

# 'Immigrant workers should have full rights'

INS detains deaf workers who were in forced servitude

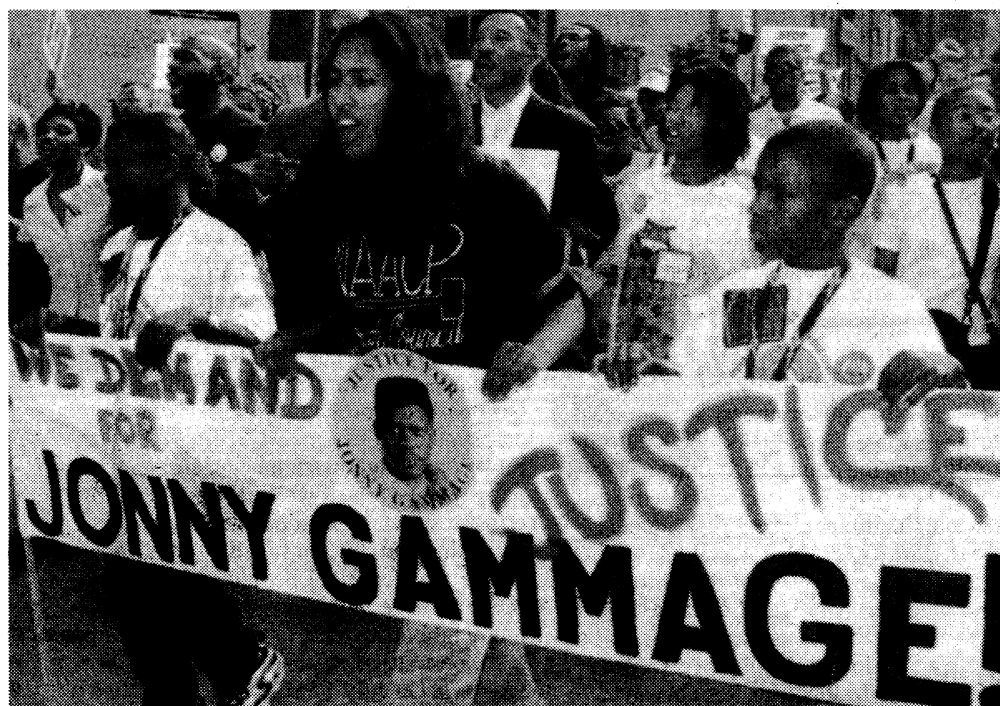
BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK — Fifty-seven immigrant workers from Mexico are being held incommunicado and under house arrest by New York City authorities and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in a Queens motel. The immigrants, including 12 children, were taken into custody in handcuffs following a raid by New York City police of two apartments in the mainly-Latino community of Jackson Heights, Queens. The INS, which has taken over jurisdiction of the case, has threatened to deport the immigrants. According to press reports, the police raid took place in the early hours Saturday, July 19, following a complaint by four of the workers of extreme abuse and being held in virtual bondage by their bosses, crammed into two small apartments.

The workers, all of whom are deaf, said they had been forced to labor up to 18 hours a day selling trinkets on subway cars, and at area airports and malls. The *New York Times* reported workers saying they had been treated to frequent beatings. Several of the women said they were sexually abused by their bosses. According to these accounts,

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## No to police brutality!



One thousand people rallied in Pittsburgh July 15 demanding prosecution of cops who killed Jonny Gammage. Many of the demonstrators were in town to attend the NAACP convention. For coverage of the convention, see page 7.

# NATO troops kill man in Bosnia

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Washington escalated its war preparations in Bosnia, when NATO troops killed one Serb and seized another man July 10 during two coordinated military assaults in the town of Prijedor. An unnamed military official said NATO warplanes were prepared to launch air strikes against a range of targets if they met stiff resistance, according to the July 19 *Washington Post*.

The two NATO operations were organized to arrest the men, who didn't know they were being sought. They were named in secret indictments in March for alleged war crimes. Officials of the imperialist "war crimes tribunal" in the Hague, Netherlands, refuse to say how many others in Bosnia may be indicted secretly. The tribunal sentenced Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb, to 20 years in prison July 14 for alleged participation in an "ethnic cleansing" campaign against Muslim civilians in 1992.

The NATO attacks provoked outrage among many Bosnian Serbs and some have begun to organize retaliatory measures against the U.S. and British occupation forces.

With the approval of their prime minister Anthony Blair, British government officials who planned the operation said the raids "were the first ones, but not the last ones." The "snatch force," backed by U.S. helicopters and logistical support, was given the OK by U.S. president William Clinton

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# Boeing merger almost sparks trade war

BY SCOTT BREEN

SEATTLE, Washington — On July 23, the European Union endorsed the main points of the planned merger between Boeing Co. and McDonnell-Douglas Corp., but delayed formal approval for another week. The EU had threatened to veto the

merger and levy hefty fines on Boeing, raising the specter of a trade war between Washington and its competitors in Europe.

At the same time, Boeing and the big-business press in the United States have used the dispute to draw workers behind a nationalist framework of defending "our"

company and "our" country, and to justify demands for concessions from the unions. Boeing's competitors in Europe are doing the same.

U.S. president William Clinton stepped in, warning that Washington would retaliate if the EU went ahead with the announced sanctions. "We have a system for managing this through the World Trade Organization and we have some options ourselves when actions are taken by Europe in this regard," Clinton stated a few days before the July 23 meeting in Brussels of the European Commission, the EU executive body. U.S. government officials had hinted they may impose import duties on aircraft manufactured in Europe and restrictions on flights from Europe.

With the \$14 billion acquisition of McDonnell-Douglas, scheduled to go into effect August 4, Boeing will take a major step toward greater hegemony in the aerospace industry around the globe — controlling two-thirds of the world commercial jet market and becoming the second largest military supplier to the U.S. government. The prospect has upset capitalist powers in Europe that are the main competitors of the Seattle-based giant.

Jean Pierson, Airbus Industrie's general manager, charged Boeing with trying to "monopolize the civil aviation manufacturing sector." Airbus is a consortium of four aerospace companies created by the governments of Britain, France, Germany, and Spain. Its share of the commercial jet aircraft market has been about 35 percent, compared with Boeing's 60 percent and McDonnell Douglas's 5 percent.

"We have reached a satisfactory conclusion with Boeing," said Karel Van Miert,

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# GM workers in Michigan strike another parts plant

BY JOHN SARGE

WARREN, Michigan — In this industrial city just north of Detroit, 2,800 members of United Auto Workers Local 909 walked out of the General Motors Powertrain plant at 12:01 a.m., July 23. This is the sixth strike at GM so far this year. Just days before, auto workers at an assembly plant in nearby Pontiac ended their 87-day work stoppage after approving a new contract.

As in the other strikes against the world's largest auto maker, the issue is "manpower," said Jackie Kelly, the union local's recording secretary. "I have 22 years seniority, 200 hours of vacation that I can't take because there are no workers to replace me." She explained that the plant, which builds transmissions and wheels, hasn't hired any workers since 1985, except for people transferring in after being forced out of other GM facilities.

"They have even tried to make people come back into work with casts on their arms and legs to fill the jobs," Kelly said.

Cheryl Bell, a sanitation worker with 21 years in the plant, noted that three years ago there were 28 people in her department, but

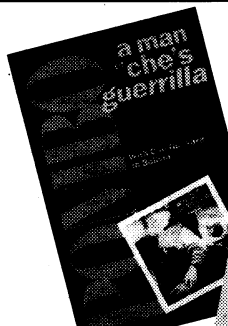
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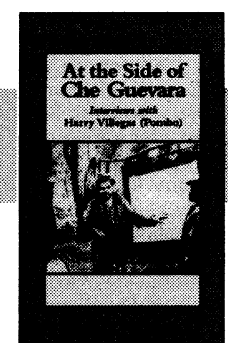


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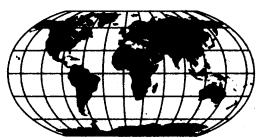


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## Kenya students: 'Moi must go!'

Student protests have exploded in Kenya, demanding the repeal of colonial laws that give President Daniel arap Moi the advantage in upcoming elections. Thousands of students from Kenya Polytechnic occupied Haile Selassie Avenue July 14-15, in the capital Nairobi, calling for the Moi's ouster and demanding a democratically run election. They erected barricades and set burning tires down. Police battled protesters for three and a half hours with plastic bullets, tear gas, and batons, as students attempted to retake their campus. At least nine protesters were killed the previous week, when the cops broke up antigovernment rallies. In face of this, the German government, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other capitalist investors have given Moi an ultimatum to restore stability or face suspension of aid and loans.

## Strikes spread across Zimbabwe

Strikes, protests, and slow downs occurred throughout Zimbabwe in early July, as workers demanded increased wages and benefits. Trying to stem the actions, the government agreed to raises of more than 30 percent for construction, railroad, clothing, and communications workers. Now private sector unionists are demanding the same. Catering workers struck the hotels, rejecting an offered 34 percent raise as insufficient. Railroad, clothing and construction workers also continued to strike as of July 15. Real wages in that African country have fallen 40 percent in the past year, and inflation stands at 25 percent. Estimated official unemployment hovers at 35 percent. Meanwhile the government has been promising the IMF that it is committed to pushing austerity measures to lower the budget deficit.

## Chinese workers fight layoffs

Tens of thousands of workers have reportedly taken part in actions in southwestern China demanding payments of unemployment benefits and protesting layoffs and factory closings. Protests began in Mianyang, Sichuan province, in late June when 100,000 unemployed textile workers rallied calling for government assistance. On July 10, cops attacked protesters there, injuring 100



Thousands in Lima, Peru, demonstrate against Fujimori regime in mid-July.

people and arresting more than 80, according to a report by the U.S.-based Human Rights in China group. The *Far Eastern Economic Review* reported that in March, workers in a silk factory in Nanchong, also in Sichuan, took a manager hostage and occupied City Hall for 30 hours demanding six months back wages.

## More devaluations in S.E. Asia

Several other governments in southeast Asia were forced to devalue their currencies following the plunge of the bhat in Thailand at the start of July. The ringgit, Malaysia's national currency, dropped 1.8 percent against the U.S. dollar July 14. This followed the devaluation of the Philippine peso a week earlier. The Singapore dollar also slid 0.6 percent against the U.S. dollar July 17, to its lowest level since February 1995, and the Indonesian rupiah wavered July 14.

Interest rates shot up in Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines as a result of the currency crisis. Meanwhile the Thai government, whose currency has dropped 20 percent, has reportedly appealed to Tokyo for a bail out, along the lines of the package of

loans and guarantees that Washington used to hold up the Mexican peso in 1994, at a profit bonanza.

## India: No to caste discrimination

On July 11, in Bombay, India, an unidentified person hung shoes around the statue of a popular anticolonial fighter among the Dalits, the lowest caste in the Hindu system, known as the "untouchables." This vandalism sparked protests by hundreds of people. Cops attacked the action, killing 10. Demonstrators fought back hurling stones at the cops. Thousands of working people poured into the streets of Bombay and surrounding areas the next day, outraged at the killings. Police arrested 2,111 people and killed two more protesters. Actions then sprung up in the neighboring state of Gujarat, including a general strike of that states lower-caste workers. On July 17 cops shot and killed a young protester there.

Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi defended the unprovoked lethal force used by the cops saying, "thousands more would have been injured if the police did not resort to firing." Meanwhile, the parliament elected K.R. Narayanan president. He is the first Dalit to hold this office.

## Nuke workers march on Moscow

In early July, workers at the state-owned nuclear power plant in Smolensk, Russia, mounted a two-week, 360-kilometer march into Moscow demanding payment of back wages. Wearing their white protective gear, they were joined by workers from four other reactors and others. The protesters scored a victory July 17 when they forced deputy prime minister Boris Nemtsov to agree to an immediate payment of \$4.4 million in back wages, and a promise to pay workers on time to the year's end.

## Floods devastate Europe

Thousands people from Poland, the Czech

Republic, and Germany face massive devastation from flooding of the Oder River. Nearly 100 people were killed in the first two weeks of the deluge. Some 140,000 people have evacuated the more than 650,000 acres of land currently under water in Poland alone. Polish officials say 36 more villages may still be flooded. With a possible second flood on the way, tens of thousands of people are also prepared to evacuate their homes in the Czech Republic and eastern Germany.

## Peru protests reject gov't spying

Protests are mounting in Peru over widespread government wiretapping and other attacks on democratic rights. On July 17 thousands marched through downtown Lima, the capital, protesting government spying and Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori's stripping away the citizenship of Baruch Ivcher, owner of a television station that criticized the regime. Cops with water cannons, and dogs were unable to quell the protests. At least five Peruvian cabinet members have resigned under the pressure of the protests — the largest since Fujimori came to power in 1990 — while the president's popularity has waned.

In late June, in face of an ongoing fight against the jailing of political activists and subhuman prison conditions, Fujimori was forced to release 116 inmates due to insufficient evidence, and ease some conditions. Families of prisoners will now have weekly instead of monthly visitation rights. Meanwhile, Washington on July 6 sent trainers, personnel, arms, and other equipment to Peru, in the name of providing assistance in the so-called "war on drugs."

## Georgia prisoners tell of abuse

Special-trained, black-suited cops are carrying out violent prison raids in Georgia while conducting "contraband searches," inmates have charged. Overseen by State Corrections Commissioner Wayne Garner, cops handcuff, hog tie, and beat inmates, and destroy their property. In one case in January 1996, prison guards at Wayne prison picked up inmate Frank Snyder "many times and dropped him face down in the pavement." They punched him in the groin with riot batons and "stepped on his penis," a fellow inmate of Snyder told his grandmother. Prisoners also say they are refused medical attention. Garner denies the allegations, though dozens of inmates and at least eight guards and other prison staff said they witnessed the acts. Garner has eliminated educational and substance abuse programs, fired more than 300 teachers and counselors, and moved to dismantle recreation and rehabilitation programs. Prisoners have filed lawsuits over the abuse and called the media to protest, and the NAACP has called for Garner's resignation.

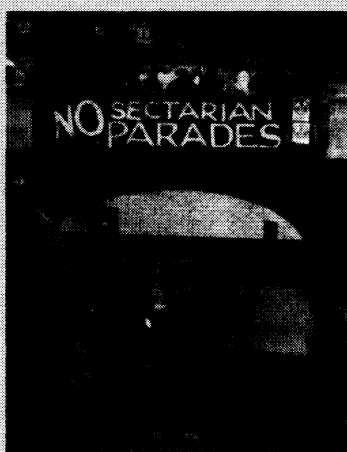
— BRIAN TAYLOR

Bob Braxton of Atlanta contributed to this column.

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# EU probes expanding east and cutting farm subsidies

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The European Commission, the executive body of the European Union (EU), adopted its "Agenda 2000" plan July 16. This plan includes the enlargement of the EU into Central and Eastern Europe, as well as cuts in agricultural subsidies to member countries. But implementation of the plan will be far from smooth. The commission recommended that the EU begin membership negotiations with five of the former Soviet-bloc countries: the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Poland, and Estonia. Cyprus is also invited to the membership negotiations.

Five other applicants — Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia — were told they had to do more to prepare to join the EU. The Turkish government's application for EU membership was earlier dismissed by the commission, which cited economic and human rights grounds.

The decision to consider Cyprus was not well received in Ankara. Bulent Ecevit, Turkey's deputy prime minister, threatened to annex the northern third of Cyprus, which is occupied by Turkish forces, if the EU proceeds with plans to include the Greek-backed Cypriot government in the membership negotiations.

The various EU members backed different candidates for the EU expansion, based on their often competing interests. Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm Wallen, in an article published July 16 in the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter*, stated, "Sweden will work with the aim that the three Baltic states [Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia] and Poland will become members in EU as soon as possible. We want to see these four countries together with all the other applicants in joint negotiations. The main road to security and cooperation in Europe as I see it is the European Union and its enlargement eastward." Wallen noted that at the recent EU summit in Amsterdam, "Sweden and Finland won support for the proposal that the EU should even be able to act in peacekeeping missions." Early EU membership for the Baltic states has also been pushed by Washington, Copenhagen, and Helsinki.

Bonn particularly supports Poland's en-

try into the EU. On July 14, German chancellor Helmut Kohl described relations with Poland as the best in the century. This first consultative conference between ministers of the German and Polish governments is projected to develop into an annual event.

It's not automatic that any of these candidates will actually be taken into EU membership. The commission stressed that the prospective members must carry out much deeper "restructuring" — such as speeding up privatization of state-owned industry — before they will be admitted to the European trade bloc. In addition, the EU governments failed to reach an agreement in Amsterdam over how to restructure the union when new members are admitted; all the differences were simply postponed.

European Commission president Jacques Santer called for cuts in farm subsidies, which now account for about half the EU's \$100 billion annual budget, to be partly offset by direct income payments to farmers. He also proposed restricting the number of EU regions qualifying for industrial and development aid. These measures would free up funds for a "new Marshall Plan" to help the 10 eastern countries prepare for membership, Santer said. Under the Marshall Plan, Washington provided \$13 billion in loans to restart industry in Europe after World War II. This scheme helped to codify U.S. hegemony in Western Europe and stave off further revolutionary struggles.

The Commission adopted a financial framework that projects carrying out the expansion with no increase in the overall funding from member states, but it counts on 2.5 percent annual growth in Gross Domestic Product in the years to come.

The proposed budget reforms got a favorable response in Stockholm and London. These governments are small net contributors to the budget, and capitalists farmers in Sweden and the United Kingdom do not get much of the subsidies. London negotiated rebates in its payments to the EU in the mid-1980s after Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher waged a battle within the EU. Stockholm, Helsinki, and Vienna also got rebates when they joined in the 1990s, which will expire in 1999. The German govern-

ment, on the other hand, considers its net contribution too high after the enormous costs of German reunification. As negotiations on the EU expansion continue, the rebates will probably be a point of contention.

Bonn is the biggest net payer and wants its payments reduced, but opposes cutting the farm subsidies to the capitalist farmers in Germany. At the same time, it worries that agricultural subsidies to eastern countries will become a further financial strain to the rulers in Germany.

In Latvia and Lithuania, 20 percent and 33 percent of the population respectively, are engaged in agriculture, while in Estonia the figure is 15 percent. According to the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter*, that is a major reason why only Estonia is among the first to be negotiated into the EU.

Nevertheless, Bonn has taken a lead in pushing for the admission of Poland, which is a big agricultural producer. This has become politically important for the German government, especially with the expansion of NATO to include its eastern neighbor. The French Farm Ministry immediately rejected the proposed cuts in farm support as unacceptable. Protests by farmers over sinking incomes due to changes in EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) have been frequent in France and Greece over the last years. Rome and Madrid are also big net recipients of EU funds and oppose them being diverted east.

## NATO expansion drive

The enlargement of the EU intersects with the expansion of NATO as a war drive by the imperialists in Europe and North America aimed at breaking the Russian



Implementing expansion of EU east is easier said than done

workers state and opening the door to capitalist domination. Following the NATO summit in early July that decided to extend membership in the military alliance to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, both U.S. president William Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright traveled to Europe to tout the scheme and also encourage EU membership for the Baltic states.

According to reports in the Swedish press, in St. Petersburg on July 13 Albright bluntly told her Russian hosts that the Baltic states have the right to join NATO. Interviewed on Russian TV she said, "We have all the time said that NATO is open to all European countries with a free market," when asked about the Baltic states, and added, "It is completely irrelevant where these countries are located on the map." She met the three Baltic foreign ministers in Vilnius, Lithuania, later that day and said that the Baltic states are "serious candidates" for future membership.

Russian president Boris Yeltsin, after a meeting with Finnish president Martti Ahtisaar in Moscow July 13, said, "NATO membership for the Baltic states would jeopardize Russian security. Moscow will strongly resist that these countries become NATO members."

Meanwhile, in mid-July Estonia hosted the biggest military exercise led by NATO in the Baltic countries so far. Some 2,600 soldiers from eight countries are participating in "Baltic Challenge 97." Most of them are from the United States but they also include Swedish forces. The war games on the sea, land, and air use the scenario of a big earthquake in which aid is facilitated by military personnel. The center of the exercise is in the former top-secret Soviet navy base in Paldiski. At the NATO meeting in Madrid, Estonian president Lennart Meri was asked why it was necessary to expand NATO. He replied, "It is said that communism is dead but no one has yet seen the corpse."

Carl-Erik Isacsson is a member of the metalworkers union in Södertälje, Sweden.

