

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Militant' supporters set plans for subscription target week

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Palestinian patriots won't buckle to Tel Aviv

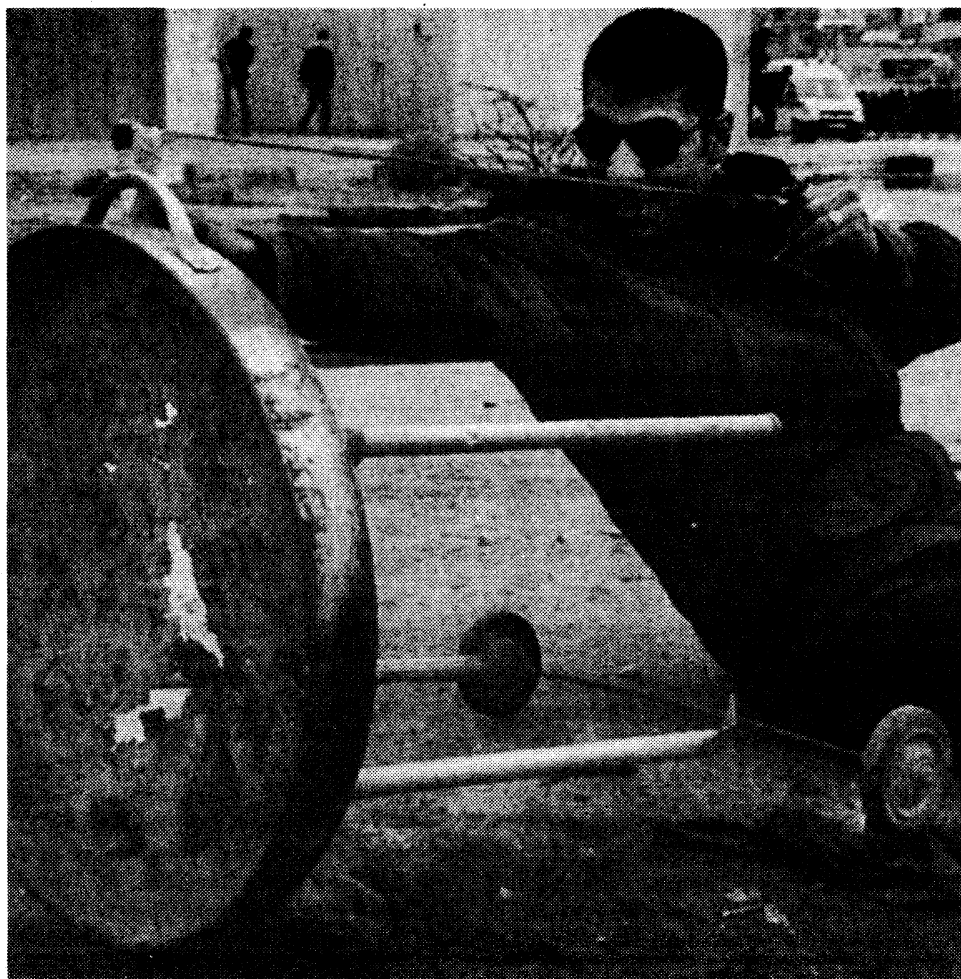
BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Despite a massive show of force by the Israeli military, thousands of Palestinian activists joined demonstrations throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip March 30 to commemorate Land Day and condemn the Israeli government's ongoing efforts to build a new Israeli settlement in occupied East Jerusalem. They have been protesting the Zionist expansion plans for nearly two weeks.

The protests increased pressures on Arab regimes in the Middle East, prompting the foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League to announce March 31 their decision to halt moves to establish diplomatic relations with the Zionist regime and reactivate an economic boycott. The decision must win the approval of the heads of state before being implemented. Prior to the Land Day commemoration, Israeli forces surrounded Palestinian-ruled areas with tanks, armored personnel carriers, and troops. Helicopter gunships flew over the West Bank town of Nablus, and Israeli cops were deployed near Arab towns inside Israel.

Some 4,000 people rallied in Nablus. At a demonstration in the town's soccer stadium, protesters burned Israeli and American flags, a styrofoam model of an Israeli tank, and an effigy of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The rally was jointly sponsored by Yassir Arafat's El Fatah grouping and Hamas. In Jenin, also in the West Bank, the National Islamic Commit-

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Palestinian youth uses makeshift shield during skirmish with Israeli cops in Bethlehem

Young Socialists use convention to step up propaganda and education

BY MEGAN ARNEY AND MEG NOVAK

ATLANTA — Carrying dozens of boxes and bags stuffed with revolutionary books — for themselves and others — some

170 people left the Second National Young Socialists convention and conference here March 30. The gathering highlighted the progress the YS has made over the last year in the consolidation of

a communist youth organization in the United States. The axis of the convention was building the YS through reading, studying, and selling communist literature, while engaging in political work with other forces. The convention delegates decided to go on a propaganda offensive for the next several months, taking advantage of a special offer by Pathfinder to move books printed by the publisher out of the warehouse and into the hands of fighters.

"There are at least 10 conferences and actions going on in April that we'll want to be a part of. We should be ready to get a backpack full of books and get in a car or jump on a bus and start participating in the political life of the region we live in," Young Socialists leader Verónica Poses said. Poses opened the international youth gathering with the report, "Turning out into politics with communist propaganda."

Events in the first half of April include the Young Feminists Summit in Washington, D.C., where the YS will present a workshop on "Feminism and Socialism"; a conference of the Chicano student group MEChA in East Lansing, Michigan; a solidarity rally with strawberry workers in the United Farm Workers union in Watsonville, California; and an anti-Klan rally in Pittsburgh.

At these events, Young Socialists and socialist workers will be getting hundreds of books into the hands of young fighters, and also meeting with leaders and activists about participating in the World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba this August.

These plans were discussed by 19 delegates elected by YS chapters across the

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Imperialists prepare occupation of Albania

Thousands of Albanians say 'no'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND TONY HUNT

VLORE, Albania — The governments of Italy, France, and Greece are preparing a military occupation of Albania in response to the recent working-class revolt against the pro-capitalist regime of President Sali Berisha. The goal of the imperialist intervention, carried out under the pretext of guaranteeing distribution of "humanitarian aid," is to overturn the workers state and reestablish capitalism in Albania. In this endeavor, Rome, Paris, and Athens may have to confront militarily the toilers of this tiny Balkan nation.

"If the Italians dare come we will throw them into the sea!" shouted crowds of angry young men here March 31, firing shots from their Kalashnikovs into the air. They were protesting the sinking of an Albanian boat full of refugees by an Italian warship three days earlier and the planned intervention. Eighty-seven people drowned in rough seas on the night of March 28, some 35 miles east of the Italian port of Brindisi, after the frigate *Sibilla* rammed the Albanian vessel twice, sinking it immediately. The Italian navy was enforcing Rome's orders to turn back refugees from Albania — 13,000 of whom have reached Italy's coasts since February.

The Italian action reinforced widespread
Continued on Page 14

Hundreds blast gov't attacks on immigrants

BY LISA ROTTACH

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY — Some 250 demonstrators gathered at the Federal building here April 1 to protest the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, which went into effect the same day. Those present were predominantly immigrants, together with various members of the 30 organizations who called the demonstration.

"Whenever there's an economic crisis, they start blaming us immigrants," said Luis Caza, 37. This view was reflected in numerous handmade signs: "Stop Scapegoating Immigrants" and "Immigrant Rights Are Human Rights."

"We, as workers, are an integral part of this country. We want equality and justice with or without papers," said José Ortiz, who has lived in New Jersey since 1992. "This country needs us."

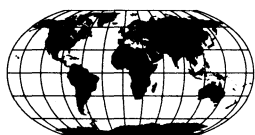
New Jersey has one of the largest concentrations of immigrants, ranking fifth nationwide. Some 13.4 percent, or 1.1 million of the state's population is foreign-born. Consequently, a large number of people are directly affected by the legislation.

Many of the provisions of the new law
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Thousands protest fascists in France



Tens of thousands of people protested outside the convention of the National Front, the fascist party of Jean-Marie Le Pen, in Strasbourg, France, March 29.



Inmates end rebellion in Mexico

Prisoners in Mexico ended a 18-hour standoff March 27 after they had seized a part of a Veracruz state prison to protest brutal treatment and inhuman conditions. They hurled bottles at the state security police the day before and threw a message to reporters that included demands for better food, water, and medical care.

Inmates said prisoners are punished by suspending them by their wrists from trees and beams at the facility. They demanded one mentally ill prisoner be let down who had been suspended naked from a stairway for eight days. They also accused guards of molesting female visitors to the prison. Security director of the prison, Ignacio Pérez, was relieved of duty pending an investigation into the charges, said Veracruz prison director José Lagunes López.

Strike halts flights at Air France, pilots walk out at TAT

Workers at Air France Europe forced the airline to cancel several flights when they organized a strike March 28. The workers are protesting a merger of the airline with its parent company — the state-owned Air France — which is expected to cut the wages of most Air France Europe employees. The strike coincided with a walkout by pilots and ground personnel at the commuter airline TAT, who are protesting a merger of that airline with another small carrier, Air Liberte. Pilots at the airline are planning a two-day strike March 31 and April 1.

Meanwhile, hospital interns announced March 28 they would continue a 16-day strike against government cutbacks on health care. These strikes occur as the number of jobless workers in France reached a post-war record of 3.28 million in February — 12.8 percent.

French officials approve new anti-immigrant legislation

The lower house of the French National Assembly passed a new bill March 25 that allows police to keep passports and other travel documents of undocumented immigrants. The most controversial aspect of the



Thyssen A.G. workers protested on March 24 in front of Deutsche Bank in Düsseldorf, Germany, against job cuts. The steelworkers' action of nearly a week forced Krupp A.G. to abandon an \$8 billion takeover bid of Thyssen A.G.. The companies agreed to combine some operations. The full merger would have eliminated between 10,000 and 30,000 jobs. Unemployment in Germany is 12.2 percent, the highest since 1933.

proposed new law has been amended. The previous draft of the new law — named after Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré — would have required those housing immigrants to inform authorities when their guests leave or overstay their visa. Nearly 100,000 people demonstrated in Paris and several thousand more in other cities February 22 to protest against the anti-immigrant law being discussed in the National Assembly.

Meanwhile, the ultraright National Front party held its triennial congress March 29-31 in Strasbourg. In an attempt to counter the gains of the National Front, the opposition Socialist party is drafting stiffer anti-immigrant legislation that would supposedly replace France's existing immigration laws with "entry quotas which would vary in proportion to the economic health of the country."

U.S. to sanction Japanese ports

The two largest dockworkers' unions, which represent 55,000 dockworkers are

planning work stoppages to protest sanctions that Washington plans against Japanese shipping companies. Officials at U.S. and European shipping companies claim their access to Japan's ports is hampered by discriminatory licensing, scheduling, and labor-contracting practices. The U.S. government plans to impose fines of \$100,000 per Japanese ship docked at ports in the United States.

The Japan Harbor Transportation Association threatened "massive retaliation against U.S. carriers" if the trade sanctions are implemented. Union members have already decided to halt work on Sundays and plan to stay off the job between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. The protest will affect about half of Japan's ports, including Yokohama, Kobe, and four other major ones.

WTO backs U.S. capitalists

A World Trade Organization (WTO) panel issued a preliminary ruling March 20 stating that the European Union's (EU) banana-import policy violated world trade rules. Washington pursued the case on behalf of Chiquita Brands International, Inc., which complained about the EU tariff preferences given to bananas from Caribbean nations that were once European colonies.

While the U.S. government apparently accepts this ruling by the WTO panel, it is refusing to cooperate with the panel over a dispute concerning Washington's so-called Helms-Burton law, which targets companies doing business in Cuba. Trade officials in the EU, Canada, and Mexico are challenging the law in the WTO on the grounds that it violates world trade rules by trying to impose U.S. law on other countries. The Clinton administration said the Helms-Bur-

ton law is exempt from WTO rules because it is a national security and foreign policy issue, not a trade matter.

Farmers battle timber baron

A coalition of Chicano farmers and environmental activists have organized blockades of logging trucks six times this year in the San Luis Valley of Colorado. The farmers charge the wealthy landowner, Zachary Taylor, of ruining their irrigation system and clogging it with sediment from his timber cutting operations. Taylor's high altitude estate is a watershed for the southeastern portion of the San Luis Valley. Devon Peña, coordinator of Salva Tu Sierra, vowed that the coalition would wage a "hot summer of protest," the *New York Times* reported.

Judge upholds firing of gay reservist in the Air Force

Federal judge Joseph McGlynn ruled March 26 that Air Force officials were correct when they fired reservist John Hoffman from his civilian job after he told his supervisor he is gay. McGlynn said military policy required Hoffman to be a reservist to hold his job as civilian mechanic at the Air Force Reserve station in Willow Grove Pennsylvania. He was turned down for other jobs he applied for at the station, which do not require the employee to be a reservist.

Military officials cut off Hoffman's weekend pay in April 1996, stripped him of his uniform, and told him he would be discharged from the Reserve, pending completion of an investigation. Hoffman, who is 51 years old, said he decided to retire from the Reserve before he could be discharged because he did not want to lose his pension, but no one told him he would lose his civilian job if he left the military. Stefan Presser, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, said he planned to appeal the case.

Judge issues workfare injunction

In response to a lawsuit filed by six welfare recipients, New York State Supreme Court acting justice Jane Solomon issued an injunction March 24 ordering the New York City administration to stop assigning welfare recipients to "workfare" programs unless it does a full assessment of needs and skills to determine whether they should be placed into educational programs instead. The judge allowed the plaintiffs to expand the lawsuit to include all current and future welfare recipients considered for workfare.

The plaintiffs charged the city with undermining their jobs prospects and steering them away from education opportunities, including one who had her public assistance cut after she refused to drop out of school to take a workfare assignment. City officials claim placing welfare recipients into workfare jobs such as cleaning parks or streets is the best way to get a "permanent" job.

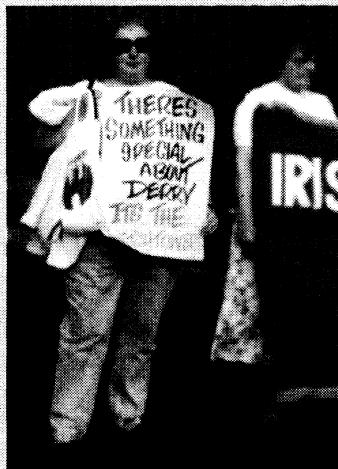
—MAURICE WILLIAMS

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Linda McComus, Irish-American activist, Philadelphia area.

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Communist League campaigns in UK

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — "Squalor," "sleaze," "sex scandal." In newspaper after newspaper, TV and radio news bulletins, and chat shows, these have been the opening words of the general election in the United Kingdom.

The first week of the campaign has witnessed the resignation of a sitting Tory MP for having a extra-marital affair; the resignation of the chairman of the Scottish Tories for a past homosexual relationship; front-page pictures of another Tory MP kissing a 17-year-old; and a campaign of demands on Neil Hamilton not to stand in the elections. Hamilton is the Tory MP at the center of what has become known as the "cash for questions" scandal: MPs receiving bribes to ask questions in parliament.

The Labour and Liberal Democrat parties accused John Major of calling the election to avoid publication of a government-commissioned inquiry into "cash for questions." Now the Labour Party has upped the ante by offering, if other parties agree to do likewise, to stand down in Hamilton's constituency in favor of an "anti-sleaze" candidate.

Launching the Communist League campaign in the London constituency of Southwark North and Bermondsey, candidate Ian Grant warned against the workers movement being sucked into the crusade against sleaze. "The problem with the capitalists and their political representatives is not that they are immoral, hypocritical people as individuals," Grant said. "The scandal mongering is an effort by capitalist politicians themselves to draw working people into the gutter and divert them from the real issues."

"It's the right wing and the ultraright that benefit from this pornographication of politics, and of the resentment and envy it breeds," Grant emphasized. "Such campaigns became the stock in trade of the Nazis in the '20s and '30s when they assailed the 'filth' and 'degeneracy' of the Weimar republic."

"My campaign says that working people

shouldn't give a damn about the sex lives of MPs — or the royal family for that matter. The working class doesn't need exposés of individual capitalist politicians. What we need is to understand that we have no common interests with the class these politicians speak for. My campaign exists to promote an independent program to advance the interests of the oppressed and exploited."

Grant said that at the center of the Communist League's campaign is the issue of jobs. "The greatest division within the working class is between the employed and the unemployed," the communist candidate explained. "Permanent mass unemployment is a feature of capitalism. Officially today in the UK there are 1.7 million unemployed, a rate of 6.2 percent. But the real figure is closer to 4 million."

Fight for jobs for all

Grant pointed to the findings of a three-year study by independent researchers at Sheffield Hallam University. "For example" Grant said, citing the report, "up to 1.2 million long-term unemployed are now claiming Incapacity Benefit and are therefore excluded from the unemployment figures."

Grant, an assembly line worker at Ford's Dagenham plant, spoke of recent developments in the car industry that exposed the lies of capitalist politicians who claim they're interested in solving unemployment. "Ford recently announced 960 redundancies at its Halewood plant near Liverpool. Renault has announced the closure of its Vilvoorde plant in Belgium. All this is done in the name of 'overcapacity.' What the capitalists mean by 'overcapacity' is too many cars than they can sell to realize the profit they need. Fighting unemployment cannot be done in alliance with the capitalists but only through a struggle against them."

"The Communist League campaign argues in favor of a cut in the working week to 30 hours with no loss of pay," Grant explained, "and a crash program of public works to build the homes, schools and hospitals workers need and employ the jobless."

Puerto Ricans protest U.S. radar



Militant/Ron Richards

Hundreds of people rallied in the streets of Juana Díaz, Puerto Rico, March 15 to protest the U.S. moves to install a naval radar receiver in that area. Previously, Washington, attempted to set up the radar receiver in Lajas, but was forced to abandon that plan in face of protests by residents of that town. Now working people and youth in Juana Díaz are doing the same. The radar transmitter is proposed to be installed in Puerto Rican island municipality of Vieques. Signs above read: "No to the antennas," and "No more land for the Navy."

"Closely related to the fight for jobs is the fight for a national minimum wage," which doesn't exist in Britain today. "It should be illegal to be paid less than £6 per hour," the communist candidate said.

"Such policies won't be bestowed on the working class by a sympathetic government," Grant added. "The Labour Party pretends the social gains that make up welfare state were its gift to the nation following World War II. Many workers are today hoping that a Labour government will start to improve their conditions. In fact, this election will solve nothing. Whichever party is elected to government, it will launch new attacks on working people as the capitalist rulers seek to off-load the effects of the crisis onto our backs."

"For example, on jobs, the Labour and Tory Parties are both projecting 'workfare': making the unemployed work for poverty-line wages under threat of having the mis-

erable unemployment benefit withdrawn.

