

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

U.S. gov't won't back off Cuba embargo in conflict with rivals

— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Zaire rebels advance, imperialists take aim

BY MEGAN ARNEY

As rebels in Zaire come closer to capturing Kisangani, the country's third largest city, new rumors of intervention are being floated by government spokespeople from a number of imperialist powers, led by Washington.

The Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, which opposes the dictatorial regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko, is led by Laurent Kabila. Kisangani could become one of many Zairian cities overrun by the Alliance forces in the past few weeks. On February 4, rebels took the port and railway center of Kalemie, in the southern part of eastern Zaire in the Shaba province — one of the richest in the country. Although still about 800 km [496 miles] from Shaba's copper and cobalt mines, Kalemie is a commercial transit point.

Advancing closer to Kisangani, rebels also moved north from Kalemie to Kalima, Continued on Page 8

## Meetings get Militant Fund off to a running start

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Partisans of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have kicked off a campaign to raise \$115,000 by April 26 to finance these two socialist periodicals. In several cities they began with public fund-raising meetings on the first weekend of the drive, February 22-23. Organizers of the meetings were pleasantly surprised by the good response from the audience.

In Christchurch, New Zealand, for example, workers and others at the event contributed \$1,790, which was "well more than

**Capital Fund raises over \$290,000 for Pathfinder's long-term needs —Page 5**

the initial goal of \$1,050 that *Militant* supporters in that city had set themselves," writes Michael Tucker from New Zealand.

Nathan Simms, a leader of the Communist League and of the Young Socialists in Christchurch, addressed the meeting in that city and one the next evening in Auckland. Taking up recent world events, he condemned the stepped-up campaign by Washington, aided by its flunkies in Seoul, against the workers state in northern Korea.

The big-business press was horrified at the sight of tens of thousands of workers pouring into the streets of southern Korea to protest that regime's antilabor laws. They buried the coverage in their inside pages and wished the workers would just go away. In contrast, the *Militant* hailed their example with front-page coverage. Speaking at the two fund meetings in New Zealand, Matthew Gibson, a member of the Young So-

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## Washington pushes NATO expansion plan

Albright's tour is aimed against allies, Moscow

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright began a nine-country world tour in Rome February 16 to press the Clinton administration's foreign policy for the U.S. capitalist class. Foremost on Albright's agenda was an aggressive campaign to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) into central and eastern Europe. "President Clinton and I have no higher priority," she declared shortly before launching her tour.

Albright's mission highlighted the U.S. rulers' accelerated moves toward their goals of overthrowing the workers states Russia and elsewhere in the region. The move would place imperialist military forces in Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic and assert Washington's growing economic and military dominance in Europe.

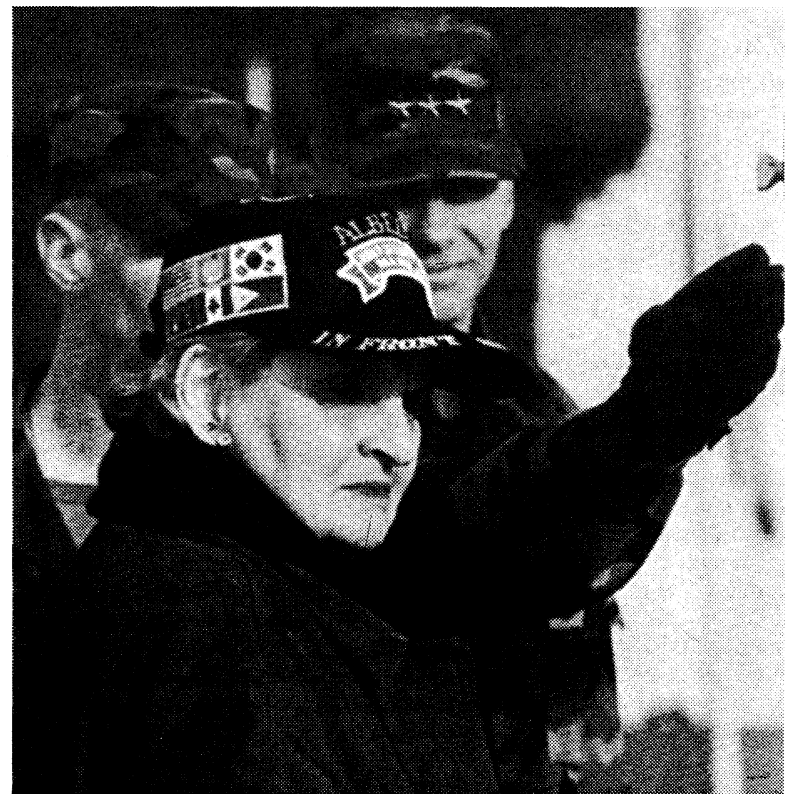
Over the last month, however, a debate has openly broken out among ruling-class figures over whether expanding NATO is the best way to pursue these objectives.

The Clinton administration is wasting no time in implementing the expansion. "We are on a very fast track here," Albright emphasized during her February 16 flight to Rome. "We have lots of work to do between now and July."

A NATO summit is scheduled for July 7-9 in Madrid that is expected to formally announce Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic as new candidates for membership and lay out plans to accept them into the imperialist military alliance by 1999 — the organization's 50th anniversary.

During a meeting at the Brussels headquarters of the 16-member alliance February 18, Albright urged negotiations for the new members' admission be completed "by end of this year, so we can sign accession instruments at our meeting in December." She said this would give parliaments of the member countries time to debate and ratify the enlargement in the course of

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Secretary of State Madeleine Albright with U.S. troops in southern Korea, where she reiterated Washington's policy of using food as a weapon against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north. Earlier in her world tour, Albright pushed NATO expansion and Washington's dominance over its allies in western Europe.

## Auto parts workers win contract at Johnson Controls with 25-day strike

BY JOHN SARGE

PLYMOUTH, Michigan — Workers here and in Oberlin, Ohio, scored a victory after 25 days on strike against the auto parts giant Johnson Controls Inc. (JCI). The 300 workers in Michigan and 200 in Ohio, who are members of the United Auto Workers (UAW), ratified their first union contracts February 21.

The 500 UAW members struck January 28 after JCI, which had negotiated with the union since last summer, still refused to offer the same pay and benefits that workers at other unionized seat suppliers — or even at other nonunion JCI plants — have. The struck plants make auto seats for Ford Motor Co., the second-largest U.S. automaker. Ford surprised JCI management when they refused to accept seats made by salaried personnel and scabs, which the company had organized to have in place as the strike began. Ford made its decision to avoid conflicts with UAW members in its assembly plants that use the seats. Ford workers built the seats now supplied by JCI until the spring of 1996.

Low-seniority members of UAW Local 174 in Plymouth, who made \$9.50 before the strike, will earn \$12.66 by the third year of the agreement. More senior production workers earning \$10.50 in January will see their hourly rate climb to \$14.00 over the same period. Members of Local 996 in Oberlin will see production wages top out at \$12.35 in February 1999.

The strikers won improvements in their medical benefits. In addition, the company

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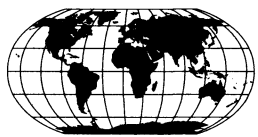
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**O.J. Simpson trial: a violation of democratic rights — page 6**



## Serb teachers demand better pay

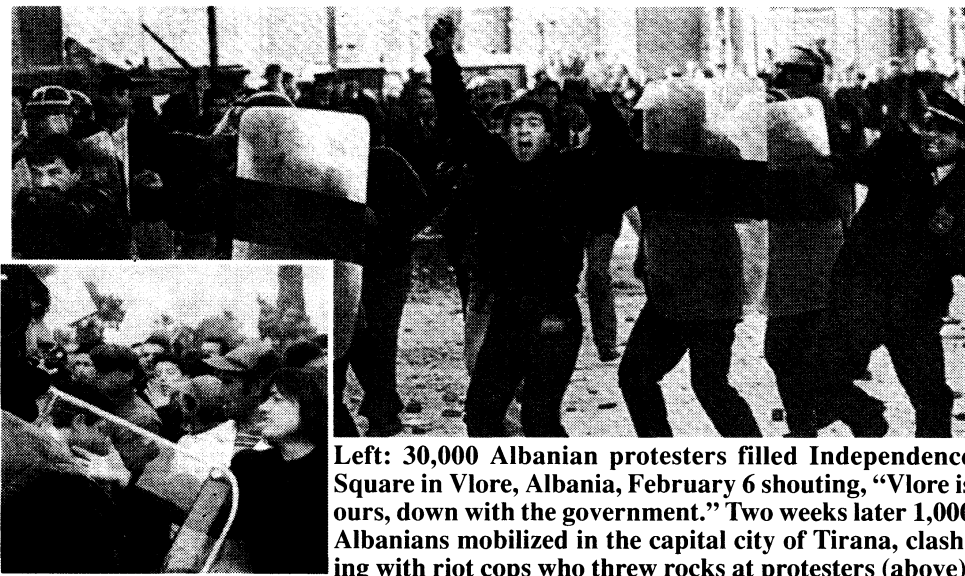
Thousands of teachers in Belgrade blocked a street in front of Serbia's main government building February 17 to protest the regime's efforts to hold down their wages. Teachers are calling for a 60 percent salary increase, while government officials decided on a 10 percent raise at a meeting where teachers' union representatives were not present. Teachers from 1,800 of Serbia's 2,100 elementary schools and high schools have been on strike for more than two weeks demanding back pay. Transportation workers, who are also demanding back pay and improved working conditions, have immobilized 25 percent of the city's buses.

Protests and demonstrations that shook the Serbian government for three months were recently suspended by opponents of President Slobodan Milosevic after his government conceded to the overwhelming demand to recognize municipal election victories by the opposition in Belgrade and 13 other Serbian cities. Zoran Djindjic, chairman of the Democratic Party, was inaugurated as the new mayor of Belgrade February 21.

## Albania police attack protesters

Truckloads of Albanian cops swarmed on 1,000 people February 20 who were waiting to withdraw their money from a so-called holding company that had frozen all accounts in January. Cops fired live rounds of ammunition into the air and threw rocks back at protesters who stoned the police. The clashes were the worst eruption of violence since anti-government protests exploded January 15. Earlier on February 20, some 7,000 people rallied at a football field outside Tirana to demand the government cover their losses from failed "pyramid schemes," which wiped out the savings of hundreds of thousands of Albanians. An increasing number of Albanians are now demanding the resignation of the pro-capitalist regime of President Sali Berisha.

On February 19, Vefa, the country's largest "holding company," which reportedly controls 240 businesses and has 80,000 investors, announced it would allow those with deposits of \$5,000 or less to pull out their funds. That could mean paying 48,000



Left: 30,000 Albanian protesters filled Independence Square in Vlore, Albania, February 6 shouting, "Vlore is ours, down with the government." Two weeks later 1,000 Albanians mobilized in the capital city of Tirana, clashing with riot cops who threw rocks at protesters (above).

people about \$240 million over the next two to three weeks, London's *Financial Times* reported. Vefa has been financing its operations through its own pyramid schemes, offering up to 50 percent interest on deposits. The company froze all accounts in January. On February 20, more than 2,000 people gathered around Vefa's main payout office to get their money back.

## Austria rightist bans immigrants

Karl-Heinz Grasser, a right-wing official in the provincial government of Carinthia, in southern Austria, announced February 20 a ban on contractors who employ workers from outside the European Union from winning public-sector construction projects. Some 15 percent of the 10,000 construction workers in Carinthia come from Yugoslavia and many more from throughout Eastern Europe. "With 30,000 jobless workers in Carinthia, we have to ensure Carinthians find jobs and income first," Grasser, economics councilor in the government of Carinthia, declared. Unemployment in Austria recently exceeded 300,000 for the first time since World War II.

Grasser is a close aide to Jorge Haider, leader of the ultraright Freedom Party, which won 28 percent of the votes in the European Parliament elections last October. Carinthia, with the highest jobless rate in the country,

is a stronghold of the fascists. The Freedom Party leadership endorsed Grasser's order and demanded similar measures across Austria. In mid-February, Haider called for the deportation of all jobless immigrants during a special parliamentary session.

## Turkish women blast sexist laws

More than 8,000 women filled the streets of Ankara, Turkey's capital, February 15 defiantly chanting "We are women, we are strong, we are against sharia [Islamic legal code]." A February 16 Reuters dispatch reported that women's groups and opposition parties have accused Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and his Welfare Party of trying to chip away at Turkey's official secularism and erode women's rights with a series of proposals that would impose parts of the Islamic code onto public life. Tansu Ciller, leader of the conservative True Path Party, who became Turkey's first female premier in 1993 and has joined the governing coalition with the Welfare Party, was jeered at by protesters for siding with Erbakan. "We are here, where is Tansu Ciller?" protesters shouted.

## Madrid arrests six Basques

The Spanish government arrested six leaders of the Basque political coalition Herri Batasuna February 19 for alleged involvement with the E.T.A., an armed Basque nationalist group. In addition, 25 members of Batasuna's executive committee were earlier summoned for questioning in Madrid by Spain's Supreme Court. Eugenio Aranburu, a member of Herri Batasuna's executive board, committed suicide on February 10 — just hours before he was to be detained. Herri Batasuna heads the regional parliament in northwest Spain, where Bilbao is the capital, and favors an independent Basque country. It has repeatedly called on the E.T.A. to give up its armed guerrilla campaign.

Tensions have been high since February 15 when a march for Basque independence in Bilbao was raided by cops who fired live ammunition and wounded two men. On Feb-

ruary 17 a car bomb exploded, killing a policeman driving to the courthouse. Madrid blamed the E.T.A. for the bombing and the death of a Supreme Court judge, one week earlier.

## Clinton to 'certify' Mexico

The Clinton administration plans to certify the government of Mexico as one of its allies in the so-called "war against illegal drugs." The announcement came after Jesús Gutiérrez Rebollo, top anti-drug official of Mexico, was arrested on charges of being linked with drug dealers. At the same time, Washington insists it will "decertify" the Colombian government of Ernesto Samper for a second time as failing to stem drug trafficking.

"Department heads declined requests for interviews, as did others at the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Treasury Department," noted an article in the February 22 *New York Times*. The bourgeois daily said that "the prospect of certifying Mexico but not Colombia highlights the inconsistency that political considerations have interjected into the certification process since it became law in 1986." One U.S. government official justified Washington's foreign policy on this question stating, "Mexico is in the vital national interest, and Colombia isn't." Mexico is Washington's third largest trading partner in the world.