# Bombs explode at two hotels in Cuba

BY HILDA CUZCO

The morning of July 12, bomb blasts ripped through the lobbies of two well-known tourist hotels in Havana, Cuba, leaving three people injured. The explosions that rocked the Capri and National hotels in the busy district of El Vedado occurred 10 minutes apart.

Cuban government officials stated later in the day that they have evidence that the explosions originated in the United States. "The Interior Ministry has evidence that those responsible for these actions, as well as the materials utilized came from the United States," read the statement that was broadcast through Cuban radio and television. Washington denied knowing anything.

Right-wing Cuban groups have been announcing in Spain and Costa Rica a campaign to attack tourist hotels in Cuba, but so far no one has claimed responsibility for the July 12 blasts. Earlier in April, the *Miami Herald* reported a bomb explosion in a discotheque at the Hotel Cohiba, but hotel management blamed it on faulty gas piping. The Cuban government regarded that report as a rumor spread by right-wing Cubans to discourage tourism on the island. In 1996 tourism yielded the Cuban economy more than \$1 billion in income, making it the biggest source for hard currency.

There is a long history of attacks against the Cuban revolution launched from U.S. soil, going back to the 1961 mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs, and before.

In December 1991, Cuban authorities arrested a Cuban counterrevolutionary group with arms and explosives. Eduardo Díaz, the leader of the outfit, who eventually was executed, admitted in a trial that their target were public places. "We were thinking of targeting sugar mills, theaters, tourism centers, etc.," said Díaz. The group also said that they had trained for an armed attack on

Cuba with the knowledge of the U.S. government. Washington denied the charge. That year a hotel in the Cuban resort of Varadero was the target of an attack by counterrevolutionary Cuban-Americans.

In February 1996, Cuban fighter pilots downed two aircraft belonging to the right-wing Miami-based group Brothers to the Rescue, after they entered Cuban airspace despite warnings to stay clear. Over the previous year and a half, the group had carried out 25 incursions into Cuban airspace, including dropping counterrevolutionary propaganda over the island. Cuban officials reported these violations to U.S. authorities, who did nothing to stop them. U.S. president William Clinton then used the shoot-down as a pretext to sign the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, better known as the Helms-Burton law, tightening the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Hours before the recent explosions at the hotels, a flotilla organized by right-wing Cuban groups in Florida was set to sail to commemorate a 1994 accident in which 32 Cubans who were trying to emigrate to the United States drowned. The flotilla's organizers stated beforehand their intent to enter Cuban territorial waters despite warnings from Havana. A U.S. coast guard seized a lead boat when its commander refused to stay out of Cuban waters.

Also on July 12, a Cubana de Aviación plane carrying 44 people from Santiago de Cuba to Havana crashed into the sea, leaving no survivors. Cuban authorities have since determined that the crash was the result of engine failure, not a bomb or fire.

Initial reports had suggested that the crash might have been caused by sabotage. A July 14 article in the New York paper *El Diario/La Prensa* pointed out that the captain of the plane, Jesús Nazareno Jiménez, was one of the witnesses to what Havana has de-

scribed as U.S. biological warfare against Cuba. Early in July, the Cuban government filed a complaint in the United Nations of biological aggression. Last October a Cuban plane spotted a U.S. plane spraying a substance over central Matanzas province. Later entomologists found that a plague of palm thrips, an insect previously unknown in Cuba, had infested a number of crops in precisely that region of the country. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns claims the complaint is "a farce" and "flagrant disinformation."

## Join fight to defend framed-up land activist in Brazil

"On June 11, 1997, José Rainha, a central leader of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) of Brazil, was sentenced to 26 1/2 years in prison." So begins a new brochure giving the facts about this important labor case. It is available from the Ad Hoc Committee to Defend José Rainha, based in Miami.

Rainha was convicted of murder in the death of two men during a 1989 land occupation in the eastern state of Espírito Santo. One hundred families of landless rural workers had peacefully occupied an abandoned plantation, seeking legal title to the land. The plantation owner and a military police officer opened fire on these families. In the gunfire that ensued, the landlord and cop were killed.

One year later, Rainha was arrested and accused of the killings, despite proof that he was at a different land occupation in another state at the time. The only evidence presented against him was state-

ments wrested from workers who were tortured in military police barracks. Nevertheless, he was convicted by a four-to-three vote of a jury. He remains free pending a second trial, scheduled for September 16.

In the United States, the Miami-based defense committee is collecting messages protesting Rainha's conviction, which will be forwarded to Brazil. The ad hoc committee is also urging participation in a delegation to the retrial of Rainha in September.

Protest messages should be addressed to: Juiz de Pedro Canário, prédio do Fórum, CEP 29970-000. Pedro Canário, Espírito Santo, Brazil. Fax: (011) 55-27-764-1478; and mailed to: Ad Hoc Committee to Defend José Rainha, c/o Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), 1501 NW 29th Street, Miami, FL 33142. Tel: (305) 868-5674. Fax (305) 633-7478.



# Meeting celebrates 20 years of SWP in N. Carolina, and openings for socialists

BY PETER THIERJUNG

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — A celebration of working-class history in this region and the Socialist Workers Party's 20 years in North Carolina was held here July 12. The meeting marked the closing of the offices of the SWP branch and the Pathfinder Bookstore.

More than 50 people attended, including workers, youth, and local party supporters, as well as Young Socialists and SWP members from Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; and Birmingham, Alabama. Leaders of the SWP's trade union work from around the country who were meeting here that week-end also joined the celebration.

"The branch is not closing because of a lack of opportunities here," said Peter Thierjung, a member of the Greensboro branch who chaired the event. "It is part of a reorganization to strengthen SWP branches in other cities, a move to take advantage of growing openings to win workers and youth to the socialist movement."

Naomi Craine, editor of the *Militant* and member of the SWP's National Committee, was the evening's featured speaker. In 1992, Craine, a textile worker and leader of the Greensboro branch, was the party's candidate for governor of North Carolina.

"There's an important shift that's taking place today," she noted, in the United States and around the world. "The retreat of the working class has bottomed out, and there is increased resistance by workers who refuse to accept the rulers' demands for sacrifice." She pointed to the elections that had just taken place in Mexico City, where workers overwhelmingly voted out the governing party that had ruled for the last 70 years, and the May elections in France that handed a surprise defeat to the conservatives as reflections of workers' desire to resist.

In the United States, this resistance is reflected in the labor movement. One striking example was the tens of thousands of workers who marched June 21 in Detroit in solidarity with unionists who struck that city's two daily papers for 19 months. The bosses in the region, including the auto giant General Motors, had been looking to this strike to deal a blow to the labor movement that could break workers' spirits.

When the officials of the striking unions made an unconditional back-to-work offer to the news bosses, the rulers thought maybe they had achieved this aim. Instead, workers throughout the Midwest and beyond saw the need to take a stand and turned out for the protest action. This included many workers who had recently been on strike themselves, from GM to Caterpillar.

Another sign of the resistance is the increase in organizing drives. Farm workers in California, Washington state, Florida, and many places in between are currently involved in efforts to unionize and fight for better conditions. This is happening in textile and other industries as well.

This resistance doesn't mean that big class battles are about to break out tomorrow, but it does mean there's greater openings for socialists to recruit and to carry out political work in the trade unions. Socialist workers are looking for and joining in this resistance along with their co-workers and young people who are attracted to the working class.

Craine pointed to the importance of one of the newest books published by Pathfinder Press the Spanish-language edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics — Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*. This book tells the story of what socialist work-

ers have been doing over the last 20 years, and describes the kind of party rooted in the industrial unions that is needed to lead the coming class battles. Among other things, it describes the shifts in working-class politics that led to the SWP's decision to establish a branch in North Carolina in the 1970s.

## Civil rights movement changed South

"The idea that the South is politically backward is a myth," Craine said. "The South is more like the rest of the country than ever before because of the impact of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s, which dismantled 'Jim Crow' racial segregation. That movement was not led by the trade unions, but it was an overwhelmingly working-class movement." Craine noted the Greensboro sit-in battles by Black youth in the early 1960s to desegregate public establishments.

"The confidence and combativeness Black workers gained in defeating Jim Crow had an impact on changing the social consciousness of white workers," Craine said. "This was reflected in the organizing drives and union struggles in the South in the mid and late-1970s. This included an important fight by the Steelworkers union at shipyards in Newport News, Virginia. There Black and white workers were united."

These struggles coincided with the SWP's turn toward basing its political work once again in the industrial unions, Craine said. The turn led to an expansion of the party to several southern cities. The branch in North Carolina was first organized in Raleigh in the mid-1970s. In 1979 the branch moved to this part of the state, an industrial and textile center.

Craine noted that SWP members have supported and been part of efforts by workers to organize unions and win contracts — from a massive Teamster organizing drive in the late 1970s to a current fight by immigrant poultry workers in Morganton to win a contract. Craine pointed to a significant victory last spring when workers fired for union activity won their jobs back at the Fieldcrest Cannon mills in Kannapolis, where more than 6,000 people work. A union organizing drive was narrowly defeated there in 1991. "This points to a future organizing drive," the SWP leader said. "We will be part of this fight as well."

## Response to assault by Klan

On Nov. 3, 1979, Klan and Nazi terrorists gunned down five members of the Communist Workers Party who were leading an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro. Four of those killed were union activists, three were textile workers. Government officials tried to cover up the involvement of cop informers in planning the killings.

"The killings were a calculated move by the ruling class to terrorize working people," Craine said. "The textile bosses used the killings and a red-baiting campaign to drive many fighters out of the mills. But they could not close the political space won by working people in previous struggles."

The SWP responded to the killings by campaigning to expose the government cover-up. Socialist campaign supporters used a 1980 statewide ballot drive to reach out to thousands of working people and build a February 1980 march of more than 7,000 to protest the Klan killings. The petitioners collected nearly 19,000 signatures in 13 days. When the Klan and Nazi killers were acquitted in November 1980, the *Militant* carried front page coverage telling the truth about the killings.



Militant photos: Above, Floyd Fowler; Right, Don Mackle. Labor resistance means openings for socialists to recruit and carry out political work in the trade unions. Above: Greensboro Kmart workers rally during contract fight in 1995. Inset: many youth came to July 12 celebration and left with books.



In the late 1980s, socialist workers active in their unions helped organize support for the 686-day strike of the International Association of Machinists against Eastern Airlines. "Socialists here worked with IAM strikers to visit coal miners on strike at the time against Pittston Coal in southwestern Virginia," Craine said.

The party leader described the branch's experiences during the 1990-91 U.S. war against Iraq and how socialist workers campaigned against the imperialist war among co-workers in textile and other industries.

"We deepened the party's work among industrial workers in response to the war, just as the branch did in response to the Klan killings," Craine explained. "SWP members became known and respected as union fighters and socialists even though many did not agree with all of our views."

Over the last few months, Socialist Workers have joined with co-workers to build protests by Black farmers in Tillery who face bank foreclosures and helped organize a speaking tour here for a leader of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers of Brazil. Last April, the SWP led an emergency protest against an arson attack on this city's abortion clinic.

"Two or three months ago I didn't know who Che Guevara was," William Harris, a worker at the Kmart Distribution Center here, told the meeting. "Now I know that he was about bringing freedom to the Cuban people." Harris, a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Em-

ployees (UNITE) Local 2603, said he first learned about Cuba and socialism when he was introduced to Pathfinder books by a co-worker who is a member of the SWP.

"I didn't know they were socialists. I knew they were part of the fight to win a union contract at Kmart," Williams said. "That's what socialists do. They join fights." Workers at Kmart voted in the union in 1993, and won their first contract last year.

Pointing to Pathfinder titles displayed in the bookstore, Harris said, "In those books you will read about people who fought around the world. The books bring these fights to you. You need to read them."

Others who spoke at the meeting included John Armstrong, a member of the Young Socialists who is attending the World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba. Diane Shur spoke on behalf of party supporters pledging to work with the Atlanta and Washington, D.C., branches to back party campaigns in this area.

Following the meeting, participants took advantage of an 80 percent discount sale and bought 223 titles totaling \$1,138. During the two week's prior to the closing, \$343 were sold including 25 titles to members of UNITE Local 2603. A fund pitch at the meeting netted \$925 in pledges and contributions to the 1997 Pathfinder Fund.

The Greensboro *News and Record*, High Point *Enterprise*, Raleigh *News and Observer*, and TV 45 covered the branch and bookstore closing.

## Toronto: a killer cop will serve no time, another is charged

BY GREG YARDLEY

TORONTO — On July 3 Acting Sergeant Kenneth Deane was sentenced to two years less a day of community service for his role in the death of Stoney Point Indian Dudley George. He will not receive a jail term. "My brother's life comes too cheap to these people," said Pierre George, Dudley's brother. Deane shot George on Sept. 6, 1995, as Ontario Provincial Police advanced on Ipperwash Provincial Park. The park had been occupied for two days by a group of unarmed Stoney Point people, who said it contained a sacred burial ground — a claim later supported by the federal government.

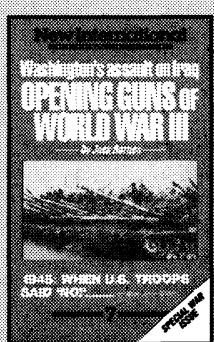
Deane claimed Dudley George was armed with a rifle, forcing Deane to fire to protect the advancing police. However, George had been unarmed. After an investigation, Deane was charged with criminal negligence causing death, a crime that carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The Coalition Against Racist Police Violence organized a press conference demanding that Deane's sentence be appealed. Activists carried out a one-day occupation of the office of Ontario's Attorney-General July 9. Coalition members want a full public inquiry into the death of Dudley George,

to determine the extent of the Ontario government's involvement. "They can't say they didn't have involvement in what happened at Stoney Point," said Joanne Bender, a member of the Coalition.

Meanwhile, on June 26, Police Detective Constable Richard Shank was finally charged by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) with manslaughter in the killing of Hugh Dawson on March 30. This was greeted as a victory by activists in the Coalition Against Racist Police Violence, who had organized demonstrations and picket lines to demand that charges be filed.

Several police officers in plainclothes surrounded Hugh Dawson's car and smashed out the windows with nightsticks and the butt of a shotgun. After other officers struck Dawson in the face with their nightsticks, Shank entered the car through the passenger-side window. Shank claims Dawson then grabbed his gun, although no fingerprints were found. The cop shot Dawson 10 times from less than a foot away. According to witnesses, none of the officers attempted to identify themselves as police to Dawson. Shank had already killed a young Black man in 1993, but was cleared of all wrongdoing.



Available from Pathfinder

## Opening Guns of World War III Washington's Assault on Iraq by Jack Barnes

The U.S. government's murderous assault on Iraq heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, the rise of rightist and fascist forces, growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars. In *New Internationalist* no. 7. Includes "Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime" by Mary-Alice Waters and "Working-Class Campaign against Imperialism and War." \$12.00

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.



SELL THE BOOKS WORKERS OF THE WORLD NEED

Join the campaign to sell Pathfinder books and pamphlets

Many opportunities to sell new titles

Supporters of the *Militant* and the Spanish monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* are finding many opportunities to promote the new Pathfinder title *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*. The book is the first hand account of Harry Villegas, a Cuban fighter who was a member of Che Guevara's general staff during the 1966-68 revolutionary struggle in Bolivia and is today a brigadier general in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces.

"We sold a lot of Pathfinder literature throughout the week-long national convention of the NAACP in Pittsburgh," writes Tony Dutrow, a steelworker there. "Participants snatched up 95 Pathfinder titles, including seven copies of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*, four copies of the pamphlet *At the Side of Che Guevara*, and 32 books by or about Malcolm X.

"We staffed a literature table just outside the doors of the convention center, where we also sold two *Militant* subscriptions and 71 single issues of the paper," he added. "The Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, Edwin Fruit, and his running mate for city council, Leroy Watson, helped staff the table and gathered petitions for their campaign."

One convention participant from Chicago walked up to the table and asked, "What books would you recommend I buy? I need



Militant/Charlene Adamson  
YS leader Verónica Poses selling *Militant* and *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'* at Pittsburgh march against cop brutality July 15.

something to take back with me that would help others understand what we will be facing in the future." She purchased a subscription to the *Militant* and several books, including *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*, *How Far We Slaves Have Come: South Africa and Cuba in Today's World*, *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*, copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* issues no. 7 and no. 10, *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*, and a Pathfinder Readers Club membership.

Many convention delegates expressed interest in the expansion of NATO and the stepped up U.S. war moves after seeing the *Militant's* front page article on that topic. This discussion also spurred sales of such Pathfinder titles as *Fighting Racism in World War II*, along with several copies of *How Far We Slaves Have Come*, featuring speeches by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro, and copies of the Leon Trotsky's pamphlet *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It*.

"In the last two weeks of June we sold seven copies of *At the Side of Che Guevara* and one Spanish-language edition of the pamphlet," said *Militant* supporter Holly Harkness in Detroit. This new title contains two interviews with Harry Villegas. "A lot of customers walked into the bookstore and grabbed for those titles. We also sold three

copies of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'* and eight other books about the Cuban revolution," she added. "We sold 50 Pathfinder titles on July 22, including 40 books where we set up tables across New York City to petition for the Socialist Workers candidates: Olga Rodríguez for mayor, Wendy Lyons for comptroller, and Shoghi Fret for public advocate," said airline worker Nancy Rosenstock. "One Jamaican guy driving an ice cream truck identified with a sign on our table that read 'Defend Cuba's Socialist Revolution,' and readily bought a copy of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*." The petitioners also sold one subscription each to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. "We also sold 10 books at the send off rally for the World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba," Rosenstock added.

Monthly Sales of Pathfinder Books to Non-Pathfinder Outlets

CITY	JUNE			# of books sold		
	GOALS	SOLD	%	MAY	APR	MAR
SAN FRANCISCO	74	239	323%	4	27	54
WASHINGTON, D.C.	42	33	79%	1	75	41
LOS ANGELES	95	62	65%	17	15	237
CHICAGO	60	35	58%	35	56	4
NEW YORK	190	99	52%	65	85	143
PITTSBURGH	49	23	47%	54	0	9
BOSTON	50	19	38%	4	4	12
HOUSTON	32	10	31%	8	22	0
DES MOINES	35	7	20%	13	0	10
SEATTLE	60	11	18%	15	55	47
ATLANTA	32	5	16%	0	1	0
TWIN CITIES	67	10	15%	1	0	319
GREENSBORO	36	4	11%	0	0	0
MIAMI	42	1	2%	0	0	8
PHILADELPHIA	49	1	2%	0	1	30
DETROIT	60	1	2%	0	0	2
NEWARK	133	2	2%	0	0	0
BIRMINGHAM	50	0	0%	0	0	0
CLEVELAND	40	0	0%	8	0	72
MORGANTOWN	25	0	0%	0	0	0
TOTAL	1221	562	46%	225	341	996

Monthly Sales of Pathfinder Books

Countries/Cities	June			Previous Months		
	Goal	Sales	%	May	April	March
AUSTRALIA	36	65	181%	128%	100%	105%
FRANCE	25	44	176%	308%	44%	164%
NEW ZEALAND						
Auckland	45	88	196%	49%	147%	62%
Christchurch	35	50	143%	77%	169%	51%
N.Z. Total	80	138	173%	61%	156%	80%
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	150	300	200%	93%	97%	97%
Manchester*	56	0	0%	0%	113%	0%
U.K. Total	206	300	146%	67%	101%	64%
SWEDEN	55	63	115%	224%	214%	84%
UNITED STATES						
Morgantown	40	198	495%	150%	156%	19%
Des Moines	45	182	404%	333%	196%	16%
Philadelphia	41	89	217%	124%	329%	102%
Pittsburgh	54	105	194%	396%	228%	96%
San Francisco	110	193	175%	280%	229%	113%
Boston	65	106	163%	260%	234%	137%
Atlanta	48	77	160%	277%	179%	156%
Washington, D.C.	64	101	158%	386%	245%	134%
Detroit	54	78	144%	237%	252%	89%
Chicago	77	108	140%	219%	209%	97%
Los Angeles	120	142	118%	289%	413%	94%
Birmingham	40	45	113%	142%	106%	44%
Seattle	80	90	113%	149%	99%	84%
Miami	41	44	107%	251%	198%	107%
Greensboro	42	44	105%	150%	356%	90%
Houston	65	67	103%	122%	125%	97%
New York	245	236	96%	134%	116%	60%
Cleveland	50	25	50%	78%	106%	70%
Newark	171	78	46%	132%	89%	76%
Twin Cities	104	45	43%	138%	166%	29%
U.S. Total	1556	2053	114%	174%	168%	74%
Goal/Should be	1800	1800	100%			
GREECE	13	13	100%	146%	100%	331%
CANADA						
Vancouver	41	83	202%	285%	90%	66%
Toronto	80	60	75%	85%	85%	54%
Montreal*	80	0	0%	183%	91%	40%
Canada Total	201	143	71%	165%	89%	160%
*No new report						

IN THE UNIONS

Unions	Goal	Sales	Total	May	Apr	Mar
UNITED STATES						
UMWA	3	4	133%	33%	33%	133%
UAW	50	43	86%	93%	62%	70%
IAM	60	50	83%	180%	83%	22%
USWA	65	44	68%	107%	102%	33%
UFCW	6	4	67%	583%	83%	183%
UNITE	30	14	47%	177%	138%	31%
UTU	94	26	28%	103%	54%	27%
OCAW	44	12	27%	50%	43%	27%
U.S. Total	352	197	56%	136%	71%	38%
UNITED KINGDOM						
AEEU	5	4	80%	80%	0%	10%
RMT	10	0	0%	10%	13%	0%
TGWU	7	2	29%	14%	114%	29%
Total U.K.	22	6	27%	27%	33%	16%
CANADA						
IAM	8	5	63%	50%	38%	25%
USWA	18	0	0%	38%	42%	60%
Canada Total	26	5	19%	73%	38%	39%
AUSTRALIA						
AMWU	4	0	0%	50%	50%	50%

AEEU — 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; UFCW — 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.

copies of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'* and eight other books about the Cuban revolution," she added.