"Whatever working people have got, we've had to fight for," Grant said. "The welfare reforms after World War II were implemented because the rulers feared that workers in Britain would emulate the struggles of their brothers and sisters in Europe who were challenging capitalist rule. There are two important lessons from this," Grant continued. "First, that working people need a program of united action through our unions and on the streets. Second, that working people should reject the 'national unity' policies of all the capitalist parties. 'Britain first' means 'profit first.' What we need is class unity, not national unity."

No common interest with bosses

"At the center of the discussion among the capitalist parties is the issue of Europe. Each party is divided over this question. The Referendum Party has been established on this single issue. All approach the issue on the grounds of what's in Britain's interests. But really what they're debating is what's in the interests of Britain's ruling rich."

Grant blasted parties that speak in the name of the working class and campaign on an anti-Europe platform — such as the Socialist Labour Party of Arthur Scargill and the Communist Party of Britain. "Working people have nothing to gain by hitching our wagon either to the anti- or to the pro-Marketters," he said. "Our interests are served by forging an independent program and uniting with working people in other countries — in Europe and around the world."

Grant pointed to the recent intervention by British forces into Albania. "The Special Air Services [SAS] went in supposedly on a mission to defend British citizens in Albania from the 'anarchy' that is engulfing that country. But the truth is that the SAS guns were pointed at the armed rebellion of Albanian workers and farmers. Just like the guns of the thousands of British soldiers in Yugoslavia are pointed at the workers and farmers of that country. The true story behind British troop intervention in these countries is the desire to reestablish capitalism and, as they do so, to ensure that British capitalism is not squeezed out by its rivals."

"British troops should also be removed from Ireland," the communist candidate said. "Through their domination of Ireland over centuries the British rulers have profited economically and politically. They've been able to divide working people along national lines, especially Irish from English."

"Unless working people in Britain break from the British rulers in their fight against Irish freedom, we'll never be able to fight the same British rulers as they seek to make us pay for the crisis of their system."

The Communist League is also standing Tim Rigby in the constituency of Manchester Central.

Protests condemn Israeli regime

Continued from front page

tee to Confront Settlements organized a mass rally outside the town's municipal building under the slogan of "no peace with settlements."

Israeli forces used rubber bullets, tear gas, and gravel-firing cannon against these protesters. Hospital officials said a 15-year-old Palestinian was in serious condition after being shot in the chest with live ammunition, another 35 demonstrators were hit by rubber bullets.

Coinciding with this year's Land Day action, thousands of Palestinians marched in Bethlehem as part of a funeral procession for Abdullah Khalil Abdullah, a 20-year-old Bir Zeit University student who was killed during clashes with Israeli soldiers in Ramallah the day before. Palestinian doctors said Abdullah was shot in the chest with a live bullet when Israeli troops fired on youth throwing stones at the southern entrance to this West Bank town. So far, 460 people have been injured.

In Hebron, university students marched from the campus to the city center, hurling stones at Israeli soldiers, who fired rubber bullets, injuring a number of students.

In East Jerusalem, Palestinian residents staged a commercial strike. Shops were closed and rallies organized in a number of other Arab towns throughout Israel. Cops arrested at least 25 Israeli Arabs.

In Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, some 500 Palestinian youths marching toward an Israeli military roadblock were stopped by Palestinian Authority police who clubbed a number of protesters and ordered them to disperse. The demonstrators unleashed their stones on these cops instead.

Land Day, which is celebrated annually, marks the killing of six Arab Israeli protesters by Israeli troops during a 1976 demonstration against confiscation of Arab land in the northern Galilee region of Israel.

This year's action coincided with mounting daily protests that began March 20 in the occupied territories led by Palestinian

youth armed only with stones and slingshots who have been confronting Israeli troops and demanding a halt to the construction of a 6,500-unit Jewish housing complex in Arab East Jerusalem. The project at Jabal Abu Ghneim, known as Har Homa in Hebrew, would complete a ring of Israeli settlements in a city that Palestinian fighters claim as the capital for a Palestinian state to be based in the West Bank and Gaza.

"Without stopping the bulldozers and halting settlement activity, there will be no peace process," stated Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Arafat. The street actions by Palestinian youth have led to increased tensions within the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) on how to respond to these protests. At a March 23 leadership meeting of the Arafat led El Fatah organization, the PLO leaders supporters "had trouble beating back demands for immediate return to the 'armed struggle,'" reported the *International Herald-Tribune*.

"There was a very strong reaction," said Kamel Hemeid, El Fatah's secretary-general in Bethlehem. "People said, 'Look at the Israeli bulldozers who are burying Jabal Abu Ghneim, and you tell us not to go in the streets?' If we do not direct this anger, it will grow and blow up in the face of the Palestinian Authority, and in the face of El Fatah, and in the face of everybody."

Palestinian cops confront protesters

One particular bone of contention is the role played by the Palestinian Authority cops in protecting the Israeli soldiers from the youthful Palestinian protesters. In Hebron, where hundreds of protesters have been converging daily on the border between the Palestinian and Israeli-controlled zones of the city, the Palestinian police have been attempting to prevent the demonstrators from hurling stones at the Israeli troops.

According to a *New York Times* reporter, in one such action a police lieutenant shouted at the protesters "Have faith in your government. Our leadership understands the

situation better." In response a man in the crowd shouted back, "The *intifada* didn't come from the Government." He was referring to the six-year-long sustained protests beginning in 1987 in which Palestinian youth refused to be intimidated or driven back. They went up against the Israeli military might armed only with their slingshots.

Meanwhile, U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross, flew to the Middle East for a 24-hour round of separate meetings with Arafat and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. His mission occurred shortly after the Clinton administration for the second time in a month vetoed a UN Security resolution demanding Tel Aviv immediately cease construction on the Israeli housing settlement in East Jerusalem.

At the center of Ross's mission was to pressure Arafat to crack down on any resistance by anti-Zionist fighters and somehow put the lid on the growing street actions by Palestinian activists. In 1996, militants in Hamas and Islamic Holy War launched four suicide bombings against the Israeli regime.

Tel Aviv accused the Palestinian Authority of giving a "green light" to the March 21 suicide bombing, in which a Palestinian and three Israelis were killed. On March 31, Israeli forces destroyed the home of the family of the Palestinian.

Netanyahu "has to make up his mind and choose between settlements and peace. He cannot have both," said Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator after his meeting with Ross.

Under the 1995 Interim Agreement, the Israeli government is supposed to cede control of most of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority through three troop withdrawals to be completed by mid-1998. In the first of these withdrawals, Tel Aviv gave back only 2 percent of the land to Palestinian control. Another 7 percent was already under joint Israeli-Palestinian rule.

Brian Williams is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 2609.

Ottawa: 10,000 rally against closure of French hospital

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

OTTAWA — Ten thousand Franco-Ontarians gathered here March 22 to protest against Ontario Conservative government's proposal to close down the Monfort hospital, the only French hospital in this province.

Hundreds of members of the Ontario Francophone Youth Federation (FESFO) filled the front of the rally, dancing and chanting, "Monfort closed, Never!" No participant could remember such a big rally for Franco-Ontarians rights. "This is a historical day," many kept repeating.

"I begin to realize the importance of fighting to take our place and be respected," said protester Michel Paquet.

There are half a million francophones living in Ontario. They constitute an oppressed community, with incomes and education below the average, including higher illiteracy levels. Although their history of fights and resistance is connected to that of their Quebecois neighbors, it is also different. While the fight of Quebecois increasingly poses Quebec separation from the Canadian state, the fight of Franco-Ontarians is centered on gaining greater access to and control over social services in French.

The contrast between the conditions of Franco-Ontarians and those of the marginally bigger English-speaking community in Quebec is striking. While the Ontario government is preparing to close down the Monfort hospital, Quebec anglophones have a whole network of health services, including several hospitals. While Franco-Ontarians are still waiting for their first university, anglophones in Quebec have three universities and almost twice as much chance to get a university diploma than Quebecois.

Among participants at the rally were hundreds of veterans of previous battles for Franco-Ontarians' rights.

There were teachers who had participated in the 1970s battles for the establishment of French-language high schools in Ontario. There were the first patients of the Monfort hospital in the 1950s. Many participants recalled with pride the successful battle in the early years of this century against Law 17, which made teaching French in Ontario practically illegal.

While most participants were from the Ottawa region, some had traveled up to 10 hours from northern Ontario.

The rally had been prepared by a series of actions. On March 12, for example, 700 Franco-Ontarians had rallied in Embrun, near Ottawa. On March 20, students from Samuel-Genest College and the Lasalle School had formed a chain around the Monfort hospital while 500 youth were gathering at the Cité collégiale.

"The [Ontario] government despises us," said Marie-Claude Chénier, a FESFO member at L'Escale high school. "And if they show contempt for our only hospital, what are they going to do with our high schools?"

"It is hard to find service in French at Place d'Orléans, our local shopping center," added her mother Lucie. "And it will get harder if we let them close down the hospital."

On March 17, Monfort hospital supporters were chased away from Place d'Orléans after trying to put up an information table.

"I don't want to go in a hospital and be told 'I don't speak French,'" said Anne-Marie Mazile, who was born in Haiti. Her three kids have been through French schools in Ontario.

"It is unfair," said Sabin Lévesque, a Quebecois who works at Monfort. "They

Hundreds protest racist beating in Chicago



Militant/Claudia Kidd

Antiracist sentiment over the beating of Black teen Lenard Clark burst forth in marches of up to 300 for two days March 20-21. The protests demanded justice for the 13-year-old who was assaulted by thugs shouting racist insults at him near the neighborhood of Bridgeport. Clark was in a coma for several days and remains in the hospital. Three white older teens were arrested, charged, and released on bond after the incident. The incident has thrown a spotlight on segregation in Chicago's schools and neighborhoods. Bridgeport, for example, has less than a fraction of a percent of Black residents although surrounded by Black neighborhoods in the shadow of Cominsky Park.

pretend that Francophones will find services in French in other hospitals, but how can we believe that when they close the only hospital in the province where doctors, nurses, technicians, and others can be trained in French?"

"My grandmother doesn't speak much English," said 16-year-old Thelma Blum, from the Garneau high school. "When she went to another hospital recently, she had a hard time understanding what she was told. It's not fair for her."

"My neighbor works at Monfort and I don't want him to lose his job," added her 15-year-old friend, Mélanie Lafrance.

The defense of the Monfort hospital is

propelling Franco-Ontarians in the forefront of the fight against cuts in social services in Ontario.

"It is not only a question of language, it is also a question of quality of services," said Michel Brisebois, underlining the fact that other hospitals are also on the chopping block.

Other actions are being planned for the coming weeks.

Young Socialists member Vicky Mercier contributed to this article. Mercier and Michel Dugré are members of the International Association of Machinists in Montreal.

Give to the socialist newsweekly that tells the truth

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

In both the March 9 and March 12 issues of the *New York Times*, correspondent Jane Perlez filed reports from Vlore, Albania. She is my favorite writer of the month, since she put me on to one of the central leaders of the revolt by Albania's toilers, by exud-

ing scorn for this working-class fighter.

Perlez first described Albert Shyti as "a nattily dressed man in red shirt and black leather jacket" who "says he worked in Greece as a laborer." Perlez added that "Mr. Shyti appeared suddenly as a rebel leader on Friday [March 7], apparently because

none of the better known politicians from the political parties wanted to come forward." Never mind that Shyti had emerged as the central leader of the Committee for the Salvation of Vlore nearly three weeks earlier. Perlez apparently had no interest in dates, or as it turns out, for facts in general.

In her subsequent article, also with a Vlore dateline, Perlez wrote, "While others were searching for food, the leader of the so-called Committee to Protect Vlore, Albert Shyti, a 27-year-old laborer who drives a new Mercedes with a Kalashnikov in the front passenger seat, enjoyed vermouth on the terrace of a hotel at 10:00 this morning. He was talking with a group of associates about how to divide the spoils of the revolt."

"He was back at the hotel in the afternoon, sampling more vermouth while his bodyguards shot their rifles across the concrete yard for fun."

Perlez did not offer any quotes from interviewing Shyti or his associates. She only quoted a local bartender in connection with the above allegations, who supposedly said that "Shyti was not more qualified than anyone else to lead a revolt."

I and other *Militant* reporters interviewed Shyti on March 23 (see article on page 7), saw him function in Vlore for a couple of days, and spoke to several other local people about Perlez's claims.

It turns out that Shyti does not drive a Mercedes, he usually walks. In fact, he currently does not own a car, let alone a new one. The reference to a "Mercedes" is intended to show superior status. But most taxis and other cars I saw in the streets of Albania are Mercedes Benz, usually older models that people buy in the used markets of Greece, Italy, and Germany.

Shyti does not have bodyguards, although under the circumstances it would be perfectly in order if he had some. He says he doesn't drink vermouth, although he does like other drinks and wished he had time to enjoy some. Both times we were in Vlore, he was speaking at 10:00 in the morning at the rally in the town's Square of the Flag. The rallies in the central square happen daily, and according to everyone we spoke to Shyti

is always there if he is in town. The Committee for the Salvation of Vlore also meets daily, usually into the late afternoon hours.

It turns out Perlez never even interviewed Shyti. So much for "all the news that's fit to print."



Is there a better reason for why we need the *Militant*, which tells the truth about workers' struggles around the world? To publish every week, the *Militant* depends on contributions from those who want these facts to be available. That's what the \$110,000 Militant Fund drive is for.

With four weeks to go, this is the time for supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in every local area to assess their efforts and develop a plan to get the fund-raising campaign on schedule. Internationally, the momentum from last week slackened, with contributors sending in \$9,011 as of this issue. We now need some \$17,000 being sent in every week to the *Militant* business office to make it to the \$110,000 finish line by April 26.

Militant supporters in Detroit are on target. How do they organize the fund campaign? "We know every week how much our area has to collect," Detroit fund director Frank Gorton explains. "So we maintain a regular rhythm of actively soliciting those who have made pledges to make payments," from those who are able to give \$5 to those who kick in \$500. Every amount adds up!

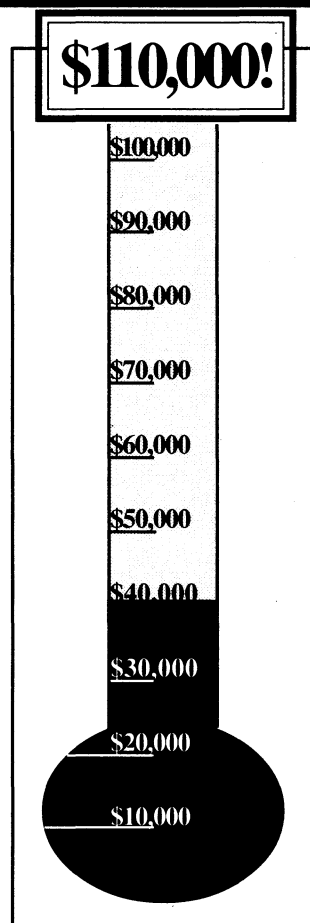
Ardy Blandford from Des Moines writes in on the success of their benefit for the Militant Fund. Six young people attended, two from Grinnell College who expressed interest in the Young Socialists. A former Firestone striker also attended the meeting. At the meeting they collected \$334.

Supporters of the *Militant* in both Canada and the United Kingdom have begun sending in their pledges this week, giving an international boost to the drive. Keep those pledges coming, and remember the deadline to get on the chart is noon on Tuesdays.

Valerie Johnson, a member of the United Transportation Union in New York, contributed to this article.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE MILITANT FUND			
Country/City	Goal	Paid	%
United Kingdom			
London	\$750	\$577	77%
Manchester	\$750	\$105	14%
UK total	\$1,500	\$682	45%
New Zealand			
Auckland	\$3,500	\$1,221	35%
Christchurch	\$1,750	\$823	47%
Wellington	\$140	\$0	0%
NZ total	\$5,390	\$2,044	38%
United States			
Denver	\$40	\$40	100%
Other	\$425	\$400	94%
Philadelphia	\$4,000	\$2,735	68%
New York	\$12,000	\$7,343	61%
Detroit	\$4,750	\$2,590	55%
Atlanta	\$3,500	\$1,824	52%
Salt Lake City	\$2,000	\$890	45%
Peoria	\$1,800	\$793	44%
Newark	\$7,500	\$2,873	38%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$3,441	38%
Greensboro	\$2,250	\$860	38%
Pittsburgh	\$5,000	\$1,830	37%
Cleveland	\$2,500	\$905	36%
Twin Cities	\$6,000	\$1,975	33%
San Francisco	\$9,000	\$2,920	32%
Des Moines	\$2,000	\$604	30%
Miami	\$2,000	\$540	27%
Chicago	\$7,500	\$1,970	26%
Birmingham	\$2,300	\$532	23%
Morgantown	\$1,500	\$315	21%
Boston	\$4,500	\$850	19%
Seattle	\$7,000	\$680	10%
Houston	\$4,000	\$382	10%
Washington, D.C.	\$2,800	\$213	8%
U.S. total	\$103,365	\$37,505	36%
Canada			
Montreal	\$2,000	\$433	22%
Toronto	\$1,440	\$0	0%
Vancouver	\$1,080	\$0	0%
Canada total	\$4,520	\$433	10%
Australia	\$1,000	\$0	0%
France	\$350	\$0	0%
Sweden	\$200	\$0	0%
International			
Total	\$116,325	\$40,663	37%
Should be	\$110,000	\$60,500	55%

\$110,000!



To contribute to the *Militant* Fund contact the supporters nearest you listed on page 12 or send donations via mail to: The *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014

SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

WEEK 3

Planning a sales target week

BY MEGAN ARNEY

After taking a dip in the number of subscriptions sent into the *Militant* this week, supporters of the socialist press are aiming to shoot for high numbers of *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, as well as selling the Marxist magazine *New International* and Pathfinder literature during a target week set for Saturday, April 5, through Sunday, April 13. Goals for the international subscription drive are to sell 1,400 *Militant* subscriptions, 450 *Perspectiva Mundial* subs, and 600 copies of *New International* by April 26.

Reports have come into the *Militant* laying out battle plans for stepping up efforts to get communist ideas into the hands of workers and youth. This week, the *Militant* adds another city to those taking goals for the international campaign. "We've taken goals of 10 *Militant* subs, 2 *PM* and 6 *New Internationals*," explained Alaric Dirmeyer, a YS member from Spokane, Washington.

"We're organizing our target week here by setting up street tables and going door-to-door in teams in working-class neighborhood on Saturday, April 5," writes Heidi Rose from Toronto. "The highlight of this weekend's kickoff will be the April 6 eyewitness report on Albania, featuring *Militant* staff writer Argiris Malapanis. A few hours prior to the forum, we will be participating in a demonstration against the cuts to education that will take place at Queens Park.

"The following week we will get back to

people who bought one issue, who want us to call them after they've had a chance to read the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*. During the last subscription drive a number of people signed up that way," Rose added. She reported on plans to travel to London, Ontario, to follow up on contacts there and work with other readers and supporters of the paper.

"We hope to go to Sudbury (a mining center about 400 kilometers north of Toronto) where we have some 10 people to call back who we met while participation in a Days of Action event, two weeks ago."

In the next two weeks big political events are happening throughout the United States that supporters of the socialist press and Pathfinder plan to get to.