## Okinawans angry at firing of U.S. uranium bullets

Okinawan government officials formally objected to Washington's military presence on the Japanese island and denounced the firing of bullets containing uranium by U.S. Marines during military exercises there. The resolution adopted by Okinawa's state assembly February 21 also called for guarantees that the local government will be notified quickly of military accidents. The lawmakers were particularly incensed by the recent discovery of 1,520 uranium-containing bullets fired in Okinawa by U.S. troops in late 1995 and early 1996.

The Clinton administration waited for a year before notifying Tokyo, which took another month to inform the Okinawa government. Both the U.S. and Japanese governments said the use of the bullets was "regrettable" and described it as an accident.

"The resolution indicated growing frustration among Okinawans who feel they don't control their own land," said a February 14 news item by Associated Press. "Incidents like this seem to have no end, and the anger of the people is reaching a high point," the resolution stated. Okinawa makes up less than 1 percent of Japan's total land, yet hosts about 66 percent of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in the country. According to AP, Tokyo has tried to move some of the bases off Okinawa since the 1995 rape of a 12-year-old girl by U.S. Marines, but "few areas are willing to accept them."

— BRIAN TAYLOR

# THE MILITANT

## Equal rights for immigrants!

*The fight for equal rights for immigrants is a life and death question for labor. Rightists from Austria to France and the United States seek to gain a hearing for their reactionary views by scapegoating immigrant workers. The 'Militant' gives the news of this struggle as it unfolds in the streets. Don't miss a single issue!*



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# New Zealand rulers attack Maori rights

BY EUGEN LEPOU  
AND JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Winston Peters, New Zealand deputy prime minister, asserted the coalition government there has a greater understanding of the aspirations of Maori than any previous government. He was speaking at a welcome for government ministers and various dignitaries at Te Tii Waitangi Marae (*marae* = Maori meeting area) in Waitangi, as preparations began for commemorations of New Zealand's national holiday, Waitangi Day, February 6.

The new Maori MPs (Members of Parliament) "are central to the aspirations of all people of this country — good education, good employment, good health and sound economic resource development. There is an acceptance on Maoridom's part that this is coming very soon in the future," he declared.

On February 6, 1840 a treaty was signed at Waitangi between Maori chiefs and the British Crown, which this country's capitalist rulers commemorate as the nation's founding document. Since the 1970s, the day has become one of discussion and protest around issues of Maori rights, focused at the small town of Waitangi in the north of New Zealand.

The issue overshadowing all others this year was a controversy over government funding of a Maori television station and accusations that a former director of the station and New Zealand First MP, Tukoroirangi Morgan, had misappropriated some of the station's money.

Since forming a coalition government with the National Party in December, New Zealand First has promoted itself as a new leadership for Maori people. Peters, a rightist politician, is the party's leader. A record 15 Maori were elected to the 120-seat Parliament, of whom seven are members of New Zealand First. Peters and two others are part of the Cabinet — its deputy leader and Minister of Maori Affairs, Tau Henare, and Associate Treasurer Tuariiki John Delamere.

## An increase in Maori middle class

The past decade has seen a sharp increase in the number of Maori in professional, business, and other middle class occupations. The majority of Maori are working class.

An editorial in the October 22 Christchurch daily newspaper *The Press* commented, "Among the remarkable outcomes of the election on October 12, none is more remarkable than the change in Maori representation in Parliament. That change might have a more profound effect on politics and society in New Zealand than anything else that happened in the election....

"One long-term social effect will be that New Zealanders will see impressive Maori politicians playing significant roles. That will help undo the images of the dispossessed and the gangs. Much will still need to be done to improve the lot of the Maoris, but there will be a different feel about it."

Peters and other politicians, including Labour Party leader Helen Clark and the leader of the right-wing ACT party Richard Prebble, made the decision to attend the commemorations at Waitangi despite the government holding the official ceremony in the capital city of Wellington for the second year in a row.

The government moved its commemorations from Waitangi after angry clashes with 700 protesters in 1995.

The demonstration was organized against government plans to impose a ceiling of NZ\$1 billion (NZ\$1 = US\$0.69) compensation — commonly called the fiscal envelope — for all Maori claims for the return of stolen or confiscated land and resources guaranteed to the Maori people under the Treaty of Waitangi.

This protest took place in the midst of an upsurge of land occupations and other protests for Maori national rights that began in the second half of 1994 and continued into the first months of 1996. The new coalition government has promised to scrap the fiscal cap on Maori treaty claims.

Smaller protests continue. On the evening of February 6, 100 demonstrators for Maori rights set off from Waitangi in vehicles and on foot for a week-long march to Rotorua, to be joined by others at the different cities and towns they stopped in. On February 8, 40 people climbed Pouerua Mountain near Waitangi to set up an occupation camp to



Militant/Janet Roth

February 6 march for Maori land and other rights in Waitangi, New Zealand.

oppose its sale.

## New Zealand First under fire

At the Waitangi commemorations, and in the weeks before and since, New Zealand First has been under fire for the role of one its members, Maori MP Tukoroirangi Morgan, in the Aotearoa Television Network (ATN).

ATN is the first Maori language television station. It was launched in May last year with government funding, following a series of court rulings that the government, under the Treaty of Waitangi, was obliged to protect and actively promote the Maori language. Both English and Maori are official languages of New Zealand.

The station was a pilot scheme for a limited time period, and broadcast only in Auckland. On January 27, the government announced it would provide an additional NZ\$4 million to keep it on the air until June, in what the *Sunday Star-Times* described as "a sign of the new influence of Maori in government."

In response the opposition Labour Party, spearheaded by Clark, began campaigning against this funding, with accusations of cronyism, financial mismanagement, and the misuse of "public" funds. Daily front-page scandal-mongering about ATN's functioning led to the government canceling its additional funding and launching official inquiries into the station's affairs. Peters announced he was conducting his own secret inquiry using unnamed contacts.

The controversy has acquired the name Undiegate, in reference to revelations that former director Morgan had spent NZ\$4,000 of the station's money on expensive clothes, including NZ\$89 for one pair of underpants. Morgan has become the center of the scandal, with calls for his resignation from parliament. If New Zealand First lost Morgan's seat, the coalition government would lose its one-seat majority in parliament.

The methods being used by Labour politicians mirror anti-corruption campaigns carried out by Peters, through which he gained notoriety. One feature of national politics has been a commission of inquiry, set up by the former National Party government in 1994 under pressure from Peters, to investigate an alleged company tax evasion scheme, dubbed the Winebox Inquiry. Executives involved with the company at the center of the Winebox Inquiry were found to also be linked to ATN.

## Attacks on affirmative action

Opponents of Maori rights have used the opportunity to speak out against government funding of affirmative action measures for the Maori language.

Right-wing columnist Frank Haden wrote in the February 2 *Sunday Star Times*, "It has become very obvious that we don't like it. The last thing we want is programmes in a dead language nobody understands or uses and what's more never will understand or use."

An editorial in the same issue of the *Sunday Star Times*, headlined "Maori TV a waste of our money," said, "The concept of a Maori television station...is a noble dream. Aotearoa Television has proven that throwing large dollops of public money to a group of middle-class Maori journalists is no way to turn this dream into reality.... Given the huge expense of the medium, it is

impossible to envisage a stand alone national Maori language television network ever being financially viable."

Right-wing National MP and radio talk show host John Banks called on the coalition government to stop pouring money down a "black hole." "The public out there are spewing at this wasteful saga... their money being blown. Only people on the public tit at Aotearoa Maori Television with blank cheque-books seem to be able to buy \$95 knickers."

Alongside ATN, the Maori radio station Aotearoa Maori Radio and Pacific Island station Reo Atumotu (Voice of the Islands) are expected to close because of cuts in state funding in the wake of the controversy.

The opening of Parliament on February 18 provided a further opportunity for the Labour Party to throw new accusations at Morgan and ensure the affair remained at the center of national politics.

New Zealand First Cabinet member Delamere used his maiden speech to Parliament to, in contrast, present his party as a defender of Maori rights by highlighting discrimination against Maori and calling for "fair and reasonable restitution of our claims under the Treaty of Waitangi."

Delamere had earlier this year backed a campaign to have a posthumous Victoria Cross awarded to a World War II soldier Haane Manahi, saying Manahi was blocked from receiving the war medal because he was Maori.

He also railed against lawyers hired by Maori tribal authorities to work on Treaty of Waitangi claims as "legal parasites." "The law fraternity has benefited enormously from treaty claims and Maori have seen precious little."

# Students protest against rightist assaults in Sweden

BY DAG TIRSÉN  
AND CLAUDIO BURGOS

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — In the first week of February, a group of skinheads attacked activists from Elevkampanjen (Student campaign) who were staffing a book table at the Asö High School gymnasium here. One of the racists hit an activist and threw the table on him.

No action was taken against the skinhead, said Anna-Klara Engqvist, a leader of the Elevkampanjen — one of the two national student unions in Sweden. She said he was simply called in to the headmaster's office to explain himself. The headmaster, Gillis Axelsson, said, "It was a small thing, only a slap in the face."

The day after the racist assault, students organized a protest meeting outside the school, which was assailed by the skinheads. A week later on February 13, some 400 people, mostly students at the school, participated in a larger demonstration that was organized by Elevkampanjen.

A group of 30–50 skinheads approached the rally, and provoked fights with the students. Axel Winkler, a member of Elevkampanjen, was kicked repeatedly. The cops stopped the clash after stones were thrown at the skinheads. The police rescued

A number of prominent newspaper articles have focused on fellow Cabinet member Henare as a fighter for Maori equality and part of a new Maori leadership. While Delamere counts among his achievements time spent at West Point military academy in the United States, Henare is described as "left-leaning," of having "a strong commitment to social justice," and of promising "to ensure that within three years poor Maori health, housing, and education figures are reversed."

In practice, Henare has backed the policies of his party, requiring him to reverse previous stances he had taken — such as opposition to the anti-union Employment Contracts Act, support for income versus market-related state house rentals, and opposition to being in a coalition government with the National Party.

Working people who are Maori have borne the brunt of a two-decade assault on the rights and living standards of workers and working farmers. This is reflected in statistics on unemployment, health, education, and other social injustices. The unemployment rate for Maori, for example, is 15.9 percent while for whites it is 4.5 percent. The percentage of Maori leaving school with no qualifications has increased since 1993 to 35 percent, while the equivalent figure for non-Maori is 14 percent. Most statistics for Pacific Islanders are similar to those for Maori.

In state-of-the-nation speeches at two business forums in Wellington, February 11 and Auckland, February 12 government leaders highlighted their previously-announced plans to further restrict welfare benefits. They include introducing a work-for-the-dole workfare scheme, reviewing the Domestic Purposes Benefit for single parents, and cutting back on entitlements for accident compensation.

In an article in the February 12 *New Zealand Herald* headlined "Leaders say more work, less welfare," Peters, in his speech as Treasurer, is quoted as saying the coalition government would be distinguished by the prominence it gave to the need to shift people "from state dependence to independence." Priority would be given to the need to "create an environment which instills greater levels of parental responsibility."

The *Herald* described the government's thinking as seeming to have toughened on these issues. "Much of the impetus is understood to be coming from New Zealand First's Maori MPs, concerned at the effects of high welfare dependency among Maori," the article stated.

Eugen Lepou is a member of the Meat Workers Union and Janet Roth is a member of the United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union in Auckland.

the racists, halting a bus on the street and unloading its passengers, then boarding the skinheads.

Elevkampanjen canceled a third attempt to organize a protest when the headmaster threatened to close down the school that day.

These confrontations were a culmination of a sustained period of harassment by a group of about 10 skinheads from a broader layer of right-wingers. Hitler salutes, "siege heil," "Jewish swine," and "damned communist" are expressions commonly used by the rightists.

Axelsson claimed in an interview with *Internationalen* that Elevkampanjen initiated the original attack at the book table and he accused the organization of breaking the "truce," which had existed during the fall. Taking no direct action against the racist attackers, Axelsson took the opportunity to forbid all political activities at the school.

Elevkampanjen, which is closely allied to an ultraleft group called Offensive, published a leaflet at the school with the headline "For a nazi free school!" There was no demand to lift the political ban at the school.

Dag Tirsén, is a member the Food Workers union. Claudio Burgos is a member of the Young Socialists in Sweden.

# — YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD —

## Spokane YS gains coverage through propaganda

from the pages of *The Spokesman*, published in Spokane, Washington

### They're out in left field

*Young Socialists hope to appeal to 'working people'*

By Virginia deLeon  
Staff writer

Overthrowing capitalism takes a lot of work these days.

Strikes, protests, spreading the Marxist word — it's an exhausting job for any revolutionary.

Take it from Wil Elder, a member of Spokane's Young Socialists.

On a snowy Friday night in downtown Spokane, the 17-year-old stood on a street corner with his comrades — passing out fliers, answering questions, selling books

by Lenin, Malcolm X, Che Guevara.

Despite the occasional stares, dirty looks, and comments that included "I'm a Nazi," they managed a conversation with six high school kids and a 40-something woman who advised them to get a college degree.

"We're here for working people," Elder said. "Capitalism doesn't work for them."

Known as the youth arm of the international Socialist Workers Party, the

Continued: **Socialists/B6**



Sandra Bancroft-Billings/The Spokesman-Review

Wil Elder chats with a passerby at an information table downtown Friday.

## 'Militant' fund drive

Continued from front page

cialists in Christchurch, pointed to several more examples of the *Militant's* truthful reporting of workers' struggles around the world.

*Militant* supporters also got a favorable response at a February 21 fund-raising meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota. The keynoter was Brock Satter, a member of the National Committee of the Young Socialists, who spoke on "Black Liberation and Socialism: Prospects for Freedom in the 21st Century."

"By the end of the evening \$5,200 had been pledged toward a goal of \$6,000," reports local *Militant* loyalist Tom Fiske. What was their secret? "Well, we did a little advance work," Fiske admits. "We talked to a number of people before the event to get them thinking about making a pledge. That paid off."

