

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

SPECIAL FEATURE

Preface to 'Cuba and the Coming American Revolution'

— PAGES 8-10

VOL. 65/NO. 21 MAY 28, 2001

Fidel Castro in Iran: 'The shah of imperialism will fall too'

BY MA'MUD SHIRVANI

Cuban president Fidel Castro made a state visit to Iran May 6-10 on the invitation of President Mohammad Khatemi. He was welcomed to the country by the president and had well-publicized meetings with Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, head of state; the former president Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani; and other high-level officials of the Iranian government. While in Iran he also spoke at two universities in Tehran.

The Cuban president told an enthusiastic student audience at the University of Tehran that "imperialism was the greatest danger and the enemy of the world," according to the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA).

In the speech, Castro saluted the Iranian people for their courage and heroic self-sacrifice during the 1979 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed shah (king) of Iran. He said, "You were able to overthrow the biggest gendarme in the region not with guns, but with your ideas, culture, and patriotism," ISNA reported.

"One shah still remains in the world," Castro told the students. "That is the shah of imperialism which is entrenched near my homeland. It is an exploiting shah that wants to impose its system on the entire world and drag it into oppression," he said, as reported

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Washington's moves seek to reinforce its dominance in Europe, Asia

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington is taking steps to reinforce its domination in Europe and strengthen its role in the Pacific. The U.S. government's main lever in this drive is its superior military power, including its vast nuclear arsenal and plans for an antimissile shield.

Since early May the Bush administration has dispatched top aides to a number of countries in Europe and Asia promising them coverage under Washington's antimissile shield; initiated probes to expand ties with Japan's armed forces; and encouraged expansion of the NATO military alliance into eastern Europe, a move that would increase the weight of U.S. imperialism on the continent. These moves have bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress, since they have been at the center of Washington's course for some time.

During a visit to Japan, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage urged Tokyo May 8 to develop a military "partnership" with Washington. "As a lot more of U.S. thinking turns toward Asia, I'd like to see a relationship with Japan that is like that of the relationship with Great Britain,"

Continued on Page 4

Protests in Panama force rollback of austerity move

Biggest street actions since resistance to 1989 U.S. invasion

BY MAGGIE TROWE

After two weeks of angry street demonstrations by labor organizations and students, the government of Panama suspended a recently imposed 66 percent hike in bus fares. The protests, with demonstrators standing up to tear gas and riot police clubs, were among the largest since those that opposed the 1989 U.S. invasion of this Central American nation.

The street demonstrations began May 1 after the government of President Mireya Moscoso announced the sharp fare increases. This latest measure acted as a detonator for growing class tensions and anger at the government's austerity policies. It followed the doubling of telephone charges for the smallest users, and increases in water and electricity rates.

The official unemployment rate in Panama rose from 11.7 percent in 1999 to 13.3 percent this year. The actual numbers are much higher. Thirty-seven percent of the country's population lives below the official poverty line.

The biggest demonstration took place

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Police attack workers and students in Panama City protesting steep bus fare hike. There is growing anger among working people over government's austerity measures.

FBI targets rights in 'espionage' cases

BY RÓGER CALERO

Two Japanese scientists accused of stealing and hiding biological materials from a research center in Cleveland in July 1999 were indicted May 9 by a federal grand jury and will be prosecuted under the Economic Espionage Act. Takashi Okamoto, 40, who

headed an Alzheimer's disease research program at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and Hiroaki Serizawa, 39, the other accused scientist, allegedly conspired to transfer materials to a research facility in Japan, where Okamoto started a job after quitting the company in Cleveland.

Just a week earlier, two Chinese citizens employed by the New Jersey-based telecommunications equipment giant Lucent Technologies, and a marketing executive for a New Jersey technology company, were arrested by the FBI. They are accused of stealing trade secrets from the software company and transferring them to Datang Telecom Technology, a company in Beijing majority-owned by the Chinese government.

According to a *New York Times* article, the three Chinese scientists are charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. "They were ready to roll out their 'rip-off' product in September," claimed U.S. Attorney Robert Cleary, according to a CNN report. "They came to Lucent as scholars, but in reality, they were no more than sleuths," he added later.

The Economic Espionage Act of 1996 was signed into law by then-president William Clinton. For the first time it makes conspiracy to steal or stealing trade secrets a federal offense. The law gives the Department of Justice sweeping authority to investigate and prosecute cases around trade secrets. An individual convicted of trade secret misappropriation including theft, copying without authorization, concealment, computer downloads or uploads, or any type of transfers without authorization can be imprisoned up to 10 years and fined up to \$500,000. Penalties are greater if the act was to benefit a foreign agency or government.

The arrests and attention they have received in the big-business media come in the context of a spy scare campaign promoted by Washington to justify steps for increased government snooping operations on working people at home and abroad. After the arrest of FBI agent Robert Hanssen, accused of being a spy for Moscow, and the frame-up of Wen Ho Lee, a Chinese-American scientist at Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico, on charges of

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NEW YORK CITY ♦ SUNDAY, MAY 20

In Defense of Leninism: Expanding Opportunities for Communists Today

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

Campaigning to Use New Pathfinder Book

Mary-Alice Waters

Socialist Workers Party National Committee

Pathfinder Reprint Project at Halfway Point!

On to 100% and Expanding Production of New Titles

Tom Tomasko, Steering Committee of Pathfinder Reprint Project

Doubling the Membership of the Young Socialists: A Movement Campaign

Member of the YS National Executive Committee

Report from Socialist Workers Party National Committee Meeting

Jack Barnes

National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

Hosted by: Brooklyn SWP, Tel: (718) 567-8014; Garment District SWP, Tel: (212) 695-7358; Newark SWP, Tel: (973) 643-3341; Upper Manhattan SWP, Tel: (212) 740-4611; Young Socialists, Tel: (212) 695-1809. Or E-mail: nygd@usa.net

♦ Acting on the growing receptivity to communist literature—from Western coalfields, to fighters against cop brutality in Cincinnati, to workers districts and farm communities across North America ♦ Raúl Castro's Answer to Washington's Assault on China ♦ Lessons from the Cuban Revolution on the habits of discipline necessary to fight the capitalists effectively and win ♦ The implosion of the Communist Party USA: In defense of Lenin and building a party of worker-bolsheviks

Reception: 1:00 p.m., Meeting: 2:00 p.m.