Militant supporters in Philadelphia are planning to attend the anti-Klan rally in Pittsburgh April 5. "We've also organized to have a Pathfinder table at a feminist conference at Temple University during the target week," reports Bob Stanton, as well as traveling to the strike picket lines at Wheeling-Pitt Steel.

Other areas have responded to the events to build for the national Young Feminists Summit in Washington, D.C. Andrea Morrell reports from Boston that supporters in that city will be getting communist ideas out to young fighters at a national student conference called "Abortion Rights and Reproductive Freedom," which takes place at Hampshire College in western Massachusetts on April 4-6. Along with an immigrant rights

demonstration on April 5, partisans of the *Militant* will also join a picket line at the British Consulate demanding freedom for Roisín McAliskey on April 6.

After a very successful propaganda intervention at a tour in Miami of Félix Wilson, Second Secretary at the Cuban Interests Section, supporters of the socialist press will launch their target week by participating in two events: a Women's Studies conference at Florida International University North campus and a conference in Boca Raton organized by the Florida Peace and Justice Coalition.

'New International' and Trotsky are hot sellers at YS convention

BY GREG McCARTAN

ATLANTA — Carrying armloads of books, participants in the Young Socialists convention went home well equipped to both study and sell books, pamphlets, and Education for Socialists bulletins published and distributed by Pathfinder Press.

Young socialists and communist workers from Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and elsewhere exchanged political experiences and advice on what books to purchase and how to most effectively get them out to other fighters as a central part of building the communist movement.

Dozens of titles distributed by the publishing house were on special sale to convention participants, who purchased \$6,427 worth of literature. This included 317 copies of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory; 220 copies of Education for Socialists bulletins; 17 sets of the six-volume series, *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*; four sets of 14-volume series, the *Writings of Leon Trotsky*; and 420 other titles.

After sales to individual participants were completed, orders for thousands of books from 23 Pathfinder bookstores and a member of the Young Socialists from California were packed into boxes. Many orders could not be filled as the stock available at the convention had run out. But nearly 3,000 books and pamphlets were taken back by those at the convention to use over the coming weeks at political events, strikes, protests, and on literature tables.

Jacob Perasso, from Santa Cruz, California, said he bought the series on *The Communist International in Lenin's Time* and filled out his set of *New International*. "I bought these books for the sheer necessity to understand how these struggles unfolded and what we can learn from the mistakes, victories, and gains they made.

"*New International*," he said, "contains articles about a lot that has transpired during my lifetime. The ten issues explain the world today. When I have a political question, I look it up there to get an answer."

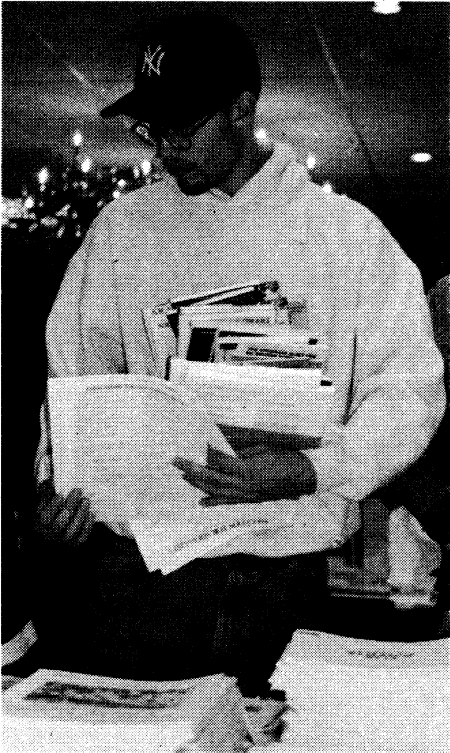
Perasso is 22 years old and a student at the University of California at Santa Cruz. He plans to join members of the Socialist Workers Party who are building participa-

tion in an April 13 rally in support of the farm workers struggle to be held in Watsonville. "In addition to the books I bought for myself, I purchased a number of titles that I plan on using on literature tables and other events," he said. "There is an event coming up to support Mumia Abu-Jamal. Having these books at these events will help me bring politics to other fighters and tie together struggles they are involved in."

At a large table stacked high with copies of *New International* in English, French, Spanish, and Swedish, those attending their first YS convention and many YS members got into discussions with veterans of the communist movement on what is contained in the magazines. Many were familiar with recent issues, but not earlier volumes which remain as relevant today as when they were first published starting in 1983.

For example, participants discussed at the table the feature article in issue no. 1, "Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today," by Jack Barnes. Studying the article and holding classes for those interested is one of the best ways to gain a better understanding of the continuity of Marxism and Trotsky's place in it. Many ideas about classes that could be organized were raised.

Trotsky was a central leader of the Russian revolution who fought to continue the communist course of the Bolshevik Party and the Communist International under Lenin. He led the opposition to the rise of what became the Stalinist counterrevolution, and worked with those around the world who



Militant/Megan Arney

Those attending YS convention stocked up on books for themselves and others.

were determined to forge communist parties. The *Writings* Series contains material not available in many of Pathfinder's books of Trotsky's writings, providing invaluable Marxist writings on the central issues of world politics.

A popular feature of the book display was the *Collected New International*, covering the years 1934-96, which is available on CD-ROM.

SPRING SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE March 8 - April 26

Militant • Perspectiva Mundial • New International

	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
NEW ZEALAND							
Christchurch	25	12	48%	1	1	10	0
Auckland	35	16	46%	2	0	14	2
Wellington	3	0	0%			1	0
N.Z. total	63	28	44%	3	1	25	2
GREECE							
	5	2	40%			3	1
SWEDEN							
	15	5	33%	7	1	10	5
AUSTRALIA							
	18	5	28%	3	0	10	4
CANADA							
Vancouver	40	14	35%	5	0	15	2
Toronto	30	4	13%	7	1	10	0
Montreal	35	4	11%	10	1	35	7
CANADA total	105	22	21%	22	2	60	9
UNITED KINGDOM							
Manchester	21	6	29%	2	0	10	4
London	45	8	18%	8	5	25	6
U.K. total	66	14	21%	10	5	35	10
UNITED STATES							
Greensboro, NC	30	12	40%	15	6	10	9
Washington, DC	42	16	38%	15	7	15	10
Peoria, IL	25	9	36%	3	2	10	2
Los Angeles	100	32	32%	50	21	50	9
Boston	30	9	30%	10	3	20	11
Atlanta	27	8	30%	14	3	16	0
Miami	30	8	27%	15	4	15	6
Denver	4	1	25%	4	2	3	
New York	150	33	22%	75	20	65	15
Birmingham, AL	32	7	22%	5	1	15	1
San Francisco	70	15	21%	30	11	35	12
Salt Lake City	24	5	21%	10	3	8	11
Cleveland	35	7	20%	7	2	10	0
Newark, NJ	130	26	20%	45	12	60	11
Philadelphia	35	7	20%	10	3	10	2
Seattle	60	11	18%	25	1	25	1
Pittsburgh	45	8	18%	4	0	15	13
Detroit	40	6	15%	7	0	15	3
Chicago	70	10	14%	25	5	30	2
Des Moines	40	5	13%	25	2	20	3
Twin Cities, MN	70	7	10%	10	0	15	0
Morgantown, WV	27	2	7%	2	0	10	0
Houston	50	3	6%	20	4	20	5
Cincinnati	5	0	0%	1	0		
Spokane, WA	10		0%	2		6	
Tucson	4	0	0%	2	0		
YS convention							317
U.S. total	1185	247	21%	431	112	498	443
ICELAND							
	10	0	0%	1	0	4	0
PUERTO RICO							
	1	0	0%	3	0	2	1
International totals	1468	323	23%	480	121	647	475
Should be	1400	600	43%	450	194	600	257

IN THE UNIONS

NEW ZEALAND							
UFBGWU	3	1	33%				
EU	7	2	29%				
MWU	6	1	17%				
TOTAL	16	4	25%	0	0	0	0
UNITED STATES							
UTU	55	19	35%	4	3	28	2
USWA	42	7	17%	8	1	31	1
OCAW	28	4	14%	5	0	18	0
IAM	72	9	13%	16	1	37	0
UAW	45	4	9%	10	1	20	3
UNITE	21	1	5%	15	4	15	2
UFCW	14	0	0%	10	1	6	1
UMWA	2	0	0%			2	0
TOTAL	279	44	16%	68	11	157	9
AUSTRALIA							
AMWU	4	0	0%			3	1
CANADA							
IAM	8	0	0%			7	0

AEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMWU — Amalgamated Metal Workers Union; CAW — Canadian Autoworkers Union; EU — Engineers Union; MWU — Meat Workers Union; IAM — International Association of Machinists; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU — Transport and General Workers Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFBGWU — United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA — United Mine Workers of America; UNITE — Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA — United Steelworkers of America; UTU — United Transportation Union.

Greek-speaking minority is part of Albania rebellion

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

GJ'ROKASTER, Albania — From the beginning of the armed uprising against the dictatorial, pro-capitalist regime of President Sali Berisha here, the government of neighboring Greece has sought a special role in any imperialist intervention in this country. The main card of Greek imperialism has been its claim that it is the "protector" of the Greek-speaking minority in southern Albania.

Numerous news reports in the Greek and other international media, based on interviews with rebels holding Kalashnikovs and speaking Greek, have been held up by the state media controlled by Berisha as evidence that the rebellion is not home grown. Former head of Albania's secret police (SHIK) Bashkim Gazidede declared in a report to the Albanian parliament March 26 that the rebellion was the product of a conspiracy by Greek organizations based in Greece and the United States to "liberate Northern Epirus" and annex it to Greece. Northern Epirus is the term used by rightist organizations in Greece to describe the part of southern Albania these groups claim belongs to Greece. Epirus is the Greek province bordering Albania. These statements by the pro-Berisha forces are part of an effort to divide the insurgents and isolate them from the toilers in northern Albania.

In most mountainous villages, small towns, larger cities, and the ports of the south, one has no problem communicating in the Greek language. For an outsider, it's not easy to tell who is ethnic Greek and who has learned the language from stints of working in Greece as an immigrant. In visits to Gjirokaster, Sarande, Himara, and several villages in this region March 18-28, *Militant* reporters found that for the most part working people whose first language is Greek have been a part of the rebellion just like other Albanians.

"In the Dropolis valley between the Greek border and Gjirokaster you see Greek villages," said Spyros Niko, an elderly farmer at the entrance of the village of Frashtane. Then looking across the narrow valley he pointed out some Albanian villages. Peasants have abandoned cultivation of grains in these fields, which have been turned into pasture lands since the "market reforms" of Berisha virtually eliminated state subsidies for fertilizer, seeds, and use of farm machinery. Niko herds the 100 or so sheep that belong to the few families left in his village. "Half the inhabitants have left and gone to work in Greece," he said in an interview.

For the past century at least, Greek speakers and other Albanians have been living in this region, for the most part in separate villages, as well as in integrated communities like the larger southern towns of Sarande and Gjirokaster. According to figures widely reported in the Greek press, the Greek-speaking minority in Albania numbers 250,000, or 8 percent of the country's 3.2 million people. The Albanian government puts the figure at 80,000.

Since 1991, when travel became possible

after four decades of virtual isolation from the rest of the world, ethnic Greeks and other Albanians have emigrated massively. Up to half a million have gone to Greece and Italy in search of jobs and better living conditions.

Greeks involved in rebellion from start

These immigrants are the bulk of those who poured their remittances to relatives back home and other savings into the "pyramid schemes." The collapse of these fraudulent investment funds in January devastated the toilers in this region, who joined the anti-Berisha revolt.

When presented with the fact that Athens maintains that ethnic Greeks here have been bystanders, or even victims of the revolt, Niko responded, "Why? We were the ones who lost the most money. Of course we protested." Both Niko and Spyros Kotsis, a retired farmer from Dervitsani, a nearby village, said that "everyone here" went up to Gjirokaster and joined the protests to demand state compensation from the pyramids' collapse.

Everyone *Militant* reporters interviewed in the exclusively Greek-speaking villages of Frashtane and Dervitsani said in a very matter-of-fact way that each family is now armed.

"We have to protect ourselves from Berisha's men and from looters," said Niko, explaining that guards were posted at night at the blockaded entrance of the village. "We also try to look after the houses of people who are gone to Greece." These have been a favorite target of looters, he stated.

"No, we have not been a special target, us Greeks," Niko stated, referring to daily stories on TV networks in Greece, accessible to everyone in this region of Albania, that ethnic Greeks have been especially targeted by armed gangs that have increasingly been carrying out robberies and assassinations in the last month. "When there is a robbery, it's against everybody."

"We are fighting against Berisha, for democracy and to get our money back, all of us here, Greeks and Albanians. If he goes, it will be a victory for all of us," said Christakis from the Dropoli area, who did not give his last name.

Several ethnic Greeks are members of the defense councils in Sarande, Gjirokaster, and Himara, as well. These citizens' committees, born out of the revolt, have formed the National Front for the Salvation of the People, which held its first meeting in Gjirokaster March 12.

Greek nationalist agitation

Since the crumbling of the former Stalinist regime, headed by Enver Hoxha until 1985, and with direct encouragement from Greece, nationalist agitation has been on the rise. Presenting itself as a champion of the Greek minority, an organization called Omonia was formed in the early 1990s. It has participated in nationwide ballots as part of the electoral front called the Union for Human Rights. In the eyes of many people we interviewed, Omonia has been discredited through its support for the Berisha re-

gime. "Omonia? they are in the business of making money off of visas to Greece," said Koutsis, "they don't do anything for us." One-year visas to Greece, very hard to get through regular channels, reportedly cost as much as 300,000 Greek drachmas (US\$1,140) through payoffs to intermediaries.

Several people said Omonia politicians pocket aid from Greece through their relations with Athens. "With all the aid coming in from Greece, these roads should be paved, but instead the money lines people's pockets," said taxi driver Skender Arapi, voicing a common complaint.

The Greek Orthodox church has been funding the building and repair of churches throughout the south. Religion was banned and churches were closed under Hoxha's reign. "The Orthodox church makes it difficult now for Christians and Muslims to intermarry — it didn't used to be like that before," said Arapi.

Ultrarightist organizations based in Greece have also stepped up activity in this region. The weekly newspaper *Stohos*, published in Athens and espousing fascist views, describes the uprising as an opportunity to put annexation of southern Albania on the agenda. According to its correspondent Giorgos Yfantis, based in Sarande, the paper hails the uprising and presents annexation as the solution to the economic devastation of these regions. The group claims to have sent volunteers to fight for that goal.

During a visit to Gjirokaster on March 28, the Greek consulate there was closed after an attack by an armed group the day before, when a dozen people drove a tank to the consulate and entered the premises with AK-47's demanding visas for 10 passports. Not knowing that the consulate was shut down on March 28, hundreds of people from nearby villages kept arriving all morning to apply for visas. The consulate is the only authority of any foreign government functioning in the area. With its hand on the spigot of visas to Greece, its influence is enormous. The consul, whose residence on a hill overlooking Gjirokaster is known simply as "the Villa," frequently travels through the villages making arrangements for visa allotments and the dispensation of Greek aid funds. Money from Athens is often used to repair sewage, roads, and other infrastructure in order to widen the influence of Greek imperialism.

The weapon of immigration

Ethnic Greeks — those with their national origin noted in their Albanian identity card, or those who have papers from "minority" associations recognized by the Greek government — have a relatively privileged status when it comes to getting visas to Greece. This does not mean, however, that they receive residence and work permits once in Greece.

"They may call us Greek while we are over here," said Andon Dhiamenti, a young worker from Vlore, "but we are all the same when we are in Greece." The 300,000 Albanian immigrants in Greece work under abysmal conditions of exploitation. They work the hardest jobs in construction, agriculture, and industry and they often get paid subminimum wages, equivalent to a third of what Greek-born workers make for the same jobs. They are also perpetually subject to deportation, following the twists and turns of Greek foreign policy. According to SKY radio, the Greek Ministry of Public Order announced 30,000 deportations of Albanians in February and March of this year.

"There is no question of ethnic discrimination against Greeks in Albania," was the emphatic opinion of Thanasis Dinou, a Greek-speaking journalist in Gjirokaster for *Zori Popoli*, the daily newspaper of the Socialist Party.

"There were no problems between us and the Albanians under the Hoxha regime," stated Niko. "We had very little and life was



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
Shepards Thodoros Kazakis (left) and Panayiotis Argiris, both 67, herding sheep on outskirts of village of Frashtane, near Gjirokaster, Albania, March 19. They both took part in anti-Berisha revolt and are veterans of partisan struggle that preceded 1944-46 Albanian revolution.

hard. But we had what everybody else had." This was echoed by most ethnic Greeks interviewed by *Militant* reporters. In the areas where Greek speakers live, said shepherd Panayiotis Argiris from Frashtane, there are Greek elementary schools — both under Hoxha and now. In the secondary schools lessons in Albanian are introduced. "Now we face similar conditions as the rest of the people," said Christakis. "Those who had more money from working in Greece lost more in the pyramids."

Legacy of Albanian revolution

"When we won our freedom [from the Germans in 1945] we won it for everybody, all fighting together — Greeks or Albanians, it didn't matter," said Koutsis, a veteran of the partisan struggle of the 1940s. The partisans, led by the Albanian Communist Party that was founded in 1941 with help from the Yugoslav partisans, defeated the occupation of Hitler's armies through a bloody struggle. Through a 19-day battle, Albanian partisan brigades routed 20,000 German troops and liberated the capital, Tirana, in 1944. They then led a socialist revolution that abolished capitalism and established a workers state within two years.

Did ethnic Greeks participate in that struggle? "Of course, we were among the first!" said Niko, proudly.

"We started to organize our own resistance groups of Greeks here — although there were some Albanians who fought with us," he recalled. "Guerrillas came from the units of [Greek partisan Leader Aris] Velouchiotis and roused us up, got us organized."

"Then we joined up with Albanian brigades to create mixed columns and one large army. This is how we won our freedom. The partisans didn't discriminate," Niko stated. The partisans were the first organization that united toilers of different religions and speaking different languages. Since independence from the Ottoman empire in 1920, the various imperialist powers attempting to grab a piece of Albanian territory and local capitalists and landlords, were successful in fomenting national and religious divisions. These differences were largely overcome through the Albanian revolution.

"We did operations everywhere," Niko said, "from Ioannina [in northern Greece] to Serbia. We worked together with the other partisan movements [Greek and Yugoslav], freely crossing the borders to fight the enemy. We were fighting to free all the Balkans — but then the borders closed and we got separated."

In 1949, after the Hoxha regime broke relations with Yugoslavia and aligned itself with Moscow, Tirana, under orders by Soviet premier Joseph Stalin, stabbed the Greek partisans in the back. Under the Yalta agreements, Stalin pledged to London and

Continued on Page 11

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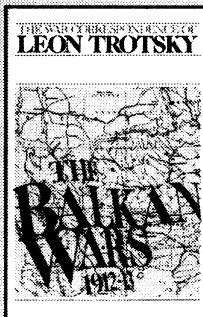
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How working people revolted in Vlore

Interview with Albert Shyti, head of Committee for the Salvation of Vlore

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

VLORE, Albania — The revolt of Albania's working people began in this city in early February and spread to the southern half of the country. *Militant* reporters came here twice, on March 23 and 28, and talked to many working people and young rebels to learn the truth about how the insurrection unfolded.