"We sold 50 Pathfinder titles on July 22, including 40 books where we set up tables across New York City to petition for the Socialist Workers candidates: Olga Rodríguez for mayor, Wendy Lyons for comptroller, and Shoghi Fret for public advocate," said airline worker Nancy Rosenstock. "One Jamaican guy driving an ice cream truck identified with a sign on our table that read 'Defend Cuba's Socialist Revolution,' and readily bought a copy of *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*." The petitioners also sold one subscription each to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. "We also sold 10 books at the send off rally for the World Festival of Youth and Students in Cuba," Rosenstock added.

Goals to sell books, *Militant* renewals

Socialist workers and members of the Young Socialists will be concentrating their efforts from August 1–September 1 to sell the newest titles published by Pathfinder: *Pombo: A Man of Che's 'Guerrilla'*, *At the Side of Che Guevara*, and the Spanish-language edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*. Selling the English edition of this book will also be a part of the campaign. Pathfinder is making a special sales offer on these titles, advertised on the front page.

At the same time the *Militant* is organizing a three-week subscription renewal drive of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, from August 2–August 24. The next *Militant* will list local goals in these efforts.

Canada: Pathfinder supporters build new distribution center

BY GREG YARDLEY

TORONTO — Construction began July 8 to turn the basement of the Pathfinder bookstore here into the new Canadian distribution center for Pathfinder Press. This will mean a big cost savings over the commercial distributorship currently in use.

The distribution center is scheduled to begin operating on August 17. To get it up and running requires moving and constructing walls, installing electrical outlets and phone lines, and purchasing shelving, furniture, and computer equipment. Anyone in the Toronto area who wishes to help with the construction can call (416) 533-4324.

# Imperialists step up war moves in Bosnia

Continued from front page

on July 5. "Our mandate is to arrest people who have been accused of war crimes and turn them over for trial," Clinton said at a July 9 news conference in Madrid, on the eve of the NATO summit there that extended invitations to Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to join the Atlantic imperialist alliance.

NATO secretary general Javier Solana authorized the military operation three months earlier. The assault was carried out by crack troops from the British Special Air Service (SAS), who spent most of June rehearsing before flying to Bosnia from Britain. London has 5,300 soldiers occupying parts of Bosnia, the second largest imperialist military force deployed there, after Washington's 8,500 GIs.

Simo Drljaca, a former police chief, was shot by the NATO soldiers who claimed "self defense" when they fired. The other man, Milan Kovacevic, director of a hospital in Prijedor, was seized by the SAS team that approached the hospital disguised as a Red Cross unit. Kovacevic was whisked off to the tribunal in the Hague. Former mayor of Vukovar, Slavko Dokmanovic, a Croatian, was also apprehended a few days earlier in a surprise arrest.

In response to these assaults, Serbs in Bosnia have waged small-scale guerrilla attacks against NATO forces. At least eight retaliatory explosions have been reported so far. On July 16 four grenades were thrown at the British military base in Banja Luka. Three of them exploded without injuring anyone. That same day, someone stabbed a U.S. soldier with a garden-sized sickle. Another grenade exploded July 19 at a NATO compound in Mrkonjic Grad, damaging two military vehicles.

U.S. officials have demanded from the Bosnian Serb leadership to halt this resistance. These attacks are "intolerable and if not ended, could pull us down an extremely dangerous road," warned U.S. ambassador to the United Nations William Richardson. U.S. Gen. William Crouch, commander of NATO's "Stabilization Force" said the military alliance will "not be deterred from carrying out its mission."

## Manhunt to catch the 'big fish'

NATO officials claim no decision has been made yet to mandate the occupation forces to track down alleged war criminals. At the same time, the capitalist media and most bourgeois politicians are united in a campaign to win support for initiating a military manhunt for chauvinist Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and former military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic. "Warfare spawns brutality," warned the July 19 *Economist*, but "despite the risks of casualties, NATO should not flinch from trying to seize him [Karadzic] at the right moment."

An article in the July 12 *New York Times* headlined "Now, NATO troops should catch the big fish," former Swedish prime minister Carl Bildt called for "coordinated military and political" operations to "arrest the most important people indicted for war crimes." Bildt, who was appointed as the

civilian representative to oversee implementation of the U.S.-crafted Dayton accords that partitioned Bosnia and paved the way for the NATO invasion, said the NATO mission will not end by June 30, 1998, the deadline the Clinton administration has set for withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Echoing Bildt's belligerence, Richard Holbrooke, chief strategist of the Dayton accord, boasted, "The truth is, the Bosnian Serbs are rightly afraid of NATO. NATO should not fear them." He stressed that the "troops must be used more vigorously" if the soldiers are to be withdrawn from Bosnia before the 1998 "arbitrary deadline."

Clinton left open the option of keeping U.S. troops in Yugoslavia beyond the announced deadline. "I believe the present operation will have run its course by then and we'll have to discuss what, if any, involvement the United States should have there." White House aides have stated the president will veto any bill from Congress mandating a withdrawal date.

Meanwhile, U.S. government officials are pressing other NATO forces to launch military attacks and have indicated more arrests are being planned. "We will continue to look for other ways" to capture "indicted war criminals," declared Robert Gelbard, chief U.S. diplomat for Bosnia.

Washington chided Paris for its queasiness while preparing a second raid in Bosnia. An article in the July 16 *New York Times*, titled "France said to balk at 2d Bosnia raid, calling it too risky," quoted unnamed U.S. officials saying about the French military, "They have gone back and forth," about executing operations in the section of Bosnia supposedly under their control. In planning discussions over this raid, French officers reportedly "pulled back from their readiness to be an active participant."

"It is a vicious and completely unfounded rumor that France made a decision to pull out of an operation," sneered a French diplomat, revealing once again the widening conflict between Paris and Washington. "France is an originator of the International Tribunal at the Hague."

As part of their preparations to overturn non-capitalist property relations in Yugoslavia, the imperialist forces have thrown "cautious support" behind Biljana Plavsic, president of the so-called Serb Bosnia. She was expelled from the ruling Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) July 20. Plavsic has publicly assailed Karadzic and Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's collective presidency, for corruption. Herself a chauvinist leader of the SDS for some time, Plavsic has denounced Slobodan Milosevic — the former president of Serbia who was recently inaugurated as president of Yugoslavia — as the leading force behind the nationalist tirades his regime used to justify the launching of the war.

NATO officials "are aware Mrs. Plavsic remains a staunch Serb nationalist," said London's *Financial Times*, but they "tend to characterize her as the lesser evil." British foreign secretary Robin Cook is scheduled to meet with Plavsic during a trip to Bosnia during the end of July.

## Berisha quits as Albania president

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

On July 23, Sali Berisha resigned from the presidency of Albania. The overtly pro-imperialist president made the announcement over the radio an hour before a newly elected parliament was about to convene.

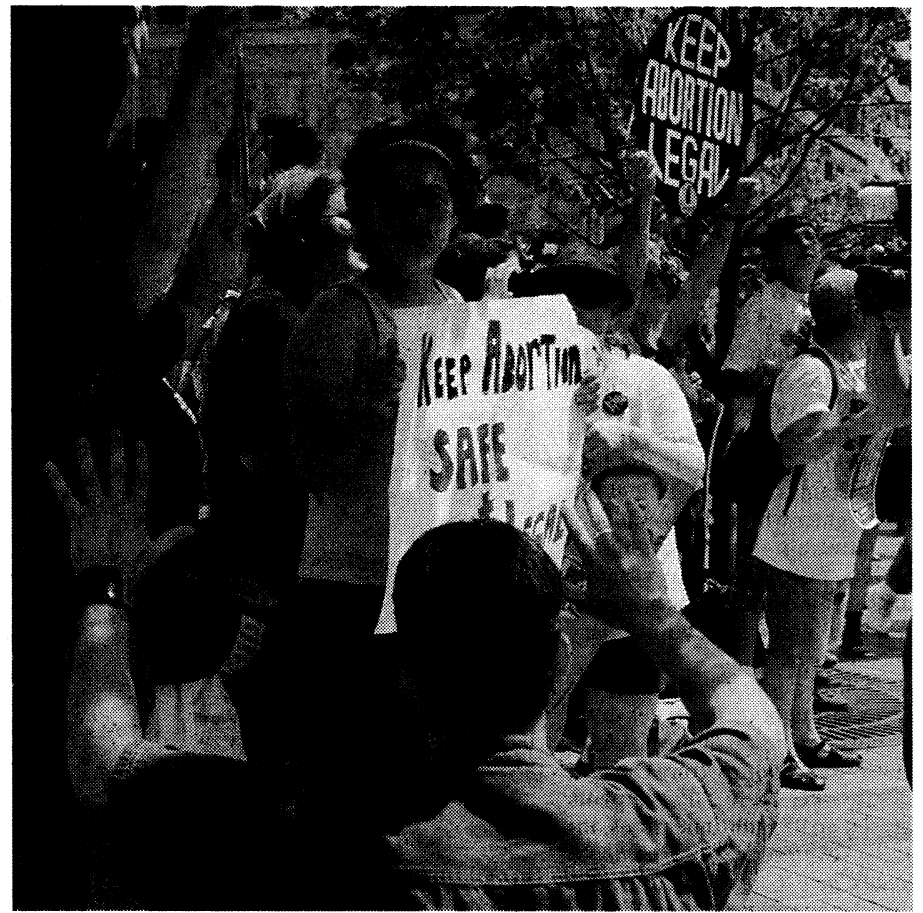
## — CALENDAR —

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**An Evening of Solidarity to Save the Life of Mumia Abu-Jamal.** Speakers: Geronimo Pratt, former Black Panther just released after 27 years in prison on framed-up charges; Leonard Weinglass, chief attorney for Mumia Abu-Jamal; and Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist/poet. Sponsored by August 16 Mumia Abu-Jamal Freedom Rally Committee. Sat., Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m. Mission High School, 18th St. between Church and Dolores (near 16th St. BART Station). Location changed from Plumbers Hall. Donation: \$10 to \$5. For more information, call (415) 821-0459. Fax: (415) 821-0166.

## Protests answer antiabortion actions in Dayton, Ohio



Militant/Holly Harkness

Dozens of supporters of women's right to choose protested activities by the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue in Dayton, Ohio, July 13-19. About 200 opponents of abortion rights blocked clinics in Cincinnati, Dayton, and Kettering, and up to 800 attended rallies and other events. While clinic owners rejected defense by pro-choice activists, many students from nearby Antioch college and others rallied to protest the rightists' other activities. Above, supporters of women's rights counter July 17 mock "funeral" for a fetus in downtown Dayton.

## Youth say, 'We have the right to travel to Cuba'

BY MEG NOVAK

CHICAGO — As delegations of young people around the country make their final preparations for the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students, activists across the country have stepped up the protest campaign against the U.S. Department of Treasury's denial of travel licenses for young people planning to attend. The festival will take place in Havana, Cuba, July 28-August 5.

Over the last two years, the Clinton administration has tightened Washington's already severe restrictions on travel to Cuba. Under the Trading with the Enemy Act, U.S. residents aren't allowed to spend money in Cuba except for in a few cases, such as full-time journalists and those who get specific licenses to participate in international conferences. In this case, Treasury officials claimed that the youth festival is not "within the scope of clearly defined educational activities," and on that grounds denied licenses to 50 youth who applied.

Nearly 10,000 delegates from 133 countries are expected to participate in the festival. Topics of discussion will include anti-imperialist and antiracist struggles, women's liberation, protection of the environment, and how to stand up to rising fascist movements. Many of the people involved in protesting the denial of licenses are also involved in protesting the recent bombing of two hotels in Havana (see article on page 3). In Montreal and Toronto, activists planning to attend the festival held news conferences to condemn this act of terrorism and to protest the denial of licenses to festival delegates in the United States.

On July 17, the D.C. Organizing Committee for the 14th World Festival of Youth and Students called a picket line to protest the denial of licenses in front of the Treasury Department building in Washington D.C. Local activists from different political organizations attended. Michael Key, president of the Democratic Socialists of America at James Madison college, stated that even though he wasn't going on the festival, "I support the chance to assemble youth from around the world and build solidarity." A staffer from the Service Employees International Union also participated.

On July 15 in Chicago, dozens of people

assembled in front of the Federal building to raise the same demands. Young people going on the festival from the local affiliates of the U.S. Organizing Committee, the Venceremos Brigade, and the National Preparatory Committee, the three largest groups organizing delegations to the festival, joined in the united protest, which was covered by the media.

On July 10, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California hosted a press conference in Los Angeles to protest the denial of the licenses. Graduate student Karla Alvarado, who is planning to attend the festival, told reporters there, "I demand my right as a U.S. citizen to travel to Cuba to meet with other students from around the world and talk about the issues that concern us."

"The Clinton administration is holding these students hostage for its own unsupportable and hypocritical political agenda against Cuba. We demand that the visas be granted as soon as possible," said a written statement from the National Lawyers Guild that was read there.

The panel also included Sam Mistrano from the ACLU; William Paparian, the former mayor of Pasadena; Joe Harvey of Orange County Irish Northern Aid; Dr. Maulana Karenga of the African-American Organization US; and Debra Antscherl, representing the Los Angeles Organizing Committee for the festival. Several local media organizations covered the conference, including the *Los Angeles Times*. Written statements were also received from actors Ed Asner and Martin Sheen, and Los Angeles City Council member Jackie Goldberg.

Press conferences are also being planned in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for July 24, and Boston, Massachusetts for July 26.

While some people have decided not to go because of the denial of licenses, the majority of youth who have applied still plan on going. Over 700 people will be going to the festival from the United States.

In addition, about 75 are planning to go to Havana with the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange to attend the International Workers Conference Confronting Neoliberalism and the Global Economy. This trade union meeting will take place August 6-8, immediately following the festival.



# NAACP reaffirms policy on desegregation

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

PITTSBURGH — Nearly 4,000 registered delegates and observers attended the 88th annual NAACP convention here. Speaking to the gathering, President Kweisi Mfume declared, "Economic empowerment is the logical extension of the civil rights movement" and urged the organization to renew its focus on "corporate America" and "some friends in the corporate community." At the same time he called on the membership to join protest actions. There were hundreds of youth among those attending the gathering.

Before the July 12-17 convention began, the big-business media forecasted a debate among the NAACP members that reflected a discussion over whether to shift the organization's stance on busing to achieve school desegregation. "At its national convention next month in Pittsburgh," stated a June 23 article in the *New York Times*, "the NAACP is expected to have a formal debate on its school-desegregation policy for the first time in more than a decade."

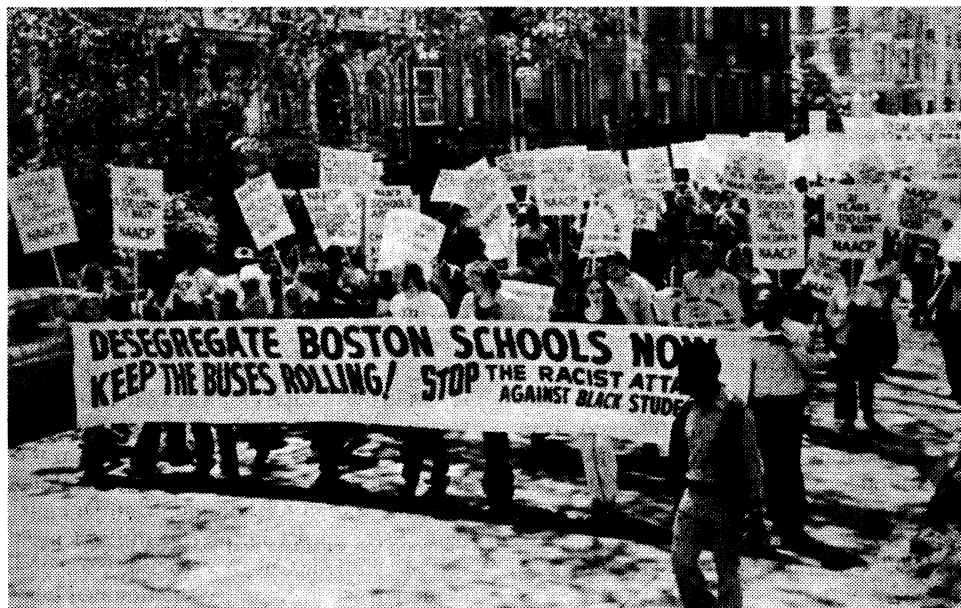
There was no major debate, however. NAACP national board chairperson Myrlie Evers-Williams opened the convention by reaffirming the organization's stance on desegregation, calling on the membership to fight the "rats" who would suggest we "return to the segregated and unequal educational system that the NAACP fought to eradicate."

Her comments appeared directed at layers in the organization like former Bergen County branch president Robert Robinson and former Yonkers branch president Kenneth Jenkins, both of whom were ousted for opposing the national policy. Mfume reiterated the policy but stated that "busing is not the end-all and be-all to create an integrated educational experience for young people."

The convention registered efforts to re-knit ties to traditional civil rights organizations like the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The convention also passed a resolution backing the struggle of the United Farm Workers union in its campaign to organize the strawberry workers in California and urged the membership to join in actions to support this fight. The organization announced the relaunching of its national magazine, dubbed *The New Crisis*.

Mfume, a five-term U.S. congressman and former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, was named as NAACP president in 1995 — a move that helped the organization reestablish links with big business politicians. A host of liberal capitalist politicians including Pittsburgh mayor Thomas Murphy, Pennsylvania governor Thomas Ridge, and U.S. president William Clinton spoke at the event.

Improving educational opportunities and defending past gains of the fight for Black rights were major themes discussed by participants throughout the convention. A sharp debate broke out in the workshop on the pros and cons of school voucher programs, charter schools, and school take-overs. One of the panelists at the workshop, which nearly



March of 50,000 defends busing in Boston, May 1975. NAACP reaffirmed position on desegregation, but charter schools and voucher schemes were hotly debated.

500 people attended, was A. Polly Williams, a Democratic state representative in Milwaukee. She voiced staunch support for vouchers, which provide families with government funds to attend private schools.

"We are the only state where the voucher program was drafted by Black people for Black children," said Williams. Her comments were rebuked by Walter Farrell, a professor at the University of Wisconsin, who asserted that Williams's remarks "shows how the conservative right plays us against one another.... It's not about education, it's about putting public money into private hands," he added.

Two of the panelists were members of the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. They indicated that the two teachers unions backed charter schools if certain conditions were met. Delegates at the convention debated a resolution rejecting voucher programs, charter schools, and school take-overs, which was eventually amended to delete any reference to charter schools from the measure.

## March against police violence

Some 1,000 conventioners participated in a July 15 march and rally against cop brutality in downtown Pittsburgh that was preceded by a youth workshop on police violence in the African American community. Leaders of the NAACP originally characterized the demonstration as a part of its "stop the violence: start the love" campaign,

but its main focus became a protest against the cop killing of Jonny Gammage, who was slain in 1995 by Pittsburgh-area police.

"We're trying to show the people of Pittsburgh they have the NAACP's support in getting justice done," said 16-year-old Nicole Dyer of Freemont, California. "People are getting tired of seeing what's going on," said Terance Williams, a 17-year-old student from Thibodeaux, Louisiana.

