filled with reprinted speeches and essays by political figures as high-profile as Mandela and Malcolm (Pathfinder owns the copyright to many of his speeches and carries the city's largest

selection of his material) and lesser-known agitators such as Grenadian Revolutionary leader Maurice Bishop.

Fully a third of the stock is Spanish-language. Mindful of its potential clientele, Pathfinder has filled one section with elementary-level primers on Marxism, feminism and other topics for Spanish-speaking adults with low literacy skills. A reproduction of the New York Pathfinder building, painted on one side with a grand, sweeping mural of working-class heroes, hangs above the entrance to a large back area that encompasses a library, a kitchen and a generous-size room where the store hosts weekly Saturday forums.

Impressive and efficient operation

It is an impressively efficient operation, though not quite back to its usual strength, says volunteer Eli Green...

Green, 43, says that the riot-related fires in 1992 decimated the store's inventory, including a collection of out-of-print books and newspapers dating back to the 1930s. Uninsured but undaunted, Green and fellow Pathfinder volunteers set up a table outside the charred remains of the store three days after the riots to sell what few books were left, to begin raising money and also to administer to the burning souls of the dispossessed.

Their efforts did not go unrewarded. "Before the embers quit smoldering, we had relocated two doors west of here in a storefront church that had just vacated," says Green, a Georgia native with a hint of a drawl and an easy smile. "There was a genuine outpouring.... People brought back books they had just bought. Folks came by to give \$1, \$5, said they were so sorry. And they have no money. Not around here, anyway."

With local aid and donations from several publishers, Pathfinder was able to recover from its \$20,000 loss and reopen in December of 1993 at its new location, which was designed and built largely by a core group of about 50 volunteers....

Devoted to change

Álvaro Maldonado, head of the Pro-Immigrant Mobilization Coalition, says Pathfinder is as relevant today as it was when he discovered it in the early '70s, during its heyday at the fore of the antiwar movement and his formative years as an activist. "They're devoted to change. They're very good about involving themselves in issues and not relying on politicians," says Maldonado, who frequents the forums and drops by the store to pick up literature on one of his heroes, Leon Trotsky. "They always base themselves in communities of color, working-class communities."

But he says also that Pathfinder volunteers, reaching out to an American population more disaffected than at any other time in history, have their consciousness-raising work cut out for them. "Movements now are hard to get going," he says. "People are more automated, more demoralized. They're not getting help in facilitating solutions."

Which is exactly why 24-year-old Vanessa Knapton sacrificed a Saturday night to attend the North Korea forum. Knapton is a study in the kind of new blood Pathfinder is seeking: young, disenfranchised with government, a recent college graduate and former union organizer impatient with bleak job prospects. Knapton started subscribing to the weekly socialist newspaper *The Militant* back in March; she joined the Young Socialist Organizing Committee shortly after.

"Young people are coming into the world with no future," says Knapton, taking a drag on a cigarette during a post-forum discussion break. She is standing outside the store, dressed down, her blond hair pinned up carelessly. Latin music pumping from sidewalk speakers at a store down the block fills the night air. "Me and my friends, we have no benefits, no security, nothing. Wages are low. We don't see hope. We need to hear what people are doing, from their own perspective, which you don't get in the media. But when I hear that, when I think about what we can do collectively... Well, I start thinking things might happen. Things might change."

Get all of 1994 'Militant' in bound volume

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"Birth of new South Africa: a victory for humanity — Millions celebrate resounding vote for ANC." "Nationwide strike shuts eight Caterpillar plants — Workers demand end to victimization of union militants." "500,000 Cubans mobilize in defense of revolution — Workers, youth battle antigovernment rioters." "70,000 march in L.A. for immigrant rights."

These are just a few of the top headlines

that appeared in the *Militant* in 1994. All 46 issues will soon be available in a bound volume, together with a complete index listing all articles by country, subject, and author. This collection is a valuable reference for workers, youth, and others who want to fight against the ravages capitalism imposes on working people every day. It makes easily accessible the wealth of news and analysis featured in the *Militant* over the entire last year, so readers can draw lessons from workers' struggles and revolutionary movements worldwide.

Last year *Militant* correspondents traveled to South Africa before and after the first-ever nonracial, democratic elections there; they wrote about how workers and farmers began seizing the political space they have won to bring down apartheid and advance their interests.

Reporters made several trips to Cuba, providing in-depth coverage on how the working class there is confronting the "special period" of economic challenges. *Militant* correspondents traveled there immediately after the "rafters crisis" in August, as hundreds of thousands of Cuban workers and youth mobilized against Washington's stepped-up provocations. The socialist weekly also carried extensive coverage of actions in the United States and elsewhere in defense of Cuba's sovereignty and the socialist revolution.

Over the course of the year the *Militant* ran several speeches by Fidel Castro, Nelson Mandela, and other leaders of the Cuban and South African revolutions.

The 1994 bound volume is packed with coverage on:

- The strike wave that rolled across the United States, with the United Auto Workers strike at Caterpillar at the center;
- Struggles against police brutality and the death penalty;
- Campaigns to defend framed-up workers and political fighters, from the Mark Curtis case to that of gold miner Roger Warren in Northwest Territories, Canada;
- The fight to defend women's right to abortion from right-wing assaults on clinics and doctors;
- Developments in Ireland, as 25 years of British occupation and centuries of oppression failed to crush the resistance of working people in the north or the south;
- The fight against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 in California;
- The building of young socialists' groups internationally; and much more.

The analysis in these issues of the *Militant* will help readers understand better the crisis of world capitalism today and the possibilities open to working people to build a revolutionary movement to put an end to the economic devastation, rightist movements, and wars that this system breeds. Readers can order the 1994 bound volume for just \$75. The 1994 *Militant* index alone is \$1.50. Both the 1994 and 1993 bound volumes can be purchased together for \$125; some previous years are also available for \$75 each. Orders should be prepaid to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

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Warden cuts 14 days off Curtis lock-up, ignores other proposals

BY JOHN COX

DES MOINES, Iowa—Paul Hedgepath, acting warden of the Iowa State Penitentiary, granted political activist Mark Curtis a two-week reduction in his one-year sentence to lock-up inside the maximum security prison May 11. This is the first approved reduction since Curtis was victimized and thrown into segregation last August, where he is sequestered in a five-by-seven-foot cell 23 hours a day.

Curtis was victimized on charges of assaulting another inmate and convicted in a prison hearing on September 12. He was kept shackled during the hearing, refused the right to confront the witnesses against him, and denied an attorney.

Curtis continues to protest the conviction, arguing that prison authorities are attempting to break him because he remains politically active and works with supporters to win his release on parole. He has filed a lawsuit challenging the kangaroo court hearing in Iowa state court in Lee County, where the prison is located.

The prison committee assigned to meet with Curtis and make recommendations

concerning his status reviewed his situation at a meeting with him on May 3. Nikola Brown, the prison psychologist assigned to Curtis, wrote in the "Time Reduction Classification Review" form filed after the meeting, "He has good eye contact and is polite. He did request a time cut and the recommendation for a 14-day cut is made."

The committee as a whole, comprised of the psychologist, Curtis's Correctional Counselor and the Unit Manager of the lock-up cell block he is confined in, wrote "Committee is recommending that inmate Curtis be afforded a 14-day time reduction in his disciplinary sanctions. It is noted that he has remained report free for the past 30 days, his personal hygiene and cell cleanliness is far above average. His overall cellhouse demeanor is above average."