One of the rebel leaders we interviewed is Albert Shyti, 27, the organizer of the Committee for the Salvation of Vlore. Shyti comes from a working-class family. His father worked in construction and his mother was a factory worker. Like thousands of his fellow countrymen, he immigrated to Greece in 1992 to find a job, save some money, and eventually return home. He worked as a laborer on a variety of jobs during his five years in Greece and, like many others, deposited his savings in the Gjalica "pyramid scheme," based in Vlore. Four other failed funds were headquartered in this city.

Shyti returned to Vlore on January 30 to withdraw his savings after news spread that these scams began declaring bankruptcy. He soon found himself on the front lines of the antigovernment protests and assumed central leadership responsibility when they developed into an armed revolt.

Ruin from attempt to imitate capitalism

In a March 23 interview with the *Militant*, Shyti described the devastating conditions that working people here faced as a result of President Sali Berisha's capitalist "market reforms." Vlore, Albania's second largest port in the Adriatic with a population of 170,000 including the surrounding villages, was one of the country's industrial centers. About 30,000 workers had jobs in factories producing shoes, furniture, electric appliances, cement, agricultural machinery and spare parts, clothing, dairy products, and other food. The surrounding valley was one of the country's main centers for citrus and olive oil production.

Under the Stalinist regime of Enver Xoxha, "There were jobs and food for all," said Shyti, "but we didn't have freedom. We were a people isolated from the rest of the world." As a result of Berisha's reforms, almost all the above factories closed, throwing workers into the streets with virtually no income. Throughout Albania, 90 percent of industry is shut down now, after the government eliminated state subsidies to "non profitable" enterprises. As part of implementing austerity measures prescribed by the International Monetary Fund in order to get loans for imports, the government slashed social services, including cutting off unemployment insurance.

Berisha's measures toward denationalizing the land also devastated working farmers and agricultural production. Since 1992, the government sold farmland to peasants at relatively low prices amounting to 3-5 stremas [1 acre = 4 stremas] per family member. But the allotments were divided into plots irrationally far away from each other and the transfers were riddled with favoritism, with Berisha supporters getting the best lands.

Shyti said the procapitalist regime sold the most arable land and agricultural machinery, which were state-owned, "not to those who worked the land but to Berisha's circle of people." The ending of state aid for cheap credit to get seed and fertilizers resulted in the collapse of agricultural production in big swaths of the country. The government carried out these measures, Shyti said, "without asking the opinion of the people who worked all these years on the land and produced the machinery."

That's why thousands of young workers and farmers like Shyti left for Greece, Italy, or other countries in the region.

According to Shyti, the "circle of people" benefiting from the sale of state lands and agricultural machinery were "the same people who set up the 'pyramids.'" The government promoted these schemes, which were supposedly privately owned, through the state-controlled media. Several of these companies were featured as prominent supporters of Berisha's Democratic Party on its election campaign posters last year.

Berisha touted the incomes working people received from the pyramids for about



Albert Shyti (at microphone), a 27-year-old worker, addressing 10,000 people at Vlore's Square of the Flag March 28. The rally approved a declaration by the National Front for the Salvation of the People calling for Berisha's resignation and the formation of a commission to replace the president. It was signed for the first time, not just by the rebel-formed defense councils, but by all opposition parties.

a year, offering interest rates of up to 25 percent monthly, as the benefits of capitalism. But as Shyti explained, the function of these companies was pure fraud and usury that had no relationship to production. "All this money poured into Vlore from abroad, including the money we earned working in Greece, and we didn't know where it all went to," Shyti said. "There were no productive investments to build new factories or roads, there is nothing."

"There was no law in Albania allowing companies such as Gjalica to function," Shyti said. "Only the state has the right to regulate money circulated."

The battle of February 9

Gjalica had announced February 6 as the deadline for withdrawals of deposits. Tens of thousands of workers, including Shyti, returned to Albania to demand their money back.

On February 5, Gjalica president Fetin Petsaliu announced that "the company had no money," said Shyti. Nearly 17,000 people gathered within half an hour for an angry but peaceful protest demanding the government assume its responsibility and compensate them for their losses. The demonstrations mushroomed in the following days, and protesters clashed with the police. Shyti, along with other workers were at the front lines of the daily rallies.

In the early morning hours of February 9, word got out that Berisha had sent thousands of SHIK agents and troops with tanks to crash the protest movement. About 10,000 heavily armed soldiers had surrounded the city. Later, insurgents found out that most of the troops and officers were from out of town and had been paid handsomely for the task. Soldiers had been offered the equivalent of nearly \$300 per day and officers over \$1,400 per day — exorbitant amounts in a country where the average wage is about \$80 a month.

Shyti and about 15 others gathered downtown at 7:30 a.m. and were reading a notice pinned on a lamp post for someone who had been killed the night before. They were soon surrounded by troops who ordered them to disperse. That's when the first confrontations began. As people started shouting, "Down with the government, down with Berisha!" Shyti and a couple of others broke the encirclement to get the word out to city residents about the troops sent by Berisha. Within half an hour, virtually the entire city had poured into the streets. "Children, old people, women and men, all came out," said Shyti.

Demonstrators shouted at soldiers to leave town but they answered with plastic bullets and they started to beat up protesters. Shyti and many others in Vlore said the response was in line with the city's tradition of having been the center of the independence struggle from the Ottoman empire in 1912 and of the partisan movement and the subsequent socialist revolution of the 1940s.

In the confrontations that developed in the center of Vlore, Artur Stemi, a 32-year-old worker, was shot dead by Berisha's army. "When we saw Artur dead, all logic and constraint disappeared for a while," Shyti said. Nearly 100,000 people stormed the stunned soldiers with stones and sticks. Troops captured told rebels after the battle was over they had been told they were to face "100-150 criminals and tramps causing problems," said Shyti. Within half an hour the troops had been disarmed or fled. While hundreds were injured, no one else was killed that day.

The troops caught by the rebels were given food and shelter and those injured were hospitalized. "It was after that battle, after blood was shed, that people began raising as the central demand the resignation of Berisha," Shyti stated.

Soon afterwards, 57 university students went on a hunger strike demanding the president's resignation, which they ended when Berisha declared a state of emergency March 2.

Formation of Vlore's defense council

While daily protests continued at the Square of the Flag, Shyti said, "there were some people with experience getting on TV channels and giving press conferences who were talking around the problem, who were not telling the truth to the people. I feared their statements may be intended to defuse the actions, so people would return home, forget the fraud, forget that someone had been killed." Shyti managed to convince the manager of the local TV station to let him go on the air live on February 13. He used the contract he had signed with Gjalica to expose government responsibility and put the blame on the authorities for the violence. As he was speaking the live program was cut off twice, he said, "but people did get to hear at least some the truth."

"Next morning, dozens of people I didn't know approached me on the street, congratulating me for my action and saying we need to get organized."

At a protest rally of several thousand on February 14 Shyti stepped forward and asked for volunteers to serve on a citizen's council to organize the defense of the insurgent city and other tasks. "Thousands were demanding a group of people with a right direction, who know what they want and how to achieve it," Shyti said. "A committee that would be accountable to the people." Four other volunteers stepped forward. This initial core of five was expanded to a 35-member council called the Committee for the Salvation of Vlore by February 21. In addition to a few workers, the Committee now included representatives of the Democratic Forum, an umbrella coalition of opposition parties, former army officers, and others who supported the demands of the rebels.

Shyti said that the committee meets daily and organizes security, distribution of food

and medicines, and other tasks. The council uses the facilities of the Ali Demi high school as its headquarters, which has been closed, as all other schools in the country for a month. It has also conducted foreign policy by meeting with representatives of the Italian and other European Union governments off Vlore's coast. Rallies, initially organized twice a day in Vlore's Square of the Flag, are now held daily. At these mass meetings, ranging between 4,000 and 10,000 people, council members inform citizens of developments in the country and seek approval or modification of decisions by the committee. Often, people from the audience come up and take the microphone to tell their stories.

The Committee for the Salvation of Vlore also spearheaded the formation of the National Front for the Salvation of the People, which was founded in Gjirokaster by eight such defense councils on March 12. The Front held subsequent meetings in Vlore on March 14, Ballshi on March 17, and Tepelene on March 21. A nationwide conference of 150 people, including representatives of five rebel councils from northern Albania, was held in Vlore March 28 at the initiative of the local committee under the sponsorship of the Front.

Since its formation, the National Front has called for the creation of a presidential commission to replace Berisha. This commission would be made up of representatives from the government of national reconciliation, the National Front and all the opposition parties willing to join. The Front has rejected all demands for the rebels to turn in their weapons before Berisha resigns.

"There is no chaos or anarchy in Vlore," said Shyti, as the big-business press proclaims everyday. "The people are armed but they keep their weapons at home. Very few people are using them carelessly." As far as the lootings and robberies carried out in Vlore, Shyti said "this should not be an issue. There are thieves throughout the world, for example in America. They are not just in Albania." Some of the lootings are reportedly done by Berisha's armed gangs. Shyti acknowledged that putting an end to these actions does remain a challenge for the local committee and the entire Front.

In order to undermine his role as a central leader of the revolt, the Berisha government has spread rumors that Shyti is a member of the opposition Socialist Party and that he collaborates with Greece's secret police. Shyti said that he has nothing to do with the Greek police and he is not a member of the SP because he does not believe in any of the existing parties. "For me, God is the people," he said. "I respect religion, but above all, I respect human beings whatever the color of their skin may be. We stand for human dignity. And that's why I want to fight Berisha's men who are spreading these stories."

Asked about military intervention by the European Union or NATO, Shyti said, "There is no position for troops from around the world here. We've made that clear, we do not accept it. We are capable of eventually creating the conditions for peace and security ourselves."

Bobbis Misailides is a member of the Federation of Foreign Airlines Workers in Athens, Greece. Tony Hunt from London, England, contributed to this article reporting from Vlore.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA

GEORGE FYSON
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YS convention

Continued from front page

United States. In addition, outgoing members of the YS National Committee; representatives of Young Socialists groups in Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United Kingdom; and a delegation from the Socialist Workers Party attended the convention as fraternal delegates with voice and consultative vote.

In the six weeks leading up to the convention, YS chapters organized discussions based on documents and articles in a Discussion Bulletin, which was open for contributions by all members. Discussion and vote on the written documents served as the basis for the election of delegates.

In addition to the convention sessions, the three-day event included classes on questions ranging from the history of the Russian Revolution to the struggles by women, Blacks, and Chicanos.

Struggles in Palestine, Russia, Zaire

In her convention report, Poses pointed to the example of the Palestinians' continued resistance to the Zionist regime in Israel as a symbol of the fight against national oppression. She also explained Washington's attempt to overturn the workers states in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Asia, and said that "the imperialists will attempt to use their military force to do what they couldn't do any other way — to impose capitalism in these countries."

The YS leader also talked about the continued tensions between the U.S. rulers and their imperialist rivals like Paris. Poses pointed to the developing revolutionary situation in Zaire, and the placement of imperialist troops in the Congo.

In this world of growing class conflicts and tensions, "Young people radicalize around what they're against," Poses said. "What they're concretely for, and how to achieve it, is determined later. Just being a radical, or against bourgeois values, doesn't necessarily lead someone to communism. It is only by finding the working-class movement and finding the human beings who carry its traditions, in person or in print, that can lead youth in the direction of communism."

"We use propaganda to recruit. Propaganda work is pretty much what the communist movement does at this stage of the class struggle," the YS leader added.

"We get around our books, pamphlets, magazines, and newspapers as widely as possible, and we try to attract young fighters toward us through our bookstores, weekly forums, public speeches, and election campaigns. To be able to do effective propaganda work, we have to be comfortable explaining what is happening in the world today. We need to take education seriously," Poses said.

Many delegates pointed to the effective classes that chapters, usually in collaboration with branches of the Socialist Workers Party or other communist leagues, have had over the past few months. Young Socialists from New Jersey, Minnesota, and Sweden all spoke to how classes have helped in recruitment. Kevin Johnson, a delegate from Newark, reported that the YS there plans to hold a communist summer school, with a several-week class series.

Joshua Carroll, a delegate from Atlanta, said, "Propaganda is about learning what is possible — winning workers to the idea that we can change the world."

Printing an arsenal of communist books

Dennis Richter gave a report to the convention on behalf of the SWP Political Committee on the next steps needed to ensure the steady flow of Pathfinder books into the hands of the workers and young rebels who need them. At the end of last year, many YS members took part in an effort to move Pathfinder's book fulfillment operation out of a commercial warehouse and into the building in New York where socialist workers publish and produce the books. Through a special sale aimed at rapidly moving thousands of additional titles, communists can take another step in "transforming the movement's printing and publishing into a real pipeline — printing the books and getting them into the hands of fighters," Richter said.

"It's good to use military terms under capitalism," he said. "Especially when you

see things like the brutal execution that was just carried out by the state of Florida, you see why we need our arsenal, that can produce more ammo — books — as we need them."

A few of the delegates work in the printshop where the books are printed, including Kevin Johnson from Newark, who said the report "gives the foundation for what we need." He noted that the shop must be in shape to rapidly reprint books as needed, because "when we take the books out, we sell them."

As part of adopting the perspective of using this revolutionary literature, the Young Socialists also discussed the need to take responsibility for helping to produce it. Right after the convention, one of the YS leaders who had served on the National Executive Committee, José Aravena, will be moving to New York to take a stint working in the printshop.

Young Socialists discussed how they could get out to more street corners, campuses, and areas with these weapons — in order to recruit and establish new YS chapters.

Ritcher explained that supporters of Pathfinder will be campaigning this spring to sell the thousands of books that are ordered now, including by the Young Socialists.

Will Elder, a delegate from Spokane, Washington, enthusiastically told the convention, "It's a great opportunity to expand the books we have. We have been trying to put together a library and it's hard without too much money." The Spokane chapter of six members has had a consignment from the Seattle Pathfinder bookstore, and regularly sells the books on the streets and cam-



Left: Alejandra Rincón and Tom Leonard from Houston at YS convention. From there participants jumped into political activity, such as April 1 immigrant rights protest in Newark.

puses of that city.

Bookstores can begin right now, out of current stock, to organize and publicize special sales of certain titles. For example, selling *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics — Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by SWP leader Jack Barnes and books by Cuban revolution leader Ernesto Che Guevara to those interested in attending the world youth festival will better arm these fighters in the political discussion there. The youth festival has been dedicated to the example set by the revolutionary leader. By putting bargain prices on a wide range of these books and pamphlets, Pathfinder supporters will attract co-workers, political contacts, and other new customers to the bookstores. Socialist workers who are in industrial trade unions will also be discussing how to jump into this effort — getting more books into the hands of their co-workers.

"This campaign comes hand in hand with education and us being able to go back to some of the basics of Marxism. It will deepen our understanding of politics and the continuity of our movement — like we did with the Marx and Engels sale," explained Poses in her report, referring to a special sale earlier this year of the *Collected Works* of those revolutionary leaders.

She added, "This is not a separate cam-



Militant/Leonel Cabrera

Delegates vote on reports and resolutions at second national YS convention

paign. Taking this on is just an expansion of the tools that are available to us. All of our other campaigns will be strengthened."

Jump starting this campaign, those attending the convention bought \$6,400 worth of books. Participants from 24 cities also took back nearly 3,000 books as initial sale orders for Pathfinder bookstores. Boxes and boxes were loaded up in cars, while others carried them on flights back to the cities where they live. (See further coverage on page 5.)

Organizing the communist movement

YS leader Jack Willey gave a report to the convention on "Building a Communist Youth Organization Today." Willey's report took up what kind of youth organization must be built today that, as a component of the communist vanguard, will be capable of helping to lead millions of toilers in struggle tomorrow. He spoke to several aspects of

tance of the rising resistance among Chicano and Latino youth today. "We see more protests by Chicano and Latino youth in response to attacks on immigrant rights and affirmative action. This includes protests in Texas against attacks on affirmative action at the universities and the recent demonstration of thousands in Los Angeles against the Welfare Reform Law and anti-immigrant legislation."

"Every time a cop murders a young Black in cold blood, there's a response," Willey added. "In some places, there has been sustained protest." He pointed to the March 23 demonstration of 700 in Wilmington, Delaware, against police brutality and protests in Chicago against the racist beating of a Black teenager as examples. He also mentioned the victory for affirmative action at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, after a week-long student occupation, as another indication of the kind of fights that will break out more in the future.

Willey explained that the rulers' moves to chip away at democratic rights feed into what ultrarightist Patrick Buchanan calls the "culture war," aimed at dividing the working class and convincing workers that sections of the population do not deserve the same rights as others. He pointed to several examples, including the sex abuse scandal unfolding in the U.S. military and attacks on the right to choose abortion.

"The military brass has no interest in addressing abuse and discrimination faced by women in the armed forces. In fact, they are responsible for some of the largest-scale prostitution in the world, near U.S. bases," he explained. "Now that this scandal has broken out, the 10 men at Aberdeen Proving Ground who face charges of abusing female soldiers are all Black. There is a very racist side to the prosecution of charges. The rulers are using this scandal, which comes out of legitimate disgust by women cadets for the sexist abuse they face, to pit fighters for Black liberation against fighters for women's liberation."

"There is also a massive propaganda campaign in the bourgeois media attacking a medical procedure for abortion," he added. "Many supposedly pro-choice legislators are now calling late-term abortions 'infanticide' and voting for a measure recently approved by the House of Representatives that would, for the first time since 1973, ban a method of abortion."

Report-back from Albania

On Saturday night, nearly 200 people attended a public forum featuring *Militant* reporter Argiris Malapanis, who had just hours before gotten off the plane from a week-long reporting trip to Albania and a brief visit to Yugoslavia. He described how working people in Albania have taken up arms against the pro-capitalist regime of president Sali Berisha. He also explained that imperialist powers are preparing for military intervention against what they see as a blow to reintroducing market relations in the workers state.

Albania is one of many countries where, in the years since the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia, capitalism has been overturned, private property nationalized, and new social relations introduced. While all of these countries, with the important exception of Cuba, are today run by bureaucrats who sit on top of the working class, they remain a major obstacle to imperialist domination.

The Young Socialists decided at their con-

Continued on Page 15



Militant/Megan Arney (left), and Nell Wheeler (right)

the "YS Organizer," a document discussed in the chapters leading up to the convention as a guide for building the YS. It explains, "The Young Socialists is organizationally independent and politically subordinate to the Socialist Workers Party. We look to the Socialist Workers Party and its experience and continuity in the class struggle, which can be traced back to Marx and Engels, for political leadership. The Socialist Workers Party, along with the Young Socialists, make up the nucleus of the proletarian vanguard in this country."