Dag Hammarskjöld Room, 6th Floor, 420 W. 118th St. at Amsterdam Ave. (on the Columbia University campus)

The meeting will include a fund appeal for the \$100,000 Pathfinder Fund

Sponsors: Socialist Workers Party National Committee, Young Socialists National Executive Committee

Native Americans battle coal bosses over water rights

BY JOHN HARDING

MOENKOPI, Arizona—"The water is not what it used to be, the springs are drying up, and local farmers now have to truck water to irrigate their crops," said Jerry Roy, who is in charge of the water wells in this small Hopi village near Tuba City, Arizona.

"Both of us are farmers," Robert Sumatzulu, the town accountant, added. "We grow crops to feed our families. Everybody who lives in this village is a farmer just like us."

Roy and Sumatzulu were pointing to a problem caused by the nearby Black Mesa and Kayenta surface coal mines owned by the Peabody Group. Each year these operations use close to a billion gallons of water from two aquifers to mix with ground-up coal so it can be sent through a 273-mile "slurry" pipeline to the Mohave power station in Nevada. The aquifers lie under the Black Mesa basin and are essential to the livelihood of the Native American ranchers and farmers who live and work there. Peabody is the world's largest coal producer.

Last year the Black Mesa and Kayenta mines produced 13 million tons of coal. For more than 30 years, the electricity generated from their coal has been essential to the growth of Phoenix, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and other cities in the region.

Black Mesa and Kayenta are on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. Because of hiring preferences won by the Native Americans, more than 90 percent of the workers at the mines belong to one of the tribes. Both mines are organized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

In a press release defending its use of the water, Peabody claims mining "has encouraged tremendous economic progress in Hopi and Navajo reservation communities by injecting \$2 million weekly in direct economic benefits or more than \$1.8 billion since mining began." Many Hopi and Navajo do not see it that way.

John Boyden, a lawyer from Salt Lake City who claimed to represent the Hopi na-

tion, was one of the prime movers behind filing the leases that opened up the Black Mesa basin to coal mining.

"Boyden was only interested in coal and oil, not in the Hopi people," Vernon Masayesva explained in a phone interview. Masayesva lives in Moenkopi and is the founder of the Black Mesa Trust, an organization dedicated to defending Native American water rights. Masayesva is a former chairman of the Hopi nation. "Boyden was in the pocket of Peabody," Masayesva said. In fact, Boyden worked for Peabody at the same time he was claiming to represent the Hopi people.

Hopi Land Settlement Act

In 1974 the Hopi Land Settlement Act passed Congress. Drawn up by John Boyden, a new boundary was set for the Hopi reservation that followed no known topographical feature. It gave approximately 900,000 acres to the Hopi who did not live over the Black Mesa coal deposit and proposed to relocate 12,000 Navajo and 60 Hopi who did.

"There is a theory that the only reason the land division was implemented was because Peabody needed the conflict between the Navajo and Hopi so that they could control the coal," Masayesva continued. "I believe that this is at least partially true. From the beginning the title to the land where the mines are located was unclear and leasing rights for cattle and sheep have always been difficult to determine. The mining takes place on land that had always been jointly used."

"Peabody plays the game of divide and rule very well," Masayesva said. "Our group has been trying to raise concerns not just for the Hopi but for the Navajo too. The lease Boyden signed was substandard," Masayesva continued. "The original lease gave the Hopi and Navajo only 30 cents per ton while other leases on government land paid an average of \$1.50 per ton."

In June of 1999 the Navajo Nation filed a



Militant/Steve Marshall

Navajo cow herders guide cattle by Peabody Coal Co.'s Kayenta mine in Arizona. Coal mining operations are pumping out millions of gallons of water and drying up springs used by Hopi and Navajo farmers to irrigate their crops.

suit in U.S. District Court seeking the recovery of \$600 million in damages from Peabody for "unlawful acts defrauding the Navajo Nation." The lawsuit claims that Navajos received "far below the market value" for the "strategically located, uniquely valuable high-BTU and low-sulfur coal" mined at Black Mesa and Kayenta.

In a statement released when the suit was filed, the tribe said, "Under terms of the 1964 lease, the Navajo Nation received less than 2 percent for its coal, a fraction of its real value."

In 1987 the Navajo Nation agreed to the federal minimum 12.5 percent royalty. In its suit the Navajo Nation explained that the 1987 agreement also forced the tribe to forfeit back taxes, back royalties, and future taxes and to concede more coal, more land, and more rights-of-way to Peabody.

The Black Mesa coal slurry

Bechtel, the world's largest construction company, built the 273-mile slurry pipeline from Black Mesa to Mohave Power Station in Nevada. It is the only operating slurry line in the United States.

"The slurry was constructed so the technology could be sold to Russia and China where other slurries are used," Masayesva explained. At first the Hopi were given \$1.67 per acre foot—326,000 gallons—for the water and the Navajo received \$5. "That amounted to a huge subsidy for the company," Masayesva said. In 1986 the lease was changed so the tribes would be paid \$300 per acre foot, which is divided in half between the Hopi and Navajo.

Masayesva said he formed Black Mesa Trust to try to force the Office of Surface Management (OSM) to conduct a supplementary environmental impact study on the aquifers. Although an OSM report concludes there is damage being done to the aquifers by the mining operation, "the prob-

lem is that OSM trusts Peabody," he said.

Peabody claims the aquifers are being recharged at a rate of 3,500 acre feet per year, Masayesva said, but "what they are not explaining is that millions of gallons of water have disappeared. They are not telling the public that even by their own statistics they are using up all the recharge plus an additional 500 acre feet."

"A very good question is exactly how much of the water is being sold and for what price when it reaches Nevada," Masayesva continued. "It's reasonable to think that owners of Mohave generating station use one-half of it to cool the plant and one half of it is sold to Phoenix and other cities."