Then they added, "This will be this individual's first time reduction recommendation."

This final statement of the committee is false. In four consecutive meetings at the end of last year and beginning of this year Curtis's classification committee recom-

mended a total of 134 days — more than four months — in sentence reductions. The warden vetoed all of them, claiming there was a new prison policy that barred time cuts for those charged with assault.

Even the classification committee form describes Curtis's alleged crime as virtually undetectable. Under the heading "Segregation reason," it reads "There were no injuries because of this and no one required medical treatment."

"If the prison followed its own rules," commented John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. "Mark would be out of lock-up today. The time cuts recommended for him total five months."

"We are certainly glad that this time reduction has been awarded. It is a step forward, coming on the heels of our victory in getting prison authorities to relent and grant Curtis the pamphlet *Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?*, which they had originally refused to give him."

"But the authorities are pretending that four months of previous time cut recommendations never existed. Our response



Curtis and supporters are campaigning to reduce one-year lock-up sentence.

will be to step up our efforts to get Mark released from lock-up as soon as possible, and to turn our attention to pressing the Iowa State Board of Parole to grant his release," Studer added.

Curtis will next meet with the prison classification committee in early June.

Framed-up unionist wins international support

BY JOHN STUDER

"I am free from prison. I was wrongly convicted and I'm also now going to try and help Mark Curtis," David Milgaard, the victim of a frame-up in Saskatchewan, Canada, wrote to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee May 10. Milgaard served 22 years in prison before winning his freedom.

Milgaard's letter is one of a number of recent messages supporting Mark Curtis's fight to win freedom and justice. Curtis was framed up by Des Moines, Iowa, police in 1988 on charges of rape and bur-

glary and sent to prison, sentenced to 25 years. He was arrested and brutally beaten by the cops shortly after speaking out in Spanish at a public protest meeting called to defend 17 of his co-workers at the Monfort meatpacking plant who had been seized by the immigration police in a raid. When the cops beat Curtis, they called him a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds."

The committee also received a letter from L. Verstraete in Brussels, Belgium, pledging support. "I have carefully read the documentation and I am dismayed that lock-up conditions were imposed upon Mark Curtis," he wrote, adding, "I certainly do endorse the Mark Curtis defense action. I will act, whenever possible and at my level, to inform people about the reality of such a flagrant injustice."

A post card from Tommy Nilsson in Malmö, Sweden, sent to the defense committee stated, "I just want to give you my

respect and wish you (and Mark of course!) good luck in your important work to support Mark and by that — all mankind."

Another supporter who recently wrote the defense committee was Michael Parenti, a well-known author and professor of social and political science. Parenti noted in his letter that he wrote a section on Curtis's fight in the most recent edition of his book *Democracy for the Few*, published by St. Martin's Press.

"Mark Curtis, packinghouse worker, labor unionist, and a leader in the Socialist Workers Party, was arrested in Des Moines, Iowa, and charged with having sexually assaulted a fifteen-year old," Parenti writes in a chapter titled "Political Repression and National Insecurity." Curtis "was severely beaten and knocked unconscious by police. The alleged victim said her attacker was five-feet six-inches tall, had smoke on his breath, and broke into

her house. Curtis is over six-feet tall, does not smoke, and was in a restaurant with a dozen other people at the specified time of the rape. After Curtis was convicted on the testimony of one police officer, a juror presented an affidavit indicating that she believed Mark Curtis was not guilty and that she was one of four who voted for conviction even though they had grave doubts about the case. Curtis was sentenced to twenty-five years for 'sexual abuse' and 'burglary.'

"As I write this six years later," Parenti adds in a footnote, "Curtis is still in jail, having been repeatedly denied parole."

The defense committee is aggressively distributing a new pamphlet on the case published by Pathfinder Press, entitled *Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* For a copy of the pamphlet or to volunteer to help, contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA, 50311.



David Milgaard, framed up for 22 years in Canada, wrote his support for Curtis.

Nation of Islam 'guards' accused of abuse patrolling Washington, D.C., housing project

BY SAM MANUEL AND BRIAN TAYLOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. — City authorities have stepped up police presence at the Potomac Gardens public housing complex recently following a series of confrontations between members of the Nation of Islam (NOI) Security Agency and some residents.

Under the guise of fighting drug trafficking, police and city officials have imposed restrictive measures on residents of

the city's public housing. Residents and visitors are now required to show identification to guards when entering the housing grounds. Several of the complexes have been surrounded by eight-foot iron fences, which also divide the interior grounds, preventing free movement from one section of the complex to another.

A series of confrontations on May 11 ended with an NOI guard being rushed to the hospital with a stab wound in the chest.

The confrontations began when a member of the patrols was struck by an object said to have been thrown by a resident. About 40 mostly young people jeered and yelled at the guards.

Hours later a young man had to be hospitalized for a gash on the back of his head after members of an NOI patrol attempted to "question" him and a friend about the earlier incident. Nation of Islam spokespersons said one of the men drew a gun, but no weapon was reported confiscated.

Police and city officials claim the confrontations resulted from the effectiveness of the patrols in reducing drug use and distribution in the housing complex. "They have just about stopped the drug sales," declared police inspector Clarence Dickerson.

Some residents also support the rent-a-cop patrols. About 20 mostly elderly residents recently held a march around the building complex in support of the NOI guards, saying they had significantly reduced drug-dealing.

But a number of young people at the housing complex charge the NOI guards

with abusive conduct. The day following the confrontations two young women who live at Potomac Gardens described the situation. "They instigate conflicts all the time," said one of the women. "Sometimes it is with drug users, but also with people just walking around."

"When they start fights no one is here to expose it," said the other Potomac resident.

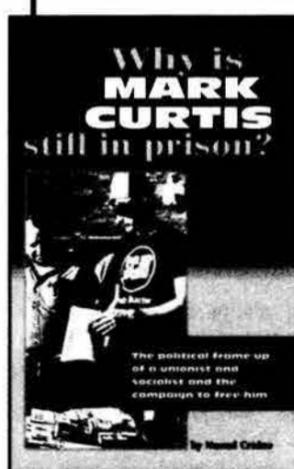
The two women also complained that the eight-foot iron fence put up around the complex three years ago is dangerous. "If someone is being chased or there is a fire they can get trapped in the gate and can't get out," one explained and told the story of an elderly resident who died of a heart attack when doctors were delayed in getting to her apartment because they had to go around the fence.

During a press conference outside the housing complex Abdul Arif Muhammad, general council for the NOI, charged that the housing complex was a "major distribution and manufacturing point for drugs in the city." He said this information had been obtained by "undercover NOI agents."

Muhammad added that while they have gotten "good" support from police tops, local cops on the scene were hampering their efforts.

Guards from the NOI Security Agency began patrols in the complex early this month under a 30-day, \$30,000 emergency contract. City public housing officials have extended the contract through mid-June. Muhammad said the security agency will vigorously bid for a permanent contract at that time.

Now Available in Spanish



Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?

The Political Frame-Up of a Unionist and Socialist and the Campaign to Free Him

by Naomi Craine

Mark Curtis is a union activist and socialist who was framed up by police on false charges of rape and burglary in March 1988. At the time he was involved in a struggle to defend 17 Mexican and Salvadoran co-workers arrested in an immigration raid at the packinghouse where he worked in Des Moines, Iowa.