"The NAACP can no longer be ridiculed as an organization that doesn't go to the streets and doesn't reach out to young people," NAACP national youth director Jamal Bryant told the crowd.

Later in the week, convention delegates approved a resolution without debate demanding "that the federal government prosecute all five officers in the criminal violation of Jonny Gammage's civil rights."

## Lukewarm applause for Clinton

Clinton received a tepid reception from the audience as he began his speech July 17, the last day of convention.

He did not comment on affirmative action but proposed hiring 350,000 teachers for "high-poverty urban and rural schools" over the next five years. He voiced approval of charter schools stating, "Our budget has enough funds to create 3,000 of these schools by the year 2001."

Clinton had recently returned from Europe, where he supervised the invitations to expand the NATO military alliance. Clin-

ton did not comment on his NATO meeting during his speech to convention delegates.

Many participants at the convention expressed skepticism toward Clinton. "I didn't vote for him," said Eugene Miller, 22-year-old Black student at Baldwin Wallace College in Ohio. "I would never join the military," he added, referring to Washington's war preparations. "I learned internationalism from reading Malcolm X."

The day before Clinton's arrival, some 400 people attended the NAACP's annual Armed Services and Veteran Affairs Dinner, which included Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Equal Opportunity William Leftwich and Secretary of Transportation Ronald Slater. Both members of the Clinton administration are Black. The program included a video, "Valor of Legacy," that highlighted the achievements of the Black Tuskegee Airmen who fought against racism in the U.S. military during the imperialist slaughter of World War II.

Secretary of U.S. Air Force Sheila Widnall was the keynote speaker. She applauded Washington's occupation force in Yugoslavia saying, "Our mission in Bosnia is a success." She said the military was one of the "nation's most racially diverse employers." Widnall added, "We need a multi-racial force of unequalled skill. We may look different but we are all on the same all-star team." Neither Widnall nor the other military brass attending the banquet mentioned the current sex scandal and racist charges wracking the U.S. military.

A workshop on racist discrimination and the military justice system on the final day of the convention featured a presentation by U.S. Air Force Col. Jack Rives, who asserted that the military justice system was superior to any civilian court proceeding. William Leftwich, deputy assistant secretary of defense, called the military the most "out-standing example of affirmative action."

Later in the workshop, however, Sgt. Tony Cross, who is facing a court martial from the sexual misconduct scandal at Aberdeen, denounced the military as a racist institution. "There is a double standard. There is discrimination in the Army," said Cross. He accused the Army's Criminal Investigation Division of fabricating evidence against him. The audience of 200 gave Cross a standing ovation after he turned over documents to the NAACP, including a letter from a white woman who said she had been coerced by investigators into making false charges against him. The NAACP has raised \$21,000 to help him pay legal expenses.

# On the Socialist Workers campaign trail

BY ROBBIE SCHERR

SEATTLE — About 50 people packed the room July 19 to hear the Socialist Workers candidates in the Seattle city elections. Many of the participants joined in the first 10 days of a petition drive to win ballot status for Scott Breen for mayor, Robbie Scherr for city council, and Chris Rayson for port commission. Breen and Scherr are workers at Boeing Co. and members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) District 751. Members of the IAM from Miami, Minneapolis, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia came to help.

By the night of the rally, campaign supporters had finished collecting 1,322 signatures for the city council race — well over the 708 required. As of now, the count is up to 1,633 for the mayor's race. The goal is to turn in 2,000 signatures for Breen, to decisively meet the legal requirement of 1,200.

More than 30 people have signed petitions for Rayson, toward the 60 needed to put him on the ballot. Most of these signatures are his coworkers on the railroad.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In the final weeks of the election campaign here, Mary Martin, Socialist Workers candidate for chairperson of the D.C. Council, has reached out to thousands of working people, campaigning at plantgates throughout the area and speaking at several community candidate forums.

Martin, a member of IAM Local 1759, is one of two candidates on the ballot for the July 22 special election. Her opponent is Democrat Linda Cropp, who is currently serving as acting council chairperson.

Martin's campaign appearance at National airport, where she works as a baggage handler, was covered by the *Washington Post* and channel 7 television, which is preparing a special program on the Socialist Workers Party to air in the fall.

"Few of the airport workers Martin talked to in the parking lot last week disagreed with her ruling-class-vs.-working-class position, particularly when she discussed wages, downsizing and other workplace issues," wrote *Washington Post* reporter Vanessa Williams in a substantial article that appeared in the July 17 issue. The socialist candidate was also interviewed by WAMU, the local affiliate of National Public Radio, and by community newspapers *The Northwest Current* and *Washington Informer*.

"I'd like to extend my support to Mary Martin's campaign for D.C. Council Chair," stated airline worker Lewis Guy in a message to a July 19 Militant Labor forum that featured the socialist candidate. "I'm very impressed with several aspects of Mary's program. Some say her ideas are radical but I say they are completely reasonable."

BY CHESTER NELSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Doug Jenness and Jenny Benton, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for mayor of St. Paul and Minneapolis respectively, filed by the July 15 deadline to appear on the ballot in the September 9 municipal elections. Their supporters have been campaigning since May 1 at street corners, campuses, and factories.

Jenness is a production worker at Advance Circuits Inc. and is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 9198; Benton works at the 3M tape plant in

St. Paul and is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 6-75.

In May police agencies in St. Paul organized a meeting to notify residents that two men who had served time for charges of sex offenses were being released to reside in their neighborhood. This generated a big discussion in the media and at workplaces and some 500 people turned out to the meeting. Jenness issued a statement blasting the meeting and the law that mandated it. "When a person is convicted, sentenced, and completes his or her sentence, it should be put behind them, and they should be able to go on with their lives."

Jenness is scheduled to appear at an August 2 breakfast forum with the other candidates for mayor of St. Paul. The meeting is sponsored by *Insight*, a local weekly that orients to the Black community. Also on the ballot are Norman Coleman, the incumbent mayor who recently switched from the Democratic Farmer Labor party to the Republicans; Sandy Pappas, a state senator who is the DFL's nominee; and Sharon Anderson, an independent candidate.

In Minneapolis, Benton is running against 13 other candidates, including Sharon Sayles Belton, the incumbent DFL mayor, and Barbara Carlson, a radio talk show personality and former city council member. Carlson filed as an independent but will likely seek Republican endorsement.

The Socialist Workers Party is also running Jeff Jones for school board in St. Paul and Javier Aravena for the St. Paul City Council, 4th Ward. Jones is an aircraft cleaner at Northwest Airlines and is a member of IAM Local 1833. Aravena is employed by 3M at its plant in Cottage Grove. He is a member of the OCAW.

## CORRECTIONS

In *Militant* issue no. 26, dated July 28, there were several errors in the page 3 photobox on the coal miners' strike in Australia. The caption stated that on July 4, 300 miners on strike against Rio Tinto blocked a coal train from being loaded. One hundred workers were involved in that action; 300 took part in another successful mass picket July 7.

In the same photobox, the fourth sentence in the caption should have begun: "Workers at Rio Tinto's nearby Mt. Thorley mine are also gearing up for a fight against moves to cut 229 out of 570 jobs..." That sentence and the following one wrongly implied that these were the issues at Rio Tinto's Hunter Valley no. 1 mine, where the strike is taking place.

In *Militant* issue no. 25, dated July 14, the article "Thousands protest Australian fascist" also contained an error. In the sixth paragraph, the quote from Pauline Hanson should have read: "to sit down... with fair dinkum [real] Aussies and talk about what can be done."

# Sugar harvest in Cuba falls short of goal, agricultural workers confront challenge

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS  
AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

CIENFUEGOS, Cuba — This year's sugar harvest in Cuba fell below the 1996 production of 4.45 million tons, said Carlos Lage, executive secretary of the country's Council of Ministers, in an interview in the June 22 issue of the Cuban weekly *Juventud Rebelde*. The government has not yet announced the amount of the shortfall.

By the end of June, it became evident that the decline in Cuba's main export crop, which is also a principal source of much-needed hard currency, will contribute to weakening a recovery of industrial production that has been under way in the Caribbean nation for more than two years.

The government had initially set a target of slightly surpassing last year's sugar production. But already in early April, Cuban president Fidel Castro was pointing to difficulties in meeting that goal — citing among the main factors Washington's escalating economic war and the impact of last November's Hurricane Lili.

"Right now we are struggling with a difficult sugar harvest," Castro said in an April 4 speech in Havana, on the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Union of Young Communists (UJC). "There have been certain consequences stemming from U.S. measures that paralyzed or delayed financing, that hindered arrival of certain supplies, parts and resources for the harvest. There has been unfavorable weather; we had no winter this year, which has affected some crops, and may affect the sugar yield of this harvest. A hurricane swept through the center of the island and caused great damage."

Speaking to Cuban journalists on May Day, Castro made public the government's assessment that the projected goal for the harvest would not be met. In addition to the impact of U.S. sanctions and bad weather, the Cuban president said that "subjective factors" contributed to the shortfall.

According to a report on that press conference in the May 5 *Trabajadores*, weekly newspaper of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), Castro also said that a number of the country's sugar mills were unproductive or were operating with excessive costs and some might have to be shut down. "Fidel noted," the *Trabajadores* article said, "that some mills produce with a quarter of the cost of others. The first order of battle is to make them all efficient, he clarified, and those that fail to become efficient will have to be closed."

During a visit in late April by *Militant* reporters to several sugarcane cooperatives in the central provinces of Cienfuegos and Villa Clara, workers there helped paint a more concrete picture of the myriad difficulties they faced due to the problems with financing from abroad. A number of them also shed light on the other points Castro made on May 1 about difficulties stemming from their own organization of the sugar industry. Little progress has been registered in raising productivity and improving the living and working conditions of agricultural workers — especially in sugarcane — through the reorganization of the country's state farms into Basic Units of Cooperative Production (UBPC), these workers said.

## Broader impact on Cuban economy

According to unofficial estimates at the end of June, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by about 1.5 percent in the first five months of this year. In 1996 the annual GDP growth rate was 7.8 percent. In addition to the deficit in the sugar yield, delays have been reported in nickel exports, another top hard-currency source.

"This has meant a much tenser start to the year than we would have liked," said Alfonso Casanova, deputy minister of the economy.

Lage and other government officials say they expect the country's GDP will still meet the projected 4 percent growth rate for 1997, citing upward trends in production of nickel and tobacco, in fishing, in some manufacturing industries, and in tourism.

At the opening of this decade, the sudden end of development aid and favorable trade relations with the countries of the

former Soviet bloc set off a virtual collapse of production in Cuba, initiating what Cubans refer to as the "special period."

At the same time, the Cuban government's efforts to find new trading partners, obtain credits, and attract investment continued to be undercut by an even tighter U.S. trade embargo. As shortages of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and spare parts mounted, sugar production plunged from 8.4 million tons in 1990 to a 50-year low of 3.3 million tons in the 1994-95 harvest. The rapid drop in industrial and agricultural production bottomed out by early 1995.

In 1996 sugar production increased by 33 percent over the previous harvest. This was due in part to a year-long effort by sugar and other workers to increase productivity, cut waste, and reduce costs. Their success



Cutting sugarcane at José Arcadio García cooperative in Cifuentes, Villa Clara, April 24. Washington's economic war has exacerbated shortages of spare parts, fertilizers, and herbicides, increasing need for manual work.

boosted the self-confidence and morale of the working class. In addition, the government managed to secure credits for needed imports, even though at high interest rates.

## Helms-Burton law augments hardships

In March 1996, U.S. president William Clinton signed into law the misnamed "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act," also referred to as Helms-Burton law. The legislation mandates sanctions against foreign companies that invest in Cuba in properties expropriated by workers and peasants after the 1959 revolution. Washington's aggressive use of the Helms-Burton act has undercut the Cuban government's ability to secure loans and investments.

Soon after the passage of this law, Redpath Sugar, the Canadian subsidiary of Tate & Lyle, announced it was ceasing to refine Cuban sugar. In addition, two European companies that sell Cuban sugar stopped doing business with Havana.

Media reports said late last year that two large banks — the Dutch bank ING and Spain's Banco Bilbao Vizcaya — have discontinued contracts to finance credits for the sugarcane harvest in five Cuban provinces. Nelson Torres, the Cuban sugar minister, said these companies had not backed out but had simply restructured their operations. He also indicated that the Helms-Burton law meant some new lenders had to be found, causing delays in imported supplies.

Since then, financial institutions that do business in Cuba have come under increased scrutiny and attack by Washington. One example is ED&F Man, a London-based commodities group that controls 16 percent of world cross-border trade in sugar. According to the monthly publication *Cuba Business*, about 55 percent of Man's 1996 profits originated from trade with Cuba. London's *Independent on Sunday* published an article in its April 6 issue charging that the company has tried to mask its continuing involvement in Cuba by spinning its Cuba business off into a separate firm called Pacol. The next day, the company's stock fell by 4 percent. Man then issued a state-

ment saying the group took action last year to "comply fully with the terms of the Helms-Burton Act. It continues to do so." The company did not comment on the accusations in the *Independent*.

The application of the Helms-Burton law has had an adverse impact on other investments in Cuba. The June 30 *New York Times* reported that Grupo Damos, a Mexican conglomerate that has been the largest foreign investor in Cuba, has withdrawn from the island. Damos was a minority partner, along with the Italian telecommunications company Stet S.p.A., in a \$750 million joint venture with the Cuban telephone company to modernize the country's antiquated telecommunications system. The Cuban telephone company was owned by the U.S. ITT before the 1959 revolution.

Last summer, Washington barred Damos executives, shareholders, and their families from getting visas to travel to the United States, using provisions of the Helms-Burton law. The *New York Times* article quoted an unnamed European banker saying Damos was "having trouble getting financing even before Helms-Burton came along, but potential lenders became even more gun shy after that went into effect."

## Visit to Villa Clara, Cienfuegos

During the visit by *Militant* reporters to Villa Clara and Cienfuegos, many workers described the concrete impact of the U.S. economic assault on the Cuban people.

"Out of nine tractors our cooperative has, only six were operational during this harvest," said José Luis Ortiz, 33, a tractor driver at the José Arcadio García UBPC. "We've had a harder time this year getting spare parts." The farm is located in Cifuentes municipality, 30 miles north of Santa Clara, the capital of Villa Clara province. About half of the 20 sugarcane harvesters in Cifuentes were operational for the entire harvest, said Julio César Castañeda, municipal secretary of the UJC. Forty tractor trailers, out of 80 in the area, were also idled this year because of lack of parts.

Orelvis Hernández, 30, who works at the nearby El Vaquerito sugar refinery, said Washington has blocked oil shipments from Mexico and Venezuela over the last year. "And it's more expensive to import oil from Europe and other countries now." Oil prices in the world market rose from \$17 per barrel in November 1995 to about \$23 a year later. The rising prices and extra shipping costs have added hundreds of millions of dollars to Cuba's fuel import bill.

Hernández explained that the mill where he works is named after Roberto Rodríguez whose nickname was El Vaquerito (little cowboy). Vaquerito was a captain of the Rebel Army who headed what became known as the Suicide Squad in Column 8 commanded by Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution. The squad was made up of young fight-

ers who volunteered for the most dangerous assignments during the 1956-58 revolutionary war to overthrow the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista. Rodríguez was killed at age 23 in the battle to liberate Santa Clara — half an hour drive from this mill — on Dec. 30, 1958, a day before Batista's army crumbled and the dictator fled the country. In explaining their determination to resist Washington's aggression today, many workers in the area, like Hernández, point with pride to the example of courage and combativity Vaquerito set.

Leonel Castro Gutiérrez, 29, director of the José Arcadio García UBPC, said delays in financing from abroad meant shipments of fertilizers and pesticides were late or did not arrive at all this year. "That means more weeding of the fields by hand."

Cane cutters and other cooperative members at that farm, and at La Esperanza UBPC in Cienfuegos, showed us the torn work boots they were wearing.

A number of these workers in Cifuentes were cutting cane under the hot sun on April 24, kicking up a cloud of dust in the process. "Look at how dry the soil is," said Castro Gutiérrez. "The drought this winter lowered sugarcane yields and has meant we have to wait for rain before we can start planting for the next harvest." He also noted that Hurricane Lili, which swept through Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, and parts of Matanzas provinces last fall caused considerable damage, "resulting in losses of about 200,000 tons of sugar nationwide."

Villa Clara, which was by far the number one province in sugar production until 1996, came in second to Holguín this year, falling well short of its target of half a million tons.

As with other working people interviewed in factories and fields, many of the UBPC members there expressed their outrage at the Helms-Burton law and talked about meetings they had held on the farm to discuss its contents. Several described with pride their participation in demonstrations this spring to condemn Washington's aggression, particularly Clinton's attempts to buy off the Cuban people and divide them from their revolutionary leadership.

A January 28 report by U.S. president William Clinton drew particular scorn here. In it, Clinton offered \$4-8 billion in "aid" if the Cuban people removed Fidel Castro and Raúl Castro, minister of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces, from the government and began a "transition" to capitalism, as demanded in the Helms-Burton act. "They want Fidel's head," said Eladio Díaz Martínez at La Esperanza UBPC. "But we're not going to let them do that. Today they would have to cut off too many heads."

## 'Other challenges to be addressed'

Several workers pointed to other challenges the Cuban people face, in addition to the U.S. embargo and bad weather. "Many people blame all the problems on Helms-Burton and the hurricane," noted Orelvis Hernández. "But there are other reasons that have to be addressed too."

The reorganization of the country's state farms into cooperatives has not resulted yet in the hoped-for increase in productivity, especially in sugarcane, said Alexis Rodríguez, 29, a mechanic at the Arcadio García UBPC.

The process of subdividing the state farms into these smaller cooperative units began in September 1993 with a decree issued by the government. The decision was ratified by the country's National Assembly in December of that year.

Unlike the former state farms, the cooperatives own their harvest and sell it to the state at prices established by the government. The co-op owns the machinery (bought from the former state farm with low interest loans) and purchases needed supplies — including seeds, fuel, and fertilizer — out of its revenues. The income of co-op members depends on their job and their individual and collective productivity.

Besides producing crops for domestic consumption and for export, the UBPCs strive to be self-sufficient in food and build housing for members.

By the end of 1995, UBPC members tilled



80 percent of Cuba's arable land. Before this reorganization of the agricultural workforce, which is the most far-reaching change since Cuba's second agrarian reform in 1963, state farms accounted for 80 percent of the island's arable land.

The land UBPCs use remains nationalized and cannot be sold, rented, inherited, mortgaged, or used as collateral for loans.

#### Greater progress on non-cane farms

In the non-sugarcane sector of agriculture, palpable progress has been registered in production of fruits and vegetables with annual increases of 25–30 percent in the last two years. Of the 1,579 UBPCs producing citrus, tobacco, vegetables and other food crops, and livestock, nearly 45 percent had become profitable by the end of 1996. As a result, state subsidies for this sector of agriculture dropped from 1.8 billion pesos in 1994 to 280 million pesos a year later.

These cooperatives can sell produce at the agricultural markets, once they fulfill their quota of sales to the state. Prices at these markets are not regulated by the government, providing an incentive for increasing production. Since the opening of the agricultural markets nearly three years ago, food has become more readily available throughout the country, although prices there are high for most Cubans.

The average pay of UBPC members on non-cane co-ops has increased from 175 pesos per month in 1993 to 205 pesos per month last year. These cooperatives have also made substantial progress in providing food for their members and families — one of their central goals.

The sugarcane cooperatives face greater challenges. Of the 1,126 sugarcane-producing UBPCs, only 76 were profitable in 1996, a mere 7 percent.

#### Sugarcane workers assemblies

The José Arcadio García UBPC is one of the cooperatives that has experienced losses since its founding. It is one of four UBPCs that used to belong to the El Vaquerito Agro-Industrial Complex (CAI) prior to 1993. The complex included the sugar mill by the same name and three state farms, which were initially subdivided into seven cooperatives.

"About a year ago we consolidated from seven to four UBPCs," said co-op director Leonel Castro Gutiérrez, "to better utilize the machinery, land, and other resources."

This process has taken place throughout the country. The number of cane-producing cooperatives has been reduced from nearly 1,600 in 1993 to just over 1,100 at the beginning of this year. The average size of these UBPCs has increased from 2,300 acres to more than 2,900 acres.

This consolidation, and other measures to confront the challenges facing sugarcane workers, were discussed at assemblies of sugarcane cooperative members around the country last fall, Castro Gutiérrez said. These meetings culminated in a national assembly of representatives of sugarcane co-ops in December 1996. Some 1,200 local assemblies involving 150,000 workers took place, at the initiative of the CTC. The overwhelming majority of UBPC members came from the former state farms and remain members of the sugar workers union.