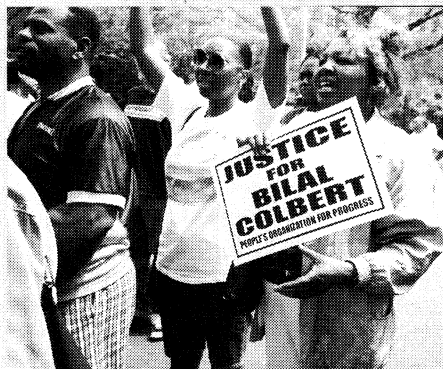
"Right now at the grassroots level it's Peabody and the OSM versus the Hopi and the Navajo," Masayesva said. "I tried to get more information through the Freedom of Information Act but was told I was not an expert in this area. Next they told me I had to be more specific. Finally they offered me the material for \$17,000. They claim that it would cost that much to duplicate everything. At this point our bank account is overdrawn by \$67."

Peabody claims "we are for taking away jobs and are against the United Mine Workers union," Masayesva said. "It's not true. We are for more jobs. They should move coal by rail or another way, not by the slurry, which is an outdated method."

THE MILITANT

Throw killer cops in jail

Thousands of working people from Ohio to New Jersey to Florida have marched and protested recent police killings of young Black men. The 'Militant' brings you coverage of the growing resistance among working people to these racist executions in the streets.



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Editor: MARTÍN KOPPEL

Business Manager: MAURICE WILLIAMS

Editorial Staff: Róger Calero, Hilda Cuzco, Greg McCartan, Maggie Trowe, Brian Williams, and Maurice Williams.

Young Socialists column editor: ROMINA GREEN

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

European Union delegation visits Pyongyang

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Prime Minister Göran Persson of Sweden visited Pyongyang, north Korea, May 2 at the head of a European Union (EU) delegation. The delegation, the highest-level visit by any European or North American government, included the EU's foreign policy and security chief, Javier Solana, and its commissioner for external affairs, Christopher Patten. Sweden presently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.

Stockholm backed Washington in the 1950-53 Korean War, including with a field hospital. Since the war the Swedish government has participated in the United Nations body that oversees military contacts across the 38th parallel, which marks the U.S.-imposed division of the country.

Stockholm has maintained diplomatic relations with the governments in both the north and the south of Korea, putting it in an especially suitable position within the EU imperialist alliance to intervene in politics in the Korean peninsula. The visit is the main political initiative that the Swedish government has to date been able to carry out while holding the rotating presidency position.

The Swedish government's main priority has been promoting the enlargement of the European Union into eastern and central Europe, especially the Baltic states. But this process is foundering as divisions mount among the main powers in the European Union.

The visit took place as talks on reunification between the north and the south had stalled, largely because Washington ended its involvement in October. The process opened last June when south Korean president Kim Dae Jung visited the north and signed agreements to organize cabinet-level exchanges and visits by family members kept apart by the division of the country.

These initial steps have been highly popular among working people in Korea. The mood among workers was captured in a statement by an anonymous speaker at the first May Day demonstration in north Korea in which workers from both the north and south participated. "We workers in Korea," he said, "must together fight the armed threat from foreign forces and safeguard peace on the Korean peninsula."

Washington is worried that further developments along these lines could erode the justification for its massive military presence in south Korea and undercut its political influence on the peninsula. The talks also make it more difficult for Washington to demonize north Korea as a "rogue state" with the potential to launch missiles at the United States, an argument used as one of its justifications for deploying an antimissile system.

When President Kim Dae Jung visited Washington to win support from President George Bush for his "Sunshine policy" toward the north, Bush expressed "skepticism" over the process and did not say when Washington would return to negotiations.

The *Washington Post*, in an article entitled, "EU Mission to Korea Is Seen as a Rebuke to Bush," wrote that the "surprise foray into a traditional U.S. sphere of influence struck many observers as an unspoken rebuke to the Bush administration for having retreated from those talks, to the con-

sternation of its South Korea allies." The *Post* diplomatically left out of the article that the freeze on U.S. participation in the talks began months earlier under the Clinton administration.

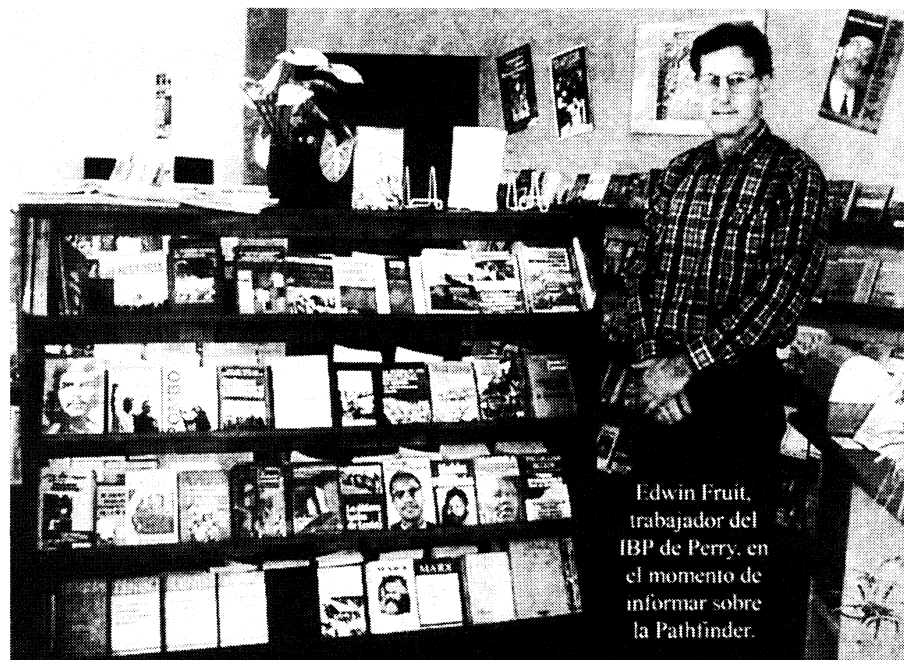
As the EU team was flying to Pyongyang, President Kim Dae Jung, according to officials in Seoul quoted by the *International Herald Tribune*, was on the phone with President Bush urging him to resume the U.S.-north Korean talks "at the earliest possible date after the ongoing review of US-policy toward North Korea is completed."