This new pamphlet explains what happened to Curtis, and the stakes for workers, farmers, youth, and other democratic-minded people in demanding his release.

Available at bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax (212) 727-0150. Or contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

Tehran fair

Continued from front page
moves and see their presence at the book fair as an indication of that opposition.

The largest publisher at the fair is the U.S. company McGraw-Hill, which has brought 60,000 books on medicine, engineering, chemistry, and other sciences to sell. Their representative, Behruz Neirami, said he believes the sanctions are unpopular among U.S. citizens as well as Iranians. "Nobody should be allowed to prevent the transfer of knowledge and cultural achievements to any part of the world," he told the English-language daily *Tehran Times* May 24.

The May 23 *Tehran Times* quoted Pathfinder representative Oygen Lepou, who also attended the Havana International Book Fair last year, as saying, "Cuban and Iranian people are very similar, they are both open minded, intelligent and confident people who get harsh treatment from the U.S.... We are told there is a lot of chaos in countries like Iran, but when we come to Iran we see that people are just trying to make a living, which makes you think what all this propaganda is for."

Last year, more than 1 million people attended the book fair. Estimates so far are that at least as many will attend this year, coming from all parts of the country — Turkmen from the northeast, Azerbaijanis from the northwest, industrial workers from Esfahan and Arak, and students from as far afield as Tabriz and Shiraz.

Pathfinder is familiar name at Tehran book fair

BY ALIEH SHIRVANI

Just as in the past three years, Pathfinder is being welcomed at the Eighth Tehran International Book Fair. Pathfinder is now a familiar name. "This booth smells revolution," said one student visiting the Pathfinder booth for the first time.

Many who bought Pathfinder books in previous years have come back looking for new titles. One doctor from a village near the town of Uromieh in the northwest (Azerbaijan) came back this year and bought *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada. A group of young men who bought *To Speak the Truth — Why Washington's 'Cold War' Against Cuba Doesn't End* by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara last year, came back to buy several more books on the Cuban revolution.

There is an increased interest in Pathfinder titles on national self-determination, particularly among young people who are Kurdish. The best-selling titles so far are *New International* no. 10, containing the article, "Imperialism's march toward fascism and war," and Evelyn Reed's *Problems of Women's Liberation*.

"Pathfinder is offering 200 titles of books and altogether 2,000 copies for sale, mainly on politics which are the writings of great philosophers, politicians and world leaders such as Carl Marx, Fidel Castro, Lenin, Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, etc.," pointed out the *Tehran Times* in an article about the book publisher's participation in the fair.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Rally to Free Irish Political Prisoners in U.S. Jails. Stop Government Harassment of Irish Activists. Speaker: Gerry Conlon of the Guildford Four. Sat., June 3, 1-3 p.m. Federal Plaza, Broadway & Worth Streets. Sponsored by Irish Political Prisoners Amnesty Coalition. For more information, call (718) 436-4770.

GREECE

Athens

Mark Curtis: The Frame-up of an American Trade Unionist. Video showing and panel discussion. Sat., June 17, 6 p.m. Pan African Association offices, 171 Alkamenos/Thiras (Platia Attikis). Sponsored by the International Forum.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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

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

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison? Fri., June 2, 7:00 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Road. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

Peoria

Ireland: New Openings in the Fight for Self-Determination. Speakers: Robert Shannon, Irish American Student Association; Martin

Dunne, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 2, 7 p.m. Bradley University, Room 253 Baker Hall (off Main St.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (309) 674-3242.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Why Is Mark Curtis Still in Prison? Video presentation of the documentary *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis* filmed by director Nick Castle. Fri., June 2, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont Street. Donation: \$4. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Cuba Today: A Panel Discussion. Sat., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Ave. (East side of Hwy 280, on 16A bus line.) Donation: \$4. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Protest FBI Spying on New York Political

and Union Activists. Fri., June 2, 7:30 p.m. 214 Ave. A (between 13th and 14th). Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 388-9346.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

FBI Spying: Past and Present Threat to Democratic Rights. Speakers: Marketa Sims, president, Pittsburgh chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union; Malcolm Jarrett, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 2, 7 p.m. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

BRITAIN

London

Cuba Today. Slide show and reportback from recent two-week study tour of Cuba organized by the Sheffield Cuba Solidarity Campaign. Speakers: Jo O'Brien; Darryl Hillgrove, member of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Union; Mati Marti Insa, Young Socialists. Fri., June 2, 7 p.m. 47 The Cut. Donation: £2. Tel: 0171 401 2409.

Brazil oil workers strike for jobs, pay

Continued from front page

the troops have occupied is in the state of Parana, and the others — in Mauá, São José dos Campos, and Campinas — are in the state of São Paulo, the country's main industrial center. Television news in Montevideo showed military helicopters backing up the army deployment.

São Paulo Forum organizers reported that Luis Inácio "Lula" da Silva, a central leader of Brazil's Workers Party, is not coming to the conference here in order to help respond to the government's escalation of the conflict. He was originally scheduled to be one of the speakers at the meeting's May 25 inauguration. The Workers Party has ties to the United Workers Federation (CUT), whose affiliates are involved in the strike.

Striking oil workers have virtually shut down Brazil's major refineries, which belong to the state-owned Petrobrás company. After three weeks, the work stoppage has begun to cause fuel shortages in urban centers. The government began to ration bottled liquid gas in most of the country. The press has reported that the lack of fuel has begun to affect industrial production. In São Paulo, many gas stations and several bus lines have shut down.

Capitalist rulers alarmed

The capitalist rulers of Brazil, alarmed that the oil workers' struggle is setting an example for other working people devastated by the economic crisis, has mobilized all its political resources against the strikers. The Supreme Labor Tribunal ruled the strike illegal. The big-business

media, flashing pictures of long gas lines, has launched a propaganda blitz to portray the unionists as causing hardships for the rest of the population.

The media has accompanied news on the strike with articles about the 50,000 troops that have been deployed in impoverished working-class neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro under the pretext of fighting drugs and violence. The implied target of the troop mobilization is unmistakable—the government's message is that social protests will be met with repression.

Making clear the political stakes in this confrontation, Petrobrás financial director Orlando Galvão declared, "The issue now is not the cost, but the principles involved."

According to the newspaper *Folha de São Paulo*, Cardoso stated his government would make no concessions to the strikers because otherwise he would remain "hostage" to public employees and state-owned enterprises for the rest of his term. Capitalist politicians have urged Cardoso to follow the union-busting stance taken by British prime minister Margaret Thatcher during the 1984-85 coal miners strike.

Brazil immune to volatility?

The Brazilian government has launched a campaign to sell off shares to a number of major state-owned companies. In February it passed a law allowing private—including foreign—investment in the oil industry, mining, and telecommunications.

U.S. businessmen enthusiastically applauded Cardoso during his recent trip to

the United States when he vowed to continue opening up Brazil's economy to international capital.

He also took pains to assure capitalist investors that Brazil is immune to the financial volatility that led to the plunge of the Mexican economy following the devaluation of that country's currency in December. Cardoso offered rosy prospects for businessmen, domestic and foreign.