Willey pointed to how U.S. foreign policy is simply an extension of domestic policy. The capitalist class probes ways to cut Social Security and welfare, while attacking democratic rights — particularly through laws like the newly passed "anti-terrorist" law and immigrant rights law. At the same time, the ruling class must also attempt to crush the unions, he said. They try to gouge more out of union contracts, abrogate agreements, and in some cases provoke a strike in an attempt to break the union.

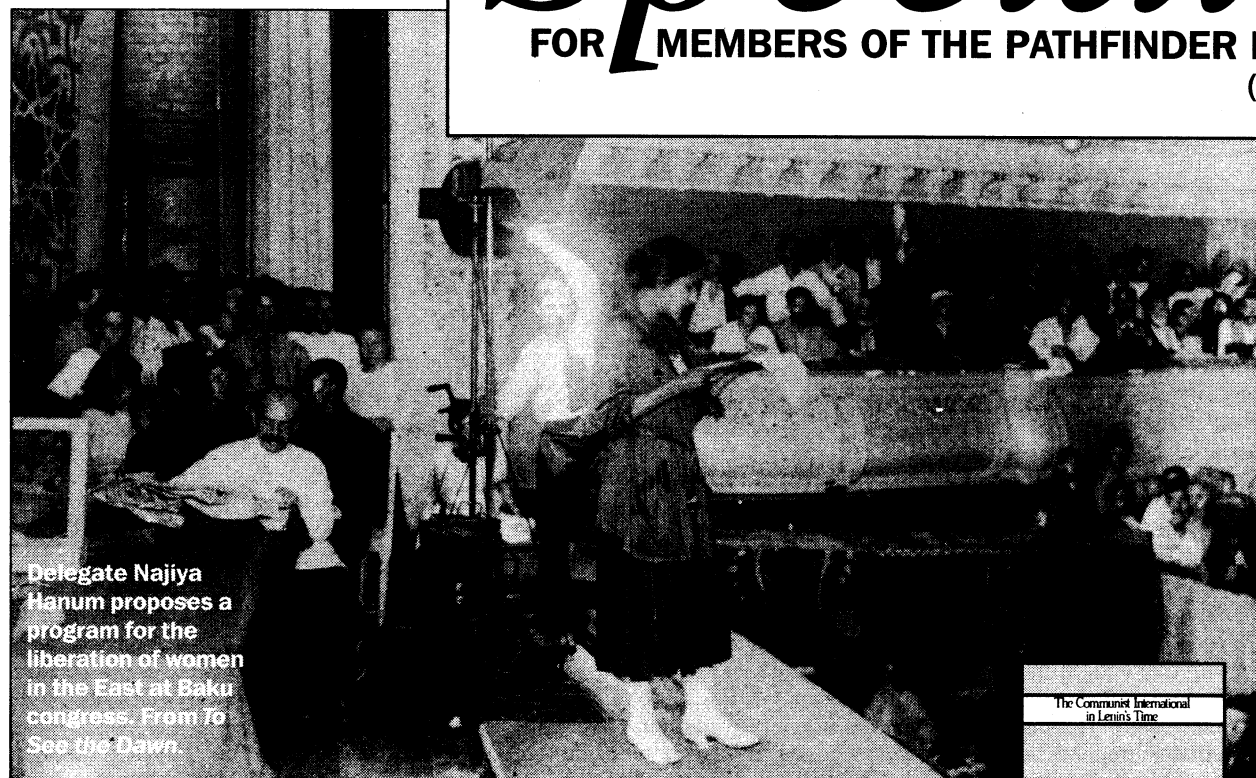
"What's the biggest obstacle to all of this?" Willey asked. "The same force the rulers always underestimate — the working class. The bosses must go through the working class to carry out these attacks and save their system."

The YS leader also explained the impor-

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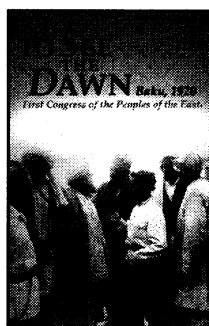
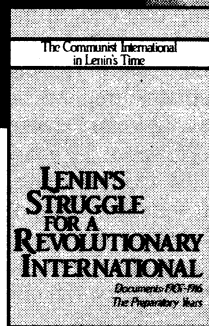
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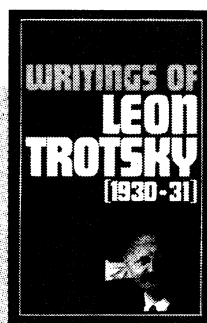
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Miami Cuba event marks victory for right to free speech

BY ERNIE MAILHOT
AND RACHELE FRUIT

MIAMI — For the first time in the 38-year history of the Cuban revolution, high level representatives of the Cuban government spoke before a broad meeting in this city. A crowd of over 200 people, most of them Cuban-American, packed the meeting room at the Miami Airport Inn March 22. The next morning's *El Nuevo Herald*, the main Spanish-language paper here, had the meeting as its feature story, with the front page headline "Meeting of Cubans is unprecedented."

The event was sponsored by the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, and chaired by Rollande Girard from the Coalition and Andrés Gómez, of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a Cuban-American group that supports the Cuban revolution.

The overwhelming majority of participants enthusiastically applauded Félix Wilson, Second Secretary at the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. He was joined in the program by Luis Molina, Third Secretary at the Interests Section, and Rev. Raúl Suárez, a Baptist pastor from Cuba who is a deputy in Cuba's National Assembly of People's Power.

Referring to the law tightening the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba, Wilson explained, "We are totally against the Helms-Burton law, but we know many of our friends think the best way to resolve this question is to fight for the elimination of titles Three and Four. All the titles of the law are bad. For us, the law is completely against the sovereignty and independence of the Cuban people."

Wilson explained the difficult economic situation in Cuba precipitated by the collapse of favorable trade relations with the Soviet Union. Despite this, he said, Cuba continues to defend its gains. As examples he pointed to the 46 universities in Cuba today as opposed to three before the revolution and the fact that prior to the revolution a large percentage of the population was illiterate, while today everyone has the minimum of a 10th grade education.

Several questions during an hour-long discussion focused on a trip to Cuba organized by the Alliance of Workers of the Cuban Community (ATC) with people who recently left the island on rafts. Katya Lazo asked if this meant a change in Cuba's policy that someone who left Cuba illegally cannot return for five years. She explained that many "rafters" are young people who oppose the U.S. embargo. Molina answered that these requests are being taken up on a case by case basis.

Broad participation in meeting

Gómez recognized some of the groups and prominent individuals in the audience, pointing out that the meeting brought people

"with different points of view together in a common effort against the aggression and genocide of the United States government against the Cuban people." Among them were the ATC, Cambio Cubano, Afro-Cuban Cultural Exchange, Cuba Vive from Tampa, the magazine *Contrapunto*, Jewish Solidarity, the Cuban American Defense League, the Socialist Workers Party, the Jewish Cultural Center, the Cuban Committee for Democracy, and the Young Socialists. The Haitian rights group Veye Yo also sent a representative.

Some of the prominent individuals included Cuban-American journalist Lázaro Farinas, Cuban art consultant Carlos Luis, civil libertarian Jim Mullins, and Eloy Gutiérrez Menoyo, who came to the meeting with about 20 members of his group Cambio Cubano. Gutiérrez is a former leader of a guerrilla group that fought the Batista dictatorship but did not collaborate with the rebel army of Fidel Castro. Having left Cuba after the revolution triumphed, he returned with a counterrevolutionary armed band and was captured. He spent 22 years in Cuban jails. Back in the United States, he has recently come out for some form of negotiations with the Cuban government. Little applause, if any, came from the Cambio Cubano section and they left the event early.

Originally planned as an invitation-only meeting, the speaking engagement with Wilson became widely known. On the day before the event, the Miami police attempted to sabotage it. Miami Airport Inn management reported that they were visited that morning by undercover cops who falsely told them the meeting was sponsored by the Antonio Maceo Brigade. The cops told the hotel manager and other employees that violence was likely and that they would be more than happy to help them end the meeting if the hotel staff decided to do so.

Event sparks heated debate

After this visit someone claiming to be a worker at the hotel called the Spanish-language radio station WCMQ with details of the meeting. Right-wingers on several radio stations soon began threatening the event.

During the meeting police cars were outside and four undercover cops stood by. The event's organizers secured the meeting room as well as outside the hotel. They confronted only one right-winger, who timidly said he



Militant/Janet Post

Cuban representative Félix Wilson spoke to over 200 people in Miami March 22

wanted to enter the "communist meeting."

For days after the Wilson speaking engagement, *El Nuevo Herald* covered it on the front-page and right-wing radio stations screeched at an even higher pitch than normal. Commentators and right-wing callers on Radio Mambi, WQBA, and WCMQ said the meeting was a provocation. Other callers denounced the rightists' attacks on free speech. Two talk show hosts on Union Radio and most of their callers supported the event.

Three days after the Cuban diplomats spoke here, the ultra-rightist Cuban Patriotic Front held a planning meeting where they decided to send a delegation to Washington to demand of U.S. government officials that Wilson and other Cuban government representatives not be allowed to travel to Miami.

Rightists in the Miami Cuban-American community have recently suffered setbacks. The three main Spanish-language stations that put attacking Cuba at the center of their programming, have all lost significant listenership in the past year. Rightists here claimed victory when Andy Montañez, a Puerto Rican singer, was canceled from Miami's Calle Ocho festival for having hugged Cuban singer Silvio Rodríguez. After Latino groups and individuals, including some Cuban-Americans, denounced the cancellation and some Puerto Ricans threatened protests, no one admitted to having canceled the contract.

The same week the Cuban diplomats spoke in Miami, FM Radio Tropical came under attack. With its ratings dropping, the station decided to play the music of groups presently in Cuba, including the internationally acclaimed dance group Los Van Van. When rightists complained, a poll of listeners showed they favored playing the Cuban

groups by a more than 2-1 ratio. After a campaign by another Spanish-language station, bomb threats, and the pullout of several advertisers, Radio Tropical caved in and stopped the Cuban music. Within days Union Radio announced it would begin a show on March 31 that would feature this same music.

Commenting on the speaking engagement for the Cuban representatives, Oscar Ochotorena, a Cuban-American, stated, "From the point of view of those who are against Helms-Burton and who want to advance it's a very, very important step. I would even say very far-reaching." His view was echoed by many who participated in the event.

Girard, from the Miami Coalition Against the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, said, "This has set a precedent we can build on. The right-wing here is a little weaker today because of this event, but we should always remember that it's Washington that is organizing the attacks on the Cuban revolution. We need more and bigger meetings like this to get out the truth about Cuba and the criminal U.S. economic blockade of the island."

A special announcement was made at the March 22 meeting about the upcoming World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba, and some people signed up to attend. Several hundred dollars was raised to help youth from the Miami area get to the event.

While in Miami, Wilson also spoke informally with about 100 people at the headquarters of the ATC and gave some press interviews.

Ernie Mailhot is a member of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees Local 694B. Rachele Fruit is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 1126.

Florida execution burns man, shows brutality of capitalist justice system

BY BILL CAIMAN

MIAMI — Working people here saw the brutality of the capitalist "justice" system on March 25, when the hood covering the head of a prisoner being executed at the Florida State Prison in Starke, north of Gainesville burst into flames. In the days following the execution, state politicians from both the Democratic and Republican parties have defended the execution of Pedro Medina as a "deterrent" to crime. There are 377 inmates on Florida's death row, the next two executions are scheduled for April 15 and 29.

Medina, a Cuban who came to Miami in 1980 during the Mariel boatlift and had a history of mental illness, was found guilty of the 1982 murder of an Orlando, Florida, schoolteacher and sentenced to death. The daughter of the murder victim, as well as Pope John Paul II, pled with Florida officials to commute Medina's death sentence. But the execution took place as planned, except that the moistened sponges, placed on the victim's shaved head to absorb some of the heat generated by the electric chair's 2000 volts of electricity, dried out. They caught fire and sent foot-long flames off of Medina's head. Dr. Belle Almojera, the prison doctor attending the execution, insisted that "in my professional opinion, he

died a very quick, humane death."

To deflect the horror and revulsion many people felt, state officials went on the offensive. "The execution I saw did not appear to be cruel and unusual, and in fact it was more humane than what was done to the victim," declared Florida secretary of state Sandra Mortham, who boasted of having taken her family to witness an execution last year.

Gov. Lawton Chiles argued that Medina's electrocution was not cruel and unusual punishment. "You know, putting somebody to death is not the most friendly thing that you can do," he said.

This opened up a discussion among politicians on the "best" way to carry out legal murder. Some said "old Sparky" — the guards' affectionate nickname for the electric chair built by prison inmates in 1923 — should be retired and a "less offensive" form of execution employed. The *Miami Herald* maintained that "murderers executed in Florida are generally treated better than their victims were. Even so, it's time for Florida to use a different method of carrying out the death penalty — if not for the sake of those executed, than out of consideration for those whose official duties require them to be present at executions."

State Attorney General Robert

Butterworth countered that a faulty electric chair might provide a stronger deterrent to crime.

State Senate majority leader Locke Burt argued that changing state laws to switch from electrocution to lethal injection would only slow down the pace of executions by giving death penalty opponents another appeal issue. Besides, Burt added, lethal injection "appears to be a medical procedure, and a painless death is not punishment. I think it's important that there is a deterrent and a punishment element."

House Justice Council Chairman Victor Crist suggested "If you really want the least painful, most accurate method, it would be the guillotine." Crist said he might propose legislation giving death row inmates several options for how they will be executed.

Other executions in Florida have been "botched," including the 1990 execution of Jesse Tafero. "With Jesse Tafero," related Associated Press reporter Ron Wood, "they kept turning the power off and on so we had three separate incidents of flames" shooting from the face mask placed on the victim.

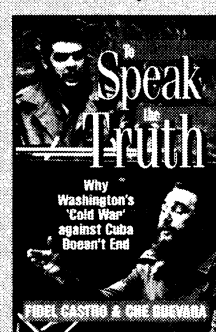
Two days after Medina's state-sanctioned murder, more than 50 protesters against capital punishment participated in a vigil at the Capitol.

from Pathfinder

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Castro: 'Imperialism will have to fight us'

Continued from back page

the revolution, which they tried to destroy as early as the days of Girón, through the armed bands in Escambray, and in all the provinces, because they implanted their dirty war in all provinces of the country, including Havana province.⁵ Then came the mercenary invasion, with airplanes disguised as Cuban planes. They are so "decent," so "scrupulous," that the planes came bearing our own country's insignia! At the United Nations, right there, they said this was the Cuban Air Force that had revolted!

This was not the only factor that contributed to the consolidation of the revolution. Other factors included the unity of all the revolutionary forces and the people; the armed and united people; a true revolution and promises that were carried out; years of constant contact between the party and the people, the government and the people, between state institutions and the people, the armed forces and the Interior Ministry and the people; loyalty to principles; and the unsullied honesty of revolutionaries, examples that very seldom are seen in the world.

What are they inventing now to destroy us? What do they want to do now? They want us to disarm ourselves, to get rid of the Interior Ministry, to use our armed forces, after they have been reduced and dissolved, on mercenary missions in the criminal wars sparked by imperialism. This is really an insult. This is an affront to the dignity of the men and women of this country, who are represented not only in our officer corps, but also by our entire armed people, which is what gives our armed forces their enormous numbers and invincible strength. There is not a single case in which a combative and honorable people have been defeated.

They are seeking two fundamental weapons to force us to return to the past: to disarm and divide the people. They offend and insult us, but in doing so they only make us stronger. Today we can see everywhere a more fervent revolutionary spirit. Revolutionary consciousness is much stronger. We see it in our students, workers, women, Pioneers, and the people as a whole.⁶

A tremendous ideological battle is being waged today to teach our enemies not to misunderstand our people, not to underestimate our revolutionary consciousness and spirit.

It is not a question of individuals. Because of the posts and the historical responsibilities I have held, I am the one who has received your signatures. But I have received them in your name, and in the name of the people. This is the people's declaration, a declaration the people want. Men are ephemeral. I am not concerned with death, whether a natural death or death in combat. I can still fire a weapon and fight as a leader or a common soldier.

The last honor that Raúl and I request — me more than Raúl, because I am a bit older — is to have a modest place in combat in our glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces. I don't believe anything will prevent that. I hope that when my death comes it will be generous, that I will still be able to squeeze a trigger, launch a grenade, or press a button and make a large bomb explode — the kind they want to eliminate, while they keep their nuclear weapons.

Cuba is not for sale

It is not a matter of individuals. Many of us have been privileged to share in the revolution for many years. The imperialists do us an honor when they want to expel us from the revolution, the homeland, and our responsibilities, because they know that with us there won't be any underhanded arrangements.⁷ But they are making a big mistake! Regardless of how many of you are here, others like you will come. They will be like us, or even better. The imperialists can perhaps make us disappear, one by one, but they will have to keep going until they get to the last of us, fighting at the last stump, with the last rifle, as Martí used to say.⁸

I repeat, individuals are unimportant. We have tremendous confidence in this generation and in those that will come after it, in its extraordinary quality, its capacity to advance the revolution.

They have a lot of nerve to publish this garbage. Those "certifiers" and "decertifiers" of the entire planet meddle in everything, condemning countries and governments as if they themselves were a para-



Young Army of Workers (EJT) marching in a military parade last year. Castro explained that the revolution has armed the Cuban people from the beginning.

digm, an example of moral values. They have absolutely no perspective. They are truly mistaken in their haughtiness and arrogance when they dare put forward such things.

In [Havana's] Central Park, when I read the first news report on this, I said that the mere idea that this people could be bought was outrageous. No! It is not even a purchase, although with their market philosophy they think everything can be bought and sold. It is not even a purchase. It is an attempted swindle. "What will they give?" Give for what? And how much will they give? Just think of what must be given to them to start repaying them.

Clinton himself, when he opposed the [Helms-Burton] law, said it was so absurd that it would cost Cuba \$100 billion. Later, he sought pretexts to support the law. He even gave away little pens — like those that had been used to sign the law. True pens are those used to sign the truth and dignity of a country. Hypocritical pens were distributed among those who raised funds for the most repugnant and corrupt elections that can be conceived.

They reserved for our people what everybody knows: taking everything away from us. Not one stone would be left standing on another in this country, first, because they would have to destroy us, and second, because they are offering unusual things, like taking away schools, day-care centers, and Pioneer camps from children; taking away from the people their educational system, which is one of the best in the world. They want to take from the people their health system, which is one of the best in the world, their hospitals, their clinics, their family doctors, their teachers.

What capitalism would offer Cuba

What crude capitalism could maintain 250,000 to 300,000 teachers in this country? What rotten capitalism could maintain 62,000 doctors here, plus the future doctors studying in the universities? What capitalism could maintain the sense of dignity and justice that exists in this country, the equality in this country, the struggle against discrimination, ownership of the land by the peasants, who also own the products of the land and the machinery? What would they leave for our workers, for our retired people? Into what would they turn this capital, if it could exist under such conditions? Perhaps they are dreaming of turning it into a major prostitution center with drugs and gambling.