As a result of the merger, the Arcadio García cooperative has reduced costs by not having to rent machinery from other UBPCs, Gutiérrez said. This is a largely book-keeping adjustment, though. The co-op's cost of production still exceeds the state price of 16 pesos for 100 *arrobas* (2,500 pounds) of sugarcane and the cooperative cannot break even until it achieves a higher yield. Improving labor discipline and increasing pay and other incentives for those who set an example in following agreed-to work norms were other measures discussed at the assemblies, Castro Gutiérrez said.

After these meetings, the government set up a state commission to examine the financial status of the sugarcane UBPCs on a case-by-case basis. The three-year grace period in paying back past loans will be extended in most cases.

Today the UBPCs remain associated with the sugar mill and the CAI administration.



Militant/Argiris Malapanis  
**Mechanics at La Esperanza sugarcane cooperative in Cienfuegos, April 25. Julian Pérez (center) is leading maintenance brigade that kept all tractors and combines going during sugar harvest. "We have more workers and fewer chiefs," he said, describing the merger of this co-op with a neighboring one that faced greater challenges.**

In practice, several workers said, the mill management retains too much decision-making power over the timing, varieties of planting, and other matters that co-op members thought should be in their hands.

#### Autonomy from sugar mills

Members of the Arcadio García UBPC argued that improving their collective control on how to run the farm, and ending a bureaucratic overcentralization that's a hangover from the old methods of organization could help increase productivity.

"We need more autonomy from the CAI in making decisions on planting," said Alexis Rodríguez. "We know better where and when to plant different cane varieties. We know better if a given variety is more likely to be affected by a plague on certain soil. There are times when the CAI administration asks us to plant a fixed quantity of a certain variety on a piece of land and it's not the right decision. When there is disagreement, the assembly of UBPC members should have the final say."

Rodríguez added, "Now they tell us we can make such decisions when the UBPC is profitable. But we may never become profitable unless we take more responsibility for all decisions and their implications."

This was one of the issues discussed at the national sugarcane assembly. In his report to the gathering, CTC general secretary Pedro Ross said the union must lead so that UBPC members can exercise fully the independence they are supposed to have from the management of the sugar mills.

"What's the purpose of autonomy?" Ross asked. "To make sure that the rules are followed; that the executive board functions; that the assembly meets periodically to take up all necessary questions; that the most capable members are elected for the administrative personnel and the executive council and those who do not respond to the just expectations of the collective are replaced."

In an interview with the *Militant* at the national CTC headquarters in Havana on April 29, Ross elaborated a little more on this point. "When cooperative members make more decisions themselves," he said, "they have more interest in the results of their work. Many UBPCs need more autonomy from the sugar mills. At the same time we need the consolidation into larger cooperative units to achieve more centralization and lessen competition between small co-ops that are next to each other."

Some cooperatives, for instance, have a better chance of surviving financially because their land is more fertile than others.

Since the founding of the UBPCs, an assembly of all members of each cooperative unit is supposed to meet once a month. The assembly elects, and can recall, an executive board, a manager, and those who do accounting and other administrative tasks. It also discusses and approves work norms. The executive council meets weekly to take up problems between assemblies and prepare agendas for the membership meetings.

In many UBPCs, we were told, elections take place infrequently and the membership assemblies have become routine.

At the José Arcadio García cooperative the executive board of five is elected once every five years, its director said. Among its 200 members, 15 are part of the full-time administrative personnel, most of whom had

similar jobs before the 1993 reorganization.

A few members have joined this cooperative over the last two years, coming from jobs in the city. Raúl Herrera, 30, joined the UBPC a year ago after working in construction for seven years. "The food and the pay is better here," he said.

UBPC members make between 200 and 350 pesos per month, a considerable improvement over wages on the state farm.

#### Small increase in workforce

But the pace of recruitment lags behind what's needed, several workers said, especially since more tasks have to be carried out manually because of lack of fuel, spare parts for machinery, and herbicides.

The agricultural workforce on sugarcane UBPCs increased from 153,000 in 1993 to 168,000 three years later. "This growth falls below our expectations and the needs of the country," said Ross in his speech at the national sugarcane assembly.

A number of workers attributed this to the limited progress in improving living and working conditions on the UBPCs. The national sugarcane assembly pointed to ongoing shortages of work clothes and boots and a lag in building housing for cooperative members near the farms as problems that need to be addressed on the national level. Since 1993, co-ops have built an average of 2–3 "low consumption" houses per UBPC per year — compared to earlier projections of 10 new houses annually — constructed with substitute cement and other hard-to-get supplies. Workers attributed this to lack of construction materials.

Rainaldo Díaz, a journalist for the magazine *Bohemia*, also said in an interview that problems in obtaining credits from abroad have meant that special stores in rural areas — where UBPC members could purchase soap, shampoo, and other scarce goods at low prices — often had empty shelves over the last year.

#### La Esperanza: better results

At La Esperanza UBPC, near the town of Abreus in Cienfuegos province, the mood among the workers was more upbeat. The

cooperative has paid most of its debts and has been profitable for two years in the row. Despite a lower-than-expected yield due to damage from last fall's hurricane, the cooperative members met their goal for this harvest and had started planting on several fields for next year's crop. (*Militant* reporters visited the same area twice before and have reported extensively on the establishment and evolution of UBPCs. Articles based on those visits appeared in the April 18, 1994, and Jan. 10, 1995, issues.)

La Esperanza was one of 16 cooperative units created by dividing the state farm connected with the Guillermo Moncada sugar mill located in Abreus. Now there are only 8 UBPCs. "This was necessary in order to consolidate leadership," said Eladio Díaz, one of the founding members and a former combine operator. He is now in charge of the co-op's herd of 100 sheep and 85 cows.

In early 1996, La Esperanza absorbed the neighboring Jivaro UBPC, which faced losses and couldn't produce enough food for its members. "The merger has been very positive," said Julian Pérez, a mechanic and tractor operator who came from Jivaro. "We now have more workers and fewer chiefs."

The cooperative maintained an executive board of five, even though the combined membership has doubled to nearly 100. Only the accountant and the director devote most of their time strictly on administrative duties, Pérez and other workers said. The leadership council is elected every six months; "and we have often recalled members of the board who are not meeting the highest standards," Pérez added.

The maintenance brigade that Pérez is part of kept all 14 tractors and 4 combines running for the entire harvest this year, workers said with pride. The mechanics order parts for replacement only when it's absolutely necessary. "We often make our own parts out of unused machinery in the area," Pérez said.

Their reputation has spread in the region. "They are quite a bit ahead of us in repairs," said Amauri Valero, a tractor operator at the Matún UBPC a few miles away. "They have a good executive board."

Cross training in operating combines, tractors, and other machinery, as well as cane cutting has given the cooperative more flexibility in utilizing everyone's strengths to the maximum, Díaz noted.

Workers have more than doubled the amount of land used to produce food for self-consumption to 700 acres by clearing away idle lands. "We are now totally self-sufficient in food," Díaz said. In addition to a variety of vegetables, poultry, and eggs, UBPC members get one liter of milk per day. Every family on the cooperative gets 800 pounds of rice annually, or an average of 1 pound of rice per person every day.

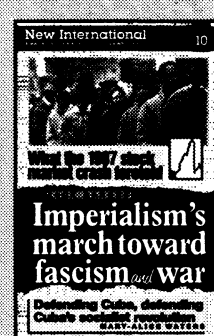
"We can't sell on the agricultural markets but we can exchange surplus produce with other UBPCs in the area for items we lack," Díaz said. As a result, all eight co-ops around the Guillermo Moncada com-

Continued on Page 12

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# Cubans debate freedom in the arts

BY MIKE TABER

"The 1996 theater year ended with a polemic that has transcended the limits of the drama community to involve the Cuban cultural field in its totality, as well as other sectors of the country."

So reads the introduction to a debate appearing in the January-February issue of *La Gaceta de Cuba*, the bimonthly magazine of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC). *La Gaceta* is Cuba's leading literary and cultural journal. Its pages reflect a wide range of views on questions of culture and politics facing the Cuban revolution today.

The centerpiece of the January-February issue is an exchange that took place in the Cuban media at the end of 1996. Eleven contributions to this debate are included.

## What is controversy about?

The controversy began following an article by Jorge Rivas Rodríguez in *Trabajadores*, a weekly newspaper of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC). Rivas reviewed a theater festival that took place last October in Camagüey, a city in the central region of the island. The *Trabajadores* journalist focused on two plays: *Los equívocos morales* (Ambiguous morals), by the theater group Escambray; and *El arca* (The ark), by the experimental group Teatro del Obstáculo (Theater of the Obstacle).

Omar Valiño, *La Gaceta*'s theater critic, who also compiled the items related to this debate for the magazine, was present at the Camagüey festival. In a conversation with *Militant* reporters in Havana in late April, he described what transpired. According to Valiño, *Los equívocos morales* depicts the U.S. conquest of Cuba at the end of the 19th century. In one scene, an actress symbolizing Cuba drapes herself in the Cuban flag and, under attack by Spanish colonialism as represented by another actor, rolls around on the stage. Some viewers interpreted this scene as the actress "wiping the floor" with the Cuban flag, Valiño said.

*El arca* depicts Noah's Ark, in a symbolic comparison with Cuba today, surrounded by the rising waters of a hostile world. In the course of the play, a young Cuban woman who is a member of the Pioneers asks herself questions about her future. She asks what it means to "be like Che" — a slogan of the Pioneers and other Cuban youth organizations, which often point to the life of Ernesto Che Guevara, one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution, as an example to emulate. Among the questions she poses is whether a prostitute too can strive to "be like Che."

## 'Counterrevolutionary' plays?

Rivas's review of the Camagüey festival opens the exchange in *La Gaceta*. In his article, Rivas attacks *Los equívocos morales* for its "despotic, denigrating, and unjustified treatment of the Cuban flag." He also criticizes *El arca* for "gross manipulation of the figure of Che."

Rivas's review was followed up by a nationally broadcast radio program entitled "Hablando claro" (Speaking clearly). The program featured Renato Recio, another

journalist for *Trabajadores*, together with moderator Osvaldo Rodríguez. The program was transcribed and published in *La Gaceta*.

Both Recio and Rodríguez state that while they had not seen either of the plays in question, they nevertheless share Rivas's views. "There is no violation of freedom when a society prevents the development of a false art that tends toward pornography," Recio remarks.

The moderator, Rodríguez, asserts that "you and I, in the context of the family, in the context of a group of friends, can make certain criticisms, but these should not be depicted in a play."

Recio states that these two plays may be appropriate for "the petty bourgeoisie," but never for "the workers."

Rodríguez ends the program by suggesting the plays may be "counterrevolutionary."

The radio program elicited a number of public responses, some of which were published in *La Gaceta*.

Rafael González, director of the Escambray Theater Group, wrote a letter to the editor of *Trabajadores*, which was published there in part, and is printed in full in *La Gaceta*. González replies to the article by Rivas and the radio program, which he says are based on "considerations of an ideological or political nature that are truly unacceptable."

After replying to the affirmations made, he states, "The Escambray Theater Group, its directors, its [Communist] party nucleus, its UJC [Union of Young Communists] unit, its two trade union sections refuse to be put in the camp of the opposition because of the irresponsibility of those who shamelessly defame a collective that has a clean record of not being manipulated by any interest."

Also commenting on the two attacks, theater critic Amado del Pino devoted his regular radio program to the debate. In it he stated that he "disagree[s] with some of the statements" by Rivas, Recio, and Rodríguez, but is in agreement that some plays are manipulated for "extra-artistic" purposes.

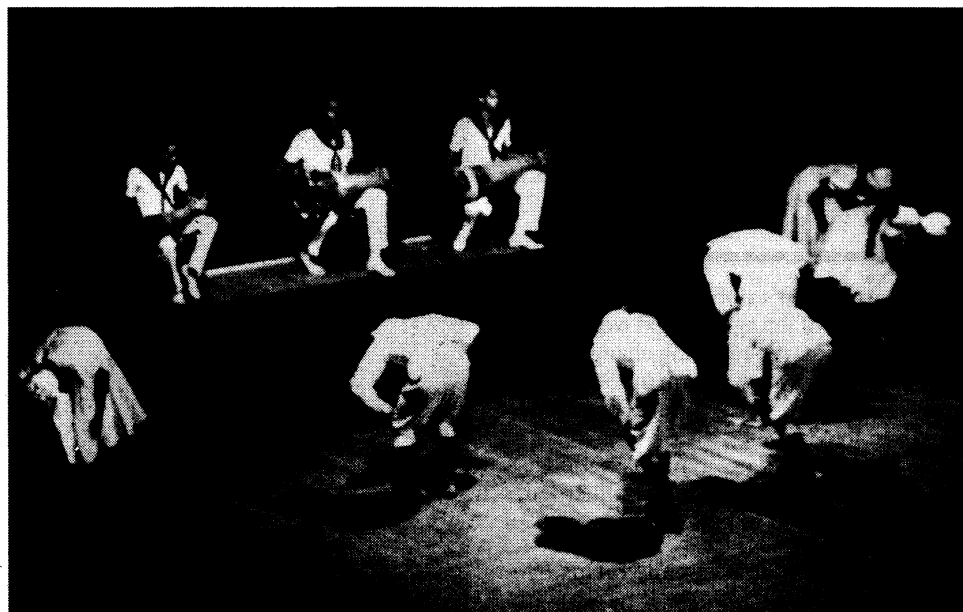
Another radio program is transcribed and published, featuring Pedro de la Hoz, a critic for the daily newspaper *Granma*, and Omar Valiño.

## Theater in Cuba, capitalist world

Valiño answers the *Trabajadores* journalists by describing the Cuban theater compared to that of capitalist countries. "Throughout the world, the majority not just of the theater but of the whole cultural field is governed by the laws of the marketplace, and is not interested in participating in any type of social process. The Cuban theater, on the other hand, continues its commitment to an aspiration, to a specific national undertaking, and it reflects the rough edges of this transition, of this process."

The other panelist, Pedro de la Hoz, states: "One cannot seek to find in a work of art a treatment of all facets of reality and all the answers.... One cannot make an exact translation of art into politics."

De la Hoz followed this up with an article that appeared in *Granma*. The cultural



Theater group performance in Cuba in the 1960s. The Cuban revolution's policy on art "is open, plural, antidogmatic," argues Abel Prieto in *La Gaceta* exchange.

policy of the revolution, he writes, guarantees "maximum freedom of expression based on civic responsibility." It has opposed "every attempt to make things fit within established norms," he says. "It's strange to hear the formula of 'balanced' works. This corresponds to the false and pernicious attempt to find an equilibrium between the exposition of problems and the obligatory dictates of finding happy solutions."

The *La Gaceta* debate features replies by Osvaldo Rodríguez, Jorge Rivas, and Renato Recio. All of them argue they have been misinterpreted, but restate the views expressed in their original articles.

A polemical article by Abel Prieto, former president of UNEAC and now Cuba's minister of culture, concludes the exchange.

## Cultural policy of Cuban revolution

Prieto starts by summarizing the cultural policy of the revolution as expressed by Cuban president Fidel Castro in a well-known 1961 speech, which is referred to as "Words to the Intellectuals." In that talk, given at a conference of Cuban writers, Castro defended a policy of artistic and cultural openness, recognizing all contributions that were not overtly counterrevolutionary. One of the statements made by Castro in that speech has since become a guideline for Cuba's cultural policy: "Within the revolution, everything is possible. Against the revolution, nothing."

"The revolution should give up only those who are incorrigible reactionaries," Castro said in the 1961 speech. "The revolution has to understand the real situation and should therefore act in such a manner that the whole group of artists and intellectuals who are not genuinely revolutionaries can find within the revolution a place to work and create, a place where their creative spirit, even though they are not revolutionary writers and artists, can be expressed."

The perspective presented in that speech, Prieto writes, was subsequently elaborated on by Che Guevara in *Socialism and Man in Cuba*. In this famous article, one of his last major political writings, Guevara criticized "socialist realism." Following the death of Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin, "socialist realism" became the banner under which artistic expression deemed threatening to the interests of the bureaucratic caste headed by Joseph Stalin was not only censored but brutally repressed. Similar policies were later implemented by the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe.

In those countries, Guevara wrote in his 1965 essay, cultural policy was transformed "into a mechanical representation of the social reality they wanted to show: the ideal society, almost without conflicts or contradictions, that they sought to create."

Under that view, Guevara said, "what is sought then is simplification, something everyone can understand, something functionaries can understand...."

"But why try to find the only valid prescription in the frozen forms of socialist realism?" he asked. "We must not, from the pontifical throne of realism-at-all-costs, condemn all art forms since the first half of the nineteenth century, for we would then fall into the Proudhonian mistake of going back to the past, of putting a straitjacket on the artistic expression of the man who is being born and is in the process of making himself."

## 'An open, plural, antidogmatic policy'

In his article in *La Gaceta*, Prieto says that the policy of the Cuban revolution on

art is "a policy that is open, plural, antidogmatic, enemy of all kinds of sectarianism."

In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, on the other hand, Prieto says, "they succeeded in liquidating that brilliant fusion between the political vanguard and the artistic vanguard that characterized the time of Lenin and the October Revolution. Repression, censorship, and other methods of mutilation were systematically employed against creative freedom and this created the ideal conditions for opportunism to flourish."

Prieto continues, "In Cuba, as we know, there were errors and 'gray' and 'dark' moments, but timely and successive rectifications prevented a break of the mutually productive ties between the intellectuals who create and operate in the field of politics, and those who do so in the arts and letters."

The term "gray period" is often used by pro-revolution artists in Cuba in reference to the five years between 1971 and 1976, when cultural as well as economic practices copied from the Soviet bureaucracy had the greatest weight.

Prieto opposes the attempt to draw a dividing line between artists and workers. "The enemies of Cuba and its agents (Yankees or other nationalities) have failed in their attempts to create an intellectual fifth column in the country," he says.

"Our cultural program ... must exclude the schematism of the censor from above, behind his enormous desk, and the creator below, awaiting absolution or condemnation. We're not talking about whether the censor is 'harsh and arrogant' on the one hand or 'persuasive' on the other. We simply do not want censors, who have done so much damage to 'actually existing socialism.'"

"We also do not want those in Miami with their Molotov cocktails and hired mobs, nor the less 'visible' censors who function at the service of the powers that be in the capitalist world, and who buy, sell, corrupt, and repress with sophistication, using the marketplace as the dreaded guillotine. It is these people who convert a subnormal type like Sylvester Stallone into a cultural fetish."

Dogmatism, Prieto concludes, "not only stands in the way of the arrival of a humanistic and socialist culture, based on solidarity. But dogmatism can shut the door to a renovated socialism that follows the lines of Marx, Lenin, and [José] Martí, to which we have not, nor will we ever renounce." What Cubans aspire to, Prieto writes, is "a socialism of 'free and cultured' citizens who enjoy a 'prosperity' overflowing with poetry."

## Debate continues

The reverberations of this debate spilled over into subsequent issues of *La Gaceta*. The latest issue (number three) includes a reply to Prieto by Renato Recio. In it Recio claims to have been unjustly criticized and states that the plays were inappropriate. "Some things are more sacred than art," Recio says, pointing to what he believes is the unacceptable use of Che's name in *El arca*.

In addition to this exchange on cultural policy, there are many other articles of interest in the first three issues of 1997. The March-April issue contains a lengthy interview with Cuban writer and poet Pablo Armando Fernández. The May-June issue has an interview with noted photographer Raúl Corrales, and a feature on the continuing popularity of the Beatles in Cuba.

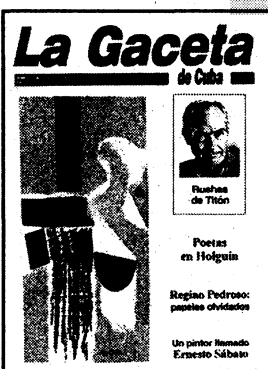
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# U.S., EU rivals clash over Boeing merger

**Continued from front page**  
the EU's top antitrust official July 23, after Boeing offered some concessions. "I'm confident we'll have a formal decision next week."

Van Miert had earlier called the merger "totally unacceptable." The EU reaction, in turn, had drawn fire on this side of the Atlantic. McDonnell Douglas chairman Harry Stonecipher attacked Van Miert for acting on behalf of Airbus, saying, "It's obvious he wants a [trade] war."