Many working people in Brazil have expressed a different view. In the last several weeks, up to 300,000 workers have gone on strike to demand wage increases as well as to oppose the government's plans for mass layoffs in state-owned industries. Shipyard workers, university employees, rail workers, truckers, and social security workers have struck.

The strikes in Brazil coincide with similar struggles by workers elsewhere in South America. On May 23, mine workers in Río Turbio, in southern Argentina, occupied their coal mine to press demands for increasing wages and benefits. A wave of strikes and labor demonstrations has hit provinces throughout Argentina in recent months in response to government austerity moves.

LABOR NEWS IN THE 'MILITANT'

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

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

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CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. Compuserve: 74642,326. Internet: 74642.326@compuserve.com **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 285-5323. Compuserve: 75604,556.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

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

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

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018. **Peoria:** P.O. Box 302. Zip: 61650-0302. Tel: (309) 674-9441.

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

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

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-0100. E-mail: 74767.1050@compuserve.com.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel:

(612) 644-6325.

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. Compuserve: 75127,2153.

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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.

Crisis, what crisis?
— Alexander Trotman, who heads the Ford company's operation in Mexico, received total compensation last year of \$8.1 million. That's more than 2,000



Harry Ring

times as much as the average wage of a Mexican Ford worker.

Mourning their loss — At a Washington ceremony to salute cops killed while on duty, a bunch of police from New York got

drunk as the proverbial skunk and turned a Hyatt hotel upside down. Women were groped and hundreds of people had to be evacuated because of the smoke and fumes from discharged fire extinguishers.

About 20 cops stripped and took turns sliding down the center strip of the lobby escalator.

'Professional courtesy' — Hyatt workers called the D.C. cops to the hotel but no one was busted. A news report said, "Some guests and hotel workers questioned whether D.C. police gave special treatment to their out-of-town colleagues."

Progress report — It was

front-page news for the Greensboro, North Carolina, *News & Record*.

Three of the city's five country clubs now have members who are Black and a fourth may be about to. Officials at the fifth club said they don't discriminate, but have never had an application from a Black person.

Have the baby on the way home — From 1970 to 1992, the time spent in the hospital by women giving birth was cut almost 50 percent.

A Center for Disease Control and Prevention report shrewdly notes the role of insurance companies' pressure.

Sheer coincidence — In 1971, Congress barred tobacco advertising on TV and radio. In the advertising switch that followed, magazines lined their pockets. And, since then, coverage of smoking-related health issues has dropped 65 percent in magazines accepting cigarette ads.

The changing face — The Brooklyn Bagel Factory (in L.A. natch) is now featuring jalapeño bagels.

Meets gov't standards — Comedy writer Paul Ryan's comment on scientists developing a vaccine that dissolves fat in pigs: "All that's left are hoofs, lips and ears — barely enough to make a

hot dog."

The system that works — In a recent survey, the World Health Organization found that more than two billion people — about 40 percent of the world population — are sick at any one time, and that much of the illness and disease is preventable but stymied by the widening rich-poor gap.

Thought for the week — "For many millions of people for whom survival is a daily battle, the prospect of a longer life may seem more like a punishment than a prize." — Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, World Health Organization director.

New Zealand meat bosses force long workweek

BY JAMES ROBB

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Some members of the meat workers' unions in this city have been working very long hours recently. At Astleys tannery, some work "teams" put in 76-hour weeks in March. This overtime was not compulsory; it is sought by most workers. One individual worked one day from 6 a.m. to 3 a.m., then came back in to start again after just three hours break. The clause in the contract that provides for a minimum of nine hours' rest between shifts is frequently waived.

Since the anti-union Employment Contracts Act was passed in 1990, a major

UNION TALK

goal of the employers' offensive against working people in New Zealand has been the removal of premium rates of pay for overtime. In many workplaces, including union-organized ones, they have been successful. But Astleys workers pushed back an attempt by the company to get rid of overtime rates, in a strike in early 1993. Time-and-a-half or double time is still paid for all hours in excess of 40 per week. Despite this, the employers prefer to have workers put in long hours rather than hire additional people. "We want you guys to have the first chance to earn a bit extra," the foremen say.

In fact, it is in the company's interest — not the workers' — to organize production this way.

Astleys, a tannery employing about 200 production staff, hired 70 new workers in early 1993 in response to booming sales. But when orders slumped a few months later, 20 of these workers were laid off, costing the company \$2,000 each in redundancy (severance) payments.

No increase in real wages

On the other hand, workers' overtime hours can be cut at no cost to the employer if sales slump. Moreover, lengthening the workweek reduces the pressure on the company to increase wages in a period of economic upturn. Despite three years of economic growth, there has been almost no increase in real wages in New Zealand. Unemployment has remained high throughout the upturn. The uncertainty and fragility of the current economic situation reinforces the bosses' desire to use overtime instead of hiring whenever they can get away with it.

Uncertainty about what the future holds also puts workers under pressure to agree to longer hours. One worker expressed amazement that anyone should turn down voluntary overtime. "You need to do all the overtime you can get now, because in a few months they may not be offering any more," he said.

In March, a group of Astleys workers led a spontaneous walkout when the boss lowered their overtime hours without consulting them. Cuts to overtime hours have been an issue in several recent strikes in New Zealand. Waterside workers recently struck the Port of Auckland to protest the hiring of casual workers, which would have reduced their overtime hours.

In April, Astleys hired additional workers to meet a rise in production, and at the same time imposed a compulsory 50-hour



Meatpacking workers from the United States to New Zealand have faced an offensive by the bosses to extend the workday, speed up the lines, and lessen job safety.

workweek in most of the plant.

A long working week is also compulsory at the Auckland Abattoirs packing-house. A September 1993 contract contained major concessions, including ending premium overtime pay and allowing the boss to use more casual workers. This removed an important economic restraint on the company to keep the normal working day down to eight hours. All new hiring since that time has been of casual workers, on whom the pressure to do all the hours demanded is higher.

The typical workweek at the height of the beef season is now about 12 hours Monday to Friday, with an additional six or eight hours on Saturday.

The long working day is a frequent topic of conversation here. "Too damned long if you ask me," one older beef butcher told me. "The old body can only take so much. But no one gives a damn about the worker these days. The only thing that matters is the dollar."

It's not only the older workers who feel the pressure. "I'll be an old man by the time I'm forty at this rate," a worker in his twenties told me. Others point to examples of accidents and muscular injuries caused by overwork. Absenteeism is high, as workers individually try to cope with the long hours by taking a day off now and then.

"They treat us like machines that they can switch on and off whenever they like," said another. "They forget we are human beings. I've got a family, children that I like to see now and then before they're asleep. It all becomes impossible with these hours."

Along with removing the premium pay rates, the company is imposing more forced overtime. The contract obliges workers to work "reasonable hours of overtime." In response to an inquiry from the union about what was considered "reasonable," the company stated that after completing 50 hours in any week, workers could refuse further work. However, on at least one occasion this has been ignored. Recently several workers who had each put in more than 60 hours by Friday were threatened with disciplinary action if they refused Saturday work.

"It must be illegal what they are doing," one worker insisted. "There are laws which say they can't force us to work ev-

ery hour of the day. We still have human rights."

"There are no laws like that any more. That's what went out the window when the Employment Contracts Act came in," replied his co-worker. "We need more union meetings, so we can discuss what we're going to do about it. This is a health and safety issue."