What would happen to the houses that the revolution gave the people, if they were to remain standing following an imperialist aggression? Nothing of what the people have created for such a long time would remain.

And what would happen to our independence? We would be something worse than Puerto Rico, about to observe 100 years as a Yankee colony, where they even want to erase the Spanish language. What would remain of the independence dreams of so many patriots for so many years if the empire, with its load of terrible hatred, could seize this island?

How can they imagine that we do not understand this, that we do not see this truth, this situation? What kind of transition can they offer this country? We need just take a look at the transition they offered to others.

We see what has happened in other countries, things we do not publish every day for reasons we could call diplomatic, out of tactfulness and respect. But we know what is happening, we read what they publish, and we know what terrible things have happened in agriculture, in industry, in services, in retirement benefits, in everything. What terrible things have happened in their armed forces.

What is happening right now in Albania, just to cite an example? The barracks have been dismantled, the weapons have been taken by an angered people, who still have no leadership, since no one knows who is leading all this. The situation has simply exploded.

Not far from there is Bulgaria, and the terrible news arriving from there about what remains of the agriculture, of the industry, of all the social achievements that had been secured in that country. And we all know, in general terms, what has happened in our sister Russia, in addition to the tragic situation that the countries that once formed part of the Soviet Union endure.

'How could revolution surrender?'

How could it be possible to surrender weapons, to surrender the revolution, to surrender socialism? We spoke about this the day we had the honor to pay homage to the internationalist fighters whose bodies were returned to the homeland. The weapons of the revolution and of socialism are not surrendered without a fight! And we are prepared to give them to the United States if they come here and take them from us, one by one, fighting face to face, by any means, including bayonets. We would see then if bullet-proof vests can also resist bayonets and if they can resist other things, other weapons, other caliber weapons of the many we have.

This nation will never surrender the revolution or socialism! This people will never surrender their weapons! This people will never surrender its unity!

How could we resign ourselves to seeing our country broken up in pieces as they broke up all the others, an ideal situation for stepping on them?

Those who initiated our independence in 1868 were not fools, nor were Maceo,

Máximo Gómez, Martí, or any of our great and countless patriots.⁹ They were able to envision the future. We will not be fools either. We are not lacking in tradition, nor in the courage they bequeathed to us to struggle and to defend our most sacred possessions.

This is why we have resisted. It is now 1997, and we are making progress. No matter how many laws — criminal laws — they impose on us, without a doubt creating great difficulties, our spirit to resist and prevail is much greater. We will continue overcoming these difficulties, and our love for and commitment to the homeland will be greater. Our willingness to work and our sense of responsibility will be greater.

This is the meaning of these signatures that you have given to me today, a list that the rest of our comrades hope to augment by signing the declaration themselves. This is the glorious content of this ceremony of the mambís of the 20th century, and of the mambís of the 21st century, because we have to ensure that those who follow us are better than us, and I can see that those who follow are better than us.

Maceo bequeathed us this glorious treasure, this unique example. Here, you are also bequeathing a great treasure, another great example, to which the future generations will be loyal. If the first Baraguá protest — because this is the second Baraguá protest — was signed under the shade of mango trees in that historical place, today we all sign and present this declaration to the people under the shadow of our glorious apostle [Martí]. To him, to Maceo, and to all those who were killed in combat, we promise we will never betray the blood they shed. This nation will move forward, will become more revolutionary, and will attain infinite heights of honor, patriotism, and glory!

Socialism or death!

Patria o muerte! [Homeland or death!]

Venceremos! [We will win!]

Notes

⁵ In April 1961 1,500 Cuban-born mercenaries organized by the U.S. government invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. Decisively defeated by the response of militia members and regular troops, the last invaders surrendered less than three days later at Playa Girón (Girón Beach), the name used for the battle in Cuba. In the Escambray mountains in central Cuba, the CIA organized armed counterrevolutionary bands for several years in the early 1960s.

⁶ The Pioneers is Cuba's children's organization.

⁷ On January 28, the White House released a report approved by U.S. president William Clinton as part of the cynically named Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, better known as the Helms-Burton law. The report suggested that Havana could receive up to \$8 billion in loans and aid if a "transition government" were established that did not include Fidel and Raúl Castro, and that was willing to bow to other dictates from Washington.

⁸ José Martí, Cuba's national hero, launched the 1895-98 war for independence. He was killed in combat in 1895.

⁹ Cuba's war of independence from Spain began with the ten-year war of 1868-78 and concluded with the conflict of 1895-98. Máximo Gómez was a prominent military leader in these wars along with Maceo.

Greek minority in Albania

Continued from Page 6

Washington that Greece would be in the "west's" sphere of influence. The Greek Communist Party went along with Stalin's dictums, but sizable units of the Greek partisans continued the struggle to topple the capitalist regime. Chased by the Greek and British armies to the Albanian border after disastrous defeats by the end of the 1940s, the Greek partisans were told they could only cross without their arms.

"Many thousands were trapped here when the border closed," recounted Koutsis. "They were taken to Fier and then sent to Russia. They were considered suspect because they didn't obey Moscow."

In repelling an incursion by Mussolini's armies in 1940, the Greek army pushed into southern Albania and held a quarter of the country for six months. This was done with

the aim of annexing "our brothers in bondage," as the Greek dictatorship of Ioannis Metaxas put it at the time. In reality, the occupied areas were not majority Greek speaking. It was the third and last time the Greek army occupied parts of Albania, the previous two being in 1916 and 1923.

Nevertheless, many ethnic Greeks supported the invasion. "Everyone in the village was waiting for the army to come," said Koutsis. "We went up to the church and rang the bells to welcome them. We pulled out the Greek flags we had hidden."

"Those young men that came here to free us have left their bones up on that hill" Niko said. "We wanted to join [the Greek Army] but they wouldn't let us."

Initial support for the Greek government forces, however, later switched to backing

Continued on Page 14

GM strikers win more hiring

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

CHICAGO — After a two-week strike against General Motors, members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2209 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, approved a local agreement that says the auto giant will hire 276 additional workers, about half of the 500 jobs the union had demanded. The accord was approved by 85 percent of those who attended the March 27 ratification meeting.

During months of negotiations leading up to the strike in Fort Wayne, GM held to its demand of cutting 300 UAW jobs. Since the early 1990s GM has slashed 60,000 jobs. In the period ahead, the world's largest auto maker says it plans to reduce its workforce by another 70,000.

"We didn't see all the details of the agreement, but we're glad to see that the company says it will hire more workers," said Fred Hammen, one of the 2,700 UAW members at the plant, in a phone call interview. "But getting the company to follow through on its agreement will be a fight." Some new workers will be hired in April and the rest over the coming months. GM has a long track record of not following through on its agreements, which more and more workers are becoming aware of.

The previous local agreement expired in September. GM and the UAW signed a national agreement last December. The local agreement covers many issues not spelled out in the national pact, such as job classifications, workforce size, outsourcing, and health and safety issues.

At this point few details are available on how the backlog of grievances and health and safety issues, which were important issues in the strike, are to be resolved.

Just before GM and the union settled the strike, 3,500 members of UAW Local 1999 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, authorized a walkout with a strike deadline of April 4. Local 1999 members produce the Chevrolet Malibu and the Oldsmobile Cutlass. GM has spent millions of dollars to promote these cars and their inventory is low.

Immigrant rights demonstrations

Continued from front page

will result in disabled and elderly immigrants losing public benefits such as food stamps. Those facing deportation lose many appeal rights, while many low income families will have a harder time reuniting with their families. Protests against the anti-immigrant law come in the context of an increasing number of workplace raids by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agents. On February 6, the INS raided two factories in Sussex County, New Jersey, and swiftly moved to deport 67 workers. Those arrested weren't even allowed to return home for their personal belongings.



BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — Nearly 1,000 people from dozens of Haitian and Latino groups turned out here April 1 to protest new anti-immigrants laws at a rally called by the Committee for Dignity and Justice for Immigrants.

Waving Haitian, Mexican, and Nicaraguan flags and carrying signs reading "Don't Cut Benefits," "No to Deportations," and "War on Immigrants = War on Workers," the crowd swelled from the sidewalk, into the street in front of the building. More than 50 Miami cops tried to force the demonstrators back on the sidewalk and one cop, mounted on horseback, repeatedly charged the crowd swinging his baton. Eventually the cops backed down.

"Don't be intimidated. Don't go underground. Don't go into hiding. This is what they want. Instead we must all get together, we must unite and fight!" Marleine Bastien, from the Haitian Women of Miami told the cheering crowd.

Other speakers included William Suárez from the Latin American Aids Coalition, which brought a contingent to the rally; Monica Russo from UNITE; and activists in various Haitian, Nicaraguan, religious and political organizations.

Co-chairs of the rally Florvil Samedi, from the Haitian community group Veye-Yo and Angel Domínguez, representing the sponsoring coalition, ended the event by calling for a meeting on April 9 to plan broader protests.

According to the *Oakland Press*, a Detroit regional daily, "UAW officials had warned last week the union was prepared to approve an additional local strike or strikes if there was no progress in the talks at Fort Wayne." GM officials were "disappointed" by the April 4 strike authorization, the newspaper noted.

Like the Fort Wayne workers, Local 1999 had sought strike authorization last year, but it was given the green light only recently. UAW president Stephen Yokich worked overtime last fall to prevent strikes from taking place while the union was campaigning to get President William Clinton re-elected.

Almost one year ago, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that UAW Local 1999 "has already voted to strike the auto maker if it can't resolve such issues as health and safety grievances, work rules and subcontracting. A strike at Oklahoma City or any of the launch sites wouldn't completely shut down the auto maker, but it would cost GM valuable production time and millions of dollars in lost sales."

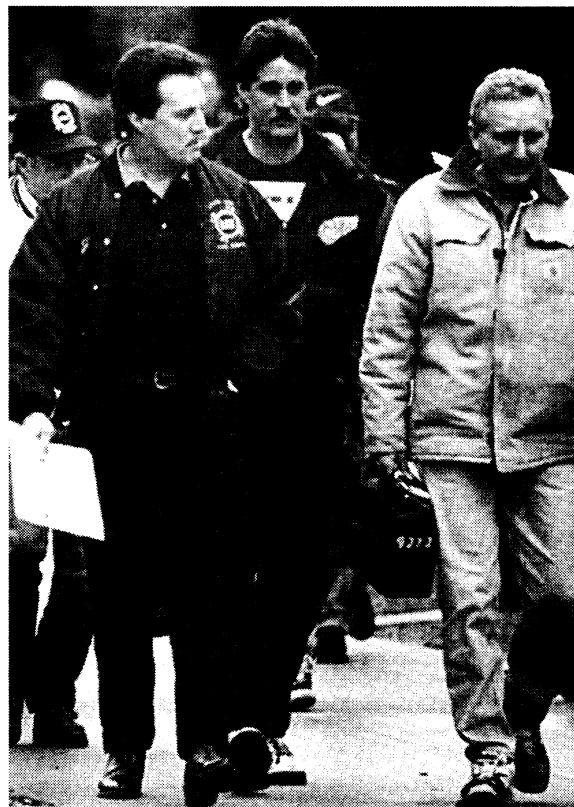
Earlier this year, after the national contract was ratified, GM officials sang a more confident song. The turnaround in sales was

right around the corner. According to the *New York Times*, GM officials said, "The company's market share will bounce back as labor peace returns and new models begin coming out of factories at full speed."

The return of "labor peace" is not on the agenda, though, as more fights are brewing. Among the locals without contracts are GM's truck plant in Pontiac, Michigan, and GM's parts plants in Anderson, Indiana. These parts plants are on the auto giant's notorious "troubled" list.

Don DePew, an assembly line worker at the Fort Wayne plant, said many of the people at UAW Local 598, which organizes the Pontiac plant, are "itching to go out on strike." During the Fort Wayne strike, members of Local 598 joined the picket lines in Indiana.

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



GM unionists walking out of Fort Wayne, Indiana, plant March 14, demanding hiring more workers.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Behind the Workers Uprising in Albania. Speaker: Derek Bracey, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st Street. S. Donation: \$4. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Rebellion in Zaire. Causes and Historical Roots of the Uprising. Panel discussion. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd.. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Equal Rights for Immigrants! Human Rights, Justice, and Dignity for All! Panel discussion. Sat., April 12, 7:30 p.m. 137 N.E. 54th St. Donation: \$4. Translation into Spanish and French. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

Challenges Facing Packinghouse Workers: A Discussion. Speaker: Richard McBride, Social-

ist Workers Party, and packinghouse worker in the United Food and Commercial Workers union. Sat., April 12, 7:30 p.m. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. 2724 Douglas Avenue. Donation: \$4. Dinner: \$4. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (515) 277-4600.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Irish Freedom Struggle. Its Place in World Politics. Speaker: Mary Nell Bockman, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Association of Machinists in Boston. Bockman was part of the *Militant* reporting team in Derry, Northern Ireland. Sat., April 12, 7 p.m. Buffet dinner: 5:30 p.m. 7414 Woodward (one block north of Grand Blvd.). Donation: \$5. Dinner: \$7. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Protest Israeli Expansionism on the West Bank! Speak Out for Palestinian Rights! Panel discussion includes Bashar Tarabieh (Syrian activist from the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights; member, Arab Association for Development in the Golan Heights); and a representative of the Young Socialists. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh

What's Behind the Rebellion in Zaire? Speaker: Matilde Zimmermann, University of Pittsburgh. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 1103 E. Carson St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (412) 381-9785.

CANADA

Montreal

Palestinians Fight Zionist Expansion. Panel discussion. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 4581 St. Denis St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (514) 284-7269.

Vancouver

Bre-X Stocks Collapses, Stock Markets Plunge: What's Behind Capitalism's Growing World Disorder? Speaker: Mike Barker, member, Hospital Employees Union. Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

NATO Expansion and the Threat of War. Speaker: Eugen Lepou, Communist League. Fri., April 11, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

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

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 N.E. 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. Compuserve: 103171,1674

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 803 Peachtree St. NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 724-9759. Compuserve: 104226,1245

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1223 N. Milwaukee Ave. Zip: 60622. Tel: (773) 342-1780. Compuserve: 104077,511 **Peoria:** 915 N. Western. Zip: 61650-0302. Mailing address: P.O. Box 302. Tel: (309) 676-2472. Compuserve: 104612,147

IOWA: Des Moines: 2724 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 277-4600. Compuserve: 104107,1412

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772. Compuserve: 103426,3430

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 7414 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Compuserve: 104127,3505 Tel: (313) 875-0100.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 2490 University Ave. W., St. Paul. Zip: 55114. Tel: (612) 644-6325. Compuserve: 103014,3261

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 87A Halsey. Mailing address: 1188 Raymond Blvd., Suite 222. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341. Compuserve: 104216,2703

NEW YORK: New York City: 59 4th Avenue (corner of Bergen) Brooklyn, NY Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 399-7257. Compuserve: 102064,2642. Compuserve: 104075,35 ; 167 Charles St., Manhattan, NY. Zip: 10014. Tel: (212) 366-1973.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Zip 27406. Tel: (910) 272-5996. Compuserve: 103475,672.

OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 662-1931. **Cleveland:** 1832 Euclid. Zip: 44115. Tel: (216) 861-6150. Compuserve: 103253,1111

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 1906 South St. Zip: 19146. Tel: (215) 546-8218. Compuserve: 104502,1757 **Pittsburgh:** 1103 E. Carson St. Zip 15203. Tel: (412) 381-9785. Compuserve: 103122,720

TEXAS: Houston: 3260 South Loop West. Zip: 77025. Tel: (713) 349-0090. Compuserve: 102527,2271

UTAH: Salt Lake City: 1065 East 3300 South Zip: 84106. Tel: (801) 474-3385. Compuserve: 76714,1545

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 1930 18th St. N.W. Suite #3 (Entrance on Florida Ave.). Zip: 20009. Tel: (202) 387-2185. Compuserve: 75407,3345.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Compuserve: 74461,2544.

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Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 0161-839-1766. Compuserve: 106462,327

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Toronto: 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324. Compuserve: 103474,13

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343. Compuserve: 103430,1552

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Paris: MBE 201, 208 rue de la Convention. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (1) 47-26-58-21. Compuserve: 73504,442

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Reykjavik: Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. INTERNET: gphssg@treknet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075. Compuserve: 100035,3205

Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362

Well, natch — David Colter, top dog at BankAmerica, “earned” \$3.54 million last year, nearly double what he got the year before. The bank is currently in the process



Harry Ring

of chopping 3,700 jobs.

Capitalism defined — Until job pressure drove him to suicide, attorney Christopher Bryan was a “highly valued” employee of James Beauchamp, a Birmingham, England, law firm. The firm sent his mother, 80, a bill for more than

£12,278 for the time spent dealing with his death — sending someone to his home when he didn’t show up for work, identifying the body at the morgue, etc., and including £150 for sending someone to notify her he was dead. The bill was dropped when the family went public.

Sh! — The Army staged a trial run in Charlotte, North Carolina, to ready troops for counterterrorist attacks. In the dark of night, 100 GIs from Fort Bragg in troop transports and helicopters, stormed a vacant warehouse. The noise of the choppers and simulated bombs resounded across the area. Startled residents were unable to get info from the cops.

...disinformation exercise — The day after, Charlotte’s mayor,

who had agreed to the Army maneuver, declared: “They said they would be in and out. Nobody would know they were here.” Checking complaints of low-flying copters, a fed speculated, “Maybe they need more practice.” But not in Charlotte. A slated second commando raid was canceled.

Preach, Bro — “The major barrier to health care and our success as physicians is no longer the patients’ illnesses, but the [medical care] system,” declared Kenneth Shelman, one of the 92 doctors at a Tucson, Arizona, medical center who voted to join the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

A £ is a £ — Amnesty International charged that the British gov-

ernment is not controlling export of torture weapons. Like, a high voltage stun gun that causes people to lose bowel control, faint or even die of heart failure. Or a stun belt which inflicts eight-second shocks on prisoners. The maker says it offers “total psychological supremacy ...of potentially troublesome prisoners.”

Not to hurry — In the wake of a March 1 tornado that took 25 lives, the Arkansas legislature approved a relief bill, but Gov. Michael Huckabee refused to sign it because it called the tornado an “act of God.” He contended this was a bum rap for God and insisted on “natural disaster.” Finally, March 22, it was reported that a deal was struck to call it both.

Goes good with tobacco —

Medical researchers report a risky level of salt in Lunchables, a meat, cheese and cracker item sold by Kraft. A serving contains 1,780 milligrams of salt, 74 percent of the recommended daily intake, and enough to raise the blood pressure of salt-sensitive people. Huffed Kraft: “...junk science at its worst....yet another attempt to frighten American consumers.”

Blasphemy — Last we heard, the Church of England was weighing action against Rev. John Papworth, who told a London parish meeting on crime about the rip-off practices of supermarket chains. He said he didn’t encourage shoplifting, though he didn’t see it as stealing but rather as “a badly needed reallocation of economic resources.”