Swedish prime minister Göran Persson in a statement stressed that the European Union was not trying to take the place of the United States in fostering a reconciliation between the two Koreas but that the European Union delegation hoped to revive the faltering reconciliation process. In another statement posted on its web site the Swedish government said the EU "wants to help make this process irreversible and this will be explained both in Pyongyang and in Seoul."

During five hours of talks May 3, north Korean leader Kim Jong Il told the EU delegation that he will extend the country's moratorium on the test firing of missiles until 2003, with further extensions possible if negotiations with Washington and south Korea resume. He also indicated he would await the outcome of a U.S. government policy review on north Korea before deciding on a reciprocal visit to the south. Swedish prime minister Persson said Kim Jong Il gave the delegation the "firm impression" that "the north wants a new summit." Persson also told the media that so far "we have seen too little of action to be sure about the character of the partner we have in north Korea."

While visiting Seoul May 10, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told President Kim Dae Jung that Washington would resume talks with the north Korean government "in the near future" and that

Iowa paper describes Pathfinder bookstore



Edwin Fruit, trabajador del IBP de Perry, en el momento de informar sobre la Pathfinder.

"Edwin Fruit, a worker at IBP (an Iowa meatpacking plant) in Perry, talking about Pathfinder," reads the caption on this photograph that appeared under the title "Workers' Bookstore" in the April 20 issue of *El Enfoque* (Focus), a Spanish-language newspaper in Perry, Iowa.

The accompanying article reports that books in Spanish on labor struggles, gains, and rights of workers are available to the public in the Des Moines Pathfinder bookstore. Weekly forums are organized at the store, which also offers a wide range of books, magazines, and newspapers in English, added the reporter.

Bush expressed his "strong support" for Kim's "engagement with the North." Armitage told Kim Dae Jung of Washington's view that the missile shield and the talks "could be pursued in tandem."

Four days later the EU announced that formal diplomatic relations with Pyongyang would be opened.

In an official statement, the body said that

it hoped the move would "facilitate the European Community's efforts in support of reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula and, in particular, in support of economic reform and easing of the acute food and health problems in the north."

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

Washington not reelected to UN rights body

BY MAGGIE TROWE

In a blow to Washington's claim that it is the foremost defender of human rights in the world, the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in a secret ballot May 3, did not reelect the United States to the UN Human Rights Commission. The vote, and Washington's reaction to it, highlighted the deepening rivalry and tension between the United States and the major industrial capitalist powers in Europe.

Nominations for membership to the committee are made by regional groups. There were four nominations made for three seats allotted to the Western Europe and Others Group—the United States, France, Austria, and Sweden. France came in first with 52 votes while the United States came in last with 29. Austria received 41 votes and Sweden 32. The U.S. government had held a seat on the body since the founding of the United Nations in 1947.

In the weeks leading up to the vote, as it has done for years, Washington, under the guise of "human rights," had used the commission to further its attacks on Cuba and China by pursuing resolutions against the two governments. The U.S. rulers have also recently opposed a commission vote blaming Israel for the current war against the Palestinian people.

Reaction by the Bush administration and the capitalist media was immediate and sharp, particularly against Washington's European allies. Statements by administration officials and coverage of the vote in the big-business media assumed that the U.S. government somehow should have a right to a permanent seat on the commission. In an interview with the *New York Times* May 8, Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "One thing I can guarantee you is that we will be back on it next year."

Conservative commentator William Safire titled his May 7 column "Slavery Triumphs," and called on Powell to find out why 14 of the countries Washington was counting on for support in the vote ended up not casting a ballot for Washington.

The *Wall Street Journal* editorial the same day, titled "Tyrants Take Over," railed that "it has come to pass that the torments of the world's most unfortunate men, women, and

children will be monitored not by the U.S., but by the likes of Sudan, China, Libya, Algeria, Syria, Vietnam and Cuba," which the *Journal* editors termed the UN "abusers' bloc." The *Journal* also took to task "the Western Europeans, who offered three candidates in addition to the U.S. for the three seats allocated to the West. The European Union should have persuaded one of them to stand aside."

The editors went on to complain that the Chinese and Cuban governments were "beating the 'anyone but America' drum," which resulted, they said, in the poor showing for the United States. And they asked, "Why is the U.N. voting in secret in the first place?"

The *Journal* called on Congress to expedite the stalled confirmation of John Negroponte for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Negroponte served as U.S. ambassador to Honduras during the U.S.-backed contra war in the 1980s aimed at overturning the workers and farmers government in Nicaragua.

In a *Washington Post* article, called "Blind-Sided by Allies," Michael Kelly said, "America's traditional allies joined forces with America's traditional enemies to bash America a good and solid one." He called the vote "the opening round of...a new period of official anti-Americanism." Kelly called Democratic Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts a "partisan opportunist" for his remark that the vote reflected a sense among many nations that there is "a lack of a sense of honesty" in the U.S. government.

The *Post* also reprinted a political cartoon from the Portland *Oregonian* portraying a pitchfork- and hatchet-wielding lynch mob outside the UN headquarters preparing to burn at the stake a man dressed in the U.S. flag motif. The mob is made up of racist caricatures of an Islamic cleric in a skullcap, an Arab sheik, as well as Cuban president Fidel Castro. A UN official is saying to the bound American, "Oh...about your dues...is this a bad time?"

Some members of Congress called for a freeze on payment of \$826 million in back dues the United States owes to the United Nations. Republican Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and Tom Lantos,

ranking Democrat on the committee, proposed as a compromise withholding \$244 million until the United States is returned to the commission.

In Geneva, where the UN Human Rights Commission was meeting, U.S. officials had pressed for a vote to condemn China for human rights violations, but the motion failed by a 23-17 margin. Washington has also taken issue with some of the European powers for their approach to relations with Russia, north Korea, and Cuba.

Washington had also engineered a 22-to-20 vote April 18 on a resolution formally proposed by representatives of the Czech Republic condemning Cuba for supposed human rights violations. The vote coincided with the 40th anniversary of the U.S.-backed mercenary invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, a military assault that was routed in less than three days by Cuba's revolutionary militias, police, and armed forces.