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



ATLANTA, May 23 — Over 10,000 people attended an anti-repression, anti-war rally here today on the Morehouse College Mall. Every speaker linked the stifling of political dissent at home — Kent, Augusta, Jackson State — to the continuation and deepening of the war in Southeast Asia. The rally, called by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was supported by several unions as well as the Atlanta antiwar movement.

The crowd, predominantly Black and militant, booed Atlanta mayor Sam Massell off the platform. "We just finished a garbage strike in Atlanta, Georgia, a strike where the mayor of Atlanta called out the riot squad. Atlanta is showing off today. Five weeks ago the city was ready to crush us," remarked Hosea Williams in explanation later on. At Ebenezer [Baptist Church], Black people from all over the East Coast and Midwest gathered. A three car liberation train brought Black students from Federal City College and Teachers' College in Washington, D.C. There were over 200 students from Florida A & M and Florida State University in Tallahassee. The administration had helped mobilize students at A & M; the Black Student Union and the Student Mobilization Committee were the principal organizers at FSU.

The National Council of Distributive Workers of America put together a contin-

gent of close to 100 Black workers. While several had come from Charleston, S.C., the majority included workers from the Genesco Shoe Factory and sisters from Georgia Baptist Hospital, both Atlanta institutions.



June 2, 1945

Japan's critical military situation, combined with steadily worsening economic conditions caused by virtual blockade and devastating air raids, has led to renewed peace agitation by the terribly oppressed Japanese masses.

A high Tokyo judiciary official, Procurator-General Namisuki Nakano, last week warned of the "danger" of such peace agitation and threatened arrest of any person making speeches that might disrupt "national unity."

This renewed agitation against the war gives the lie once again to the assertions of the capitalist press in this country that the Japanese people are united behind their rulers, that they are a warlike nation which revels in violence and bloodshed.

Capitalist press liars who say the Japanese people "wanted" war and that they glory in bloodletting, never point out that the people were thrust into the war by their rulers. An iron totalitarian regime (with which the Anglo-American imperialists maintained the friendliest of relations before Pearl Harbor) stifled all voices of protest. The truth is that the Japanese people no more wanted war than did the masses of Germany, Italy, Britain or any other country.

Build 'Cuba Lives' festival

In Boston, Miami, Houston, Los Angeles and elsewhere opponents of U.S. policy against Cuba are moving into high gear to build participation in the "Cuba Lives" festival planned for August 1-7. Coalitions in these cities are setting an example for what can be done in every urban center in the United States.

A sizable delegation from the United States, joining with those who will go to Cuba from around the world, will be an important and visible act of solidarity with the fight of the Cuban people to defend their sovereign rights. In addition to many local Cuba coalitions throughout the United States the festival has been endorsed by the National Network on Cuba.

"Cuba Lives" is the theme of the event and this fact is what irks many of those who appeared at recent hearings on the proposed Helms-Burton bill in Congress. That bill aims to further tighten the screws against Cuba's working people, even strong arming other nations to go along with the latest dictates from Washington.

But in spite of the harsh impact of decades of embargo, the illegal occupation of a piece of Cuban territory at Guantánamo, and constant attempts to break the will of Cuba's revolutionary people — "Cuba Lives." Cuba faces deep economic problems, but the working class there has a decisive say in the measures that will be taken to deal with that crisis and they don't intend to give up their country to the imperialists.

This stands in stark contrast to what is happening in the rest of the world. Throughout Latin America a wave of protests and strikes is bringing into focus the terrible

price being paid by the working masses in country after country as austerity measures are imposed that translate into massive unemployment, wage cuts, and attacks on democratic rights. More and more of those nation's resources are being put on the auction block for the highest bidders from imperialist countries. This makes the example of Cuba more powerful every day.

Two months remain to get young people and others who have expressed interest and signed up on lists turned into confirmed participants in the "Cuba Lives" festival — with money raised and travel plans set. Speaking to groups and gathering support for fund raising events now will be crucial to putting together the largest delegation possible.

Many participants will want to take advantage of their trip to Cuba to travel on assignment for a local newspaper or radio program. The work to get media outlets to agree to these assignments will help provide a wider forum for report-backs about Cuba today and the fight for the right to travel there.

Building the "Cuba Lives" festival will also help make the upcoming international days of actions in support of Cuba in October a bigger success. Regional demonstrations set for October 14 in Atlanta, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco to oppose U.S. policy against Cuba will get a boost from hundreds of young people and others coming back from Cuba and telling the truth about what the working people of Cuba are fighting for and why Washington's efforts to destroy the revolution should be opposed.

FBI: enemy of social progress

Documents recently obtained by the Center for Constitutional Rights reveal that the FBI spied on AIDS activists and gay rights groups. The cop agency tried to justify itself with the baseless and slanderous claim that it feared demonstrators demanding more government funding for AIDS research might throw infected blood at people.

Protests organized by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP), Gay Men's Health Crisis, and other groups are legal political actions, yet the FBI insists it must keep most of the files secret as part of "ongoing law enforcement activity." The FBI also targeted the Center for Immigrants' Rights and *Haiti Progrés*, a Brooklyn-based newspaper that for years opposed a string of U.S.-backed military dictatorships in Haiti, among others.

This should come as no surprise. It is simply one more reminder of what the FBI is, and has always been — a spying and disruption apparatus directed against working people and fighters for social change.

Over several decades, FBI targets have included groups supporting independence for Puerto Rico, the Socialist Workers Party, the Black Panther party, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, unions, and many other organizations. Thousands of individuals have been spied on, harassed, and even assassinated by Washington's political police. Prominent figures like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., antiwar activists, civil rights fighters, striking trade unionists,

and supporters of Irish self-determination have all been targets of FBI disruption programs. The list goes on and on and on.

Today the U.S. rulers are probing ways to broaden the powers of the FBI and other government cop agencies to brush aside democratic safeguards working people have won in struggle. The Clinton administration and Congress jumped on the April bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building as a golden opportunity to campaign for a "counterterrorism" package that would include more police powers to tap telephone lines and snoop into credit, hotel, travel, and other records of individuals branded as "suspected terrorists." It would allow permanent detention of immigrants convicted of no crime — something several Irish activists are already suffering in U.S. jails — as well as deportation for exercising basic political rights of free speech and association.

Working people have a big stake in fighting every government probe at curtailing democratic rights. As the capitalist system becomes more crisis ridden and workers, farmers, and others begin to mobilize to defend ourselves, the rulers will turn more to cop agencies like the FBI to infiltrate, disrupt, and intimidate those entering the struggle.

The labor movement and all democratic-minded people should join in denouncing the latest examples of FBI spying and help expose Washington's war against political freedom.

Keep pushing Curtis fight

Prison authorities have finally granted political activist Mark Curtis a small reduction from his one-year lockup sentence inside the maximum security unit of the Iowa State Penitentiary. The committee that approved the reduction cited Curtis's "overall cellhouse demeanor" as "above average."

Curtis's classification committee had recommended sentence reduction in four consecutive meetings amounting to a total of 134 days, meeting the same basic criteria. However, the acting warden vetoed these recommendations.

Supporters of Mark Curtis should take advantage of the recent decision by prison authorities in Iowa by stepping up the campaign to get him out of lockup and to fight for his parole from prison.