Trotsky: We want a United States of the world

“Hitler’s assumption of power, which did not meet with the slightest resistance on the part of the two ‘mighty’ working-class parties — one of them, moreover, basing itself on the USSR — has decisively exposed the internal putrefaction of the Second and Third Internationals,” Leon Trotsky wrote in 1935, referring respectively to the international Social Democracy and the Stalinist parties that looked to Moscow. In hundreds of letters and articles published in the 14-volume series *Writings of Leon Trotsky*, this leader of the Russian revolution addresses the question of how to build a new international in

BOOK OF THE WEEK

the continuity of Marx, Engels, and Lenin, made up of the kind of parties needed to lead the working class to take power in face of the deepening capitalist crisis, rise of fascism, and march toward the second world imperialist slaughter. (See special sale offer advertised on page 9.)

The article below, “To the Editors of *Action Socialiste Revolutionnaire*,” is a typical sample. It was written in August 1935, in response to the program of the newspaper of the left wing of the Labor Party of Belgium. It appears in *Writings of Leon Trotsky [1935-36]* and is copyright © 1977, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.



BY LEON TROTSKY

Dear Comrades:

I am an attentive and, you may be sure, friendly reader of *Action Socialiste Revolutionnaire*, and it is in this capacity that I am sending this letter. You have published your program. This is a very important document. Its publication represents a major step forward. But despite the absolutely correct general thrust of your program, the text also contains some imprecise formulations, which make you vulnerable to your enemies (and you do have some), and which can even lead to deviations within your own tendency. I greatly regret that you did not submit your draft for a preliminary discussion, not only nationally but also internationally: not only can socialism not be created in one country, but neither can revolutionary socialist politics. Comrades who would have been eager to participate in a preliminary discussion can now only give their opinions of the published text.

1. You distinguish between the “conquest of political power” and the “conquest of economic power.” This distinction is incorrect. It lends itself to dangerous equivocation. The ferociously anti-Marxist anarcho-syndicalists are the ones who invented the concept of “economic power” in order to sidestep the question of how to transform society without the conquest of state power. The reformists willingly use this same formula for their “plans,” which are supposed to allow (anonymous) “collective” control to render economic power to the (still anonymous) “collectivity.” Mr. de Man,¹ this magician of the ambiguous formulation, this falsifier of scientific socialism, needs the distinction

between political power and economic power. But it is precisely for this reason that we must reject this terminological trap. “Economic power,” as such, does not exist. There is *property*, different forms of property. State power provides the opportunity to retain or, on the contrary, to abolish capitalist property, depending on whether state power belongs to the bourgeoisie or to the proletariat.

How can the working class take power?

I am sure that we are in fundamental agreement. But you develop your artificial distinction between two powers in a dangerous way. On Italy, you say: “It was not the occupation but the abandonment of the factories which gave rise to fascism.” You also say that the Charleroi miners, in occupying the mines, “thus show the way which will result in the expropriation of the capitalist bourgeoisie.” This is not correct. The occupation of factories and mines is in no way sufficient. If state power remains in the hands of the bourgeois class, the occupiers will inevitably be evicted and crushed.

You see that the formulation can be used equally well against you by the camouflaged, corrupted reformists like de Man and by both types of syndicalists: anarchists and collaborationists.

In the next to the last paragraph, which speaks of the dictatorship of the proletariat, you say: “By the conquest of power, we mean ... the seizure of the banks, the factories, the land.... etc. Why this new, ambiguous phrase? By the conquest of power is meant the conquest of power, that is, the total takeover of the state. But the conquered state must act as an instrument for the transformation of property, beginning with the expropriation of the capitalists. These are two different stages which can be separated by months and even, in the case of some types of small capitalists, by years.

Power is power; that is, the most concentrated strength of the ruling class. Its nature is political (in the most general sense of the word), because the state, the instrument of power, is the political superstructure *par excellence* upon the economic foundation. But this political power serves not only to regulate “political” matters, in the narrow, technical sense of the word, (that is, internal matters of the state apparatus itself), but also and above all economic, cultural, ecclesiastical and other matters.

2. You propose a “fair redistribution of the land” among the peasants. What about farm workers? You speak neither of collective farms, nor of peasant cooperatives aided by the workers’ state. In this way, you fail to advance a socialist perspective for agriculture.

3. “Down with big business!” But we aren’t for perpetuating small business. You do not speak of the state monopoly of foreign trade, which will have exceptional importance for Belgium. With the monopoly as a tool, the workers’ state could truly help the productive layers of the petty bourgeoisie and above all guide them toward socialism.

You fail to mention the abolition of business secrets and workers’ and peasants’ control of banks and industry. Yet, every worker and peasant can well understand that now — when asked only to sacrifice — they have the right to scrutinize the accounting “secrets” of the capitalist thieves. This slogan could win enormous popularity. Charlatans like de Man are always ready to come up with a whole

new “plan,” but they’re careful not to mention business secrets, which are the key to exploitation.

4. You vaguely call for the “shorter work-week.” Why not the forty-hour week, an international slogan?

Repressive forces of the bourgeoisie

5. On fascism: “These gangs,” you say, “benefit from the support or the protection of the repressive forces that serve the capitalist bourgeoisie.” Why this descriptive formulation? What “repressive forces?” This refers to the police, the courts, the headquarters of Vandervelde, de Man, and Spaak.² You should have named these honorable institutions.

6. You propose the creation of “shock troops” to fight fascism. Why this technical and nonpolitical expression? The rest of us Marxists speak in this respect of a workers’ militia. Why not solidarize yourselves with this precise slogan, which has become popular in France and elsewhere?

7. “The struggle against war.” This paragraph is best because it’s the most precise. But there is also an important gap. You speak against national defense. You are right. But you only give the negative formulation. You should say: We wish neither to perpetuate nor to defend the “narrow cages” known as national states. On the contrary, we wish to abolish borders in or-

der to create a Socialist United States of Europe, while preparing a United States of the entire world.

8. At the end you say, “Down with reformist illusions.” Unfortunately, you do not explain in the text what these reformist illusions consist of or who represents them in Belgium. This is perhaps the greatest weakness in the program.

There you have, dear comrades, the remarks which I allow myself in all friendship, and which do not prevent me from recognizing that your program, despite its imperfections, is permeated with a proletarian and revolutionary spirit. This spirit is the sure sign of your victory.

P.S. — I notice with astonishment that you say nothing in your program about women (salaries, night work, maternity leaves, etc.). A truly revolutionary tendency which wants to ensure its future must never neglect questions concerning either young people or women or oppressed peoples (there is nothing on colonies in your program!).

Notes

¹ Hendrick de Man was a reformist leader of the Belgian Labor Party.

² Emile Vandervelde was a Belgian Labor Party leader and president of the Second International, 1929-36. Paul-Henri Spaak was briefly a left-winger in the Labor Party, but became a minister in the Belgian cabinet in 1935 and was later secretary-general of NATO.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 14, 1972

APRIL 5 — The powerful thrust of North and South Vietnamese regiments against the northern military outposts of the Saigon regime is the largest since the Tet offensive in early 1968. It once again testifies to the indomitable strength of revolution in Vietnam.

As the Saigon armies in the north flee the revolutionary advance, abandoning U.S. arms and equipment in their path, it is worth recalling that hundreds of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of American lives have been spent for the sole purpose of stabilizing this army. An this is not to speak of the unutterable toll of horror brought about in Indochina by the most intensive bombing in the history of warfare.

For the past five days, the Nixon administration has gone out of its way to give the appearance of calmness in the face of the new offensive. It now appears that this was one of the reasons for regularly predicting a revolutionary advance since the beginning of January. But the apparent calmness is as phony as everything else the administration says about the war.

Nixon interrupted a vacation to get back to the White House for a series of secret top-level meetings. The “Washington Special Action Group” under Henry A. Kissinger has been meeting daily since the offensive began. “The group,” says the April 5 *Times*, “which is composed of senior officials from the State and Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency, meets during emergencies.” In fact

the only thing Washington accurately predicted about the offensive was that it would be launched. The intelligence estimates failed to pinpoint the time, place, and strength of the attack.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

April 12, 1947

APRIL 8 — In the mightiest upsurge of the communications industry, some 350,000 telephone workers set up picket lines at dawn yesterday in a virtually complete tie-up of the nation’s long-distance and manual phones. Switchboard plugs were replaced with picket signs; “numbers please” became transformed into songs of solidarity; “the voice with a smile” was saying “Ma Bell must give us a living wage.”

This is the first nation-wide phone strike, involving tens of thousands of newly unionized workers and a total of 230,000 women, the greatest number ever participating in a single strike. Yet not a single major instance of wide-spread scabbing has been reported.

The bulk of the strikers were members of the independent National Federation of Telephone Workers which accepted the challenge flung down by the huge 7 1/2 billion dollar AT&T monopoly. AT&T owns and controls the long-distance lines, the Bell phone subsidiaries throughout the country and the Western Electric manufacturing units. For months the phone trust had arrogantly refused to meet or even arbitrate the union demands which include \$12 a week raise, union shop and other long-needed improvements.

Abolish the death penalty

The recent execution of Pedro Medina in Florida, whose scalp was scorched as flames leapt from the mask placed over his head, highlights once again the barbarity of capitalism. And in the aftermath of this torture, the blood-thirsty elected officials there waged a propaganda campaign to deflect the horror many people felt.

These political servants of the wealthy rulers argued that the grisly electrocution was not "cruel and unusual punishment," but rather, a good "deterrent" to crime. The pious editors of the *Miami Herald* suggested chemical poisoning as a more "humane" method, while another self-righteous bourgeois representative called for beheading people as the "least painful" methods for state-sanctioned murder.

These debates have nothing to do with deterring crime. The death penalty is simply used as a weapon of the capitalists to terrorize working people into submission and stifle resistance to their attacks. The recent episode is a harbinger of what the bourgeois class has in store for us. The big-business politicians and the media will continue to portray working people, inmates, and oppressed nationalities in particular as violent brutes, while acclimating us for more repression.

As Democratic president William Clinton makes preparations for war against the workers states in Russia, Yugoslavia, and elsewhere, his administration is also deepening its assault on working people here. It's no coincidence that of the nearly 400 people who have been executed since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, almost 50 percent were killed during Clinton's time in the White House.

Socialism or barbarism is the choice before humanity as capitalism accelerates its pace toward fascism and world war. Only a revolutionary political struggle by working people to overthrow this barbaric system and establish a workers and farmers government will open the doors for a humane society. That's the challenge for young fighters and working-class leaders in the battle for human solidarity.

Socialist: No human being is illegal!

The following statement was issued by the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of New Jersey, Bob Miller, who is a member of the United Auto Workers Local 980 at the Ford plant in Edison, New Jersey.

The Socialist Workers campaign stands with all those marching, protesting, and speaking out against the so-called Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act, which goes into effect April 1. This federal legislation is an attack against the entire working class. No human is illegal!

The welfare reform law, which eliminates most legal resident noncitizens in this country from all federal assistance programs, is an attempt by the U.S. rulers to sow further divisions among the working class. It scapegoats a section of the population for the deepening economic crisis, which is a worldwide crisis caused by the capitalist system itself.

The working class in the United States includes people born throughout the world. My co-workers at the auto plant where I work include people born in Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, and several Eastern European countries. Immigrant bashing is a blow to the entire working class, and to our labor unions as well.

In France, Austria, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom, attacks against immigrants have also escalated. But for the working class, unity across nationalities and borders is key.

The unions in the United States need to take the lead in forging this unity in struggle. My campaign raises the idea that the unions champion a struggle around the fight for jobs for all. Shorten the workweek with no loss in pay. Wage an international working-class fight for jobs.

The recent demonstrations and rallies of hundreds of thousands in France, Italy, Korea, Russia, Columbia, and Ecuador (to name a few), point to the opportunity to link up with workers around the world fighting for jobs and against government-imposed austerity measures.

Meanwhile, the imperialist banks are squeezing the toilers of the Third World to pay the debt that crushes opportunities to develop those countries. As money and interest payments are sucked out of the Third World, workers are forced to move to the imperialist countries in search of work. This Third World debt should be canceled!

Imperialists plan Albania occupation

Continued from front page

sentiment against imperialist intervention in the rebel-held areas of Albania, especially Vlore, from where the Albanian boat took off and most of the deceased refugees hailed. About 7,000 people poured into the streets of Vlore March 29 to condemn the criminal act and demand justice against those responsible. "I warn Italian soldiers not to come, otherwise they will be killed," said Aida, 35, who attended the rally, expressing the prevailing sentiment there.

"We want the Italian government to accept its responsibilities publicly and compensate the victims," said Albert Shyti, head of the Committee for the Salvation of Vlore, the rebel council running this city since the rebellion turned into an armed uprising in February. "Only after the Italian government has taken these steps will we be willing to accept Italians in our town." Italian authorities maintain the collision was accidental, contradicting the accounts of the 34 survivors. Admiral Angelo Mariani, Italy's naval commander-in-chief, attributed the sinking to an "irresponsible and unpredictable" maneuver by the Albanian skipper. *Sibilla's* captain, Maurizio Laudadio, is being investigated for possible misconduct.

Alessandro Greco, 22, who lost his wife and three-month-old baby in the sinking, said, "This was no accident." Others rescued by the Italian navy began shouting their account of the incident to TV reporters as they landed in Brindisi. They were then whisked away by police and cut off from the outside world in a disused military barracks. Volunteers from the Caritas charity group were forbidden from making contact.

Rome, which is preparing to lead an intervention force of 5,000 troops, insisted it will go ahead with the deployment, but acknowledged that political opposition to the invasion within Albania and Italy has risen. "The mission is not devoid of risks," said Defense Minister Beniamino Andreatta. About half the soldiers are scheduled to come from Italy. Governments from seven other countries have also declared they will send military contingents: France (1,000), Greece (800), Spain (500), Turkey (500), Romania (400), Hungary (100), and Slovenia (100).

The military foray was first proposed by Paris. After European Union foreign ministers failed to agree to send the force under the auspices of the Western European Union — over the strong objections of Bonn and London — Rome took the initiative to spearhead the intervention with whatever governments would be willing to participate. Washington earlier turned down requests by Berisha for a NATO detachment, trying to take its distance from the discredited president and better position itself for future intervention. On March 28, the United Nations Security Council gave its stamp of approval to Rome's request with 14 votes in favor and one abstention, from Beijing.

In the middle of the outcry over the boat sinking, Italy's premier Romano Prodi made a sudden and heavily guarded trip to Albania April 2 to renew support for the imperialist deployment from Albanian authorities. Prodi flew by helicopter to the southern city of Gjirokaster to meet with Albanian prime minister Bashkim Fino of the Socialist Party (SP). Four Italian helicopters hovered above to protect Prodi, who landed accompanied by 40 armed members of the Italian special forces. Fino, who had stopped in Gjirokaster on his way to Greece to assure aid to his government from Athens, said Prodi came "to reconfirm that the Albanian government still wants the deployment of the multinational force."

The Albanian parliament, controlled by Berisha's Democratic Party and from which the SP and other opposition groups abstain, had voted 97-1 to approve intervention March 30. Fino has also been a firm advocate of such a deployment. Both of these political parties that represent the interests of rival layers of the ruling bureaucracy hope that foreign intervention can quell the rebellion that has endangered the parasitic existence and bourgeois way of life of their caste.

The Italian-led force is supposed to not only accompany aid convoys, but also help maintain order at the airport in the capital Tirana and the main ports of Durres and Vlore. After the recent outpouring of opposition in Vlore, the Italian and Albanian defense ministers agreed that it may not be a good idea to send soldiers to that city for now, especially from Italy.

Opposition has also mounted among working people in neighboring countries. This is reflected in recent statements by the Communist Refoundation, successor of Italy's former Communist Party, which said that intervention "under current conditions would be absolutely mistaken." The group could block or delay the move, since the support of its deputies is essential to Prodi's social democratic coalition government. Prodi recently secured backing from the rightist opposition coalition led by former premier Silvio Berlusconi, who stated that the military deployment is the "only way we see to resolve the problem of mass emigration toward our country."

In Greece, where the social democratic government of premier Konstantinos Simitis is readying its military contingent for Albania, some street protests are being organized against military intervention. On March 29, the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) attacked the decision to include Greek troops in the UN force, which it called a "criminal act against the Albanian people."

The imperialist preparations for military occupation of Albania are unfolding as the stalemate between the heterogeneous rebels holding virtually the southern half of the country and the government in Tirana has begun to turn the tide to the advantage of the counterrevolution.

Berisha has refused to resign and has recently been or-

ganizing vigilante gangs that terrorize the population, made up of remnants of the dissolved army loyal to Berisha, agents of the secret police SHIK, police officers that fled from the rebel-held areas, and criminal elements roaming free since the country's jails were thrown open. Such gangs have carried out indiscriminate assaults, like an attack on a bus south of Tirana on March 26, during which one passenger was killed and 26 injured. A day later, local residents in the village of Frakull near Fier killed 17 such armed thugs. Three villagers died in the battle.

On March 28, smoke was still rising from the building of Albania's national bank on the Square of the Flag in Vlore, as 10,000 assembled for an antigovernment rally. The bank had been looted and set on fire early that morning by another armed gang. These daily incidents are used by the state controlled media and the international big-business press to paint a picture of "chaos and anarchy" in Albania and justify imperialist intervention.

The rebels, however, particularly in Vlore, the focal point of the revolt, have continued to take initiatives to press their goals. A conference of 150 people was held here March 28. It was the largest meeting yet of the National Front for the Salvation of the People, the coalition of rebel groups. For the first time, representatives of defense councils in several northern towns participated — including Puke, Bulkize, Dibra, and Rreshen. Berisha has his strongest base of support in northern Albania.

At the insistence of Shyti and other leaders of the Front, representatives of all the opposition parties present — including the SP, Social Democratic Party, and the Democratic Alliance — signed a declaration that renewed the call for the resignation of Berisha and demanded the formation of a presidential commission to de-facto replace him. The statement also condemned the activities "of criminal gangs and the acts of violence being committed by Berisha and his collaborators."

The signature of the Socialist Party, especially, which is part of the national reconciliation government, caused a new rift in Tirana. Berisha called an emergency meeting with opposition groups next day to protest and threatened to pull his Democratic Party out of the government.

As protester Andon Dhiamanti put it at the March 28 rally, "The struggle is uphill, but we have no choice but to continue the fight to defend the interests of the people."

Greeks in Albania

Continued from Page 11

for the partisans who led the anti-fascist struggle.

It was people like Koutis and Niko who built the united partisan columns. "We won our freedom and we got title to our land," said Niko, referring to the victory of the Albanian partisans. "Most Christians in the area did not hold title going back to the Ottoman empire. They told us we would all be one. We wanted that."

Prejudices, though, do exist today. They built up over decades as the revolution degenerated under Hoxha's Stalinist leadership. "For the most part we live together as one people," said Arapi, referring to recent years. "But there are also those who look down on the Greeks. This is justified because Greek villages supported the Greek army when they invaded in 1916 and 1940, and also because ethnic Albanians had been chased out of Greece," from the time of the Balkan wars to World War II. "For example," he continued, "although I am not Greek, people in Tirana would call me 'shit Greek' because I come from [the southern town of] Sarande."