"A trade war between the U.S. and Europe costing Europe far more than the U.S. seems likely unless Brussels backs down, or suddenly conducts a much-needed rethink of its dubious jurisdiction in this matter," warned the lead editorial in the July 21 *Wall Street Journal*.

## Conflict is far from over

Even after the announced truce, the dispute is far from over. French government officials, who had urged the European Commission to maintain a firm stance against Boeing and Washington, continued opposing a settlement. "The Americans have made some last-minute concessions, but in my mind they don't go far enough," Pierre Moscovici, Paris's European Affairs Minister, told French radio July 23. The deal, he said, would "throw intolerable barriers to competition."

On July 23, Boeing promised the EU it will not enforce "sole-supplier" provisions of contracts with U.S. airlines. Airbus officials have been particularly incensed with Boeing's recent agreements with American, Continental, and Delta Airlines, making Boeing their exclusive, long-term supplier of jets.

These multibillion dollar deals — 244 aircraft valued at \$17 billion — shut out Airbus for at least 20 years, and provoked Airbus and EU officials to lash out at Boeing. "We will fight like hell," said Ian Massey, Airbus controller. "We won't be bullied out of the business."

Boeing promised the EU it will not enter new "sole-supplier" contracts, unless a competitor offers such deals. It also agreed to give its rivals access to some of its aviation technology, funded by the government through military contracts, for a fee.

At the heart of the conflict is Boeing's effort to maintain and improve its dominant position in the market, while Airbus aims to boost its market share from its current 30 percent to 50 percent. This means both companies are trying to lower the sticker price on airliners, while shoring up their profit rates by cutting costs — especially labor costs.

In this battle, Boeing, which after the merger will employ more than 200,000 workers, is inching ahead.

## N.Y. rally backs steel strikers

BY MARGRETHE SIEM

NEW YORK — Hundreds of steelworkers and their supporters rallied in front of the mid-town Manhattan offices of Merrill Lynch July 22 to support the 11-month-old strike by 4,500 workers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. Forty-five Wheeling-Pitt strikers greeted rally participants with a hand-shake and thank-you, and distributed red t-shirts and hats with the slogan "...strong as steel." The rally was called by the New York City AFL-CIO Central Labor Council. The strikers were visiting New York City after a similar event in Boston.

T-shirts and hats were prominent from the Teamsters, Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, United Steelworkers of America, and other unions. Steelworkers international vice president George Becker and AFL-CIO president John Sweeney were among the speakers who called on Merrill Lynch to end its backing for Wheeling-Pitt.

The USWA had a table with information on an August 15 solidarity caravan from New York City to the picket lines in Ohio.

*Margrethe Siem is a member of United Transportation Union, Local 1360.*

Airbus Industrie's profits fell 17 percent to \$410 million in 1996, amid lower sales of nearly \$9 billion, according to the annual report of Daimler-Benz Aerospace, the German partner in Airbus. Boeing's profits, on the other hand, rose 178 percent to \$1.1 billion in 1996, on sales of nearly \$23 billion.

A major zone of commercial combat between the Airbus consortium and Boeing today is Asia, especially China. Boeing officials have campaigned for greater U.S. penetration of the Chinese market. The company has sold \$1.3 billion in planes to China this year so far. Airbus Industrie also won a \$1.5 billion order from Beijing for 30 planes, during French president Jacques Chirac's recent tour there.

## Business with military

The controversial merger is part of Boeing's plan to increase its weight in the military as well. The company had already acquired Rockwell North American's military business last fall. During the 1990s, a wave of mergers has restructured corporations producing for the U.S. military and space programs.

The largest U.S. military contractor is Lockheed-Martin, the result of a merger between Lockheed and Martin Marietta, with 1996 sales to the Pentagon of \$12 billion. McDonnell Douglas was second with \$9.9 billion, and Boeing was eighth with \$1.7 billion. The merger will put Boeing neck and neck with Lockheed.

Companies have used mergers as part of their "reengineering" and "downsizing" schemes, aimed at increasing their profits on the backs of workers. The number of aerospace workers has declined by 39 percent since the opening of this decade, from a peak of 1.33 million in 1989 to 806,000 in 1996.

Boeing's studies project sales of over \$1

trillion in new airplanes over the next 20 years, in expectation of air traffic expansion, implementation of laws requiring planes that are less noisy and burn fuel more cleanly, and the retiring of older jets.

To be in the best position to win the lion's share of new contracts, Boeing is trying to cut down the "cycle time" for producing a jet — how long it takes from the time a plane is ordered until delivery. The company's goal is to reduce cycle time to six months. Boeing is also on a "drive to improve productivity, doing more with fewer people," said a recent article in the *Seattle Times*.

## Attacks on the union

Boeing plans to jack up production levels from the current rate of 29 airplanes per month to 40 planes per month by the end of this year, and hinted it might try to produce 48 aircraft per month.

Last year, the company hired or recalled 21,000 workers. It has already hired another 10,000 this year.

Boeing has also begun instituting a "lean manufacturing" policy to increase labor productivity through job combinations and speed-up. At a recent conference, Boeing executive vice-president Robert Dryden summed up the essence of the concept. "Quick and crude is better than slow and elegant," he said.

Earlier this year, Boeing tried to transfer 1,500 jobs of expeditors into salaried, non-union positions. Expeditors are organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), the largest union at Boeing with 30,000 members. The union held off this attack, but the company has indicated it will continue to push in this direction.

Boeing is also trying to lengthen the workday and at the same time cut down overtime pay. Many union members now work mandatory 10-hour or 12-hour shifts,

and are forced to work two out of every three weekends, both Saturday and Sunday.

Management recently tried to blackmail the IAM into accepting a 10-hour-day, four-days-a-week schedule for workers at the paint hangar. These workers would get straight-time pay, even if they worked on weekends. The union contract mandates overtime premiums when the workday exceeds eight hours and during weekends. If the union didn't agree, company officials threatened, Boeing would send its airplanes to another company for painting. The union rejected this proposal as an open breach of the contract.

As the competition between Boeing and Airbus heats up, both corporations are forcing their respective workforces to pay the price for speed-up and longer workdays and workweeks. As a result, accidents and health problems will increase and airline safety will be compromised. Investigations of air plane crashes over the last two years have revealed problems with the rudders of Boeing 737 jets and possible problems with the center fuel tanks of the 747 jumbo jets.

Boeing knows it will meet resistance to its plans for concessions. Both management and union members remember the 69-day strike in 1995, when workers fended off some takeback demands. The solidarity and unity achieved by the striking Machinists strengthened the union and increased workers' self-confidence to stand up to the bosses.

Workers at McDonnell-Douglas in St. Louis, organized by the United Auto Workers, waged a strike of 99 days in 1996. With the merger, Boeing must now take on these workers too.

*Scott Breen is a member of IAM District 751 in Seattle, and works at Boeing. He is also the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Seattle.*

# GM workers walk out in Michigan

**Continued from front page**  
"now there are only 15."

One of the main points in the Pontiac settlement is the company's agreement to take on almost 600 new workers at General Motors Truck Operations.

Workers at the complex had urged the hiring of additional people to cut back on the grueling forced overtime and the refusal of earned vacation time. It is not clear whether these will be new hires or transfers of workers from plants that have closed down or been sold off.

GM has also agreed to restore part or all of the \$850 holiday pay each worker lost during the strike and pay more than \$11.5 million in back pay awards to settle individual grievances.

GM and the UAW also reached a settlement at a parts plant in Anderson, Indiana, hours before a July 23 strike deadline there. The details of the contract weren't immediately available.

Here in Warren, Dan Beski, a millwright with 20 years at GM, and about a dozen others picketed one of the gates along Mound Road. All the gates have similar sized groups of strikers waving at cars and trucks that sound their horns as they pass. Beski said the company is "trying to combine the trades. They want welders, millwrights, and sheetmetal workers all in trade. They only want two trades, mechanical and electrical."

He added that another issue is the large number of outside contractors in the plant. GM "thinks as long as they schedule us 10 hours a day they can have outside contractors doing our work. But we should be doing it."

When asked how long they expected to be on strike considering the length of the Pontiac strike, a group of auto workers seemed to agree with hoist operator Gordon Graham when he said, "I don't feel the strike will go on very long. Without our transmissions GM won't be building vehicles."

Some 2,700 workers at GM's Flint assembly plant were told not to report to work for July 24.

Other unionists have already been stopping by to join the picket lines here in Warren. Strikers report that the president of UAW Local 22 had visited. Marc Naumoff, a member of Teamsters Local 372 who had struck the Detroit Newspaper Agency over

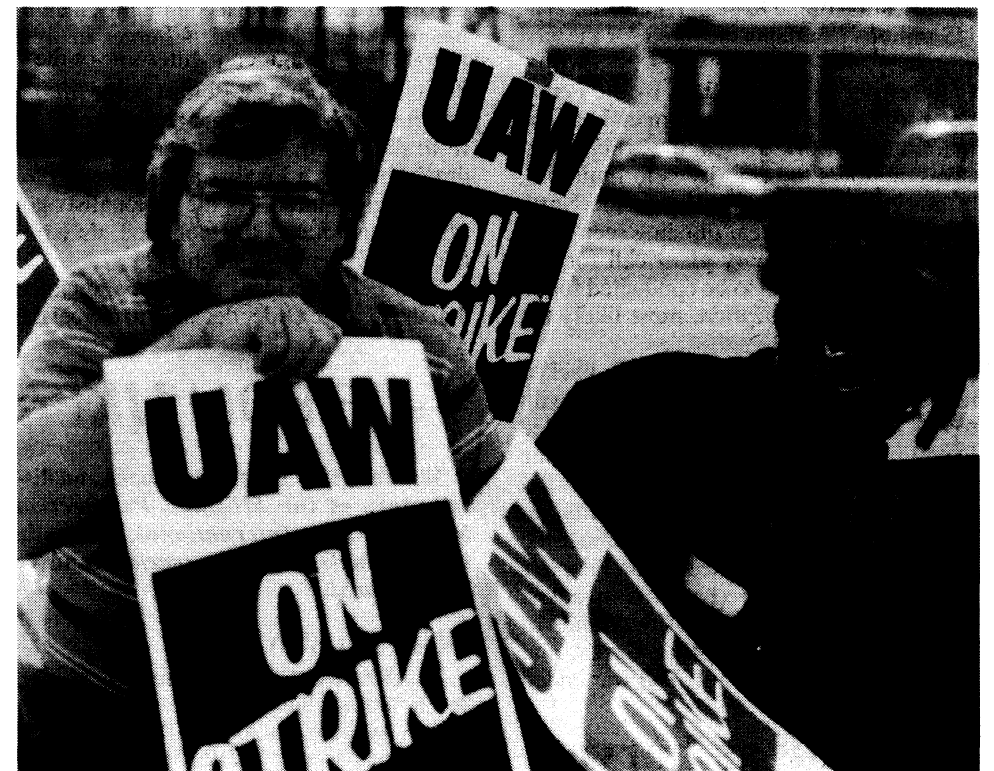


Photo by Rick Maks, UAW Local 594

Workers picket GM plant in Pontiac in April. Days after UAW members returned to work there, members of Local 909 struck transmission plant in nearby Warren.

two years ago, was on the picket line. He explained, "I'm repaying my debt. Other unionists from all over have supported us so I'm here supporting them."

*John Sarge is a member of UAW Local 900. Holly Harkness and Toni Gorton, members of UAW Local 235, contributed to this article.*

## Three Indiana steelworkers killed on job

BY STEPHEN BLOODWORTH

CHICAGO — Three Indiana steelworkers died in as many days as result of injuries sustained on the job.

C.J. Jones, Jr., 61, a member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1010, died July 18 of burns after molten steel spilled over him from a large ladle. His co-worker at Inland Steel, Keith C. Laczi, 42, was severely burned by the same spill. He died the next day. Another worker's hands were burned. He was treated and released from an area hospital.

The third fatality was at U.S. Steel's

Gary Works on July 20. Gary W. Niles, 54, a 27-year member of USWA Local 1014, was killed by a powerful explosion when molten steel leaked into a wet slag pit. A U.S. Steel Gary Works employee told the *Hammond Times* the company knew about the dangerous situation "15 hours before the explosion. A lot of employees were upset because they knew that management knew there was a problem."

*Stephen Bloodworth is a member of USWA Local 1011 at LTV Steel's Indiana Harbor Works.*

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**The Freedom Fight Advances in Northern Ireland: How Working People Weakened British Rule.** Hear an eyewitness report from participants in *Militant* reporting team to Northern Ireland. Speakers: Megan Arney and Lisa Rottach; and Gerald Lally, member Brehon Law Society, eyewitness to resistance on Garvaghy Road. Fri., Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m. 87A Halsey St. (1 block west of Broad St., 2 blocks north of Raymond Blvd.). Donation: \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Speaker: Olga Rodríguez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, member of International Association of Machinists. Sat., Aug.

2, 7:30 p.m. Dinner: 6 p.m. 59 4th Avenue. (Corner of 4th Ave., and Bergen St., near the Atlantic and Pacific subway stops). Donation: \$5. Translation into Spanish. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

## OHIO

### Cleveland

**New Advances in the Fight against British Rule in Ireland.** Speakers: Ann Ezra, Irish Northern Aid; Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Cleveland and member of United Steelworkers of America. Fri., Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m. 1832 Euclid Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Never Again!** Speaker: Dan Cooney, just re-

turned from Japan. Fri., Aug. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
**Report Back from Cuba: The 14th World Festival of Youth.** Fri., Aug. 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Both events held at 1906 South Street. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Eyewitness Reports from Ireland: The Nationalist Struggle Advances.** Speakers: Kieran Clifford, Friends of Sinn Fein; Bill Hughes, author and radio commentator on Radio Free Eireann; and Tom Headley, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m. 1930 18th St. NW (at 18th St. and Florida, entrance on Florida). Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

**The Hunter Valley Miners' Strike and Work-**

**ing-Class Resistance to the Howard Government's and Employers' Attacks.** An eyewitness report back from the CFMEU picket lines. Speaker: Ron Poulsen, member of AMWU and Communist League. Fri., July 25, 7 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9281 3297.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Christchurch

**British Troops Out of Ireland.** Celebrate the cancellation and diversion of rightist Orange Order parades. Speaker: Lars Ericsson, Communist League. Fri., Aug. 1, 7 p.m.

**Discussion on Anarchism and Socialism.** Fri., Aug. 8, 7 p.m.

Both events held at 199 High Street (corner High and Tuam). Donation: \$3. Tel: (03) 365-6055.

# Washington continues threats against N. Korea

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

NEW YORK — In response to severe food shortages faced by workers and peasants in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Washington has maintained a campaign of threats and insinuations of intervention, hoping to further isolate and destabilize this workers state. The food shortages have mounted after repeated floods over the last two years in north Korea. The June 26 *Wall Street Journal* ran an article titled "U.S. gears up for North Korean collapse," with the kicker "Pentagon prepares to lead international aid effort to keep region stable."

The article quotes Marine Maj. General Frank Libutti, senior U.S. military planner for Korea, saying, "While it's not always smart to talk about hypothetical situations, you have to be fat, dumb and blind to not know the North Koreans are suffering from a food and fuel problem."

Military planners have "juggled" three scenarios in recent months, the article says, "explosion into war, collapse or a 'soft landing' resulting from some sort of negotiated reunification of the Korean Peninsula." The US military "remains prepared for the first scenario."

Referring to alleged plans by the Pentagon for U.S. military involvement in an expedition into north Korea, the article says, "Washington's top priority is to limit U.S. military ground involvement inside North Korea. Partly from fear of being seen as an imperial force, military plans call for any U.S. relief operation to be conducted for an international organization, most likely the United Nations."

On July 16, soldiers from U.S.-backed regime in south Korea exchanged fire with troops from the DPRK across the so-called Demilitarized Zone. The zone divides the Korean peninsula along the 38th parallel since the Korean people successfully resisted an invasion by U.S. troops under the UN flag 50 years ago. The Korean People's Liberation Army drove back the invaders, with the help of hundreds of thousands of volunteers from neighboring China, and fought them to a standstill. The war ended

on July 27, 1953, with the Korean peninsula divided.

Subsequently, Washington's client regime in Seoul built a wall along the dividing line. The two governments remain in a formal state of war. Today, Washington maintains 37,000 troops in south Korea.

The U.S. government is also cynically exploiting the food shortages in the DPRK to pressure the north Korean government into making concessions to imperialist demands.

On July 14, Washington said it would double its food shipments to north Korea to 100,000 tons of grain, still a small fraction of what the north Korean government has

requested. The announcement came after the government in Pyongyang, the north Korean capital, said it will participate in a meeting with the governments of the United States, China, and south Korea, scheduled for August 4 in New York. The meeting is supposed to set the timing, location, and agenda of future negotiations on a peace treaty between north and south Korea. Washington had been hampering food shipments to north Korea through the UN World Food Program, until Pyongyang agreed to join the four-party talks.

In a message to the Korean people, celebrating the 44th anniversary of their victorious resistance to Washington's 1950-53

war aimed at dominating the entire Korean peninsula, Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes condemned the "bellicose moves by Washington and Seoul against the Korean people."

Revolutionaries in the United States, Barnes said, "will continue to demand the end of the use of food as a weapon by the imperialist powers and unconditional food deliveries to the DPRK to help alleviate the shortages following repeated natural disasters.... We pledge to join with other working people and youth to tell the truth about your struggle for unification of Korea and to demand the removal of all imperialist military forces from your country."

# Irish freedom struggle makes gains, cease-fire called

Continued from Page 12

young people demonstrated outside Belfast City Hall July 15 calling for the immediate end to the use of plastic bullets.

Meanwhile, loyalist paramilitaries have terrorized the nationalist community, including breaking into people's homes in west Belfast.

Activists from west Belfast, told *Militant* reporters how the bus that they traveled on from the Garvaghy Road was stoned as it drove through a loyalist area, leaving five passengers injured. As the nationalists got off the bus to tend the wounded, they noticed RUC members laughing.

Sinn Fein president Adams commented that the Orange Order decision to cancel the

marches "created a significant breathing space."

Following the mobilizations in Dunloy, Jimmy Gaston, a member of the committee of the Resident's and Parents Association, explained that "the issues of the parades has done as much to unite us and to point the spotlight on the British as anything else in the past 25 years."

The decision to reroute the parades has also deepened fissures among Unionist forces, with the deputy grand master of the Orange Order, William Thompson, openly predicting that the Grand Master Robert Saulters would be deposed for his role in calling the parades off.

In calling off their march through the

Lower Ormeau Road, the Ballynafeigh Orange Lodge said it "reserved the right to parade."

Violence by loyalist forces remains a part of the attempts to break the national struggle and maintain the sectarian state.

"The British must acknowledge that the loyalist cease-fire is over," Sinn Fein councillor for the Moyle District James McCarry said. McCarry had a bomb planted underneath his car, by loyalists in June. On July 15, loyalist terrorists broke into a Belfast home and killed Bernadette Martin, an 18-year-old Catholic, as she slept with her Protestant boyfriend.

Lisa Rottach contributed to this article.

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Also, they love imperialism — Air Force training material for “low intensity conflict” included a 1988 document on “understanding” Latin



Harry Ring

Americans. The *Miami Herald* summarized: “The Latin American sees time as abstract, feels little sense of urgency, happily defers to a higher authority for decisions and measures success by the amount of physical labor he can avoid, the paper said.” They claim it’s no longer in use.

**Quick, the fire hose** — A fourth grade class in Ridgewood,

New Jersey, decided to do a play about the notorious Nike and Disney sweatshops. They collected material and wrote the play. During rehearsals, the principal ordered it canceled. Ten-year-olds, she said, couldn’t grasp the issues. The play, she noted, didn’t show “all the good things these corporations do.”

**Too late?** — One of the angry Ridgewood students wrote the principal a letter of protest. Queried by a reporter on why he felt so deeply about it, Han Park quietly responded: “These workers are not being treated like humans. They’re like dolls being bitten by dogs who are the bosses.”

**Economics I** — Don De Vivo, a U.S. investor in Vietnam, seems gratified that the Vietnamese “are

starting to understand that foreign investment isn’t just money coming in. Investors want to take out more than they put in. That is known as profit.”

**It stinks less?** — The Immigration Service seems a bit touchy about angry charges of racist, inhumane workplace raids to scoop up undocumented immigrants. Declared a *migra* spokesperson: “Don’t say raid. The official term is worksite enforcement action.”

**The ‘civilizers’** — With Judaism Israel’s state religion, the transportation ministry is extending segregated bussing into parts of Jerusalem. The buses — men in front, women in back — meet the demand of ultra-Orthodox Jews for separation of men and women in public.