A little advance work and hosting meetings early in the drive are exactly the kind of ingredients that will lead to a successful *Militant* Fund campaign. *Militant* readers in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Cleveland, New York, and Newark, New Jersey, are all projecting public fund events in the first half of March.

The other essential ingredient is regular weekly collection of payments on pledges.

In Chicago, supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* mailed out an appeal for funds and a notice for their *Militant* Fund meeting. One of those who came to the February 22 event was a young Latino worker who pledged \$10 and offered to help sell the socialist paper to industrial workers at plant gates and elsewhere.

The Chicago meeting drew a crowd to hear *Militant* editor Naomi Craine speak on "Defend Social Security: Why Clinton and Congress are Determined to Gut Entitlements." Craine discussed several related developments in the class struggle, such as why Europe is again becoming a central arena of conflict among the imperialist powers, and between imperialism and the workers states in central and eastern Europe.

The meeting raised about \$5,000 in donations and pledges from the Chicago area, toward a goal of \$7,500.

Among those at the event were socialist workers from around the country who are active in the Union of Needletrade, Industrial and Textile Employees, and who were holding a meeting in Chicago that weekend. They adopted pledges totaling \$2,000, and discussed raising more money from co-workers.

Likewise, socialists who are active in the United Food and Commercial Workers in the United States have taken a goal for soliciting contributions to the *Militant* Fund from fellow meatpackers.

The goals taken by these communist industrial workers underscore a key element of the fund campaign: asking for contributions not only from long-term *Militant* sup-

## Socialists: Hard sell in Spokane

Continued from B1

Young Socialists started in 1994 and has 70 members worldwide — six of them here in Spokane.

On the surface, local members are no different from other teens — they smoke, skip a class or two, listen to blues, rap, Jimi Hendrix.

Get them talking, however, and they sound more like aging college professors.

"I've always thought oppression was a bad thing," Elder said one recent morning — his tired, pale face hovering over a half-order of hash browns. "Socialism is a more humane, fair and efficient way to fulfill people's needs."

Between gulps of coffee at a Spokane diner, he taught his condensed version of Socialism 101: "This is the petty bourgeoisie," he said, displaying a pack of cigarettes. "They control 80 percent of the world's wealth."

"And this," he added, dropping the smokes and pointing to the table, "is the working class of the world."

Elder, who visited Cuba last year, started organizing the group three years ago after attending a Radical Philosophers' Convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

He was 14 at the time and accompanied by his stepfather, a Gonzaga University philosophy professor who got him hooked on Marx when Elder was in the sixth grade.

After talking with members of the Socialist Workers Party at the convention, Elder returned to Spokane and became more open about his leftist leanings.

Since then, he's persuaded five others to join the Young Socialists.

### Gay rights

"Homophobia and Capitalism," speeches on the rights of gay and lesbian workers will be presented by the Young Socialists Friday Jan. 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Gonzaga University's Administration Building Room 131. Admission is \$3 and \$1 for students. The group also will discuss the principles of the gay rights movement from a revolutionary perspective. For more information, call 489-4403.

They're all 19 or under and have spent much of their adolescent life in Spokane. Although three briefly attended private school through work-study programs, they all were raised in poor or middle-class families, they say. Most have completed their GEDs and all but one member still lives with parents.

"When you come from a poor family or have homeless friends, you realize that the current system isn't working," said 17-year-old Patrick Jay, who works at McDonald's. "Socialism is the only way."

In many ways, the Young Socialists have much in common with other activists: they oppose racism, sexism and homophobia; they defend affirmative action and equal rights for immigrants; they join protests against the death penalty and destruction of the environment.

What makes them different, however, is their disdain of capitalism — the free-market system they equate to "imperialism."

"None of us would dare to own our own businesses," said Brandon Greenwood, 17, and a student at Spokane Community College. "We all have to be industrial workers."

Socialism to these teens isn't just a political system; it's also a life philosophy.

Besides passing out fliers down town and at the community colleges they conduct food drives for the homeless and sponsor forums focusing on Native Americans' rights and other issues.

They also bring their socialist ideals into their own homes. At Elder's house, for instance, "domestic labor" is divided equally between all family members. Greenwood, an avid guitar player, has set his personal ambitions aside to put his energy toward educating people about socialism.

"I'd love to be a professional musician," said Greenwood, who's rarely seen without a red and gold Lenin pin on his cap. "But playing music won't change the world."

Despite the recent downfall of Communist governments worldwide, the Young Socialists still insist socialism can become a reality. Elder points to the 1987 stock market crash, cuts in welfare and other examples as signs of capitalism's deterioration.

Spokane, however, hasn't exactly embraced their ideas.

Last year, Elder and Greenwood were questioned by police for selling copies of "The Militant," the international Marxist newspaper, on the picket lines of a strike at the Spokane Boeing plant.

They're often called names whenever they pass out fliers. People from both sides of the political spectrum have referred to them as "weirdos," "crazy kids" and "wacko leftists."

Although bigger cities such as Seattle and Portland probably would be more receptive to their message, Elder views Spokane as a "working-class town," one that eventually would be sympathetic to their views.

"The industrial worker is responsive to our message," Elder said. "But not the petty bourgeoisie, of course. Some of the South Hillers just don't get it."

### GOALS FOR MILITANT FUND February 22 - April 26

Country/City	GOAL
<b>Australia</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Canada</b>	
Montreal	\$2,000
Toronto	\$1,440
Vancouver	\$1,080
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>\$4,520</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>	
Auckland	\$3,500
Christchurch	\$1,050
Wellington	\$140
<b>New Zealand total</b>	<b>\$4,690</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	
London	\$800
Manchester	\$800
<b>UK total</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>
<b>United States</b>	
Atlanta	\$3,100
Birmingham	\$2,300
Boston	
Chicago	\$7,500
Cleveland	\$2,500
Des Moines	\$2,000
Detroit	\$4,000
Greensboro	\$2,250
Houston	\$4,000
Los Angeles	\$9,000
Miami	\$2,000
Morgantown	\$1,500
New York	\$12,000
Newark	\$7,500
Peoria	\$1,200
Philadelphia	\$4,000
Pittsburgh	\$5,000
Salt Lake City	\$2,000
San Francisco	\$9,000
Seattle	\$7,000
Twin Cities	\$6,000
Washington DC	\$2,800
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>\$96,650</b>
<b>FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$108,660</b>

porters but from people who value the socialist paper yet have never contributed to it before — mainly because they haven't been asked.

*Militant* readers in New York have taken a multifaceted approach to this challenge. Active supporters of the Socialist Workers Party in the area have taken a goal of \$4,500 — \$1,530 pledged by themselves and the rest to be raised by approaching another 46 friends of the socialist movement.

Meanwhile, teams of supporters who sell the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in New York have, in a few days, raised \$17 by putting a collection can on their literature tables and soliciting donations. During the just-finished *Militant* subscription renewal drive, they called subscribers both about renewing their sub and contributing financially to the paper.

Anna Schell reports that one subscriber she called, a retired auto worker from the General Motors plant in Tarrytown, New York, expressed his anger about being "forced out" when the plant permanently shut down in June. He said he wanted to make a contribution to the *Militant* Fund.

The fund campaign will be intertwined with the seven-week drive to win new sub-

scribers to the socialist press, which starts March 8. Teams selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* will meet a wide range of workers, farmers, students, and others who will sign up to become regular readers. Many of them — and others who purchase a copy but don't subscribe — will also gladly make an extra contribution to help finance these papers. Knowing the *Militant* is financed by working people, not boarders in the Lincoln Bedroom, is exactly what they appreciate about the socialist newspaper.

Readers are urged to send short news reports on the progress of the fund campaign in their area, as well as photos of fund-raising events.

On this page is a list of the local *Militant* Fund goals. Beginning next week the *Militant* will publish a chart with the contributions received from each city.

The deadline for counting money received at the *Militant* business office is every Tuesday at noon.

Supporters of the *Militant* in New York are coordinating the fund campaign. If you would like to make a contribution please contact them at (718) 399-7257. E-mail (CompuServe): 102064,2642



SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Supporters double renewals, sell books

BY MEGAN ARNEY

In the second week of the *Militant* renewal drive, an effort to broaden the number of regular, long-term readers of the communist press, supporters sold 75 more *Militant* renewal subscriptions and nine more for *Perspectiva Mundial* — doubling the total to date. During the February 8-28 campaign, *Militant* readers and supporters have taken on a real go-get 'em attitude to contact readers and sign them up to keep getting the paper.

This campaign is an important opportunity to follow up initial contact with readers of the working-class press by selling them Pathfinder books and pamphlets, signing them up as members of the Pathfinder Readers Club, and asking for a donation to the *Militant* Fund Drive that started February

22 and runs until April 26. It will also help distributors get in gear for an international drive to win new subscribers that will kick off March 8.

In Toronto, Susie Berman reports that as of February 19, two *Militant* readers renewed their subscriptions, and two renewed for *Perspectiva Mundial*, the *Militant's* Spanish-language, sister magazine. "When we visited one of these subscribers she also bought the Farsi-language edition of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara for her father-in-law. Two others asked to be on the *Militant* Labor Forum's mailing list. We have another two *Militant* renewals promised."

In many areas, class-conscious workers have prioritized reaching out with the paper to new readers along with making their goals.

Sales teams have stayed out selling the paper longer, set aside certain nights of the week to call subscribers, and done consistent renewal work on a daily basis.

Connie Allen in Philadelphia, where *Militant* supporters are ahead of schedule, reports that they "went back about a year, and systematically did phone calls. We've reached 90 percent of former *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscribers. Now we have some 20 people who say they want to renew — we just have to get back to them."

Where socialist workers have organized renewal work on the job, it has paid off with sales of other literature as well. Socialists in Birmingham have led the way in signing up co-workers for renewals, selling nine subscriptions and seven Pathfinder books and pamphlets over the last couple of weeks.

"Displaying flyers on the bulletin board at work with book specials from Pathfinder has helped us sell 14 books so far this month at work," reports steelworker Betsy Farley. "Three to coal miners and 11 to steelworkers in two different plants. The special offer during Black History Month helped."

Young Socialists have also been a part of the renewal campaign. Ryan Lewis from the Cleveland YS wrote, "Even when the subscriber decides not to renew right now, the calls have helped us get to know the readers in this area, and to clarify any questions they had about the *Militant*."

Supporters of the socialist press in Cleveland set a goal of winning 20 percent of those who subscribed last fall to sign up again that is six renewal subscriptions from readers in their area.

As of February 20, four readers had renewed and five more plan to do so. Roni McCann, a socialist steelworker in Cleveland, reported, "Ty Moore, a student at

Oberlin College, decided to renew his *Militant* subscription at a *Militant* Labor Forum on the Korean labor strikes. A reader in nearby Painesville first saw the newspaper leading up to a successful counter-mobilization against the Ku Klux Klan three years ago and decided to renew again."

McCann also reported that a high school student and several trade unionists plan on renewing. Going into the last week of the campaign, supporters in Cleveland plan to redouble their efforts to contact each and every reader to get all renewals promised in hand. "We're sending the *Militant* a package Fed-Ex on Saturday!" McCann added.

All renewals received at the *Militant* business office by Noon EST on Tuesday, March 4, will be counted in the final chart for the drive, which will be printed in the next issue, no. 11. The *Militant* encourages readers to send in anecdotes on the last week of the renewal campaign, along with plans for the upcoming subscription drive for new readers.

\$280,000 capital fund goes over the top!

BY NAOMICRAINE

One hundred twelve contributors have given \$292,274 to a special fund that will help the long-term capital needs of producing Pathfinder books. The capital fund was launched at four regional educational conferences last November. With a goal of raising \$280,000, it ran through the end of February. Contributions ranging from \$1,000 — \$20,000, were sent in from supporters in Canada, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Some \$30,556 came from 31 members of the International Association of Machinists; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; United Auto Workers; United Mine Workers of America; United Steelworkers of America; and the United Transportation Union. They pooled year-end bonuses, company profit sharing, and other windfalls.

The donations are to cover the cost of

repairs on the south wall of the Pathfinder Building, where the publisher's editorial offices and printing plant are located. The six-story wall, which had developed serious cracks and leaks, has now been covered with new siding that will protect its long-term structural integrity for years to come.

The capital fund also financed the return of Pathfinder's book fulfillment service to the building from an outside warehouse, making effective use of previously underutilized space. Volunteers from across the United States and several other countries helped set up the "pick and pack" operation as an integrated part of the production of Pathfinder books.

The success of the \$280,000 capital fund sets the stage for raising future long-term capital toward the physical plant and equipment used to produce the books by revolutionary and working-class leaders that Pathfinder publishes.

'Action Program' is out in Swedish

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM — The publication of a new edition of *Handlingsprogram för att bemöta den kommande ekonomiska krisen* (An action program to confront the coming economic crisis) in Swedish was celebrated at a *Militant* Labor Forum here February 8.

The action program was first published in English in mid-1988 after the stock market crash in 1987. The program was adopted at a conference in Oberlin, Ohio, by the Socialist Workers Party and representatives of communist leagues from a number of countries, including Sweden. It has since been published in Spanish, French, and Icelandic.

The first Swedish-language edition was published by Pathfinder as a pamphlet in 1990. This second edition is published as a small booklet, with a new preface, an improved translation, and an upgraded design, as well as pictures and new advertisements for other Pathfinder titles.

The February 8 forum celebrated the ac-

complishments of a team of workers and students in Sweden who checked the translation, proofread and copyedited, designed advertisements, printed and collated the book, including printing a two-color cover — all as voluntary work in their spare time. The cover had been designed by Pathfinder in New York.

"This is an international program containing demands that have to be raised by everybody against the attacks by the capitalists today," said Maxi Ortiz, representing Young Socialists, in a presentation at the forum. "We must learn who 'we' are, the international working class, as opposed to 'them,' the capitalists all over the world. It is not 'we, in Sweden' including workers and capitalists, against everybody else.

"That is why we raise demands such as 'Cancel the Third World debt!' and 'Enforce affirmative action!'" Ortiz continued. "You can not sell out any group. If one group gets weaker, we all get weaker. That is why

these demands concern all of us, they make all of us stronger."

There was a lot of discussion on the demand for a six-hour workday, as a way of implementing the action program's call to "shorten the workweek."