Prison authorities have a hard time dealing with the fact that Curtis continues to be a political person in prison and his supporters continue the fight for justice. Every act in Curtis's favor by prison officials is granted grudgingly and bares the political nature of keeping Mark Curtis in jail. Defenders of Curtis should use every opportunity to expose the political victimization involved in his imprisonment and win more support for his

case.

From the March for Women's Lives on April 9 in Washington, D.C., to the Labor Notes conference in Detroit April 28-29, to the recent conference in Toronto on the defense of the wrongly convicted, activists for social justice are attracted to Curtis's fight. Today, more youth, workers, and others recognize the injustice that the so-called criminal justice system dishes out every day to working people and fighters like Mark Curtis.

Prison authorities are looking for ways to make life more and more harsh for working people behind bars. From the chain gang slave system of prison labor in Alabama to the denial of voting rights to inmates in New York and other states, prisoners are attempting to resist. Curtis's fight is a part of that struggle too.

Supporters of Curtis should take the small concession granted by the acting warden and push for more. Curtis's recent victory in getting prison officials to grant him the pamphlet *Why is Mark Curtis Still in Prison?* shows that the Iowa prison authorities can be pushed back, and that Curtis's freedom can eventually be won as more working people move into action and are won to demand justice for Mark Curtis.

National rubber workers strike called off after ten months

BY NORTON SANDLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — The rubber workers union has taken down its picket lines at Bridgestone/Firestone plants, ending the union's 10-month strike, the longest in United Rubber Workers (URW) history at a major tire manufacturer.

Meeting in Pittsburgh May 19, the union's Policy Committee for Bridgestone plants voted by a three-to-two margin to end the strike. Union officials from the Des Moines and Noblesville, Indiana, locals were the two holdouts, with officers from Akron, Ohio; Decatur, Illinois; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, out-voting them. Jeff Doornenbal, a spokesperson for Local 310 in Des Moines, told the press that the Policy Committee was advised to terminate the strike by top URW officials and a lawyer for the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). Officials from the URW and the USWA are in the process of consummating a merger of the two unions.

Tried to prevent take back contract

The five URW locals went on strike July 12, 1994, in an attempt to prevent the company from imposing its last and final offer, which included pay cuts, mandatory 12-hour shifts, and slashed medical coverage and vacations.

Bridgestone began hiring strikebreakers soon after the dispute began. On January 4, the company announced that the union members were being permanently replaced. A few days later the local at the company's technical center in Akron voted to end its strike and return to work. The strike was ended unconditionally in Decatur on May 7. So far the company has allowed 60 of that local's 700 members to return to work.

Hundreds of Local 310 members in Des Moines were informed of the Policy Committee's decision at their May 20 union meeting. No membership vote was allowed on the decision to terminate the strike.

The next day the union sent the company a letter saying that it was unconditionally ending the strike and offering to return to work. The company has five days to respond. Union activists expect Bridgestone/Firestone to organize strikebreakers to petition the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to allow union decertification votes at the plants. The URW is pursuing several unfair labor practice charges against the company through the NLRB, which could affect how rapidly a decertification vote can take place.

Local 310 president Bernie Sinclair said the strike is over but the labor dispute is not and that resources from the Steelworkers will be put into strengthening the union's boycott of Bridgestone/Firestone products and in supporting the union's unfair labor practice charges. Sinclair also said the union will organize as best it can under difficult conditions to represent Local 310 members who are recalled to work in the plant.

'We showed solidarity'

"Nobody wants to go back. Nobody, even the tire builders, who have the best chance of being recalled," union member Bob Peters explained following a heated union meeting. "The tire builders have been the strength of the strike. They know the company wants us back to train the scabs on how to operate the equipment and then we face the possibility of them firing us with no union protection," Peters stated.

"When I go back across the street into that plant, I'm going to do it with my head held high," Dave Mendenhall, who has more than 20 years in the plant, told the media. "I'm an honorable person and I've stuck with it to the end."

Larry Lewis, who along with his two brothers would not cross the picket lines, said, "Every person here has shown the company our solidarity. We've shown that we are not just bodies. We deserve respect."

Correction:

The article "Hundreds attend 'Labor Notes' conference" last week misidentified speakers as representatives of the South African Chemical Workers Union. Officials from the South African Chemical Workers Industrial Union addressed the conference.

Kmart workers fight bosses' attendance plan

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions. We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your

Greensboro are not giving up. During warm-up exercises and as they leave at the end of second shift, workers chant slogans. Break-room meetings have been held to explain the issue to the entire workforce, and many workers wear "Stand up for 80/40" stickers. A public plant gate rally is planned for May 24.

ACTWU members are also beginning to discuss how to reach

ON THE PICKET LINE

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

Chanting "No Justice, No Peace," a dozen workers picketed the offices and cafeteria at the Greensboro, North Carolina, Kmart distribution center May 18, as more than 70 workers met with management in the cafeteria. The members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) Local 2603 are demanding equal paid time off with workers at most other Kmart distribution centers.

Kmart's draconian attendance policy, or 'bank of hours' as it is called, has led to 100 firings in the past 18 months. Other workers felt compelled to quit when their bank of hours ran out. After one year, workers receive a bank of 40 paid and 40 unpaid hours that they can miss. Workers with less than a year receive only 40 paid hours. If anyone, for any reason, exceeds their bank, they are dismissed.

After surveying the other Kmart centers, ACTWU discovered that workers at all but one other one received 80 paid hours after one year. So, "Stand up for 80/40" has become the slogan of the day, and workers are demanding that it be implemented immediately, not dragged through contract negotiations.

Kmart has refused to settle the issue immediately, but workers in

out to a new layer of temporary workers from Mexico who have recently begun to work at the center. The company is pushing them to work at a much faster pace than the norm. A recent meeting of the union Justice Committee decided to put out some stickers in Spanish and to include Spanish picket signs at the May 24 rally.

Protest in El Salvador

Some 5,000 state workers marched in San Salvador May 15 to protest a proposed hike in the value-added tax, oppose government privatization plans, and demand pay raises. The demonstrators came primarily from the state telecommunications and hydroelectric companies. The government's proposal also includes a tax increase on alcoholic beverages and cigarettes.

12,000 tractor workers strike in Poland

Some 12,000 workers at the Ursus tractor factory went on strike May 8. The workers are demanding a monthly pay increase of \$70 to make up for inflation, running at 30 percent annually, as well as low-interest loans for the plant. The workers are facing layoffs as the government moves to cut back at many state-owned enterprises.

On May 19, the strikers blocked a main railway line out of Warsaw, forcing trains to be re-routed.



K-mart workers on strike in November 1994 against low pay and poor working conditions.

Militant/Robert Dees

They also staged two marches in the capital to press their demands. The prime minister, Jozef Oleksy, said the government refused to negotiate in an atmosphere of "tension and aggression."

South Korea riot cops arrest Hyundai strikers

The South Korean government dispatched 1,000 riot police to halt a sit-down strike at the Hyundai Motor factory in Ulsan—the largest car factory in the country—on May 19. The cops arrested about 280 workers who were camping out at the plant. The workers were protesting a company decision to shut down some production lines indefinitely.

The Federation of Hyundai Labor Unions announced a rally to protest the government's action for May 22. The union alliance represents 50,000 workers at 25 Hyundai companies, though neither the company nor the government officially recognizes the union. Seoul has deployed 7,000 police in Ulsan to search for and arrest other workers and union

leaders associated with the protest, and to prevent further demonstrations against the company and government.