Most working people interviewed by the *Militant* were adamantly opposed to imperialist intervention now, including from Greece. This was also true among the Greek minority. "Send the army to fight whom?" asked Christakis. "You don't have two sides here — Christian and Muslim. Everybody is together fighting Berisha."

Investors from Greece have been frightened by the revolt. On March 28, about 100 such businessmen held a meeting in Athens to demand state help to cover their losses from investments in Albania. Active in Albania are one major tobacco company, several apparel and shoe manufacturers, and construction contractors. In the shops that are open, in restaurants, and in the many cafes, the Greek drachma is used interchangeably with the Albanian lek. Most products in local shops, as well as what little advertising there is in the south, are Greek. While many Albanians see international investments as desirable, illusions are fading. As Christakis put it, "Nobody comes here to invest for his mother's soul — they all want to get something from us."

Opposition to intervention was far from unanimous, however. "Why don't they move the border to right here, north of this village and solve the problem?" said Kostas Maloukis, 83, in the central square of Dervitsani. "We're tired of being a minority." "There has been more looting of us, with hatred," said the owner of the Mini Market in the same village, who asked that his name not be used. "They steal from us Greeks because we have more." When Greek deputy foreign minister Yiannos Kranidiotis visited this village March 18, he was greeted by a crowd of hundreds with cheers.

Natasha Terlexis is an airline worker in Athens, Greece, and member of the Federation of Foreign Airlines Workers. Bobbis Misailides, also a member of the same union in Athens, and Militant staff writer Argiris Malapanis contributed to this article reporting from Sarande, Gjirokaster, Himara, and other towns in southern Albania.

Young Socialists meet

Continued from Page 8

vention to adopt as a principle defending all workers states, and protesting any move by imperialist powers toward overturning those states — including the NATO occupation of part of Yugoslavia and Washington's drive to expand NATO up to the borders of Russia. This motion will be added to the Young Socialists political principles, adopted last year at the organization's first convention.

Question of security debated

In his report Willey said, "As the rulers go after the social wage, as they go after democratic rights, as they increase the culture war, security for the working class becomes more important. As we become stronger, as we become more of a force, the rulers, their state, and their police agencies will see us more and more as the political threat that we are."

"It is by beginning with our historic tasks and enemy we face, that we view security. Above all, it must flow from our political program and tasks in front of the revolutionary vanguard and how we can best defend ourselves against unnecessary victimization and disruption by the bosses and their state." This includes the YS's policy that its members have nothing to do with illegal drugs.

During the preconvention discussion, a few members questioned the need for such a security policy, saying it was an intrusion in the personal lives of Young Socialist members. This question was debated at the convention. After a thorough discussion, the delegates unanimously voted to maintain the security policy to protect the organization from unnecessary government attack.

In the course of discussing the kind of organization that must be built, Nathalia Poses from Miami commented on a "victory in defending the Cuban revolution. Last week, both the Second and Third Secretaries at the Cuba Interests Section [in Wash-

ington, D.C.] came to Miami. It was the first time high-ranking officials of this stature have come to Miami since the revolution [in 1959]. The YS participated in organizing the event. We learned how to organize the meeting in regards to security," she said.

There was also some discussion on the recent decision by the national committees of the YS and SWP to establish joint fractions in the industrial trade unions. This means members of both organizations who belong to the same industry organize their political work on the job and in the union together in a centralized way. Young Socialists discussed the questions of these joint fractions raised from concrete experiences. Andrew Blake, a delegate from Atlanta, explained that his workplace had recently been unionized by the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE). He was convinced after being on the job for about a month that it was most effective politically to do propaganda work collectively with other communists in that union.

World Festival of Youth and Students

There was a lot of discussion around the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held this July and August in Cuba.

The international gathering will provide an opportunity for discussion and debate on a broad range of political questions: from anti-imperialist struggles, to the environment; from the fight for women's rights and Black liberation, to employment, education and culture, and fighting fascism among others.

Delegates and conference participants discussed reaching out to leaders of struggles here who are involved in Chicano and Black rights, immigrant rights, and women's rights, as well as trade unionists, student body leaders, and others, in order to bring a broad delegation to attend the youth festival.

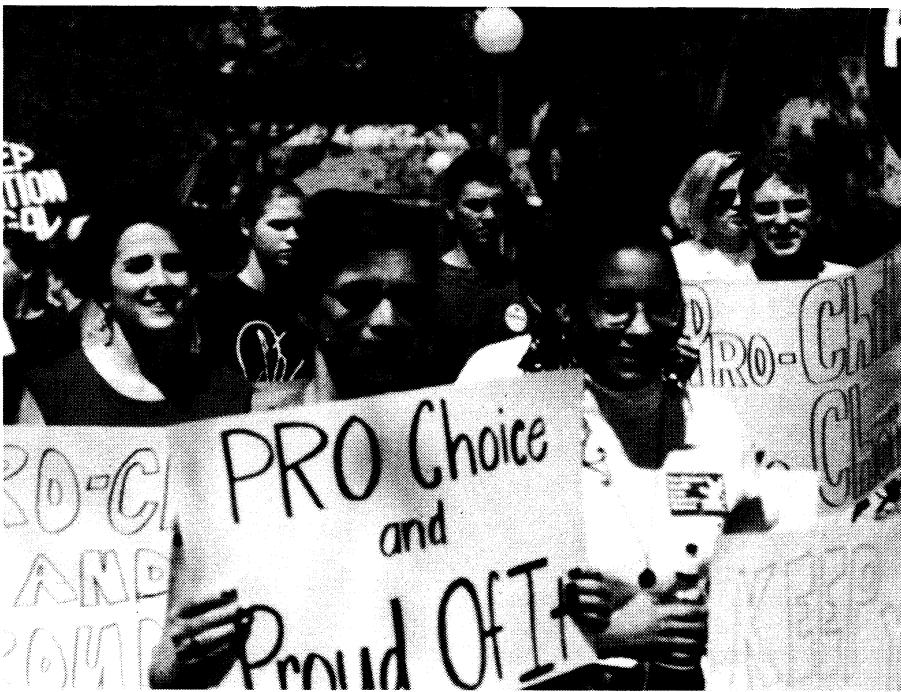
"The propaganda work and education we do leading up to the festival will put us in a better position to explain working-class politics," said Poses in her report.

"What will strengthen the YS the most is not the festival itself, but what we do leading up to it." Part of this strengthening will be "working in the mass movement with other tendencies and us fighting to become a force in politics and to get known by other people and organizations. This is part of becoming what Lenin called being a professional revolutionary."

In Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, the YS chapter has been setting up meetings with student groups at several colleges and universities. Aaron Armstrong, a delegate from St. Paul, told the convention that YS members had "gone out and set up meetings, not with individuals, but with leaders of organizations. The idea is to present the world youth festival to an entire organization, encouraging them to send a representative or two. They will be able to meet other young fighters from around the world and share their experiences."

Sarah Katz, also a delegate from St. Paul,

Students protest attack on abortion rights in Texas



Militant/ Barbara Graham

A hundred people marched at Texas A&M campus March 22 to protest a parental notification bill currently making its way through the Texas legislature, and to support women's right to legal abortion. Called by that campus' chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), it was the first pro-choice march and rally held there. Participants in the march included representatives from the AGS Democrats; NOW, whose president Patricia Ireland addressed the rally; Planned Parenthood; Rape Crisis Center; the University of Houston; and the Young Socialists. Some 35 opponents of abortion rights held a counterprotest.

said, "Strengthening working relationships with other organizations will enable the YS, when new developments take place in politics, to have more people we can collaborate with." She explained how Young Socialists met with a leader of the Africana Student Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota and a local leader of the National Organization for Women, who is organizing to get young women to the upcoming Young Feminist Summit.

A strengthening of the YS

Willey concluded, "Over the course of the past 4-5 months, the Young Socialists as an organization has begun transforming from loosely affiliated groupings of fighters around the country to a more homogeneous, cohesive and confident national organization. Although the YS is roughly the same size as at last year's convention, we're a much different organization. We're more tested and more effective in politics" and therefore in a better position to recruit and hold new members.

Maryanne Russo, a delegate from Des Moines, Iowa, pointed out that the YS is "closing the gap between organizing and politics, and with that our politics have deepened."

Poses and Willey, in their summaries to the convention, drew out the conclusions of

the discussion. What has been conquered in organizing the Young Socialists over the past several months, they explained, puts it in the strongest position to turn out into politics. The campaign to sell thousands of books to young fighters over the course of the next few months and to build a broad delegation to the World Festival of Youth and Students, made up of political activists, are the two main vehicles that will propel the organization forward, the convention concluded.

In line with this, the YS delegates elected a new National Committee, which include a broader layer of leadership from the south, including from Atlanta, Houston, and Miami (see list on this page).

YOUNG SOCIALISTS NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Elected March 30, 1997

Regular members

Tom Alter
José Aravena
Joshua Carroll
Lief Gutthuidaschmitt
Ryan Kelly
Diana Newberry
Meg Novak
Cecilia Ortega
Nathalia Poses
Verónica Poses
Brian Taylor
Jack Willey

Alternate members

1. Caroline Bengu
2. Doug Nelson
3. Sarah Katz
4. Paul Pederson

March and rally for strawberry pickers

Sunday, April 13
Watsonville, California

For more information or bus transportation call:
(408) 763-4820 or (213) 387-1974

LETTERS

Send sub to prisoner

Marian Hansen, a reader of the *Militant* and supporter of the SWP, died March 18th. She had participated in demonstrations in defense of Cuba and the workers' struggles in El Salvador and Nicaragua. She also protested against the draft, and nuclear power and arms. Marian often attended Militant Labor Forums and SWP campaign events.

It is requested that any issues remaining on her *Militant* subscription be sent to a worker behind bars. She has also requested that donations be sent to the Militant Fund campaign so that others will be able to read the truth about the cruelty of capitalism and the fights that workers are waging against it in order to create a humane world.

Sylvia Hansen
Santee, California

More on O.J. Simpson

A co-worker, after reading Naomi Craine's commentary on the second O.J. Simpson trial, began a conversation with me strongly disagreeing with the position taken in

the article. He also raised arguments similar to one's made by Kathleen Denny printed March 31.

One of the differences between the

Simpson re-trial and those inaugurated by the federal government in the 1960s is that, in those days, perpetrators of bigoted inspired violence

were always found innocent by all-white juries no matter how blatant the crimes were that they committed against Blacks in the South. The initial trials were not trials at all.

There is another matter at stake in the civil action against Simpson. I believe class conscious workers are in favor of individuals being able to sue corporations and the capitalist state for financial compensation for the suffering and hardship caused by their actions and it goes without saying that the individuals involved in these actions should be held criminally liable. However, I don't think class conscious workers favor either the state or private individuals being able to sue other individuals for financial compensation.

This is aimed at trying to pauperize the working class and represents, therefore, a danger to the class regardless of whether the person is innocent or guilty. It also only one step away from reinstituting debtor's prison, a thing abolished with the American Revolution of 1776.

John Votava

Chicago, Illinois

Notes from subscribers

I did not renew sub to *People's Weekly World*. It indirectly supported President. Clinton, by not criticizing him during the November election. That did it! For the revolution...

J.E.

Hot Springs, Montana

Less coverage about problems with capitalism — we know this. Talk about solutions — what we can do to help, in our communities, in a realistic way. (Positive promotion of socialism).

G.L.

Pontiac, Michigan

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.



'Imperialism will have to fight us to the death,' says Fidel Castro

Cuban president denounces Washington's threats against revolution

Below, we reprint a speech given by Cuban president Fidel Castro March 15 in Havana's Revolution Square. He spoke at a ceremony on the Declaration of the 20th Century Independence Fighters. More than 250,000 officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR), the reserves, and the Ministry of the Interior signed this document over the last several weeks, and the signatures were presented to the Cuban president and to Minister of the FAR Raúl Castro. The declaration affirms the Cuban people's determination to defend their sovereignty and socialist revolution. The speech was published March 18 in the Cuban daily *Granma*. Translation, subheadings, and footnotes are by the *Militant*.

BY FIDEL CASTRO

Dear Comrades:

I did not want this ceremony to end without offering some brief reflections. I believe this a historical day, in the real sense of the word. Because today we are doing exactly the same thing that our *mambís* did 119 years ago.¹ It is not a formal protest, it is a real protest, because we see ourselves exactly as we did in those days, when we were offered peace without independence, peace without honor, peace without dignity, without equity, without justice, when we were asked to renounce 100 years of bloodshed and sacrifices.

We must profoundly meditate on these events. Forty years ago today, 12 men marched through the mountains. We were in search of some comrades, who were eventually found in different locations, waiting for reinforcements sent by Frank País from Santiago de Cuba.²

Who were those 12 men? What would become of us, a small handful of men? At that time we were not concerned about the number of our enemies. For each one of us there were 6,000 or 7,000 enemies to defeat. All their weapons were supplied by the United States, including the most efficient conventional weapons of that time: combat rifles, semiautomatic and automatic weapons, machine guns of all calibers, mortars, cannons, war ships, airplanes. In addition, we had to fight under very difficult conditions: almost barefoot, with shoes that were falling apart, worn out clothes, hungry, cold, without medicine, and without life's most basic necessities. We had to climb steep hills, cross mountains and difficult terrain, constantly climbing and descending. We never doubted for one moment, however, that we would be victorious.

Today we are facing a very powerful enemy. We know that. But we are millions of



Granma/Juvenal Balan

Fidel Castro condemns Clinton administration's cynical "proposal" for a "transitional government" in Cuba. Some quarter-million military officers signed Declaration of the 20th Century Independence Fighters, proclaiming that "there is no gold nor force in the world capable of making us lay down the sword we have inherited from our forebearers."

armed men and women who know very well the cause we are defending, who know what we are defending, because we have learned it well, much better than we understood things then. We know the enemy much better than we knew him then.

We are an armed people, with rigorously trained leaders. How many of us had graduated from a military academy then? None of us. How many officers on active duty and in the reserves do we have today? Over 250,000 officers. The day we numbered 100 combatants in the Sierra Maestra, it was equivalent to one for each 2,500 officers today.

'We are an armed people'

Today, we are incomparably stronger. Our country's prestige is immense. We are truly — and these are not just words — the hope of hundreds of millions, perhaps billions of people around the world, who hate and increasingly repudiate this unipolar world in which the powerful empire makes less and less effort to conceal its pretensions to be master of the world.

We are defending today a greater, even more noble cause. It used to be a patriotic cause. Today however, as is stated in the declaration, we defend a world cause. Today we have a more sacred commitment. Today, much more is at stake. In the past, they had scorn for us; today they detest us. They can no longer afford to look down upon us. Instead, the imperialists hate us with all their might.

Defeat then would have meant the death of hundreds or thousands of combatants; defeat today would mean the death and suffering of millions of men and women in our country. It would be the tragedy of an entire people, the destiny of a nation, of this country that we have built, that we have created, after almost 40 years of struggle, of aggression and hostilities, and of a criminal economic blockade intended to suffocate us, strangle us. We have not only fulfilled an obligation to defend the revolution. We proved capable of being generous enough to help the cause of the international revolutionary movement and of the independence and liberty of other peoples.

Why did we not achieve our independence in 1898?³ The declaration here explains what happened: They disarmed the Liberation Army. This is the first thing they did after they asked for its support during their opportunistic war against Spain. After they had made them shed their blood in the

battle of Santiago de Cuba, they refused to give people who had been fighting for 30 years permission to enter Santiago de Cuba. What an affront! What a humiliation!

This is why on that January 1 [1959] we said: This time the *mambís* will enter Santiago de Cuba. On that occasion there was also an effort to prevent us from entering. It was attempted in a different way, with a last-minute coup d'état with which they tried to continue to dominate the country. They believed they could fool the people again but they did not fool a single Cuban. We entered Santiago de Cuba and all the other barracks in the country. What they would have given then to be facing a disarmed people, a disarmed army!

Our predecessors, fooled by the idea that this neighbor could have good intentions — many believed this although the most insightful were able to see the true situation — surrendered their weapons. The invaders were so miserable that they gave them a sum of money for each rifle.

Our revolution not only kept the Rebel Army equipped with weapons, but also delivered weapons to the people. We armed the people with as many weapons as we had. We bought weapons. We did it in a western

country, so that they would not start spouting the anticommunism story. We remember very well that we were in the building that housed the Agrarian Reform Institute, which is the building where the Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry now has its headquarters, when we heard a tremendous explosion in the port area. A tall, dense column of smoke went up.

We knew a ship was unloading weapons from Belgium, and we immediately realized that there had been an explosion on the ship. We imagined how many victims had to be there, but it was even worse than we had thought. This was definitely organized abroad, at the time the ship was loaded. Twenty minutes or so later, as we were headed toward the area, there was another explosion. The aim was not only to kill the workers and soldiers unloading the ship; but also, with a second explosion, those who came later. This was so terrible that it will never be forgotten.⁴

Then we began purchasing weapons in socialist countries and more and more ships began to arrive. Thousands of ships arrived with weapons for this country, and no other ship exploded.

Someday history will have the documents, which must be in some CIA file, on how they blew up *La Coubre*, although this will take time because they decide which documents are to be made known and which not.

History of U.S. aggression toward Cuba

As time went by and we better understood that our country's defense was going to be in no hands other than our own — exclusively, since we had some experience by then and had reached the logical and very rational conclusion that we had to assure our defense using our own forces — we set ourselves the task of purchasing millions of additional weapons and we developed the concept of war of the entire people, a concept rooted in our history. How right we were in doing this! Especially considering what came later.

Our weapons are there — well cared for, zealously maintained — and there are millions of men and women trained and organized for war. This is why I say they cannot simply scorn us. The concept of an armed people has been decisive for the survival of

Continued on Page 11

Notes

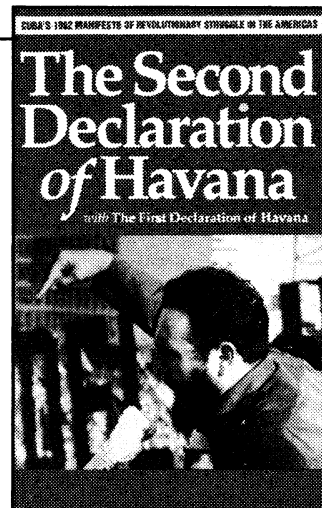
¹ Mambí is a Cuban term referring to the 19th century independence fighters against Spanish colonial rule.

In March 1878, independence fighter Antonio Maceo issued the Baraguá protest, condemning the terms that ended the first war for Cuban independence and vowing to continue the struggle.

² Frank País (1934-1957), the central leader of the revolutionary movement in eastern Cuba, headed the urban militias of the July 26 Movement. He was murdered by forces of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in July 1957.

³ In 1898, following a four-year war for independence, Cuba ended Spanish colonial rule. Victory was immediately followed, however, by U.S. military occupation.

⁴ Eighty-one people were killed when *La Coubre*, a French ship carrying Belgian arms, exploded in Havana harbor in March 1960.



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping and handling.

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