Unemployment is growing in Sweden, and the bosses have been demanding a so-called "conjuncture-adjusted workweek" ranging between 30 and 50 hours, according to the needs of the production.

The need for a shorter workweek with no cut in pay was emphasized by several participants. "The struggle for a six-hour day will come out of the struggle to defend the eight-hour day," said one participant. "In the 1930s, during the depression, once workers started to fight, they would just move forward. Even at that time the demand for the 30-hour work week was raised."

"How will the six-hour work day affect women workers who often work part-time and have lower wages?" was one question raised from the audience. "I know we are one class, but some times you feel you are not really in the same class."

"The capitalists use divisions like those between men and women very consciously," said Ortiz. "That is why we need affirmative action and quotas, so women, immigrants, and so on, can get jobs with better pay and working conditions. That will reduce wage differences and make it easier to fight for higher pay for the whole class."

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DRIVE  
Militant • Perspectiva Mundial

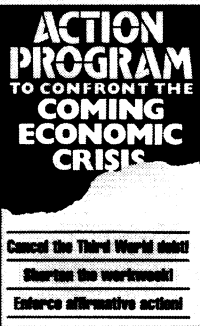
Country/City	Militant			PM		
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%
NEW ZEALAND						
Auckland	14	13	93%			
Christchurch	3	2	67%			
Wellington	4	2	50%			
N.Z. Total	21	17	81%			
AUSTRALIA						
	6	4	67%	1	0	0%
UNITED STATES						
Washington, DC	6	6	100%	5	3	60%
Salt Lake City	5	4	80%	2		0%
Birmingham, AL	15	11	73%	1		0%
San Francisco	11	8	73%	5	1	20%
Philadelphia	10	7	70%	3	1	33%
Des Moines	5	3	60%	5		0%
Houston	15	9	60%	5	3	60%
Detroit	12	7	58%	3		0%
Greensboro, NC	10	5	50%	3		0%
Seattle	10	5	50%	3		0%
Newark, NJ	15	7	47%	10	1	10%
Miami	9	4	44%	6	1	17%
Los Angeles	25	11	44%	10	1	10%
Boston	8	3	38%	3		0%
Pittsburgh	8	3	38%			
New York	25	9	36%	15		0%
Chicago	20	7	35%	10		0%
Cleveland	6	2	33%	2	1	50%
Twin Cities, MN	15	5	33%	3		0%
Morgantown, WV	8	2	25%	1	1	100%
Peoria, IL	5	1	20%	1		0%
Atlanta	5	0	0%	3	3	100%
Denver		3	0%			
U.S. Total	248	122	49%	94	15	16%
CANADA						
Toronto	7	2	29%	2	2	100%
Montreal	4	1	25%	2		0%
Vancouver	5	1	20%	1		0%
CANADA Total	16	4	25%	5	2	40%
PUERTO RICO						
				3	0	0%
SWEDEN						
	5	0	0%	8		0%
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	15	0	0%	3		0%
Manchester	5	0	0%			
U.K. Total	20	0	0%			
International totals	306	147	59%	147	17	14%
Should be	250	166	66%	125	84	67%

IN THE UNIONS

United States						
UFCW	2	1	50%	2		0%
UMWA	5	2	40%			
UAW	30	7	23%	5		0%
UNITE	10	2	20%	2		0%
USWA	12	2	17%			
OCAW	20	3	15%			
IAM	28	4	14%	2		0%
UTU	9	0	0%			
TOTAL	116	21	18%	11	0	0%

IAM— International Association of Machinists; OCAW— Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW—United Auto Workers; UFCW— United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA— United Mine Workers of America; UNITE— Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA— United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union.

New Swedish edition!



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# Racist killing is used as pretext to attack rights in UK

BY TONY HUNT  
AND SHELLIA KENNEDY

LONDON — "Right from the start on the night our boy was murdered, it seemed that in their minds he was only a Black boy — why bother? The evidence is clear by the action they took or didn't take." This was how Doreen Lawrence described the response of London police to the racist killing of her son in 1993. Her comments came in a statement read February 13 at the end of the inquest into his murder.

The statement and Lawrence's remarks at the inquest itself blamed the police for the fact that, four years later, the racist gang who killed her son is still walking the streets. That fact and the killing itself have provoked widespread outrage among working people. This has been exploited by the right-wing *Daily Mail* to deflect criticism from the police and probe an assault on the presumption of innocence and broader democratic rights.

Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old student, was waiting for a bus in April 1993 when he and a friend were attacked by thugs shouting, "What nigger?" They stabbed Lawrence to death.

The police began their investigation by treating the dead youth, who had no criminal record, "as a criminal belonging to a gang," said his mother.

The inquest jury returned a verdict of "unlawful killing in a completely unprovoked racist attack by five white youths." The youths in question, who refused to answer any questions at the inquest where they were summoned to appear, were originally charged with the murder in 1993. At that time, the charges were dropped. A private criminal prosecution was then launched by the Lawrence family, which led to three of the five standing trial in 1995. That trial was ended by the judge in April 1996. He ruled that identification evidence by Stephen Lawrence's friend was inadmissible. The jury acquitted the accused.

The Lawrence family are now reported to be considering legal action against the youths who were acquitted and lodging a formal complaint with the Police Complaints Authority against the officers who led the murder investigation at the time.

## 'Daily Mail' calls for double jeopardy

On February 14, the right-wing, *Daily Mail*, which had barely covered the killing before, launched a campaign entitled "Justice for Stephen Lawrence." It ran a front page banner headline "Murderers" above the pictures of the five accused. The following day the paper printed stills from a film produced by a police spy camera in one of the youth's homes. The film itself was shown on television that night. It showed three of the five engaging in racist conversation. One was shown brandishing a knife.

In a February 19 editorial the *Mail*, commenting on the debate triggered by its coverage, said what was at issue was "a climate of fear that permits killers to strut free while a bereaved mother is denied justice." The paper suggested that the law against "double jeopardy" — trying the same person twice for the same offense — be repealed.

The *Mail's* campaign has been widely applauded. British prime minister John Major gave public backing to it in the House of Commons, as did other journalists and rival newspapers. An editorial in the liberal *Guardian* praised the *Mail*, saying, "They deserve support for pursuing the other category of miscarriage of justice: people wrongly found innocent. When the *Mail* is ready to have a go at racists it is time to cheer."

Paul Foot, an author of books on police frame-ups and a writer for the paper *Socialist Worker*, said, "It is absolutely excellent: it's probably the first time that I've felt unequivocal support for the *Daily Mail*.... I don't normally think it's right for people to be witch-hunted in this way, but in this case the legal process had run its course, and the case against these men was overwhelming.

There is sometimes a need for people in the Press to challenge prosecutions."

Linda Bellos, a Black woman and former Labour Party leader of a local council in London, said "I congratulate the *Mail* for taking this death seriously." Doreen Lawrence was quoted in the *Daily Mail* as supporting their coverage.

But *The Voice*, a Black weekly newspaper, said the *Mail's* action would lead to "a breakdown in the justice system" and could make it easier for Blacks to be framed up even if they had been acquitted in a court. "There is already a disproportionate number of Black people being charged and jailed," the paper editorialized.

Some in ruling circles and within the legal profession have opposed the *Mail's* campaign. This included top level judge Lord Donaldson, who said the coverage made it difficult for the five accused "to get a fair trial when you have the *Daily Mail* using its enormous circulation to tell a large number of people, which would certainly include future jurors, a one-sided view of the facts."

The *Financial Times* was also critical. This reflects a broader debate among the rulers about the bipartisan push against democratic rights currently under way. This is spearheaded by a series of "anti-crime" laws being pushed by Home Secretary Michael Howard.

In its February 15 issue *The Economist*

## Simpson trial abused democratic rights

BY NAOMI CRAINE

For several months, nightly TV news broadcasts across the United States began with an update on the second trial of Orenthal James Simpson, who was acquitted in 1995 of murder charges in the deaths of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman. Simpson was found guilty in the second trial, on civil charges of wrongful death brought by the families of the deceased. He was ordered to pay the plaintiffs \$8.5 million in compensatory damages.

Working people should oppose this second trial as a clear case of double jeopardy.

## AS I SEE IT

The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits twice putting a person "in jeopardy of life and limb" for the same alleged crime. This is one of the basic rights of the accused stipulated as part of the Bill of Rights, which codifies many of the democratic safeguards that the working class needs to defend its interests, and that the capitalist rulers keep trying to whittle away at.

The prohibition on double jeopardy means that if you're acquitted of some offense, the state can't just keep retrying you until they get the desired verdict.

Previous court rulings had already set a precedent that private lawsuits — such as the "wrongful death" charges against Simpson — don't violate this provision. The high-profile Simpson trial gave added legitimacy to this narrowing of democratic rights.

In a February 6 editorial, the *New York Times* declared the outcome of the second trial "a reasonable response." Although "some experts consider the second trial a violation of the principle of double jeopardy," the editors wrote, "there seems no reason that the original verdict should give him [Simpson] immunity from civil suits."

Many other aspects of the second Simpson trial breached democratic safeguards. One was setting the venue in an area where most members of the jury would be white, instead of mostly Black as was the case in the first trial.

The earlier acquittal of Simpson, who is



Militant/Tim Rigby

Rally in London last year protests anti-immigrant bill. Campaign to allow double prosecution in case of racist killing is part of broader attacks on democratic rights.

ran an editorial, "Partners in Crime," attacking these measures and the Labour Party's support for them.

"The *Daily Mail* campaign is a deadly trap for workers," said Communist League candidate Ian Grant, an auto worker at Ford in Dagenham. Grant will contend for the Southwark and Bermondsey seat in the forthcoming general election. One of his opponents is the current Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament Simon Hughes, who has called for a change in the law to enable the youths acquitted of Lawrence's murder to be tried again.

"To try someone after they have been acquitted undermines hard fought for rights," Grant said. "It is the police involved in the investigation who should be held responsible and prosecuted. The police treated Stephen, the murder victim, as a criminal.

This is standard police procedure in relation to workers' lives, especially if you're Black. The cops' actions ensured that it would be impossible to bring the racist killers to justice."

The candidate pointed to a recent survey which concluded that Blacks are twice as likely to be stopped and searched in the streets of London as whites. "That shows you where the source of racism is," he said. "The murder of Stephen Lawrence stems from the growing social crisis of capitalism and the increasingly right-wing policies of capitalist politicians — policies promoted constantly by the *The Daily Mail*. They scapegoat sections of the working class to divide and weaken us. Their goal is to make us pay for their crisis and by attacking our rights undermine our ability to resist," Grant said.

Black, hinged on the jury's rejection of blatant racism and lies on the part of the Los Angeles police officers involved in the investigation. One of the cops, Mark Furhman, was caught in a lie on the witness stand, when he claimed he never used racist epithets against Blacks. The defense then played an audio tape in which Furhman repeatedly referred to "niggers" and bragged about beating up and framing numerous people.

It's worth noting that Furhman was never charged with perjury, despite this obvious case against him. Neither Simpson's defense lawyers nor the prosecution or other officials filed such charges.

Other cops involved in the investigation admitted sloppy handling of blood samples and other evidence. It was under these circumstances that the jury refused to find Simpson "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

## Lower standard of evidence allowed

The standard for finding someone guilty in a "civil" case is substantially less than in a criminal court. The jury in the latest trial was charged with determining whether a "preponderance of the evidence" showed Simpson guilty, not whether he was "guilty beyond a reasonable doubt." Allowing this lower standard of evidence is a blow to the presumption of innocence, a very recent democratic gain.

Through most of the history of class society, when a person from the toiling classes was accused of something the presumption was that of guilt. If you were allowed any hearing at all, it was to "prove" your innocence, a virtually impossible task. Putting the burden of proof on the accuser, not the accused, is a fundamental democratic conquest that the working class must fiercely defend, for everyone.

There were other factors that made the second Simpson trial a travesty. Unlike the criminal case, there didn't have to be a unanimous jury to win a conviction, just a two-thirds majority vote by the jurors. Simpson was also forced to testify, which he chose not to do at the criminal trial. This violated constitutional protections against self-incrimination.

O.J. Simpson is a former sports star who has garnered millions from advertising various products. His life as a social parasite — like the lives of most of those around him —

is totally alien to working people. No worker accused of a crime could buy the kind of defense Simpson had at either of his trials.

But this shouldn't blind workers to the dangerous abuse of democratic rights that was carried out — one that will be committed a thousand times over against workers and their allies, particularly those who stand up and fight. To ignore this would be to fall prey to the politics of resentment — the argument that "O.J. Simpson is a millionaire, so his rights are no concern of mine."

The second Simpson trial coincided with the second trial of Lemrick Nelson, a youth from Brooklyn who is Black, in connection with the killing of Yankel Rosenbaum in 1991. While the big-business press trumpeted the incident that led to Rosenbaum's death as an anti-Jewish riot, the outburst actually erupted in response to racist treatment of Black residents of Crown Heights by the cops and emergency personnel after a Black child was killed in a traffic accident.

Nelson, who was 16 at the time, was charged with stabbing Rosenbaum to death on circumstantial evidence that relied heavily on the word of the cops. He was acquitted in a state trial in 1992, with the jurors openly saying they did not believe the cops' story. Nelson was then retried on federal civil rights charges, convicted, and faces 6 to 20 years in prison.

The grounds on which Nelson was tried in federal court were established in the 1960s, when state governments refused to vigorously prosecute the murderers of civil rights activists in the South.

Under pressure from the advancing fight for Black rights, the federal government was forced to take action. Federal prosecution of those acquitted of racist acts in the state courts was a gain for the working class. The application of this precedent in the case of Nelson, however, a young Black man framed up by the police, was a travesty of justice.

The Simpson trial also took place in the context of other attacks on the rights of the accused, prisoners, and those who have previously been convicted of a crime. These include taking away the civil rights of alleged sex offenders, increasing the cops' powers to carry out warrantless searches, and others.

Working people should speak out against all these attacks on democratic rights.



# White House pushes NATO expansion

Continued from front page

1998. Albright presented an arms control proposal to the Kremlin February 20 to "calm Russian fears" about NATO's planned eastward expansion. The proposals included plans to modify the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty signed in 1990 between NATO and the former Soviet-bloc countries. That accord limited the numbers of conventional weapons both sides could deploy.