South Korean president Kim Young Sam also warned workers at the state telecommunications company that a planned strike would be met harshly, citing it as

a threat to national security. The strike threat was a response to punitive measures taken against union leaders.

Diane Shur and M.J. Rahn, members of ACTWU Local 2603 from Greensboro contributed to this column.

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LETTERS

Why U.S. hates Iran

As an old reader and supporter of the *Militant*, I would like to mention a couple of points which I've noticed during my participation in the *Militant* sales teams in the past few months.

Sometimes its good to spice up the articles a little bit. I shall refer to the article "Washington escalates assault on Iran" dated May 15, 1995, as an example. I believe a "Why" could be added to the title as well.

Why? A) To mention the toppling of the Shah who was brought to power in a CIA-organized coup in 1953. B) To mention the solidarity the oil and steelworkers of America rendered to their brothers and sisters in 1978-79 against the brutal regime of the Shah. C) To mention the occupation of the U.S. embassy in 1979 by the revolutionary youth that further exposed the role of such embassies in the Third World countries—that is to spy on, sabotage, and attempt to murder and overthrow governments that are not all the way through subservient to the imperialists.

D) To mention the solidarity of millions of Iranian masses with the fight of the Palestinians for a secular state and against Zionism. E) And to let the readers know of the consciousness achieved thanks to the revolution that the masses expressed in their solidarity with Irish freedom fighters. So

that the name of Churchill Street was changed to Bobby Sands—Irish freedom fighter and martyr.

Those mentioned are just some of the reasons why the U.S. imperialists hate Iran. They hate the consciousness and the sense of solidarity that the 1979 revolution gave birth to. That's why they have to tackle this problem if they want to rule like the past when they had a crowned cannibal under their thumb.

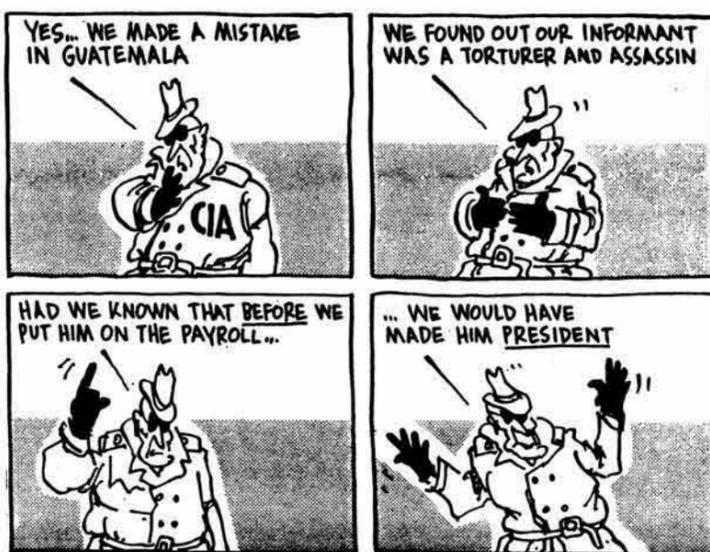
Ali Yousefi
Toronto, Canada

On gun control

In the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing and the way the Big Business mass media is attempting to demonize and marginalize 2nd and 4th Amendment advocates, I was wondering what the *Militant's* position is on gun control vs. the 2nd Amendment.

I am active in a group that is opposed to all gun control measures and advocates strongly in favor of 2nd Amendment rights. Most right-wingers have a tendency to paint all gun-control advocates and politicians proposing legislation that infringes on our Constitutional rights as 'Liberals' and 'Communists.'

I consider myself to be a Socialist and am definitely opposed to any infringement on our Constitutional rights and liberties. By being a part of this group I am at-



ate few good jobs and generally hire non-union workers. Moreover, they destroy other businesses and introduce more crime and prostitution. I am convinced gambling casinos are an exploitation of the working class and should be viewed that way.

Maurice Geary
Ferndale, Michigan

Notes from our readers

Your newspaper is very informative unlike the regular established papers around the country, more like dirt sheets.

A reader
Atlanta, Georgia

The *Militant* receives many requests from readers behind bars. The *Militant* Prisoner Subscription Fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't afford to pay for them. To help us respond to requests for subscriptions please send your contribution to the *Militant* Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

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.

tempting to break down the myths and generalizations that many working people, especially in rural areas, have toward the political left wing and in the process build bridges and educate.

I would appreciate an article on the gun control issue as well as an analysis of the campaign being waged currently in the mass media and in legislation to curtail our Constitutional rights.

Ed Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

Gambling rip off

The clamor for gambling casi-

nos in Michigan is reaching fevered proportions as the lure of quick and easy profits cause gambling rip off artists to drool with excitement. Not content with extracting the surplus value produced by workers, they now want a percentage of their wages. The most persuasive argument given for casinos is envy of Windsor, Ontario, just across the Detroit River where millions are being made from Detroit workers that could be made by Detroit bosses.

Opposition to this is growing, but the majority would appear to favor it if you can trust press reports and politicians. Casinos cre-

Australian miners hold off bosses

BY DOUG COOPER

SYDNEY, Australia — More than 2,700 miners returned to work at a huge Queensland copper, lead, zinc, and silver mine May 23 after being laid off May 8 and then locked out by Mt. Isa Mines Holdings Ltd. (MIM) four days later.

They returned with heads high as they prepare for the next stage in the fight. The Mt. Isa mine, with boundaries equal in size to Switzerland, is one of the world's largest and most isolated, with annual production valued at \$A1.26 billion [\$A1 = U.S. \$0.73]. The mine is closer to Indonesia than it is to Sydney.

Determined resistance by the miners forced MIM to back down from its intransigent "final offer" stance and allow workers to return to their jobs. Unionists held mass pickets focused on MIM's Mica Creek power station, where they cut off electricity to the mine but maintained it for the town of Mt. Isa, with its population of 23,000. Shopkeepers arrived daily with food donations for the locked-out workers.

A solidarity strike by coal miners at three MIM mines and a coal loading facility in central Queensland and the threat of a national coal strike put additional pressure on the company. MIM stock suffered a steep drop in value on both the Australian and London stock exchanges.

Three months of protest actions

The 15-day lockout, which cost MIM some \$A3-5 million a day, was preceded by three months of rolling strikes and overtime bans at the mine aimed at forcing MIM to restore benefits conceded in 1993.

The series of job actions began after workers rejected a second company offer at a February mass meeting. They rejected an initial offer December 1994. Both deals had been negotiated with the MIM bosses by state officials from the Australian Workers' Union (AWU) and the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU).

The AWU and the AMWU represent the majority of workers at the site. Three other unions, the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), the Electrical Trades Union (ETU), and the Federated Clerks' Union (FCU), also represent workers at the Mt. Isa mine.

Philip Wright, MIM general manager at the mine, played a divide-and-conquer game before and during the lockout.

He insisted he would not negotiate with the CFMEU, ETU, or FCU, using as a pretext a 1994 Queensland Industrial Relations Tribunal ruling granting coverage of the site to the AWU and AMWU. The ruling was the result of a jurisdictional dispute between the AWU and CFMEU in particular.