The segregated buses will have signs, “Religious Line.” There will be separate entrances for men and women.

**The crooks are behind bars?** — Correction Corp. of America (CCA), the country’s biggest private prison outfit, is creating a company to market stock in prison property. Investors’ money will buy nine CCA prisons and lease them back. “Sale” of the nine prisons will give CCA a bundle for further expansion.

**Togetherness program** — The U.S. prison population hit a record peak of 1.3 million in 1996, intensifying overcrowding. The federal pens were 25 percent over capacity. Overcrowding in state prisons, which hold the greatest number of

inmates, ranged from 16 percent to 24 percent.

**In touch with this world** — Wiley Drake, the Orange County minister who was hauled into court for permitting an unlicensed homeless tent site in his church’s parking lot, put it tersely: “It’s all about it being against the law to be poor and homeless.”

**Book him** — Last we heard, a homeless man, 65 and in a wheel chair, had spent 75 days in the emergency room of the Arecibo Regional Hospital in Puerto Rico. The hospital sought a court order requiring the Dept. of the Family to take charge of him. The department had said it didn’t have the money necessary to relocate him in a foster home.

# Is the Democratic Party a ‘lesser evil’?

Pathfinder Press has just brought back into print *The Lesser Evil? Debates on the Democratic Party and Independent Working-Class Politics*. This book consists of debates between members of the Socialist Workers Party and various radicals who argued that the Democratic Party offers a worthwhile arena where advocates of labor, democratic rights, racial justice, women’s rights, and general social progress can present their program.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

The excerpt below is from the opening remarks by Jack Barnes in a 1965 debate with Stanley Aronowitz, at the time a leader of Students for a Democratic Society. In 1965 Barnes was the national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance; today he is the national secretary of the SWP. The entire text of this debate and two others appears in *The Lesser Evil?* The book is copyright © 1977 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

When you talk about the Democratic Party, or read someone discussing the Democratic Party, as a labor-Negro-liberal coalition — and when you include the great mass of the American workers in it — you are not really talking about a party membership, you are talking about a voting bloc, an electoral weight. That is, the average worker, the average Negro, who once every four years or once every two years pulls the Democratic lever, is a voter, not a party member. He plays no role, he takes no daily part in, and he knows damned little about the Democratic Party.

This is very important, because it brings more sharply into focus the basic idea that a political party’s policy is determined not by who pulls the lever for it every four years. The party is defined and determined by the program it puts forth and by what set of policies and strategies in the world and at home it puts forth, and what class or group within a class these policies serve.

The class the party votes for in its program and policies, not the party that the class votes for, is what determines the kind of party it is. By this criterion the Democratic Party in the 1930s and 1940s was, and re-

mains today, a bourgeois party, a party whose basic program is in the interests of the American ruling class. The electoral coalition forged by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, by the CIO heads, and by the Communist Party, merely guaranteed a solid constituency, to use a term in common usage, at least for a brief period of time.

What we are really talking about when we use the phrase American labor-Negro-liberal coalition is a coalition between the owners of American industry and finance and, on the one hand, the professional ward-healers and politicians who keep the party machinery oiled, and, on the other hand, the various trade union bureaucrats and leaders of protest movements in American society, whose job it is to bring out the ranks of the coalition at voting time to guarantee the continuance of the rule of this party as opposed to the Republican Party. They are the safety factor, they are the insurance policy, because when the general propaganda fails, when someone starts to step out of line, when the candidates of the party get to be a little too much to stomach, it’s those boys who whip things into shape, who go to the workers, to the Negroes, to the socialists, and say, “Look, it’s in your class interests, it’s in your interests as socialists, to come out and vote for this group, as a tactic” — in order, of course, to defeat the “greater evil.”

Now that we’ve separated the electoral votes, the coalition, and the party, which are quite different entities, we can answer the most basic question: Who really needs this coalition? If you stop to think about it for a moment, it is crystal clear that the small minority who manage to maintain their rule through this coalition — the American capitalist class — are the ones who need the coalition.

When [pacifist] David McReynolds debated [SWP member] Peter Camejo a few weeks ago at the forum I referred to earlier, McReynolds kept emphasizing how badly the Negroes need allies, how badly the workers need allies, how badly the antiwar activists need allies how they are all small minorities. He kept forgetting to mention the smallest minority of them all — the tiny clique that rules this country through the Democratic Party. They are the ones who are desperate for allies, because they are the ones who, if it depended on their own numbers, could never put anyone in power. In fact, they wouldn’t get nearly as many votes as [New York City SWP mayoral candidate] Clifton DeBerry is going to get next week on election day. If they

lost the voting bloc every election day, they would have to find a new way of ruling, a new way of fooling people, or step from the scene. The final argument of coalitionism — the alleged weakness of the American workers and their alleged need for this coalition — stands everything ultimately completely on its head, because they are the last ones who need the coalition; the coalition is what keeps the American ruling class in power.

Just as the major task, the central question, of the 1930s was whether the working class would build a political arm, so the major concern, the major task, of the politicians who serve this minority capitalist class today is to prevent the majority class from organizing itself as an independent political force and destroying this coalition.

Of course, as far as revolutionary socialists are concerned, the key becomes the break-up and destruction of this coalition and the winning over of the mass of the Negroes, the workers, the radicalized students, and the dissatisfied middle class to a new platform, a new program, and opening their eyes to the character of the leadership that has tied them to this capitalist party....

Without the rejection of participation and

work within the Democratic Party, no steps forward can be taken. But rejection is only the first step.

The term *independent political action*, unfortunately, almost like the term *peace*, is very abstract and very algebraic. You know, just think of the word *peace* for a moment. [U.S. president] Lyndon Johnson is for peace; everyone is for peace. In fact, the more they slug it out the more they are for peace. In some ways, the term *independent political action* is almost the same.

Walk up to almost anyone on the street and ask, “Do you want to be independent politically or dependent politically?” They’ll say, “Independent.” To put any meaning, any concrete meaning in the formula independent political action, we have to go back to the basic question I discussed earlier, the class character of the party.

The Democratic Party carries out the policies and the needs of the American capitalist class; this defines its basic character. If we are going to talk about independent political action, we have to begin to define it as independent of this party and the class it serves. In other words, stop talking about independent political action and start talking about independent working class political action, or independent socialist political action.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

### 25 CENTS THE MILITANT

AUGUST 11, 1972

AUG. 2 — Early on the morning of July 31, 13,000 British troops mounted the largest military operation yet undertaken in North Ireland, smashing through the concrete and steel barricades that have ringed many Catholic areas for more than a year. They used 50-ton Centurion tanks equipped with bulldozer blades and hundreds of armored cars and troop carriers.

In preparation for the operation, 4,000 more troops were brought in during the past week. This raises the total strength of the British garrison in Northern Ireland to 21,000.

The army’s main target was “Free Derry” — the Bogside and Creggan districts of Derry, which have a population of 35,000. Free Derry, the largest of the areas the Catholics have declared off limits to the British, was invaded by 4,000 British soldiers and 300 armored vehicles.

“The army are now in occupation and control throughout Northern Ireland,” said William Whitelaw, the British proconsul, after the assault.

Bernard Weinraub, reporting in the Aug. 1 *New York Times*, described the occupation. “Belfast and Londonderry are under virtual siege. Flakjacketed soldiers — some of them with faces blackened with charcoal — patrolled such Irish Republican Army strongholds as Andersonstown, Falls Road and the Ardoyne in Belfast as well as the Bogside in Londonderry. Troop carriers, tanks and armored cars, equipped with twin Browning machine guns, rumbled down the center of Belfast.”

A July 31 AP dispatch from Derry says, “Barbed-wire roadblocks, thrown up by troops, blocked the streets so thoroughly that some persons were searched three times in one 200-yard stretch.

“Helicopters circled above, ready to give the word on potential trouble.

Weinraub reports that “Although there was no major violence during the assault, Catholics reacted bitterly. Troops were stoned in the Bogside. In Belfast as well as Londonderry, soldiers were cursed and jeered by women and groups of young people.”

### THE MILITANT

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

AUGUST 11, 1947

AMSTERDAM, Holland, July 30 — The militant strike of almost 1,000 dock workers of the Eenheid Vak Centrala is in its third day. The striking workers, who may soon be joined by the crane operators, are bravely standing up against company threats and feel certain of an early victory.

On July 28 one of the dock workers said that he felt Princess Julianna should be hung because she was largely responsible for the war in Indonesia. He was immediately fired. Within a few hours all the dock workers of the EVC in the port of Amsterdam had stopped work to protest the company’s brazen persecution of one of their union brothers who was merely voicing the popular sentiment.

The next day, in reply to the company’s “back to work” order, the workers demanded the reinstatement of their union brother with pay for the time lost for all striking workers.

BACK IN PRINT FROM PATHFINDER

### The Lesser Evil?

Debates on the Democratic Party and Working-Class Politics

by Jack Barnes and others

Can a government that advances the interests of the working class and oppressed be established through support to one of the two parties of big business in the United States? In three debates, Marxist leaders explain why the answer is “no.” \$11.95

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Debates on the Democratic Party and Working-Class Politics  
Jack Barnes & Stanley Aronowitz  
Peter Camejo & Michael Harbeson  
George Newman & Cliff Hurd

# Protest bombings against Cuba

Working people in the United States and around the world should join our brothers and sisters in Cuba in denouncing the latest terrorist bombings of tourist hotels in Havana. The Cuban government says it has evidence that the explosives used and individuals involved came from the United States. Whether the U.S. government has a direct hand in the blasts or not, these attacks are the product of Washington's policy of economic war aimed at starving the Cuban people into submission.

We urge all our readers to join forums and other protest and educational actions to tell the truth about Cuba and demand the repeal of the Helms-Burton law and all other U.S. sanctions against the Cuban people.

Forty-four years ago, young rebels led by Fidel Castro organized the historic assault on the Moncada barracks and the nearby Bayamo garrison. Even though they didn't succeed in taking the garrisons, July 26, 1953, marked the insurrectionary start of the popular movement that a few years later overthrew the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and opened the socialist revolution in the Americas. It's an anniversary worthy of celebration by working people and young fighters the world over.

Washington responded with a wave of sanctions, a failed invasion, and countless terrorist attacks, as the Cuban people carried through a thorough land reform, eliminated illiteracy, nationalized industry and banking, and began

building a new society free of class exploitation, racism, and the subjugation of women as a second sex.

The U.S. empire has never forgiven the Cuban people for steadfastly defending their national independence and the socialism they chose and for refusing to bend their knees ever since. The imperialists to the north have never forgiven the Cuban people for their selfless internationalism as they joined national liberation struggles — from Angola to Vietnam and Palestine.

As the *Second Declaration of Havana*, Cuba's 1962 manifesto of revolutionary struggle, aptly put it, behind the U.S. rulers' hatred lies their "fear that the plundered people of the continent will seize the arms from their oppressors and, like Cuba, declare themselves free people of the Americas."

It's this revolutionary example that Washington tries to prevent young people from getting a glimpse of by denying travel licenses to those who made plans to go to Cuba for an international youth conference that's just about to open.

Working people and youth should demand granting the licenses for the youth festival, no harassment of young people returning from Cuba, ending the undemocratic travel ban altogether, lifting the U.S. economic and trade embargo, and halting the fostering of terrorist attacks against the Cuban people.

# Release the N.Y. detainees!

Free the 57 immigrant workers from Mexico held incommunicado by *la migra* in New York City! End all attempts to deport these workers, give them work permits, and grant them asylum! Arrest and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law those who held them in virtual bonded slavery and brutally exploited them! Equal rights all for immigrants now!

That's what the labor movement, working farmers, students, other young people, and all decent human beings should join forces to demand through marches and other protest actions. This is a necessary response to the treatment by the police and immigration authorities of these Mexican workers who are deaf.

The forced labor and abuse these workers suffered at the hands of their bosses is the fruit of the draconian new restrictions on the rights of immigrants codified in the immigration law passed by a bipartisan Congress and signed by the Clinton administration last year. It is also the fruit of decades-old discrimination against Mexicans and other immigrants. It is the fruit of the scapegoating of immigrant workers for the ills of capitalism that has become the stock-in-trade of bourgeois politicians.

The cutoff of medical and other benefits to tens of thousands of immigrants and the tighter restrictions on obtaining visas and work permits are geared toward creating pariah layers of the working class, with few legal rights, who can be terrorized and superexploited, just like these

Mexican workers at Jackson Heights. Divisions and dog-eat-dog competition among the toilers are deepened this way, hurting the entire working class in its struggle to resist takeback demands from the bosses. For the employers and their government in Washington, this simply means higher profits.

Mexicans and working people from throughout Latin America are continuing to cross the borders into the United States because of the abysmal working and living conditions in those countries. These conditions are deteriorating largely because of imperialist domination of these nations. The influx of Mexican and other immigrant workers is making the working class in the United States increasingly multinational, and thus stronger. Toilers from Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, Argentina and elsewhere bring with them invaluable experience in resisting austerity against capitalists and landlords in their countries of origin. These experiences can become a factor in the class struggle in the United States as immigrant workers get jobs in factories and in the fields and join organizing drives, strikes, and other labor actions.

These brothers and sisters should be welcomed with open arms by working people in the United States who should join them in demanding cancellation of the foreign debt of Mexico and other third world countries and an end to restrictions on the rights of immigrants.

For a world without borders!

# Immigrants should have full rights

Continued from front page

workers got two days off a month, and could not return home until they had sold their quota of \$100 a day in the \$1 trinkets. Workers who did not return were hunted down by crew chiefs and brought back. Workers received \$400 a month, of which \$200 was taken back to pay for the rent at the apartments they were warehoused in.

The Mexican consulate in New York admitted that it had seen possibly up to 10 of the immigrant workers, who had come to the embassy for help in reaching their families. The consulate claimed to have not noticed anything amiss. It has also come to light that at least three city agencies — the police, the City Department of Buildings, and Emergency Medical Services — had visited at least one of the apartments, responding to neighbors' concerns about incidents occurring in the building. Again, no action was taken to remove these workers from the situation they were forced into.

As of July 23, seven people have been arrested and charged with a number of federal and state crimes, including smuggling, transporting and harboring immigrants.

This reporter and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Manhattan District Attorney, Margrethe Siem, attempted to interview the workers on July 23 at the Westway Motor Inn where they are being held. We were denied access by two city cops, along with other reporters. When asked if the immigrant workers were under arrest, the cops said no, but they could not leave the motel either.

Among those attempting to get in to see the workers

was Efraín Galicia, a leading activist of Unimex, a coalition of Mexican organizations and individuals based in East Harlem that represents the interests of *mexicanos* in the city. Galicia called on immigrant rights groups and civil and human rights organizations to protest the treatment by the city and federal authorities of the Mexican workers. "These workers are being treated like criminals, when in fact they should be considered heroes of society," for bringing to light this situation. He called on the U.S. government to grant amnesty to these workers and to grant them work permits.

The case is a big topic of discussion in the Jackson Heights neighborhood where the Mexican workers lived.

"They're good people," said Juan Carlos, who knew the workers involved. "We all come here to work. We don't have the opportunities in our countries. These people worked over 12 hours a day. If someone doesn't have papers, they can't move up."

Oscar Andrade, a 30-year-old Ecuadorian, said the abusive conditions the workers faced "is not an isolated incident. This is happening nationally."

John López, a student and worker at a local market, commented that the detention of the deaf workers, "is an attack on all immigrants. It is a racist attack." López, originally from Paraguay, came here nine years ago. "Immigrant workers in the United States," he said, "have a right to be here and to full rights."

*Olga Rodríguez is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1445, and the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York.*

# One year after TWA crash, Washington still flaunts airline safety

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — July 17 marked the one-year anniversary of the day Trans World Airlines (TWA) Flight 800 crashed over the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Long Island killing all 230 people aboard. Leading up to this date, the big-business media was full of stories about the ongoing suffering of the families of the victims. A House of Representatives aviation sub-committee held hearings July 10 where they heard testimony from relatives of the victims. Several memorial services were held on July 17. Little to nothing was said in the news, however, about the cause of the crash or what measures the government may take to improve airline safety.

After recovering 95 percent of the plane from the ocean floor and a year-long investigation, the government has discovered no evidence to back its earlier claims that a bomb or a missile caused the explosion. What investigators have concluded is that a mechanical malfunction, which ignited an explosion at the Boeing 747's center fuel tank, is the most probable cause of the disaster. The investigation, however, has not ended as the FBI and the government have refused to accept mechanical failure as the definitive conclusion.

At the recent aviation hearing, the first government sub-committee hearing on the crash, James Hall, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said, "I think we'll be able to solve this mystery."

On July 15, a 747 jet similar to the one that crashed was flown over the Atlantic with the same amount of fuel as TWA Flight 800. This plane was equipped with 150 sensors that track temperatures, pressures and fuel/air ratios in another effort to determine what may have ignited the explosion.

The government has been dragging its feet, despite recommendations from the NTSB. An earlier report by the safety board had pointed out that the fuel pipe that runs down the center of the plane, called the cross-feed manifold, can allow static electricity to build up, resulting in a spark that could ignite fumes in the tank causing an explosion.

The NTSB recommended that the center fuel tanks of 747s be loaded fully before departure. In addition, the board proposed mandating a procedure known as "inerting," which has been known for 24 years, but has never been implemented due to its high cost and the unwillingness of the companies to pay. "Inerting" flushes explosive vapors from the empty space in fuel tanks by pumping in nitrogen or some other inert, nonflammable gas so that vapors that build up will not explode.

In a clear case of putting profits before human lives, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the governmental agency responsible for airline safety, refuses to adopt the proposed NTSB standards.

Upon hearing these recommendations, Boeing, the airplane manufacturer, said the measures are "far-reaching and have broad implications for the entire industry." In response to the proposal to institute "inerting," Boeing officials said that "our experience indicates that the protective features built into the fuel system are effective for the service life of the airplane."

The big-business press has backed the aerospace giant. The July 12 *New York Times* ran an editorial titled "Flight 800's Technical Puzzle" that supports inaction in implementing any new safety standards. "There have been only two explosions of Boeing central fuel tanks in over 120 million hours of flights," the *Times* editors say. "This is an astoundingly good safety record, which warrants no hasty correction — especially if 'corrections' could create a new, graver risk."

Referring to the recent re-enactment of flight 800, the editorial concludes, "The important fact is that repetition of Flight 800's center tank explosion is a small enough risk that regulators can take the time to make the right decisions."

As competition in the airline industry and among plane manufacturers sharpens, it has become clear that the companies and the government will increasingly sacrifice safety and working conditions for the sake of shoring up their profits.

On July 22, TWA announced it will cut another 1,000 jobs — 4 percent of its workforce — by the end of the year. The airline said it is consolidating its 23 domestic maintenance stations into 13. According to Associated Press, the cuts will include about 250 jobs at the airline's overhaul base in Kansas City, Missouri; 200 jobs at its domestic line maintenance stations; 200 jobs from airport operations; and 225 jobs from reservations.

*Nancy Rosenstock is a member of the International Association of Machinists and works for TWA in New York.*



# Three-day walkout halts British Airways

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers

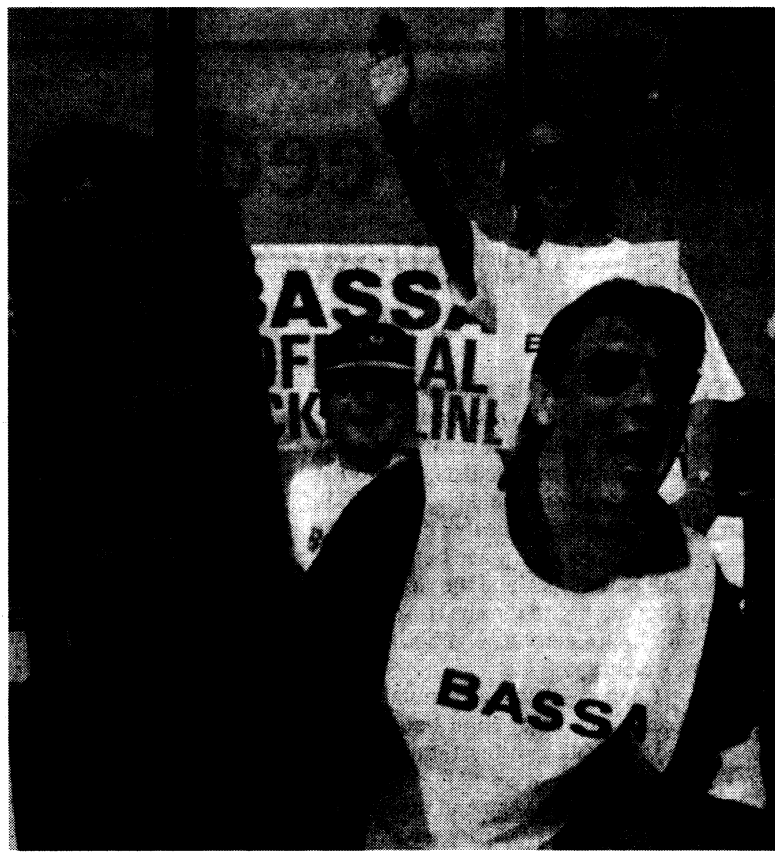
but these trains were the first attempt to ship coal out of the strike-bound mine. Scab labor has not been used in the coal fields in Australia since the Chifley Labor government sent troops into the coal mines and coal-loading ports to defeat a 1949 national coal strike.

and turned back truckers entering the port area. Not one ILWU member crossed. The unionists were joined in supporting the strike by hundreds of "casual" dockworkers. After a certain number of hours casual dockworkers become ILWU members. "Workers from the Scalers and Chippers union, who do boat repair, have also been down on the picket lines here," said ILWU member Tom Hofve. The local machinists union also supported the strike.