The new proposal states that the number of tanks, armored personnel carriers and artillery deployed in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia would remain the same. The plan, however, permits construction of new NATO bases and other installations in these countries and allows movement of imperialist troops on the territory of the proposed new NATO members "in a time of crisis." That means the composition of the tanks, artillery, and other weaponry could shift, with U.S. tanks replacing those under the Polish government's command in Poland, for instance. Washington also insists on the right to upgrade and modernize the new members' military arsenals.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, NATO already possesses a 3-to-1 military superiority over Moscow. Extending its reach into the three workers states would hike its superiority to a ratio of nearly 4-to-1, NATO officials estimate.

In her efforts to "reassure" Moscow, Albright said the number of U.S. troops in Europe had declined from 300,000 to 100,000 and the number of NATO combat aircraft had dropped from 6,000 to 3,800. "NATO is not the NATO of the cold war," she declared at a news conference in Moscow. "NATO no longer has an enemy to the east."

Meanwhile, the U.S. military has begun repairs on an air base in Taszar, Hungary, near the Croatian border. Since 1995, Washington has used the base as a staging area for thousands of U.S. GIs moving in and out of Bosnia. Hungarian prime minister Gyula Horn sent 400 military engineers to serve with the U.S. occupation force in Yugoslavia.

Moscow was not reassured, however. "Our position is firm, we are opposed to NATO enlargement," Russian president Boris Yeltsin said February 23, stating the common opinion of figures across the political spectrum in Russia. "Our task is now to stall it as long as possible." Yeltsin's comment reflected an acceptance that Washington will proceed with the enlargement re-



Map shows plan for expansion of NATO. "Partnership for Peace" is a virtually meaningless associate status granted by NATO to the countries indicated, in an attempt to blunt Moscow's fierce opposition to placing U.S. troops near Russia's borders.

gardless of Moscow's objections.

"If the alliance's expansion is not really directed against Russia," stated Aleksei Pushkov, foreign affairs director of Russian Public TV, "NATO should guarantee that it will neither deploy its troops in the new member countries nor prepare the military infrastructure." Pushkov said Washington's NATO plans are proof of the U.S. rulers' "desire to take advantage of Russia's present weakness," and that they are "also suspected of trying to squeeze Russia out of the oil reserves and strategic pipeline roads of Transcaucasia."

During Albright's visit to the Kremlin, Russia's National Security Council deputy secretary Boris Berezovsky called the NATO expansion "a totally aggressive decision with regard to Russia." He said the Kremlin would have to respond to the imperialist military moves "in the direction of defense."

The Clinton administration has tossed sops to Moscow like the arm treaty and joint participation in "peacekeeping" activities in an attempt to induce the regime to swallow its expansion plans. Sergei Shakrai, a Russian government official, stated earlier in January that it would be "senseless" to observe arm treaties limiting the deployment of conventional forces in Europe if NATO expanded.

At a meeting of senior ministers in Moscow, Shakrai asserted that unification with the former Soviet republic Belarus would

be the Kremlin's most effective response to NATO expansion. "The unification of the two countries would correspond to their strategic interests, consolidate power, and bolster Russia's authority in the international arena," he declared.

Yeltsin wrote a letter to the president of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko — an outspoken opponent of NATO enlargement — proposing the two governments consider holding a referendum on unification. The two regimes signed an agreement last April strengthening economic and military ties. Russian soldiers currently guard Belarus's western border with Poland.

## U.S. rulers debate NATO expansion

Last July, the U.S. Senate approved the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act, endorsing the expansion and granting \$60 million to the governments of Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary to prepare their militaries. While that vote passed 81 to 16, a debate over the planned expansion has now broken out in the open among U.S. ruling-class figures. No formal decision can be made before the July summit meeting.

"Expanding NATO would be the most fateful error of American policy in the entire post-cold-war era," asserted George Kennan in an opinion piece in the February 5 *New York Times*. Kennan was the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1952. He also served as U.S. ambassador to Yugosla-

via in 1961-63 and helped formulate the Truman administration's policy of "containment" of the Soviet workers state — which heralded the period known as the "Cold War".

Kennan warned that Clinton's NATO plans could backfire and "impel Russian foreign policy in directions decidedly not to our liking." Warning the U.S. rulers to expect the move to "inflame the nationalistic, anti-Western and militaristic tendencies" in Russia, he added, "Anyone who gives serious attention to the Russian press cannot fail to note that neither the public nor the Government is waiting for the proposed expansion to occur before reacting to it."

Responding to Kennan in the *Times* two weeks later, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbot claimed, "This danger, while real, is exaggerated and manageable." Talbot opined that unlike the "political elite," Russian working people are far more concerned about "domestic issues — salaries, pensions, and crime."

Kennan's and Talbot's columns provoked several letters in the *Times* debating the White House's course.

One of the letters supporting NATO expansion stated that Moscow "proposes to join NATO or calls for its dissolution, both of which amount to a negation of the alliance."

Another *Times* reader backed Kennan's position, arguing, "There would soon be irresistible pressure to admit Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia [to NATO]. The latter step would, however, place NATO forces — ultimately under United States command — on territory that separates Russia from its Baltic outpost, the Kaliningrad."

Ultraright politician Patrick Buchanan voiced his opposition to moving "NATO's Red Line east" in a column published in the February 12 *Conservative Chronicle*. The article marked Buchanan's resumption of his syndicated commentary following his 1996 campaign for the Republican nomination for U.S. president.

## Tensions deepen among imperialists

While in France, Albright reiterated the Clinton administration's rejection of Paris's demand that an officer from a country in Europe take control of NATO's Southern Command. This is a strategic post that includes the U.S. Sixth Fleet. French president Jacques Chirac told Albright February 17 that his regime would try to reach a compromise with the U.S. government by April or May, but if no pact was found by then he would keep French soldiers out of the NATO military structure.

"Whether you like it or not, it's American," sneered a French legislator, referring to NATO in a parliamentary debate on a French-German agreement in January. "Its command is American, since the Americans haven't given it up, not even in the southern European sector in Naples, despite a demand by President Chirac."

Washington's domineering posture in Europe has helped spur closer military co-operation between Paris and Bonn. The German government, which backed Chirac's demand, agreed to open a discussion with Paris on joint "nuclear deterrence in the context of a European defense policy." German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Chirac stated in a document that their nations' security interests had grown "inseparable."

U.S. officials were assured that the joint policy would remain within the framework of the NATO alliance.

NATO was founded in 1949 with the aim of pushing back the struggles of workers and peasants around the world. It codified

Continued on Page 10

## Washington brushes off rivals in WTO complaint over Cuba embargo

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

On February 20, the Geneva-based World Trade Organization appointed a panel of judges to hear a European Union (EU) complaint that Washington's latest legislation tightening the U.S. embargo against Cuba violates WTO trade rules.

Hours later U.S. government officials said the panel has "no competence to proceed." They declared that the Clinton administration will not send anyone to the hearings. The February 21 *New York Times* quoted an unnamed White House official saying, "We will not show up."

Big-business dailies on the other side of the Atlantic tried to paint a picture less bleak for Washington's allies, who are also its competitors, in the European Union. "US leaves door ajar in row over Cuba trade," was the headline of an article in the February 21 *Financial Times* of London. "The US yesterday kept alive hopes of a settlement with the European Union over the Helms-Burton anti-Cuba law by not seeking to block the formation of a World Trade Organisation panel to rule on the dispute," the article stated.

U.S. government officials, however, had much harsher words to offer, indicating the White House will seek to use U.S. economic and military superiority in Europe to squash the EU challenge. The *New York Times* quoted another anonymous representative of the Clinton administration saying, "We do

not believe anything the W.T.O. says or does can force the U.S. to change its laws."

Washington maintains that its misnamed Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, also referred to as the Helms-Burton law, falls outside WTO jurisdiction. The U.S. government argues that Washington can order unilateral trade sanctions against foreign companies that invest in or trade with Cuba for reasons of "national security."

The Clinton administration is demanding that the European Union back off and accept an out-of-court settlement to Washington's liking within several weeks. Short of that, the White House said it will formally invoke its "national security exemption" to abort any WTO hearings on the issue.

At the heart of the dispute is Title III of the Helms-Burton law, which permits Cuban-American and other U.S. businessmen whose property on the Caribbean island was expropriated by Cuban workers and peasants after the 1959 revolution to sue companies in third countries that invest in those properties.

In early January, Clinton suspended for another six months implementation of this provision after the European Union passed a resolution condemning Havana for alleged human rights violations. But the U.S. president is using his leeway to continue waiving Title III as a bludgeon against Washington's imperialist allies in Europe

and Canada.

"We cannot have the sword of Damocles hanging over our heads," said Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, during a visit to the United States two months ago.

The dispute threatens to destroy the World Trade Organization if the EU insists on pushing for a ruling against Washington, which the U.S. government has said it will not accept. "The US would create serious problems if it rejected the WTO's right to hear the Helms-Burton case or refused to abide by a ruling," said the February 21 *Financial Times* article. "WTO panel decisions are supposed to be binding and can be enforced by authorising retaliatory trade sanctions."

## for further reading

### Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War

by Jack Barnes

in *New International* no. 10

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**Behind the Growing Crisis in Mexico.** An eyewitness report-back. Sat., March 8, 7:30 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. 111 21st St. South. Donation: \$4. Dinner: \$4. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

## CALIFORNIA

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**'The People vs. Larry Flynt': Pornography, Women's Rights, First Amendment.** Panel discussion. Moderator, film director Nick Castle. Panelists: Janice "Cookie" Pemberton, NOW organizer; Rachel Becker, high school organizer, Women in Today's Society (WITS); Dawn Bond, UCLA activist; Pat Nixon, Socialist Workers

Party, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Fri., March 7, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### San Francisco

**Airline Transport Workers Under Attack!** Speakers: Larry Lane, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Association of Machinists Local 1781. Fri., March 7, 7:30 p.m.

**Mexico: The Crisis Today.** Report back from Mexico from a participant in the Mexico City Book Fair. Speaker: Omari Musa, Socialist Workers Party, member, Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Local 1-326. Fri., March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Both events held at 3284 23rd St. Mission St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (415) 285-5323.

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**Attacks on Immigrant Workers: A Report on Resistance in Meatpacking. Militant Fund Kickoff Meeting and Celebration.** Speaker: Dick McBride, member, United Food and Commercial Workers from Des Moines, Iowa, and worker correspondent for the *Militant*. Sat., March 8, 7 p.m. 915 N. Western Ave. For more information, call: (309) 676-2472.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Youth Today and the Fight for Social Change.** Fund-raiser for the Young Socialists Second National Convention, March 28-30. Speaker:

Jack Willey, national leader of the Young Socialists. Sat., March 8, 7:30 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen). Donation: \$4. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Pittsburgh

**The Cuban Revolution and the Debate on the Helms-Burton Law.** Speakers: Lisa Valanti, Pittsburgh Cuba Coalition; Mark Ginsburg, Professor of Education, University of Pittsburgh; and Dick Geyer, Socialist Workers Party, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1557. Fri., March 7, 7:30 p.m. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

# Rebels advance, imperialists plan Zaire intervention

## Continued from front page

taking that city on February 22. Kalima is only 180 miles south of Kisangani. The rebels have announced they will proceed on to Kindu, 75 miles south of Kalemie, to capture one of the two government airports in eastern Zaire.

Rebels have also made some gains on the northern front. On February 13, they took the northeastern town of Faradje, which is 45 miles west of the Sudanese border. In total, the rebels control a swath of land that extends 900 miles of length in eastern Zaire.

While the Zairian government complains that the rebels are backed by the governments of Rwanda and Burundi, it has been widely reported that Mobutu has hired some 300 mercenaries to prop up the Zairian army. Military sources say Mobutu's White Legion is made up of former members of the British secret police (SAS), and soldiers from Belgium, France, Russia, Serbia, and several African countries.

On February 17, Zairian army warplanes bombed three rebel-held cities. Bukavu, Shabunda, and Walikale were the first cities to be bombed since the civil war broke out in Zaire last October. Rebel leader Kabila said the Zairian army, backed by mercenaries, dropped napalm on his troops at Tingi-Tingi. The bombings are part of the counteroffensive launched by the Zairian government in mid-January. The air raids, however, have not slowed down the rebels from advancing and have deepened resentment by millions of Zairians against the Mobutu regime.

On February 20, government officials from South Africa said that talks to halt the civil war in Zaire would take place. South African president Nelson Mandela announced two days earlier that representatives of the Zairian government and Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, had agreed to talks on a cease-fire that could lead to elections. On February 21, Kabila delayed an offensive on the city of Kalima, but Zaire's defense minister later said his army would not delay its counteroffensive. On February 23, Nzanga Mobutu — the son of Zaire's president and his spokesman — said, "Our position remains the same from the start. We will not discuss or negotiate whatsoever."

Growing increasingly nervous, Washington issued a public statement February 5, warning Zaire's eastern neighbors — Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi — to stay out of the fighting between the rebels and the Zairian government. "The United States appeals again today to the neighbors of Zaire, to not involve themselves in the fighting," said U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns at a press conference that day. Washington subsequently dispatched to South Africa George Moose, assistant secretary of state, and Susan Rice, a senior

member of the National Security Council.

On February 12, Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi appealed for an international force to act as a buffer between Zaire and its neighbors, according to news reports in Nairobi. Moi also directed his appeal to the United Nations, Washington, and the European Union.

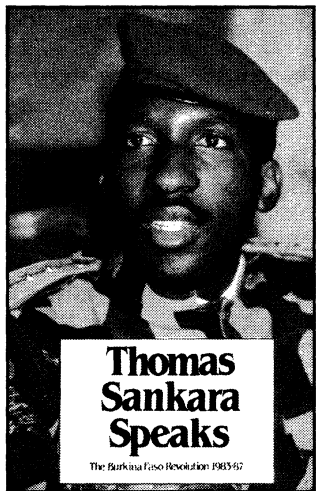
The February 9 *Washington Post* quoted an unnamed U.S. government official saying that Washington's plan for an "All-African Response Team," is still "alive and

moving, very much so." The plan, which was first put forward by former Secretary of State Warren Christopher last October, would include up to 10,000 African troops, militarily trained and supplied by the U.S. government.