Cuban foreign minister Felipe Pérez Roque was present for the vote, and countered that Cuba "never has used torture or political assassination, nor could it be accused of acting with repression against people in the streets." In an earlier address to the commission, Pérez asked the United States to explain "why they vote against considering famine—currently affecting nearly 1 billion people—as an outrage and a violation of human dignity" and why "they also refuse to condemn the flagrant, large-scale human rights violations committed by the Israeli army against the courageous Palestinian people?"

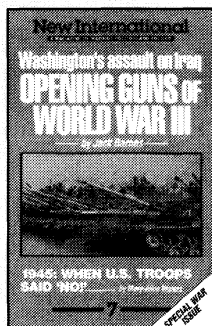
Ricardo Alarcón, president of the Cuban parliament, said the resolution "doesn't interest me—from top to bottom it's garbage." When asked whether the mass demonstrations in Cuba supporting the revolution are a signal for the new U.S. president, Alarcón replied, "I'm not sure he understands any message, but it doesn't matter...what awaits them is one Girón after another," he said, referring to the beach where the mercenary force was decisively defeated in 1961. "They will be forced to understand one day...as a result of the pressure that the people of the United States will put on them."

Washington was also not reelected to the International Narcotics Control Board, a vote also held by secret ballot.

from Pathfinder

Opening Guns of World War III

Washington's Assault on Iraq



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. \$12.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

U.S. rulers seek to reinforce dominance in Europe and Asia

Continued from front page
stated Armitage.

The deputy secretary is the co-author of a report issued last year that called on Japan to revise its constitution to be able to field a full-fledged army and participate in imperialist military operations abroad. Armitage, when pressed further on what it would take to create an alliance with Japan more like the one Washington has with Britain, "strongly hinted" at the need for such a constitutional change, reported a May 9 article in the *New York Times*.

Japan's constitution, which was written by U.S. officials during Washington's military occupation after World War II, allows the country to maintain only a "self-defense force." Japan's annual military budget, however, is the fourth largest, behind only the United States, Russia, and France.

While acknowledging the difficulty of placing such a change "on the political agenda," newly elected Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi has repeatedly raised the need for passage of an amendment to the constitution to permit Japan to field its own army.

During the election campaign Koizumi promised drastic measures to pull Japan, the world's second largest economy, out of the recession in which it has been mired for the past decade. Under his campaign motto of "structural reform with no sacred cows," he warned Japanese working people of the need to accept rising unemployment, bankruptcies, and depression-like conditions in order to turn the situation around. Since assuming office, however, he has focused on pressing for changes that would boost Japan's military power, stated his intention to visit a controversial shrine to Japanese war heroes, and backed the use of a nationalist textbook that covers up the role of Japanese imperialism in China, Korea, and elsewhere.

"Hardly a day goes by when Mr. Koizumi does not invoke the need to revise the document [Constitution]," remarked the *New York Times*. In his inaugural address, Koizumi argued, "If, in seas in our own vicinity, when Japan and the U.S. are conducting exercises, and the American military is attacked, is it really possible for Japan to do nothing?"

Armitage voiced agreement with this. "The lack of consensus on collective self-defense is an obstacle," he stated. "And the lack of an ability to participate in collective self-defense, although they are signatories to a defense treaty, is an obstacle."

Unlike in Europe, where since the end of World War II Washington has been the dominant European power through its role in founding and leading the NATO military alliance, U.S. imperialism is not integrated as the dominant force in any Asian military alliance. The U.S. rulers hope that such a pact

with Japan—with Tokyo clearly playing a subordinate role—would strengthen its base of operations for policing the region and more aggressively assert its military power, especially for use against China and north Korea.

In discussions with government officials in Tokyo, the U.S. deputy secretary of state projected Washington's proposed missile shield as simply a weapon intended to counter "rogue or accidental launches," rather than contain strategic rivals.

The Bush administration's missile shield plan, which builds on steps already taken by former president William Clinton, envisions putting in place ship-borne radar and missile firing systems, as well as airborne or space-based lasers. Such a system would for the first time in decades provide the U.S. rulers with a first-strike nuclear capacity. It would enable Washington to use its nuclear forces to threaten countries where capitalism has been overturned, such as China and Russia, as well as others that come into conflict with U.S. imperialism.

Expansion of NATO

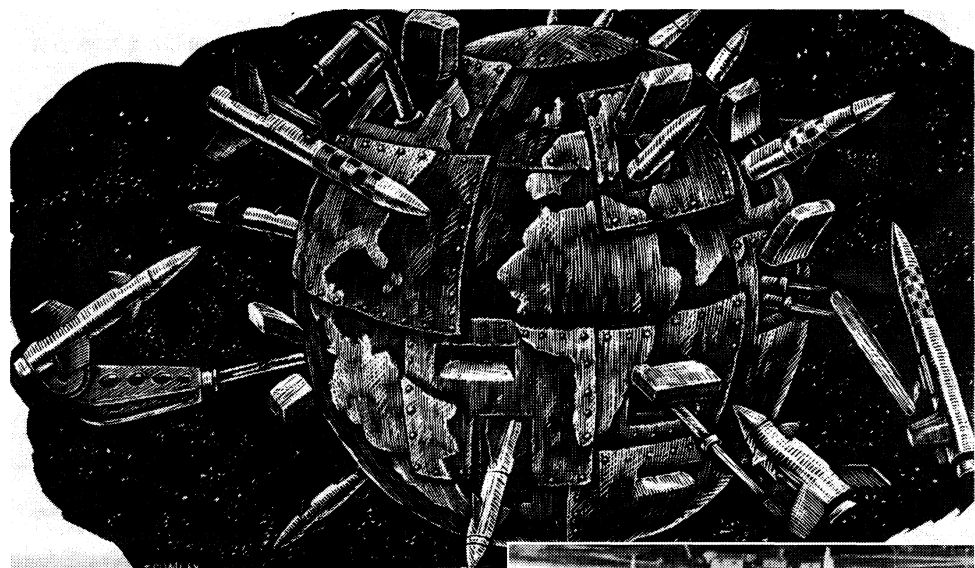
In Europe, Washington is offering to use the antimissile system in defense of its imperialist allies, and is backing the expansion of NATO eastward. Both moves would strengthen the position of U.S. imperialism on the continent.