Dockworkers have been involved in several protest actions over a new coal processing facility, the Los Angeles Export Terminal, saying that coal dust in the air creates a hazardous work environment. Another issue is that this new terminal, built by a consortium of U.S. and Asian firms, is trying to run non-union, with ILWU members working on the ships but not the facility, said Hofve. "We want to see any cargo that moves in the harbor to be union," he said. "The pilots are in negotiations and we're walking the line for them."

Last year nearly 7,000 independent truck drivers struck the harbor to try and form a union. Traffic ground to a halt as thousands of big rigs circled the port area. Unable to win the support of other unions, their strike was broken and the drivers remain nonunion.

A Los Angeles Superior Court Judge issued an injunction on July



British Airways workers picket London's Heathrow airport July 9

## ON THE PICKET LINE

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

LONDON — British Airways (BA) cabin crew workers struck July 9-11 to protest the imposition of a package of cuts in pay and working conditions aimed at saving the company £42 million (\$70 million). The walkout brought London's Heathrow airport to a near standstill.

Most of the 9,000 cabin crew workers at BA are members of the British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association, a division of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU). Prior to the strike, management had expressed confidence that they could break the strike, using non-strikers and staff on short-term contracts. BA also counted on the management-backed breakaway union Cabin Crew '89 to keep its planes in the air. Cabin Crew '89, which has accepted BA's terms, claims 3,000 members; this is disputed by many workers.

BA managers tried to intimidate the workers, including telephoning staff at home, demanding to know if they planned to support the strike.

At the same time, 9,000 ground staff voted 2-1 to strike against the proposed sell-off of BA's catering operations, where 1,400 workers are employed. In previous years several divisions, including cleaning, have been sold off, leading to large cuts in wages and working conditions.

On the last day of the strike, several hundred cabin staff demonstrated outside Heathrow Airport. Their march was applauded by other airport workers. Hundreds of motorists sounded their horns repeatedly. As the strike ended, BA agreed to renegotiate the pay and conditions package it had previously imposed. Negotiations are also continuing with ground staff. TGWU representatives have set a deadline of August 8 for management to agree to a new pay and working conditions package, threatening another three-day strike.

### Australia miners battle bosses over union rights

SINGLETON, Australia — Some 440 mine workers at the Hunter Valley No. 1 open cut coal mine near Singleton, some 150 miles north of Sydney, have been on strike since June 10 against Rio Tinto (formerly RTZ-CRA), the world's largest mining company.

In what has become the central union battle in Australia, Rio Tinto has refused to settle an enterprise agreement (local contract) at the mine over the last two years, recently offering nonunion individual contracts instead, and has targeted a broad range of working conditions, including seniority rights.

In picket line standoffs on July 4 and 7, train crews who are members of the Public Transport Union refused to cross the miners' pickets, forcing coal trains Rio Tinto had ordered from FreightCorp, a New South Wales state government-owned corporation, to return empty.

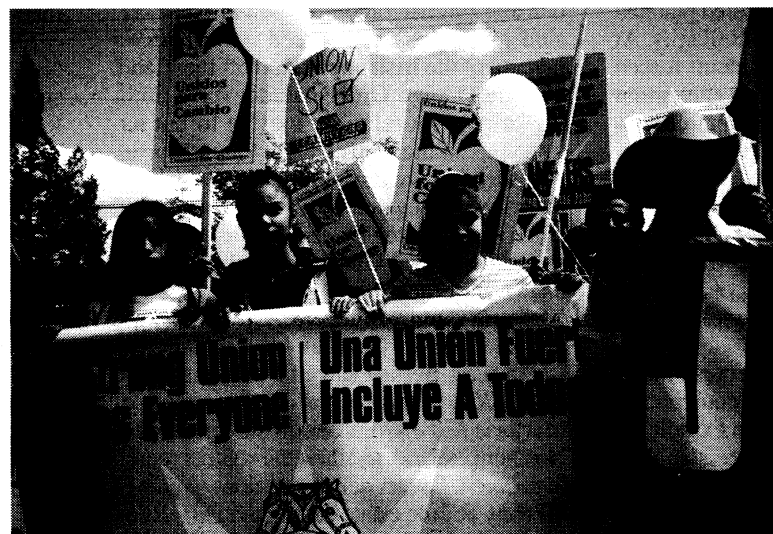
Rio Tinto has been working some coal at the mine during the strike,

Defense Minister Ian McLachlan, in one of several statements of support to Rio Tinto by the federal Liberal/National Coalition government, declared July 13 that troops could be called to operate the mine.

Since the July 4 and 7 stand-offs, FreightCorp has taken the Public Transport Union to the Australian Industrial Relation Commission, which ruled that the train crews had to cross the picket lines unless lives were in danger. FreightCorp has also threatened to use management to drive trains through the pickets.

The coal-loading company at Newcastle, partly owned by Rio Tinto, has threatened to sack any worker who refuses to handle coal taken through the picket lines.

With the dispute threatening to escalate to involve the rail unions and maritime unions as well as coal miners, some 2,000 coal miners and supporters marched on the Rio Tinto offices in Sydney July 16, pre-



Farm workers' supporters rally July 9 in Wanatchee, Washington.

senting a petition from the strikers that the company recognize their right to a union contract.

Rio Tinto agreed to resume negotiations while the strike continued, without retreating on any of their demands.

The strikers have a very well organized and disciplined picket line with high morale. Striker Geoff Betten, an electrician at the mine, said, "I think this is going to be a very long, drawn out strike."

### Dock workers shut L.A. port to back pilots' strike

LOS ANGELES — On July 11 a dozen harbor pilots, backed by 3,000 dockworkers, shut down the second busiest harbor in the country for three and a half days in a strike over wages and job security.

Pilots meet ships approaching port, board them from speedboats and guide them to dock. In the port of Los Angeles, they are government employees, members of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 68, and the only harbor pilots in the country who do not work for a private contractor.

Currently salaries are \$113,000 a year but the pilots are demanding a 72 percent increase. Their wages are substantially lower than other harbor pilots across the country, which range from \$134,000 to \$270,000. The city offered a 17 percent pay increase.

Hundreds of members of the ILWU staffed 24-hour picket lines

15 against harbor pilots picketing private container terminals, but did not order them back to work. The pilots are still on strike, but the longshoremen are back at work. The ruling stands until July 24. Meanwhile, the pilots and the city agreed to negotiations.

### 400 rally to support farm workers in Washington

WENATCHEE, Washington — Four hundred farm workers, union members, and supporters marched through the streets here July 9 to support the struggle of Washington apple workers for union represen-

tation. A score of United Farm Workers (UFW) members from the Yakima Valley joined workers from nearby fruit packing warehouses and their families at the front of the march. They were joined by Steelworkers, Carpenters, Machinists, Teamsters, and other unionists in town attending a statewide AFL-CIO Convention.

The Apple Organizing Campaign is a joint effort between the Teamsters and the UFW to organize apple workers in the fields and the cold storage houses. There are about 15,000 fruit packers in Washington, who the Teamsters are attempting to organize. The UFW is organizing among the apple orchard workers, whose numbers swell to 45,000 during peak harvest season.

Teamster organizers report that 65 percent of the workers at Stemilt, one of the largest apple warehouses in the state, have signed union pledge cards. Noe Luna, a worker at Stemilt, explained why workers are supporting the union in growing numbers: "I want a union at Stemilt so that we will be respected, taken into account as workers, and listened to."

At a rally held in Memorial Park following the march, a fruit packer spoke in support of the Teamsters union. "We are working to get the dignity owed to the workers, not based on race or color. The only color the employers know is the green of money. We must join together," she told the crowd.

UFW president Arturo Rodriguez urged the demonstrators to join an August 10 march in Mattawa, Washington, to support the union drive. Also speaking in support of the organizing drive were Tom Leedham, International vice presi-

dent of the Teamsters union, and John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO.

Scott Breen, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Seattle, was also there, marching and talking with rally participants at a campaign table staffed by supporters and members of the Young Socialists.

### UPS workers may strike over contract

Members of the Teamsters union at United Parcel Service (UPS) have voted 95 percent in favor of authorizing strike action after their contract expires July 31, if the company does not meet their demands for more full-time jobs, stronger safety protections, increased job security, and better wages and pensions. More than 60 percent of UPS workers are considered part-time — with lower wages and benefits. This includes 10,000 employees who work 35 hours or more a week. According to the Teamsters, 83 percent of new jobs at UPS since 1993 have been part-time.

In February 1994, UPS workers struck nationally for the first time, pushing back the company's attempts to increase the weight handled by the unionists.

*Martin Hill, member of TGWU branch 111935 in Luton, England; Bob Aiken, member of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union in Sydney; Mark Friedman, member of the International Association of Machinists, and Barry Fatland, member of the United Transportation Union, in Los Angeles; and Alaric Dirmeyer, member of the Young Socialists in Seattle contributed to this column.*

## LETTERS

### Blow to British empire

In the shadow of Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese sovereignty, the big-business media here ran figures for the number of colonized people ruled by the British Empire in 1945 (760 million) compared to July 1, 1997 (168,000), which explicitly means that they considered Hong Kong, with its 6.4 million, the last significant bastion of British colonialism.

When I asked one of my workmates to read down that published list of post-June 30 British colonies and tell me what was missing, his reply was instantaneous: Northern Ireland! He's neither Chinese nor Irish, but is originally from the former British and French

colony of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.

Hong Kong's return serves to strengthen the self-confidence of Irish fighters and their allies around the globe that no matter how long it takes, Ireland will be united and free.

*Doug Cooper  
Sydney, Australia*

### Turkey is not imperialist

The June 23, 1997, issue has what I feel is an error. The In Brief section has an item entitled, "Iraqis say Turkish troops out!" I will quote the first sentence: "Hundreds of people assembled May 29 in Baghdad to denounce the invasion

of northern Iraq by 50,000 Turkish imperialist troops" (my emphasis).

This is an error. Turkey is not an imperialist country. The invasion of Iraq is reactionary to the core, but let us be careful in our characterizations. There are only two imperialist powers located in the area — Greece and Israel.

*Georges Mehrabian  
Athens, Greece*

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.

## Irish freedom struggle makes gains

### Cease-fire follows victory over rightist parades and London's ultimatums

BY PAUL DAVIES  
AND TIM RIGBY

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) restored its cease-fire on July 20, following several important gains won by Irish nationalists. These include the British government backing down from its previous insistence that decommissioning of weapons take place before "substantive" all party talks, and the rightist Orange Order agreeing to reroute its sectarian marches through Catholic neighborhoods in Northern Ireland.

In June, London shifted its position to say that the nationalist party Sinn Fein would be allowed into talks on the future of Ireland after six weeks of an IRA cease-fire. Previously, the government had insisted on stalling Sinn Fein's participation.

London also established that the talks would take place within a stated time frame, something that Sinn Fein had been pressing for. In response to a letter from Sinn Fein MP Martin McGuinness, the government's Northern Ireland Office established that decommissioning of weapons would not have to take place until all-party talks had begun.

In May, British prime minister Anthony Blair had threatened, "The settlement train is leaving. I want you [Sinn Fein] on that train. But it is leaving anyway, and I will not allow it to wait for you." But wait is what the British government did. While claiming to have ended all contact with Sinn Fein the government made numerous attempts to "clarify" its proposals for entry into all-party talks.

A Sinn Fein national leadership meeting on July 18 urged the IRA to restore the cease-fire of 1994. In a statement following the meeting Gerry Adams outlined the party's position going into the talks. "There will be no return to Unionist domination," he declared. The Unionist parties favor continued British rule over Northern Ireland. "As an Irish republican party, Sinn Fein will be guided by our aim of a united Ireland. We will be seeking an end to British rule in Ireland." The proposed entry of Sinn Fein into all-party talks following the IRA's cease-fire has deepened divisions among the Unionists. The Democratic Unionist Party has insisted that it will walk out of talks if Sinn Fein is allowed in. However the larger Ulster Unionist Party has been careful to distance itself from the proposed walkout.

#### Mass actions push back Orange Order

In early July, nationalist protest actions exploded across Northern Ireland in the wake of the British government's decision to force a rightist Orange Order march along the Catholic Garvaghy Road, in the city of Portadown. After seeing this resistance, the group canceled its marches through Catho-



Patrick O'Kane (with tie), chair of Parents and Residents' Association, speaks to participants at march and protest rally against sectarian marches July 11, in Dunloy, Northern Ireland.

lic areas on July 12.

It was an unprecedented step by the Orange Order, which organizes triumphalist marches through Catholic areas from May to September every year. It canceled planned marches in Belfast, Derry, and Bellaghy. At Newtownbutler, nationalist residents forced the Orange Order to negotiate an agreement for the first time. The sectarian march was rerouted away from that town, whose population is 87 percent Catholic.

The one place where the Orange Order made no decision to reroute was the Catholic village of Dunloy. There the Orange Order marched past the village, choosing at the last minutes not to march through it, as 200 residents mobilized.

The Orange Order is an all Protestant, all male secret organization, whose constitution makes marriage to a Catholic an expellable offense. Its rules also discourage social or sporting activity with Catholics.

The parades that were rerouted on July 12 were to celebrate the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, when Protestant forces loyal to

William of Orange of England defeated Catholic forces loyal to English King James. Then William's forces took the land owned by Catholics and gave it to Protestant Scottish and English landlords, who in turn created plantations and forced more than 85 percent of the Irish population off their land.

"The Orange Order parades have nothing to do with religion; they're to put nationalists in their place," Turlough Martin, a resident of Dunloy, explained to *Militant* reporters. "They don't just sing hymns, they sing *God Save the Queen*, and as they pass the RUC [Royal Ulster Constabulary] pen us in our homes."

Hours after the Orange Order's July 6 march down the Garvaghy Road, nationalists in west Belfast staged a demonstration of 15,000 in protest at the decision of Marjorie Mowlam, London's Secretary for Northern Ireland, to allow the rightist march to proceed. Feeder demonstrations streamed off the Catholic estates along the Falls Road to the Andersonstown army barracks to hear Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams urge

peaceful protests to ensure that the focus remained on the British government.

In the three days that followed the Garvaghy Road march, west Belfast witnessed the most sustained rioting since the 1981 hunger strike by nationalist prisoners. In Poleglass hundreds of youths fought pitched battles with the RUC cops and the British army. Barricades were erected to block the British occupying forces in several nationalist communities.

After two nights of widespread rioting in the Short Strand, a small Catholic area in predominantly Protestant east Belfast, police organized raids on houses and were met by local women banging garbage can lids and blowing whistles to warn other residents and to shame the RUC for their actions. In the Oldpark area of north Belfast the RUC and British army were forced to abandon the

streets after petrol bombing. Sinn Fein activists urged young people not to riot, noting that it suited the British to contain the youths in their own areas and do damage to their own communities.

On July 9 thousands came from across Northern Ireland to the Garvaghy Road to show solidarity with the residents. The following night over a thousand nationalists responded to a call from the residents of the Lower Ormeau Road to join protests in the tiny Catholic enclave in Belfast against the scheduled July 12 Orange Order.

"We want to send a message to Mo Mowlam that we're not alone and the days of walking all over us are over," explained resident Lucy Rice.

#### Cops fire thousands of rounds

During the three days of street battles, the RUC fired thousands of rounds of plastic bullets at nationalist protesters. In Derry nine people were admitted to the hospital with injuries from plastic bullets. Some 400

Continued on Page 12

## Paperworkers, others strike in Canada

BY TONY DI FELICE

CAMPBELL RIVER, British Columbia — Some 2,400 workers at three British Columbia pulp and paper mills owned by Fletcher Challenge Canada set up picket lines July 14. Two-thirds of these workers are organized by the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP), and around 800 are in the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada (PPWC). This is one of several important recent strikes across Canada.

New Zealand-based Fletcher Challenge is demanding 365-day continuous production. Currently, the only time the mills shut down is December 24-26. The company also wants mill-wide "flexibility" on job classification and contracting out, and a six-year contract. It claims the CEP has already conceded these demands to pulp and paper mills in Eastern Canada.

The unionists are primarily fighting to limit overtime so that more jobs can be created. According to Brian Payne, western vice president of the CEP, 500 jobs could be created if the overtime hours were cut in half. The union is also calling for a three-year contract and a wage increase. The union officials count on the support of British Columbia premier Glen Clark, of the union-based New Democratic Party (NDP). In the past, Clark has spoken against the increased overtime in the pulp and paper industry while many workers can't find a job.

This strike will directly determine contracts at 25 mills employing 14,000 workers organized by the CEP and PPWC, who are part of a "Joint Caucus" where the settle-

ment reached with Fletcher Challenge will be used as a "target contract" with the owners of the other mills.

Workers on the picket line at the Elk Falls Mill near here say they expect a long hard strike, and are preparing for it. They say that the company was stockpiling paper and has been encouraging its customers to build up their inventories.

#### Part of broader labor resistance

This fight is part of a growing labor resistance across Canada that coincides with an upturn in the economy. This resistance was among other things signaled by the surprise Canada's capitalist rulers got in last June's federal elections, when the ruling Liberal Party almost lost the majority they had taken for granted.

The resistance also came with a shift in support to the NDP, especially in the maritime provinces, one of the poorest areas of the country that had witnessed significant resistance to major cuts to social services by workers, fishermen, and oppressed French-speaking Acadians.

The day after the federal elections, the almost 4,800 members the United Steelworkers of America at INCO in Sudbury, Ontario, waged a 26-day strike against one of the largest nickel mines in Canada. The miners scored a few gains, earning slight wage and pension increases and a pledge of modest new hiring by the company.

Since July 11, some 1,600 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union have struck the Cargill meat packing plant in High River, Alberta. With several

hundred strikers staffing the picket lines 24 hours a day, the company is having trouble trying to get any production going with management and office staff. According to the *Calgary Herald* of July 16, "members of the Ironworkers Local 725 union from Lafarge Canada Inc. who were building a pre-fabricated water treatment plant at the Cargill facility have left their worksite, refusing to cross the picket line."

In the meantime Alberta teachers and other provincial and municipal public sector workers in Quebec and Ontario are taking strike votes to defend their wages, working conditions, and union rights.

The Ontario Federation of Labour has called a special convention for July 28 in Toronto to discuss collective actions against bill 136, introduced by the Conservative provincial government of Michael Harris. This bill threatens to tear up union contracts, eliminate job security, reduce wages, and suspend the right to strike of tens of thousands of health, education and municipal workers across the province.

Finally, the 45,000 members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers are preparing for a fight with their employer. Canada Post wants to eliminate thousands of jobs and CUPW members voted 89.5 percent to mandate their national leadership to call a strike if no agreement is reached before the end of their contract on July 31. Meanwhile, postal workers held a series of actions across the country.

Tony Di Felice is a member of CEP Local 1129 in Vancouver.

#### Reporters harassed by cops upon return

Upon our return to Manchester from Belfast these *Militant* reporters were questioned by a special branch cop at Manchester airport. Immediately on arriving, the cop asked us who we had been staying with, where we lived, and where we worked.

These cops are deployed under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) to harass, probe, and gather information. This law allows the police to make arrests without warrant and detain people for up to a week without charges. The great majority of those arrested are never charged.

We are contacting a solicitor and our MPs to protest this harassment and attack on the democratic right to travel and carry out news reportage.

— P.D. AND T.R.