It would allow for African troops to intervene in crisis situations — such as the current civil war in Zaire or the rebellion against French domination in the Central African Republic. So far, however, only two governments, those of Mali and Ethiopia,

have agreed to participate.

On February 4, an official of Zaire's defense ministry said that the governments of Morocco, Togo, and Chad were all prepared to send troops and equipment to stop the rebels in eastern Zaire. According to London's *Financial Times*, the unnamed official said that a recruitment campaign, aimed at forming 13 commando brigades of 2,000 men each, had been launched and that Beijing and Tel Aviv would train the new recruits.



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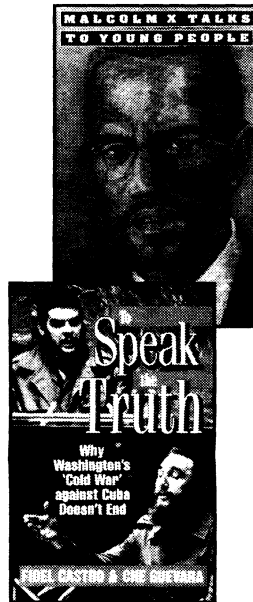
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# CALENDAR

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### Los Angeles

**Cuba Today.** Speaker: Johana Tablada, Third Secretary, Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C. Sat., March 8, 7:30 p.m. *Holman United Methodist Church*, 3320 W. Adams Boulevard. Sponsor: Los Angeles Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba. For more information, call: (213) 383-9283.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**New Voices, New Visions: Young Feminists Taking Action for the 21st Century.** Young Feminists Summit. April 11-13. Held at Renaissance Washington D.C., 999 9th St., NW. Conference registration: \$35. For more information call (202) 331-0066 ext. 362. Fax (202) 785-8576. Email: conference@now.org



**The sane society** — “World-wide, the yawning gap between rich and poor is illustrated by a stunning statistic: Assets of the world’s top 358 billionaires exceed the com-



Harry Ring

bined annual income of almost half the world’s people, according to the UNDP [UN Development Program.] — *Los Angeles Times*, Feb-

ruary 16.

**Toll continues** — In December, 1984, more than 6,500 people were killed when 27 tons of toxic gas escaped from Union Carbide’s pesticide plant in Bhopal, India. The British Medical Journal reports that researchers now find that respiratory problems are more common among survivors, as well as reduced lung capacity.

**Moonlight and roses** — In 1995, some 7 million U.S. workers held 15 million jobs. The number of women moonlighters increased fivefold in 25 years and they now

constitute 44 percent of those with two or more jobs.

**A connection?** — The feds report that the number of union members who are women increased from 22 percent in 1972 to 39 percent last year.

**‘We’re all in this together’** — Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber is selling his £15-million London home and auctioning off his wine collection. Sir Andrew has been downsizing his oddly named Really Useful Company.

**Apparently not very popular** — “MOSCOW — Twenty-six

Russian tax collectors were killed in the course of their work last year.” — News item.

**War on weapons** — In Ocala, Florida, a kindergarten pupil was suspended for a day for packing a nail file.

**Thieves fall out** — A police informer in England, is suing the Constable of Hampshire for £32,000 he says he was promised but never received. It’s believed to be the first case of its kind there.

**Equal-opportunity alms-taker** — We reported on the church in Leon, Spain, that installed a

credit-card machine for electronic donations. (Your receipt makes it tax-deductible.) Happily, the church assures those without a credit card that their support is still welcome.

**Up to your ears? Not to worry** — Debtors of the world will take heart from the news that the Duchess of York has wiped out a £4 million debt. She has an advance on her autobiography, a contract to promote Weight Watcher products, and has already done a commercial for a diet cranberry juice. (It won’t be shown in Britain.) She says she got hooked on heavy-duty shopping, “a form of addiction.”

# Malcolm X exposed imperialist slaughter in Congo

Printed below is an excerpt from a speech by Malcolm X on events in the Congo (now called Zaire). The talk was given in Rochester, New York, on February 16, 1965, five days before his death. The speech is taken from the Pathfinder book *February 1965: The Final Speeches* by Malcolm X.

A section of the Congolese army led by Col. Mobutu Sese Seko seized power in a coup in September 1960, at the instigation of the U.S. government. Five months later, Patrice Lumumba, the country’s first prime minister and central leader of Congo’s anti-colonial movement, was killed by the forces of Moise Tshombe, a wealthy plantation owner who was supported by 10,000 Belgian troops. The government of Belgium was the Congo’s colonial master until June 30,

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

1960, when the country won independence.

An antigovernment rebellion by Tshombe’s forces broke out in Katanga province, after Lumumba won the presidency in a general election. Lumumba invited the United Nations to send “peacekeepers” to counter the Belgium-backed uprising. But instead of fighting the rebellion, UN troops disarmed Lumumba’s forces, thus aiding Belgian troops. Following Mobutu’s coup, Lumumba was arrested and handed over to Tshombe, who had him murdered.

After Lumumba’s death, anti-imperialist forces continued the fight to liberate their country. By early 1964 these young rebels known as *simbas* (lions) — often armed with spears, bows, and arrows — had chased Mobutu’s troops out of large parts of the Congo.

Facing this critical situation, Mobutu brought back Tshombe, who was in exile for a brief period of time, and named him prime minister. Tshombe recruited an army of mercenaries from South Africa, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), Europe, and the United States. Of the latter, many were CIA-trained Cuban counterrevolutionaries from Miami.

On Nov. 24, 1964, U.S. Air Force “escorts” ferried 600 Belgian paratroopers in an attack on Stanleyville, allegedly on a “humanitarian rescue mission” to save “white hostages.” Thousands of Congolese died in the attack. So many bodies were left lying in the street that a typhoid epidemic broke



Malcolm X speaking to a rally in Harlem, New York, in early 1963.

out.

Tshombe’s mercenaries and their imperialist backers eventually crushed the anti-imperialist rebels. In 1965, Mobutu ousted Tshombe and proclaimed himself president. He has remained in power ever since with the backing of Washington, Paris, and other imperialist powers who are today vying over a new intervention in Zaire.

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BY MALCOLM X

The best recent example at the international level to bear witness to what I’m saying is what happened in the Congo.

Look at what happened. We had a situation where a plane was dropping bombs on African villages. An African village has no defense against the bombs. And an African village is not a sufficient threat that it has to be bombed. But planes were dropping bombs on African villages. When these bombs strike, they don’t distinguish between enemy and friend. They don’t distinguish between male and female. When these bombs are dropped on African villages in the Congo, they are dropped on Black women, Black children, Black babies. These human beings were blown to bits. I heard no outcry, no voice of compassion for these thousands of Black people who were slaughtered by planes. [Applause]

Why was there no outcry? Why was there no concern? Because, again, the press very skillfully made the victims look like they were the criminals, and the criminals look like they were the victims. [Applause] They refer to the villages as “rebel held,” you know. As if to say, because they are rebel-held villages, you can destroy the population, and it’s okay. They also refer to the merchants of death as “American”-trained, “anti-Castro Cuban pilots.” This made it okay....

So these mercenaries, dropping bombs on African villages, caring nothing as to whether or not there are innocent, defenseless women and children and babies being destroyed by their bombs. But because they’re called mercenaries, given a glorified name, it doesn’t excite you. Because they are referred to as “American-trained” pilots, because they are American-trained, that makes them okay. “Anti-Castro Cuban,” that makes them okay. Castro’s a monster, so anybody who’s against

Castro is all right with us, and anything that they do from there, that’s all right with us. You see how they trick up your mind? They put your mind right in a bag, and take it wherever they want as well. [Applause]

But it’s something that you have to look at and answer for. Because they are American planes, American bombs escorted by

American paratroopers, armed with machine guns. But, you know, they say they’re not soldiers, they’re just there as escorts, like they started out with some advisers in South Vietnam. Twenty thousand of them — just advisers. These are just “escorts.” They’re able to do all of this mass murder and get away with it by labeling it “humanitarian,” “an act of humanitarianism.” Or “in the name of freedom,” “in the name of liberty.” All kinds of high-sounding slogans, but it’s cold-blooded murder, mass murder. And it’s done so skillfully, until you and I, who call ourselves sophisticated in this twentieth century, are able to watch it, and put the stamp of approval upon it. Simply because it’s being done to people with black skin, by people with white skin.

They take a man who is a cold-blooded murderer, named [Moise] Tshombe. You’ve heard of him, Uncle Tom Tshombe. [Laughter and applause] He murdered the prime minister, the rightful prime minister, Lumumba. He murdered him. [Applause] Now here’s a man who’s an international murderer, selected by the State Department and placed over the Congo and propped into position by your tax dollars. He’s a killer. He’s hired by our government. He’s a hired killer. And, to show the type of hired killer he is, as soon as he’s in office he hires more killers from South Africa to shoot down his own people. And you wonder why your American image abroad is so bankrupt.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



March 10, 1972

Over a hundred Iranian students attending various European universities gathered at the University of Paris campus to begin a hunger strike on February 14, according to a report received on February 19 by *Intercontinental Press*.

A group of twenty students conducted a simultaneous hunger strike in Washington, D.C.; a forty-eight-hour vigil was held in San Francisco; and a protest meeting was held in Chicago.

These actions are part of a world-wide campaign organized by the Confederation of Iranian Students to protest the harsh sentences rapidly being meted out to opponents of the military regime in Iran. The confederation is demanding that the death sentences be rescinded and that the Iranian government permit lawyers and physicians from other countries to visit the prisoners.

The Iranian students in Washington disclosed that a military court has sentenced the following persons to death: Naser Sadeg, Mohammad Bazergani, Masoud Rajavi, and Ali Mihandoust.

The four are part of a group of eleven prisoners whose trial started on February 14 in Teheran. According to the February 15 air edition of the semiofficial Teheran daily *Ettelaat*, charges against them include hijacking an airplane, attempting to kidnap the shah’s nephew and killing workers who had come to his aid, producing explosives, and establishing contacts with the Confederation of Iranian Students and the Iraqi regime.

A trial involving 143 persons is under way, according to the Paris daily *Le Monde* of February 8. There has been no mention of this in the Iranian press.



March 8, 1947

BUFFALO, N.Y., March 3 — The biggest teachers strike in American history ended today when the Buffalo Teachers Federation (independent) accepted Mayor Dowd’s proposal for salary increases of \$300 to \$625 annually to start this July 1. Eighty per cent of the teachers will get the top increases. Minimum salaries will be \$2,200 for elementary teachers and \$2,500 for high school teachers, with maximums of \$3,200 and \$3,600.

This settlement represents a compromise on the original demands of the Buffalo teachers for a general raise of \$1,025 a year with a \$2,400 salary minimum. However, under Governor Dewey’s proposed teachers salary schedule, wage increases would not begin until July 1948. Buffalo teachers will get raises a year sooner.

The Buffalo Teachers Federation, representing the majority of teachers here began its scheduled strike on February 24, a week ago. Prior to and during the strike they were subjected to a constant barrage of intimidation from the Board of Education and reactionary press.

The AFL Teachers Union, with some representation among the teachers at first opposed calling a strike after William Green had stated his opposition. It was forced by the strong sentiment of the teachers to reverse its stand the day before the strike and to give it full support. The CIO Teachers Union supported the strike from the beginning.

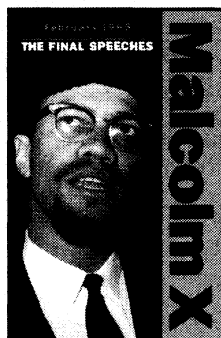
The whole working class of Buffalo an open-shop town ten years ago, backed the strike. AFL truckdrivers refused to deliver coal to the schools.

FEBRUARY 1965

Pathfinder

THE FINAL SPEECHES

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# U.S., French hands off Zaire!

Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Illich Lenin explained that imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism. “The fact that the world is already partitioned obliges those contemplating a redivision to reach out for every kind of territory. And an essential feature of imperialism is the rivalry between several great powers in the striving for hegemony, i.e. for the conquest of territory, not so much directly for themselves as to weaken the adversary and undermine his hegemony.”

Since November of last year, Ottawa, Washington, and Paris have been bickering over who would lead an imperialist intervention force into Zaire under the flag of the United Nations. At first they floated the pretext of “humanitarian aid” for more than 1 million Rwandan refugees, but that collapsed when most of the refugees left Zaire. Government officials from the White House are now floating new rumors of a possible intervention, in the name of keeping the peace. For three decades, Washington, Paris, and other imperialist powers have relied on Mobutu Sese Seko’s dictatorial rule to maintain the superexploitation of the semicolonial country, but that regime is facing a deeper crisis every day as rebel forces in the eastern part of the country gain ground.

The U.S. rulers are concerned not with the lives of the toilers in Zaire but with maintaining stability in the region to allow them to advance their business interests, such as extracting raw material including crude oil, gemstones, metals, and cocoa. Zaire is one of the richest African countries in mineral wealth.

Furthermore, a U.S.-led military action would be a blow against Washington’s rivals in France. Paris, which still considers Western and Central Africa its “sphere of influence,” maintains a military presence in eight African countries, which it has not hesitated to use. Tensions between the two imperialist powers are sharpening, as French government officials expressed their rulers’ displeasure with Washington’s moves to expand its influence on the African continent.

Class-conscious workers need to oppose each and every move toward imperialist intervention in Africa. The books advertised on page 8 of this *Militant* help explain the history of imperialist plunder of the African continent and the role of U.S., French, and British imperialism in the region. Malcolm X, in his speeches to young people in 1964, explained the objective of a U.S.-organized slaughter at that time in the Congo — today Zaire — was “not a humanitarian project” but “a source of mineral wealth.” And Ernesto Che Guevara told the world at the United Nations General Assembly in 1964, “ ‘Western civilization’ disguises behind its showy facade a picture of hyenas and jackals. That is the only name that can be applied to those who have gone to fulfill such ‘humanitarian’ tasks in the Congo.”

Imperialist intervention in Zaire — whether headed by Washington, Paris, or Ottawa — will only increase the carnage and deepen the impoverishment of the African toilers in the region. Working people around the world should demand: U.S. and French troops get out of Africa!

# Washington’s NATO bludgeon

The aggressive and accelerated moves by Washington to expand NATO into Eastern and Central Europe are aimed like a dagger at the heart of the workers state in Russia. The plans to integrate Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic into the military structures of the reactionary Atlantic imperialist alliance means placing tens of thousands of U.S. troops and weaponry on the soil of these workers states — right next to the border of the former Soviet Union.