In a letter to a May 10–11 meeting in Slovakia of prime ministers from nine countries in central and eastern Europe that have applied for admission to NATO, Bush wrote that "no part of Europe will be excluded because of history or geography" from the military alliance. The countries are all states where capitalism has been overturned following World War II. Bush urged the officials to continue their "progress in military, political and economic reform," according to the *Financial Times*.

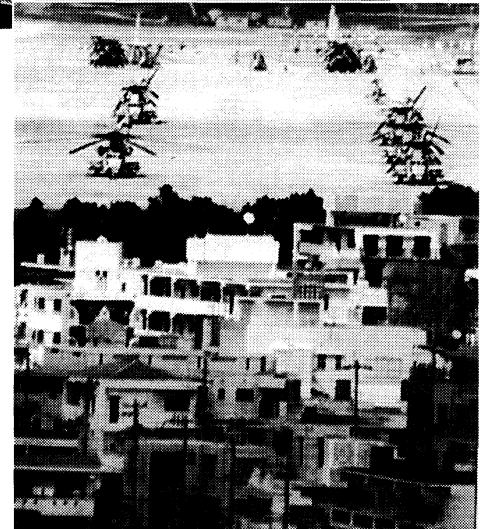
Held to prepare for a summit this November in Prague on NATO expansion, the meeting included government officials from Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. In addition the Croatian government sent a representative to promote their interest in applying for NATO membership.

A statement released by the eight prime ministers and two deputy premiers in attendance at the conference said, "A new Europe will remain unfinished without our active contribution."

Moscow reacted to the Slovakia summit in a statement that called NATO expansion "a grave mistake." The Russian government has made clear that they would consider NATO expansion to the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which border Russia, a hostile act. NATO in 1999 admitted three new members—the Czech Re-



Above, drawing from *Financial Times* last year that accompanied an article entitled, "When defence gives offence—Does the US's deployment of a National Missile Defence system threaten the strategic stability that exists between the world's nuclear powers?" Since then the U.S. rulers have dropped the "national" as a description of the projected missile shield and the European imperialist powers have come around to accepting deployment of the weapons system. Right, U.S. helicopters wait to take off from Futenma Air Station in Okinawa, Japan, next to residential area. Residents of Okinawa, from which Washington threatens China and north Korea, demand the bases be closed. Washington seeks to expand ties with Japan's armed forces.



public, Hungary, and Poland.

In a column entitled "Expanding NATO's Reach," John O'Sullivan, an editor-at-large for the right-wing *National Review*, argued for taking into NATO membership many of these new applicants as the way to "keep America in Europe as the leader of the alliance indefinitely."

He wrote, "East Europeans are more wary of Russia than are France and Germany; they are less hostile toward Bush's plans for missile defense, and they share London's view that any separate European defense force should be subordinate to NATO rather than wholly independent."

O'Sullivan adds, "What is worrying is that increasingly the West Europeans would like NATO to pull up the drawbridge and keep eastern Europe out of the military club as well as the economic one—or admit two new members at most."

Conflict over European gov't plan

While Washington seeks to reinforce its power in Europe through its domination of an expanded NATO, tensions are rising among the imperialist powers there in response to proposals put forward by German chancellor Schröder that aim to bolster German weight in Europe by creating a more centralized European Union (EU) government.

The EU, which currently comprises 15 nations mostly from western Europe, was formed to allow a freer flow of capital, commodities, and labor across national borders and, through the creation of a common currency, ease the expansion of trade with Eastern Europe. While France and Germany vie

for the leading role in the organization, Germany by far has the biggest economy of any EU member. Moves to expand EU membership to countries in eastern Europe have been stalled.

Seeking to assert the leading role for the German ruling class, Schröder's plan calls for replacing the council of ministers and creating a second chamber of the European parliament to represent the federation of European states.

"One cannot reduce European governments—as expressions of the nation—to a mere second chamber as a senate to the European parliament," stated Pierre Moscovici, France's minister for Europe, in opposing the German chancellor's proposals. He said Schröder was pushing integration at the expense of "inter-governmental" relations. This "goes far perhaps in a rather German sense, that is very federalist," states Moscovici, "I don't think this is in the mainstream of European thinking."

The *Financial Times* noted, "Few EU politicians have endorsed the German proposals. Britain, France and the Scandinavian nations in particular fear the creation of a federal European 'superstate,' based on a German model."

A leading Conservative member of Britain's parliament, Peter Tapsell, described Schröder's proposals for the European Union as a "Germanic master plan" similar to Adolf Hitler's. Tapsell added that he would never support adoption of the Euro currency. He said that a single currency was once proposed by the Nazi Reichsbank "as a means of perpetuating German dominance in Europe after Germany won the war." The governing Labour Party denounced Tapsell's remarks as "odious."

A U.S. delegation led by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz that visited several countries in Europe to explain Washington's plans to proceed with developing this antimissile weapon "found an increasingly receptive audience," stated the *Wall Street Journal*. Following talks with the U.S. delegation, a spokesman for Russia's foreign affairs ministry said that Moscow has not been persuaded of the need to scrap the 1972 Antiballistic Missile treaty, which is an essential part of Washington's proposal.

"Moscow's message," wrote the *New York Times*, "included a new warning from military leaders that 'Russia possesses the technical, intellectual and technological potential' to respond to a unilateral American deployment of missile defenses."

Meanwhile, U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced May 8 new plans to coordinate Washington's military operations in space under the Air Force. He also said that a four-star Air Force general will be placed in charge of this post and will serve as the Pentagon's chief advocate for space programs. These moves will mean even larger increases in military spending, over and above the expansion carried out by the Clinton administration.

Rightist wins election for Italian premier

BY RÓGER CALERO

Silvio Berlusconi, the candidate for prime minister for the right-wing House of Liberties coalition, won a strong victory in Italy's national elections May 13 against the ruling Olive Tree coalition. His party grabbed the biggest share of Italy's national vote.

This is the second time the billionaire businessman has been prime minister. In 1994 he was elected under the short-lived rightist Freedom Alliance coalition, which included his party, Forza Italia (Let's Go Italy), and two fascist-oriented outfits, the National Alliance Party, led by Gianfranco Fini, and the Northern League headed by Umberto Bossi. That government collapsed seven months after it came to power when Bossi pulled out of the coalition amidst charges of corruption against Berlusconi.