Wright and big-business media pundits insist the dispute has been caused by a power struggle among the five unions. In fact, the conflict flows from concessions wrung from the miners in 1993 when MIM claimed to be operating at a loss.

The company's final offer consisted of a 10 percent wage increase over 18 months and an \$A800 annual remote area travel allowance.

The Combined Unions Disputes Committee, consisting of elected representa-

tives of all five unions, led the three-month campaign. The unions demanded a wage increase greater than 10 percent, reinstatement of annual free round-trip airfares for miners and their families to Brisbane — the capital of Queensland, restoration of the right to accrue sick days, and subsidized medical payments to make up the difference between doctors' actual bills and the standard fee paid for by Medicare. Workers also demanded to be allowed to join the union of their choice.

Wright has vowed to quit if the airfares are restored. During the lockout, he also demanded the unions call a mass meeting, which he claimed would vote to accept his final offer. The demand was ignored. Instead the unions organized daily open forums.

Many miners, working underground in 12-hour shifts, don't earn much more than the base rate of \$A28,000 a year and have not had a wage rise since 1991.

Bosses bump into workers' solidarity

Wright and Nick Stump, a notorious union buster and MIM's newly appointed chief executive officer, ran head on into the unity and solidarity of rank-and-file miners and their supporters.

Some 1,200 Queensland CFMEU members at MIM's Oakey Creek, Newlands, and Collinsville mines, as well as its Abbott Point coastal coal loading facility, walked off the job May 12. The workers, who voted unanimously to ignore a Coal Industry Tribunal back-to-work order during their strike, began returning to work May 18.

Martin Ferguson, the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, and Laurie Brereton, the minister for industrial relations in the federal Labor government, stepped into the MIM dispute, brokering a two-week cooling off period to be followed by new negotiations.

Memories of a militant seven-month strike at the mine in 1964-65, which electrified the labor movement here, were undoubtedly high on the list of motivations for their intervention. Also high on the list was the looming specter of a national coal strike in solidarity with the MIM miners.

Australia, the world's largest coal exporter, controls 36 percent of world coal trade. Last year the industry produced a record 180 million tons of coal with exports of 132 million tons.

Those figures are expected to be eclipsed this year by exports of close to 140 million tons and earnings in excess of A\$8 billion, making coal once again the single largest contributor to Australia's foreign exchange earnings.

Under the plan approved by the miners, the Combined Unions Disputes Committee will be replaced by a "single bargaining unit" of MIM management, state union officials, and local union representatives chosen by the workers.

As miners voted May 22 on the framework agreement to return to work, Roy Harris, co-chair of the Combined Unions Dispute Committee, said of Wright, "The man that doesn't blink, blinked."

Doug Cooper is a member of the Australian Workers Union at Alcan in Sydney.

Maori protesters end 79-day land occupation

BY MICHAEL TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — "We are going out the way we want to go out and the way our people came in...with integrity and under our own custom," Henry Bennett, a leader of the Whanganui River Maori tribes, told reporters May 17. The next morning, before dawn, 250 Maori land protesters marched out of Moutoa Gardens in Wanganui, ending their 79-day land occupation.

Maoris and supporters occupied the gardens February 28 to press their demand for the return of the two-and-a-half-acre public park area near the center of the city. The demonstrators erected tents and buildings, built a wooden fence, and renamed the site Pakaitore, the original Maori name for the area.

The land fight has dominated politics in this country and inspired Maori occupations and protests in other centers.

The decision to end the occupation followed a High Court injunction declaring the Wanganui District Council to be the owner of the gardens and ordering the land occupants to leave. The injunction had been sought by the District Council with the support of the government.

Three leaders of the protest were named as defendants in the case. They declined to be represented in court, explaining that the land claim is a political matter to be settled by the government, not a legal issue.

The injunction was served on the protesters May 17.

"We were forced to leave, and it shouldn't be lost on anybody that we upheld our dignity," protest leader Ken Mair told a press conference in Wanganui May 18 following the end of the occupation. "In no way were we going to allow the state the opportunity to put the handcuffs on us and lock us away."

The police were reported to have up to 1,000 reinforcements ready to evict the land occupants. Wanganui's Kaitoke prison had been gazetted as a "police jail"

to enable its use as holding cells. The police eviction preparations were code-named "Operation Exodus".

A week earlier, on May 10, up to 70 cops in riot gear had raided the land occupation in the middle of the night, claiming the protest had become a haven for "criminals and stolen property" and "drug users." Ten people were arrested on minor charges including "breach of the peace" and "assault." Throughout the occupation there has been a strict policy of no drugs or alcohol on the site.

Protest leaders denounced the raid as a dress rehearsal for their forced eviction and an attempt to provoke, intimidate, and discredit the land occupants.

"They actually got one of our young men and were very rough with him," occupation leader Niko Tangaroa told reporters. "His face was rubbed into the ground, and he was abused, and a gun was put to his head. They said, 'Don't move nigger, or I'll blow you away.' That was witnessed by others who were around."

Throughout the 79-day occupation, the land protesters faced almost nightly harassment and racist abuse by the cops. A Wanganui church minister announced May 22 that he intends to file a formal complaint unless police acknowledge claims made against them. He said he had witnessed police circling their cars outside the gardens and abusing occupants as "niggers" and "black bastards."

The police have also led a propaganda barrage against the land occupants, portraying a large section of them as "criminals" and "gang members." This has been echoed by the Wanganui District Council and politicians.

A meeting to demand eviction of the protesters was held in Wanganui May 14. It was addressed by Ross Meurant, a member of parliament and leader of the Right of Centre Party. The meeting attracted 300 people, well short of the 1,000 expected by the organizers. Meurant, a



Militant/Malcolm McAllister
Maori land occupation in Wanganui, New Zealand. Protest leaders vowed to continue fight. Land fights by Maoris have dominated politics in recent months.

former commander of the police riot squad, denounced Maori rights fighters as "self-serving and malicious."

The decision to end the Maori occupation of Moutoa Gardens was debated by participants at a three-hour meeting May 17. At 3:45 the next morning the occupants gathered and began dismantling tents and buildings and the surrounding fence. Bonfires burned across the site.

At 4:50 a.m., the same time they had entered the gardens 79 days earlier, the protesters began their march to a meeting place several miles away. Over the next few days, a team continued to dismantle the meeting house and other buildings that had been erected during the occupation.

"Every step of the way has been worthwhile as far as we are concerned," Niko Tangaroa told the May 18 press conference in Wanganui. "Pakaitore is our land. It will remain our land, and we will continue to assert that right irrespective of the courts."

The protest leaders vowed to continue their fight, including through further land

occupations. "As long as the Crown [government] buries its head in the sand and pretends that issues of sovereignty and our land grievances are going to go away... we are going to stand up and fight for what is rightfully ours," Ken Mair declared.

The chairman of the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board, Archie Tairoa, reported that local sub-tribes had already given full support for the "reoccupation of those areas of land wrongfully taken from them." Moutoa Gardens, he said, "is but a small part of some of those areas."

Whanganui River sub-tribes have claims for the return of 186,000 acres of land before the Waitangi Tribunal, a judicial body that hears Maori claims on land and other resources unjustly taken away.

A number of other Maori occupations that began in the wake of the Moutoa Gardens occupation are continuing.

Michael Tucker is a member of the United Food & Beverage Workers Union in Auckland.