The U.S. rulers, who run NATO, lost the Cold War. They are now trying to use their empire’s immense military might to accomplish through their armed forces what they have failed to do by other means: overturning the Soviet Union and Eastern European workers’ states and reestablishing capitalism there. The period known as the Cold War was enunciated by U.S. president Harry Truman in a 1947 speech launching a massive military aid program to the rightist regime in Greece, which was threatened by a worker and peasant uprising. That policy, which became known as the Truman doctrine, sought to prevent the spread of anticapitalist revolutions like those that took place in Yugoslavia in 1945-46 and later in China.

An integral part of this effort was Washington’s second militarization drive, the first being the U.S. military buildup in World War II. With the second interimperialist slaughter barely over, the U.S. rulers, who emerged supreme with Japan’s surrender in 1945, felt the need to put back together a military force that could be used against the struggles of workers and peasants around the world.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was founded in 1949 with these aims. Its creation codified Washington’s economic and military superiority in Europe.

With the crumbling of the Stalinist murder machines in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in 1989-91, imperialism could no longer wage a “cold war” against the toilers in the workers states through pressuring the petty-bourgeois Stalinist regimes. Since then, Washington and its allies have been confronted with the task of directly trying to defeat the working class in order to reestablish capitalism. That’s what the attempt to expand NATO and the imperialist occupation of parts of Yugoslavia by tens of

thousands of NATO troops are all about. The existence of these workers states, horribly deformed and degenerated as they are, remains a huge obstacle to the prospects of imperialism to reverse the bosses’ declining profit rates and lead the world capitalist system out of today’s depression conditions into a new period of expansion and economic growth.

The drive for NATO expansion is built on the complete hegemony of Washington over its imperialist allies in Europe and is exacerbating interimperialist conflicts. The recent announcement by French president Jacques Chirac that Paris will not join NATO’s military structures, as it announced earlier, unless Washington cedes control of the alliance’s southern command is a case in point.

The aggressive moves by U.S. imperialism are setting uncontrollable forces in motion, making some among ruling circles, like George Kennan, nervous. They increase the prospects of military confrontation with Moscow and widen the rift between Washington on the one hand and Bonn and Paris on the other. And as recent events in Yugoslavia and throughout the Balkans have showed, deploying troops on the soil of a workers state doesn’t mean reestablishing capitalism will be a piece of cake.

Hundreds of thousands of workers in Albania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia have taken to the streets in recent months to resist the disastrous effects of capitalist “market reforms” and oppose antidemocratic measures. The logic of the street protests in Serbia was objectively for reunification of Yugoslavia and against the imperialist attempts to carve up and swallow the workers state there. The resistance of these workers takes place alongside defensive battles of workers and farmers in neighboring Greece and elsewhere in Europe.

Before NATO can use its tanks and artillery to restore capitalist rule in that part of the world, U.S. imperialism and its allies will have to defeat not only the workers in Eastern Europe and Russia, but working people in capitalist Europe and the United States as well. Down that road, working people will have their chance to take power out of the hands of the capitalist exploiters and destroy imperialism’s military might, NATO included.

# White House pushes NATO expansion

**Continued from Page 7**

Washington’s economic and military predominance in Europe in the aftermath of World War II. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops, scores of military bases across western Europe, and the U.S. Sixth Fleet based in the Mediterranean form the foundation of Washington’s superiority in Europe today.

The U.S. rulers rely on NATO’s military might to ensure stable capitalist relations in Europe. Instability, however, is increasingly becoming the order of the day in many regions there. Washington is worried about the escalating crisis in Cyprus, for instance, an island forcibly divided by Turkish troops in the north and forces backed by the Greek government to the south — where some 900 clashes occurred last year. Relations between the regimes in Athens and Ankara have become increasingly tense.

The Greek Cypriot government alarmed the Clinton administration when it signed a \$416 million missile deal with Moscow in January. This move triggered threats from Ankara, which has 30,000 troops stationed in northern Cyprus as result of its invasion in 1974. The president of

the Greek Cypriot regime promised U.S. State Department official Carey Cavanaugh he would not to deploy the missiles for 16 months or Greek F-16 war planes for 13 months in order to defuse tensions.

Albright also made a stop in southern Korea. Speaking to U.S. troops stationed along the so-called demilitarized zone dividing the Korean peninsula, the secretary of state reiterated Washington’s policy of aggression against the workers state in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to the north. She declared that a peace settlement in Korea — one was never signed at the end of the U.S.-led Korean War — depended “basically on how much the north Koreans are hurting.” It’s therefore “very important to keep our forces here,” she added.

Some 37,000 U.S. troops are based in the south of Korea. Washington and its junior partner in Seoul are now using food aid as a weapon against Pyongyang, which appealed for international assistance after two years of flooding destroyed much of the grain crop. The U.S. and south Korean governments have given only token aid, and stymied the DPRK’s attempts to get other support.

# Auto parts strikers win union contract

**Continued from front page**

will set up a defined pension plan for the first time, not a 401K individual savings plan as was in place in Plymouth, and workers will receive more paid holidays. Press reports indicate that with these improvements workers at the two JCI plants will have wages and benefits close to the unionized workforce at JCI’s major competitor, Lear Seating. Workers at both seat makers are paid substantially less than UAW members at Ford. Employees with three years’ seniority at the auto giant make over \$19 an hour today and are projected to earn \$21.60 in September 1999. The Big Three contracts — between the UAW and Ford, Chrysler, and General Motors — include a cost-of-living clause, which the JCI workers don’t have.

Local 174 members here approved their contract by an 82 percent majority. UAW strikers in Ohio voted 86 percent in favor of the agreement.

Press reports indicate that the union was demanding a “neutrality” clause in the contracts. The clause would have limited the antiunion campaigns that JCI has run at plants that the UAW has tried to organize. The union did not get it included in the contracts, but there are reports that the company has informally agreed not to oppose organizing efforts in seat plants that will supply Ford assembly plants in Minneapolis and Edison, New Jersey. Ford is planning to outsource seat assembly work now done by UAW members in these assembly plants.

This strike, although involving a small number of workers, has been closely watched by others suppliers, the big-business press, and workers in the Detroit area. The strike was a regular feature on TV and radio news broadcasts, as well as covered by newspapers.

The auto parts supplier industry has seen a massive consolidation over the last decade. In 1988 there were 30,000 auto parts suppliers worldwide; by 1998 this number will shrink to 8,000. In 1994 and 1995 there were more than 320 acquisitions or mergers in the auto parts industry. A decade ago there were no companies that could be considered global auto suppliers, today the number approaches 100. An example of the consolidation is that Lear and JCI control 72 percent of the world market for auto seats and expect to control more in the future.

## Increase in nonunion auto parts plants

As the parts giants have developed, the unionized component of the industry in the U.S. has shrunk from 50 percent in the early 1980s to less than 20 percent today. Alongside this shift, wages and working conditions have worsened.

Ford was quickly effected by the walkout at Johnson Controls. Because of the “just in time” production system, where parts reach the plants just hours and in some cases minutes before they are needed on the assembly line, three assembly plants were shut down after building thousands of seatless trucks. Ford’s Michigan Truck Plant (MTP) was closed for five days before Ford set up an alternate seat supply system. Even then, it was only installing seats in half of its highly profitable sport utility vehicles. Ford now has more than 13,000 vehicles spread around southeast Michigan that will have to be retrofitted with seats.

The company also closed parts of two assembly plants in Ohio on February 7 and only began to reopen them after the JCI workers approved their contracts. Some 6,800 UAW members at Ford were laid off because of the strike. The strike is expected to reduce the number-two auto makers’ income by \$25 million. There will be other costs, as Ford pays UAW members from MTP overtime to put seats in the parked trucks.

According to an article in the February 21 *Wall Street Journal*, the strike was watched closely because the Big Three automakers have put auto suppliers “under relentless pressure” to cut costs. Other sources report that Ford demanded that JCI cut costs by 5 percent a year to get contracts.

David Cole, head of the University of Michigan transportation research institute, told the Detroit *Sunday Journal* that the new JCI contract could help GM by raising parts costs for Ford and Chrysler. GM has been on a drive to lower its parts costs. The company’s campaign has included selling some of its parts plants and using a strike at two brake plants in Dayton, Ohio, last year to organize a lockout of most of their assembly workers in the United States.

The victory at Johnson Controls has been watched by other unionists as they prepare for contract fights with the auto giants, as well as by unorganized workers who make up the big majority of auto parts workers, toiling for low wages with few benefits or rights.

*John Sarge is a member of UAW Local 900 at Ford's MTP. Brad Downs, a UAW member in Cleveland, contributed to this article.*



# Steel strikers press fight for pension rights

BY TONY DUTROW

PITTSBURGH — Some 4,500 striking steelworkers are now into their fifth month of a determined fight against the ninth-largest integrated steel producer, Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation and its parent company, WHX Corporation. They are demanding the company reinstate a guaranteed pension plan equal to those currently in place at all other unionized basic steel workplaces. Union members were forced to accept a sub-standard pension plan in the aftermath of Wheeling-Pitt's 1985 bankruptcy and an 89-day strike that followed.

Initial reports are coming in on the results of a nationwide bucket-collection effort at basic steel mills throughout the country. Bethlehem Steel in Baltimore, LTV mills in Chicago and Pittsburgh, USX mills in Pittsburgh and Birmingham, and the Great Lakes National Steel mill in Detroit, among many others had collections on February 13. Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) organized that day to kick off the campaign in solidarity with strikers from eight mills in the region, located in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

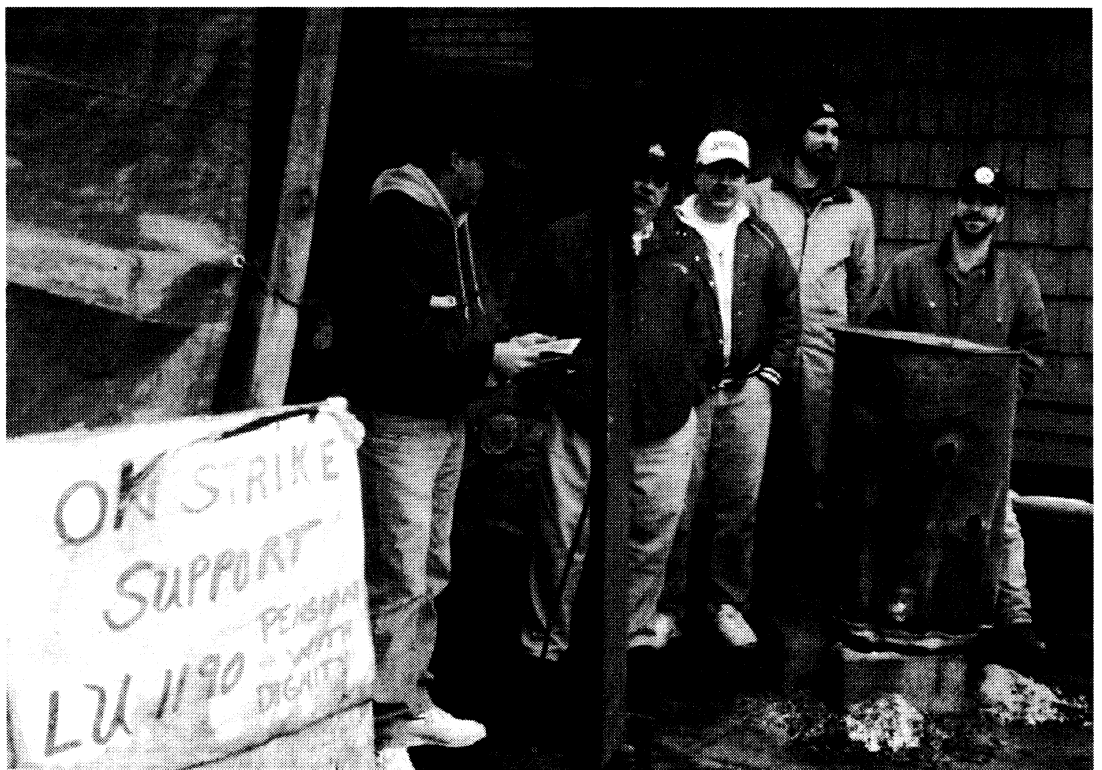
Eleven strikers from Local 1187 in Allenport, Pennsylvania, and Local 1223 from Yorkville, Pennsylvania, participated in the collection at the USX Clairton works. Another carload from the Yorkville local helped out at the LTV coke works collection in Pittsburgh.

Larry O'Meara, a rail transportation worker with 26 years in the mills, looked forward to the outpouring of solidarity from around the country. O'Meara was out on the picket gate at the 80-inch mill February 15 and was pulling weekend duty to give other strikers a break. "The company can continue to try to weaken us, through their media ads and other things, but we're solid. We'll remain here as long as it takes," he said.

O'Meara and other pickets at the gate were upbeat about the resignation of James Wareham, CEO of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, and the point man for the company's campaign of pressure and intimidation through the media.

According to the February 12 Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*, the corporation "replaced its chief executive and confirmed that Chairman Ron LaBow will meet union officers for the first time since the strike began." Negotiations broke off January 17 when Wheeling-Pitt steel officials once again refused to discuss a guaranteed pension. The negotiations were supervised by federal mediators.

Company officials' preparations to reopen



Wheeling-Pitt strikers on picket duty mid-January in Mingo Junction, Ohio.

Militant/Sheila Ostrow

the talks came on the heels of a management change at WHX, which named former WCI Steel Inc., executive John Scheessele to replace James Wareham, who resigned Feb-

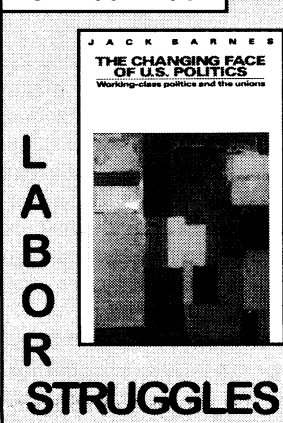
ruary 11 as WHX president and Wheeling-Pittsburgh chief executive, effective March 1. Scheessele resigned as president of WCI during a strike by the USWA against that company in 1985.