The House of Liberties coalition also includes the extreme right-wing party Fiamma Tricolore, that along with National Alliance traces its origins to the Italian Socialist Party, a direct descendant of Mussolini's fascist party.

The Northern League maintains that the northern Italian region should separate from

the rest of the country. They demagogically accuse Rome of being a tax eater and a bureaucracy that steals from the rich in the north to give to the poor in the south.

The League also promotes a scapegoating campaign against immigrants, Muslims, and homosexuals, putting forward among other things the building of a wall along the Italian border with Slovenia to keep all immigrants out.

In an *International Herald Tribune* article by Roy Denman, former representative of the European Commission in Washington, Bossi is quoted denouncing the current center-left government for "seeking destruction of the family and the West, while supporting immigration and showing complacency for homosexuals."

Among other reactionary and pro-big business proposals in his campaign, Berlusconi pledged to toughen Italy's immigration system, allowing only immigrants with a job to remain in the country and creating a fingerprint data bank to identify illegal immigrants. He also campaigned around themes of cutting taxes, reforming the federal bureaucracy, and carrying out a

public works program.

Berlusconi owns the country's three largest private television networks, and is reportedly worth \$12 billion, making him one of the richest people in Italy.

Leading up to the vote some prominent figures in the European Union had threatened to impose sanctions similar to those used against Austria last year, when Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel brought Jörg Haider's fascist Freedom Party into his coalition government. But after the May 13 elections, bourgeois ruling circles in Europe changed their tone around a government headed by the media magnate. Berlusconi's overwhelming victory and the low vote for the fascist parties means he can form a government without either the Northern League or the National Alliance parties.

Margaret Thatcher, the former United Kingdom prime minister, wrote a letter praising Berlusconi on the eve of the elections, saying his proposals were similar to those she had pursued in the 1980s. "It is those on the center-right of politics, like Mr. Berlusconi, who still seek to strengthen and deepen freedom," she said.

Campaign with new book to win subscribers

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

With the publication this week of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, partisans of the socialist press are introducing the new title together with the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* as part of the subscription drive for the two socialist publications.

Pathfinder Press is offering the book for \$5—which amounts to \$8 off the cover price—to anyone who purchases an introductory subscription to either the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*. Campaigning to get out the political perspectives contained in the new book, and taking advantage of the special offer, will give a boost to the subscription campaign.

Socialist workers and Young Socialists aim to distribute

The circulation campaign is a part of this process. And using it as a recruitment vehicle, following the lines of resistance at picket lines and protest actions against cop brutality, stepping up sales to co-workers on the job, and going door-to-door in workers districts are the keys to completing a successful subscription effort. A glance at the sales chart shows participants in the international circulation campaign are a week behind schedule with 371 *Militant* subscriptions sold and right on target for *PM* subscriptions. With the new book the total of 499 pamphlets sold will jump substantially over the next weeks. The days leading up to the May 26–June 3 target week, which may include regional sales teams, can be used to close the gap. The *Militant* has received several reports on sales activities, some of them are highlighted below.

Sales team to anthracite coal region

“We went door-to-door in a neighborhood in Frackville, Pennsylvania, near the Hollander Home Fashions plant where garment workers are on strike,” said Dan Fein, who joined a regional team there this past weekend. “The whole town is steeped in union tradition.”

Fein said that at one house a high school student asked him, “What do you think about the 1943 coal miners’ strike against the wage freeze imposed by Franklin Roosevelt?” Just three months later Pennsylvania anthracite miners walked off the job demanding a \$2 per day wage increase. Fein said the student’s mother who was involved in this discussion turned to her daughter and asked, “What do you think, should we buy the subscription?” The daughter replied, “Yes,” and they bought a *Militant* subscription and a copy of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* pamphlet.

Before leaving the town the team sold three *Militant* subscriptions, 12 copies of the paper, and one pamphlet. The previous week a sales team sold 25 copies of the *Militant* while visiting the Hollander picket line and two *Militant* subscriptions to anthracite miners in the area.

In Iceland four supporters of the *Militant* went on a one-day sales trip to Selfoss, the main town in a farming area an hour and a half away from Reykjavik by car. “This was part of an effort to use the sales drive to sell in new places in and around Reykjavik,” wrote Ögmundur Jónsson. “We put up a literature table in front of the main supermarket in Selfoss, and sold seven *Militants* and three copies of the Icelandic edition of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, recently published by Pathfinder.”

Jónsson said their sales efforts have been focused on distributing the pamphlet as broadly as possible and increasing the regular distribution of the *Militant*. “Every Monday when the *Militant* arrives we discuss the articles and how we can use them to sell the paper, as part of taking a more conscious approach to explaining the value of reading the socialist press regularly,” he said. “So far, we have sold two subscriptions during the drive, and sales of the paper have increased substantially. The new pamphlet has sold well. The goal we set at the beginning of the sales drive has already been reached and raised. At the May Day march in Reykjavik alone we sold 21 copies, despite rain and bad weather.”

Partisans of the socialist press in Houston said they have sold subscriptions from literature tables set up at shopping centers every week of the drive so far. “In addition to the new readers, we have begun to meet people who look for us every week and sometimes buy a book or pamphlet,” said Jacquie Henderson, a garment worker. “One young woman, who ended up buying a *Militant* subscription, pointed to *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington’s First Military Defeat in the Americas* displayed on the table and remarked, ‘What I like about this book is that it tells the other side of the story. In school they never tell us about the Cubans’ side.’”

“When we got back to the Pathfinder bookstore we met three young Salvadoran men at the door who work in Houston as day laborers,” Henderson remarked. “Another worker had told them about our literature tables on Shepherd Avenue. Before they left they purchased a *PM* subscription and three pamphlets, and said they planned to attend the next Militant Labor Forum.”