Meanwhile, "the 'frank and constructive' talks at the WHX's New York headquarters lasted about six hours and ended with both sides agreeing to meet again soon," reported the February 14 Pittsburgh *Tribune-Review*.

O'Meara's view of these developments were shared by the four other pickets, pointing to the virtual fortress strikers have built at this gate, well fortified with towering screens to keep the chilly wind from whipping through. "We're going to continue and stand here and picket — after all, we have nothing better to do," he said, smiling. "And nobody's hiring," he added as everyone laughed.

Tony Dutrow is a member of USWA Local 1557 at USX in Clairton, Pennsylvania.

## from Pathfinder

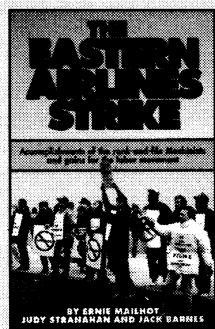


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## — LETTERS —

### Support pilots' strike

On February 14, the night the Allied Pilots Association strike against American Airlines started and 24 minutes later, was aborted by President Clinton's intervention, I went out to the San Francisco International Airport to learn about the strike and extend working-class solidarity to the pilots. I had discussions there with airline workers (flight attendants, ramp workers, cleaners, and customer service representatives) and passengers waiting to board planes.

Several American Airlines workers were confused about what side to be on. On one hand, they saw the danger of being laid off in the case of a strike (which American Airlines has been on a fierce campaign to tell their workers would happen); on the other hand, they saw the inroads that the company was trying to make on the pilots union and the danger that example sets.

For *Militant* readers who are also confused about what side to take, I'd like to point out a few reasons why I support this strike:

Bosses in any industry try to whip up workers' fears about being fired or laid off to prevent working-class solidarity across picket lines. It may be harder to see why people like me, who are unemployed workers, and other workers who are employed at low wages, should support pilots who make \$120,000 a year on average. But the pilots, like us, have to work to survive, and work just to line the pockets of the rich company owners. If we side with Clinton and American bosses in their drive against the pilots union, we are supporting an attack on our own fundamental right to strike, which is a right we will need to exercise more

in the future as the global economic crisis deepens.

I think the fact that Clinton used the highly undemocratic 1926 Railway Labor Act (an act which has mostly been imposed on striking railroad unions throughout the years) to intervene in an airline labor dispute for the first time since 1966 is quite significant — not just for airline workers, but workers in all industries. If we let him get away with this here, it will be used in other situations.

The fact that we as workers are able to shut down a company as big as American Airlines, the largest domestic carrier in the United States, demonstrates the power that we have. The daily newspapers and local TV news programs here (and I'm sure those around the U.S.) are consumed with stories about inconvenienced passengers. But this strike is not about inconveniencing passengers. It's about the pilots' wages, stopping American from outsourcing jobs to lower-paid pilots for American Eagle (commuter) flights, and — most importantly — stopping bosses from taking away ground from workers in one of the basic transportation industries in this part of the world.

Joya Lonsdale  
San Francisco, California

### Repression in Tonga

Supporters of the Pro-Democracy Movement in the Pacific Island

kingdom of Tonga face continuing government repression.

In January, Kalafi Moala, the New Zealand — based editor of the *Taimi 'o Tonga* (Times of Tonga), had his passport cancelled. In an interview Moala explained that this is the first time this has happened to a Tongan citizen. Moala, who also holds a United States passport, now cannot enter Tonga without special written permission from the government.

*Taimi 'o Tonga*, like all businesses in Tonga, needs a government trading licence to operate. The newspaper applied to renew its licence, which expired December 31, but so far the government has refused to issue one. "They are throwing roadblocks in our way," Moala

said. "They say they have concerns about my conduct." Moala was jailed for 30 days last September when *Taimi 'o Tonga* published a parliamentary notice of impeachment against a government minister. In the meantime, the newspaper continues to circulate.

Initial reports that the government would not issue a licence, effectively banning the newspaper, provoked a response in Tonga and internationally.

"They shouldn't ban that paper," said Manoa Tonga, a Tongan workmate of mine in an Auckland factory. "The paper is very popular in Tonga," he added. Pro-democracy activists in Tonga are investigating alternative ways to circulate the newspaper, perhaps using the

licence of another publication. Moala said that *Taimi 'o Tonga* editors will fight any government restrictions on the newspaper initially through the courts.

International media and civil rights groups also condemned the government's reported intentions. The secretary of the New Zealand section of the Commonwealth Press Union, Phil O'Reilly, told the February 13 *New Zealand Herald* that it was a sad day for press freedom in the Pacific.

'Akilisi Pohiva, the leading Pro-Democracy Movement Member of Parliament in Tonga, plans to visit New Zealand in late February or early March to discuss the situation in Tonga, at public meetings and with interested groups.

Terry Coggan  
Auckland, New Zealand

### Spokane Young Socialists

Several articles about the Spokane YS [Young Socialists] from the bourgeois press are full of factual inconsistencies, misquotations, and glib, condescending descriptions, but are also effective as well. I am in the process of writing an article about the Spokane YS and the achievements we've made and the activities we have been conducting.

Alaric Dirmeyer  
Spokane, Washington

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.



## 100,000 protest anti-immigrant bill

### Actions in Paris, other French cities also condemn election of ultrarightist

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS — Close to 100,000 demonstrated in Paris and several thousand more in other French cities February 22, to protest against an anti-immigrant law being discussed in the National Assembly. The demonstrations were also a response to the February 9 electoral victory of the National Front (FN) in the town of Vitrolles, a suburb of Marseilles.

The march in Paris assembled at the Gare de l'Est train station, where thousands of Jews, immigrants, Blacks, Gypsies, and homosexuals were deported during the Nazi occupation of France in World War II. At that time the Vichy regime in France required residence lists, and informants helped organize mass deportations from to Nazi death camps.

The march ended at the Police Prefecture, which is where immigrants get their residency cards. A number of people carried suitcases as a reminder of those that were deported.

While many of those demonstrating were writers and other professionals, there were also thousands of youth. "I came to demonstrate against the intolerable hatred and the political climate at the moment in France," said Joelle Blum.

"The government takes up the ideas of the National Front. That's no longer a democracy. It's becoming fascist," said Frederic Peroumal, who is in the military.

One poster in the Paris demonstration had a photo of Vichy head of state Philippe Pétain. "Refuse to collaborate with the Debré law," the poster proclaimed.

"It looks like Vichy, it tastes like Vichy, it is Vichy," proclaimed a banner of the "free artists against the Debré law."

The draft of the law — named after Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré — would oblige those housing an immigrant to inform the authorities when their "guest" leaves or overstays their visa. This would make it a legal obligation to be an informer for the police concerning the movements of immigrants.

Other aspects of the law would make "mixed marriages" between a French citizen and a foreigner more difficult, would give more powers to the police, and would make it more difficult to renew residency permits, even after 15 years residence in France.

Special certificates necessary for housing foreigners were created by the Socialist Party government in 1982.

#### New law targets Africans and Asians

"The distinction between legal and illegal immigration is our best defense against racism and xenophobia," declared Prime Minister Alain Juppé, in defense of the proposed new law. The new law would mainly target Africans and Asians from former French colonies. Debré and other government officials are defending the bill as measure to prevent the ultraright National Front from using its anti-immigrant views to gain support.

National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen issued a statement February 18, calling for a national referendum on immigration. "The Debré law will come back like a boomerang to strike its authors." The rightist chided the "weak government" in Paris that "the only way to fight immigration is to enforce the program of the National Front."

The National Front has said if it won power in the 1998 national parliamentary elections it would deport 3 million immigrants as a way to solve the country's unemployment problem. Unemployment stands at 12.8 percent nationwide. "We are not only against legal immigration, but also for the return of immigrants to their country of origin," said Bruno Mégret, a deputy national leader of the National Front. "There's too much immigration from countries of the Third World. It's a question of national survival," he added.

Mégret's wife, Catherine, is the mayor of



Nearly 100,000 people demonstrated in Paris February 22 to protest anti-immigrant legislation. Thousands in other cities also protested the reactionary measure.

Vitrolles who ran as a stand-in for him after he was barred from the race because of past campaign spending violations. The National Front won with 52.5 percent of the vote. Vitrolles, a town of 39,000, has many North African residents and has been hard hit by a jobless rate of 19 percent.

This is the fourth such victory for the National Front in the south of France, where hundreds of thousands of immigrants settled after Algeria won its independence in 1962. It was the first time ultrarightists have won an election with an absolute majority of the votes cast. Their previous victories took place in three-way municipal elections in which the National Front received a plurality of the votes.

Following her election as mayor of Vitrolles, Mégret announced that she would "immediately stop all public aid to immigrants and give the money to the French." She also promised to cut off any aid to "organizations of foreign origin or left organizations because they simply do not have any right to be here." She added that "we have to put some order in our culture... all this rap culture is just not our business. A rap musician or a Black musician can never feel things the way we do..." Jean-Marie Le Pen was quite right when he said that Blacks are more skilled in sports and dancing than whites, who have other skills."

#### 'Criminality of immigrants'

She supported Le Pen's statement that there were "inequalities between races," adding that these were "simply genetic differences." She promised to put more police on the streets to fight "the delinquents who are always the same, above all the immigrants.... Criminality is synonymous with immigration." Mégret said she would refrain from taking "left" mass circulation newspapers out of the municipal library, as was done by the other National Front mayors, "in order not to give an argument to the left."

A recent study showed that the National Front may receive enough votes — 12.5 percent of the registered voters — to be present in the second round of voting in as many as 220 electoral districts. This would mean three-way runoffs in 184 parliamentary districts currently held by conservative parties and 36 districts held by the Socialist, Communist, and other "left" parties.

The demonstrations on February 22 were organized in response to a call by writers, artists, and film directors in what the conservative daily *Le Figaro* has called "an insurrection of the intellectual party," against the immigration law proposed by Debré.

The daily newspaper *Le Monde* ran front page articles building the march every day the week of the demonstration. *Libération*, a daily paper that supports the Socialist Party (SP), had 16 pages of coverage the day of

the march.

Two days after the election in Vitrolles, 59 film directors issued a call to "disobey" the new immigration law, in particular a provision requiring a special certificate issued by the local mayor for anyone housing a foreigner. The next day a similar call was issued by 155 writers, followed by 1,100 journalists, 402 actors, 496 musicians, 421 university professors, and over 400 lawyers. Doctors announced they would refuse to check identity papers to see which of their patients was an "illegal" immigrant, while others publicly announced they would house undocumented immigrants in violation of the law.

Over 100 judges called for "using all legal means" of resistance to a law that was "liberticide," that is, which kills freedom. In reference to the Vichy regime during the Nazi occupation of France, the judges declaration pointed to the "magistrates' sad role in the darkest period of our history. Are we on the point of doing it again?" A government minister, Jacques Toubon, said he was "stupified" by the judges' action.

On February 17, a committee of prominent individuals called for a mass demonstration against the law. The committee includes intellectuals, trade union officials, and political figures. "The Debré law, like the Pasqua laws which preceded it," they said, "take the actions of the Vichy government as their model: 'Anyone who houses a Jew, for any reason, including if it is without charge, must make a complete declaration to the local police commissariat of the identity of the concerned party, within 24 hours of their arrival' (article 5 of the law of December 10, 1941)."

The government has now proposed some small amendments to its draft law by putting the control of housing certificates in the hands of a préfet representing the state administration instead of it being under the control of local mayors. It also dropped the need to announce to the police when a foreign guest leaves your home.

#### Debate not about illegal immigration

Writer Marek Halter, one of the sponsors of the demonstration, asserted that the real debate on immigration has not yet begun. "We cannot avoid this debate. It will no doubt be violent," he said. "For the moment we have only been discussing the question of denouncing foreigners guests.... But for the fascists the real question isn't the illegal immigration but the four and a half million immigrants who live in this country legally."

As bourgeois politics in France continues to shift to the right under pressure from the economic and social crisis, parties that call themselves "left," as well as the conservatives and Gaullists, take up increasingly anti-working-class policies. These

parties have used the growing influence of the fascist National Front as their excuse.

The struggle against "illegal" immigration is supported by the Communist and Socialist parties. Many of the protesters accused these parties, particularly the Socialists, of adapting to Le Pen's right-wing views.

On the day of the demonstration, Socialist Party leader Lionel Jospin was conspicuous by his absence in Paris. Instead, he attended a small rally of less than 2,000 in the southern city of Toulouse where he declared that the "struggle has to be centered on the networks of illegal immigration, in which the government is much too timid."

One poster at the rally asked "Jospin, where are you?" The SP was also absent from the National Assembly when the Debré law was first discussed. The Socialist party's anti-immigrant policy is not new. Former President François Mitterrand stated that France had "reached the level of tolerance" concerning immigration, while former Premier Michel Rocard protested that "France cannot accept to receive the misery of the entire world."

Many of the demonstrators expressed the view that the Socialist Party was to blame for the National Front victory in Vitrolles. Its answer to the National Front attacks during the Vitrolles campaign was a leaflet put out by the campaign committee for incumbent Socialist Party mayor Jean-Luc Anglade. The National Front statement proclaimed, "Everything that they have proposed, we have already done."

Meanwhile, strikes to fight unemployment by reducing work time are continuing. Striking bus drivers in several cities have gone back to work with partial settlements in their struggle for the 35-hour week with no loss in pay and retirement at 55 years. Three cities are still on strike and a new national day of action has been called for February 28.

In Marseilles, bus drivers have won the 35-hour week with no loss in pay effective Feb. 1, 1998. Drivers will be able to work half-time at 80 percent pay at age 55. Non-drivers will work 37 hours. These measures will create 45 new jobs.

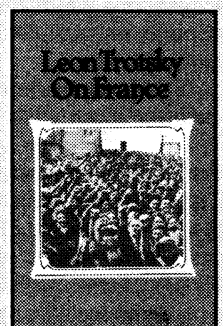
The workweek for bus and metro drivers in Lille will be reduced to 35 hours 40 minutes at 39 hours pay. All part-time workers will be hired full-time and 58 new workers will be hired. The strikers also won 16 additional paid holidays.

The bosses have proposed a 36.5-hour week in national negotiations that are still continuing.

Nat London is a member of the CGT union federation.

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