“We are fighting to stay on target in the drive by taking the *Militant* door-to-door in workers districts and following up on potential subscribers who have asked us to call them later about buying a subscription,” said Abby Tilsner from Newark, New Jersey. “We also sold four subscriptions and nine pamphlets in the area where Bilal Colbert was killed by a cop in Irvington. This included one subscription we got later from a protester we met at the May 5 demonstration against the killing of Colbert. One resident from there who bought a subscription told us, ‘I want you to come to our next city council district meeting to sell *Militant* subscriptions to people there.’”



BY PETE SEIDMAN

FORT MORGAN, Colorado—“The people are more active and united than before the strike. There is a clear-cut difference,” Emilio Juarez, a meat

packer who has worked nine years at the Excel meatpacking plant here, told us as he signed up for a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*. The workers struck the giant packing plant at the end of February, catching the company off guard.

We began selling the *Militant* and *PM* to workers in the area during the shift change at ConAgra’s Beef processing plant in Greeley, Colorado, where some 2,000 people work on two shifts. Holding signs in English and Spanish reading “Equal rights for immigrants” and “Solidarity with garment workers in Los Angeles,” we sold five *Militants*, eight *PMs*, and a *PM* subscription during the two-hour shift change and at a nearby bank where workers were cashing their paychecks.

We sold most of our subscriptions and papers in a large trailer park in Fort Morgan where most of the residents seem to work for Excel. Almost everyone who bought a subscription also bought a pamphlet. Many people wanted to talk about struggles in the plant and broader political questions.

Altogether, our team of four sold 12 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and eight pamphlets, which included the Spanish editions of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* and *Pathfinder was Born with the October Revolution*. Nine of the subscriptions and seven of the pamphlets were sold to meat packers. Two other subscriptions were sold to workers employed at nearby feed lots. The team also sold six copies of the *Militant* and 12 *PMs*.

Pete Seidman is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Marshalltown, Iowa.



Militant/Nancy Rosenstock

Protest against cop brutality May 5 in Irvington, New Jersey. Participants in sales drive plan to sell *Militant* and new Pathfinder title at demonstrations, on the job, and elsewhere.

the new book as widely as possible in working-class neighborhoods, on picket lines, in factories and at plant gates, on campuses, in rural areas, and at demonstrations and other political events. In New York, New Jersey, and other areas they are planning a special day of campaigning Saturday, May 19, heading into a special public meeting at Columbia University (advertised on page 1).

The book makes a powerful case for the need to join and build a revolutionary youth organization and proletarian party in the United States. “A vanguard layer of workers and farmers in this country is becoming more confident from their common fighting experience,” author Jack Barnes explains. “Their own experience in life and struggle is bringing them closer to that of the workers and peasants of revolutionary Cuba” who are “ordinary working men and women.” If those who reject the capitalist rulers’ framework have “worked together beforehand to build a disciplined, centralized workers party—with a program and strategy that advances the historic line of march of our class worldwide,” Barnes notes, “then we’ll be ready for new opportunities in the class struggle when they explode in totally unanticipated ways.”

Another Black man killed by Miami cops

BY MIKE ITALIE

MIAMI—The April 30 killing of Nicholas Singleton, shot in the back of the head April 30, marks one more in a growing number of deaths at the hands of the Miami police. Three cops fired 19 shots at Singleton, 18 years old and unarmed, as they chased him from a car they alleged he had stolen.

The police story of what happened has begun to unravel. In order to justify their shooting the police initially reported that the three cops who shot and killed Singleton—Brian Wilson, Rafael Borroto, and Javier Gonzalez—had been fired upon. But a search of the area where the killing occurred in Overtown, a largely Black section of Miami, turned up 19 spent shells, all from police-issue guns. Tests showed no gun residue on Singleton’s hands.

The continuing occurrence of police shootings in Miami and the failure to bring any of the cops to justice has fueled anger over police brutality and racism. Most of the people killed have been African Americans. In response to rising outrage and in an effort to deflect it from local authorities, Miami mayor Joseph Carollo and three city commissioners are backing the call for a federal investigation into the police killing of Singleton. “The longer we look the other way, the more tensions will build in the community,” said Miami commissioner Joseph Sanchez, who like the mayor is a former cop.

In the last 11 years judges here have held at least 102

Continued on Page 12

Militant/PM subscription drive to win new readers April 14–June 10 (week 4)

| Country | Militant | | | PM | | Pamphlet | |
|------------------|----------|------|-----|------|------|----------|------|
| | Goal | Sold | % | Goal | Sold | Goal | Sold |
| Sweden | 12 | 7 | 58% | 5 | 7 | 20 | 1 |
| United States | | | | | | | |
| Seattle* | 25 | 16 | 64% | 8 | 4 | 55 | 17 |
| Grand Junction | 25 | 14 | 56% | 5 | 2 | 35 | 24 |
| Washington* | 27 | 14 | 52% | 26 | 19 | 60 | 35 |
| Twin Cities | 35 | 18 | 51% | 25 | 13 | 50 | 9 |
| Des Moines | 30 | 15 | 50% | 20 | 14 | 45 | 15 |
| Newark | 40 | 20 | 50% | 25 | 14 | 70 | 31 |
| Omaha | 15 | 7 | 47% | 18 | 12 | 20 | 6 |
| Chicago | 35 | 16 | 46% | 25 | 11 | 75 | 30 |
| Houston | 35 | 16 | 46% | 15 | 3 | 75 | 8 |
| Miami | 22 | 10 | 45% | 20 | 11 | 70 | 23 |
| Fresno | 9 | 4 | 44% | 9 | 1 | 15 | 2 |
| Charlotte | 12 | 5 | 42% | 4 | 2 | 25 | 9 |
| Birmingham* | 25 | 10 | 40% | 7 | 5 | 45 | 7 |
| Detroit | 20 | 8 | 40% | 5 | 2 | 40 | 13 |
| Los Angeles | 50 | 20 | 40% | 25 | 19 | 80 | 7 |
| Allentown | 18 | 7 | 39% | 5 | 2 | 20 | 2 |
| Atlanta | 30 | 11 | 37% | 15 | 8 | 40 | 14 |
| San Francisco | 50 | 18 | 36% | 25 | 17 | 100 | 38 |
| Upper Manhattan | 70 | 23 | 33% | 50 | 29 | 125 | 46 |
| NY Garment Dist. | 70 | 22 | 31% | 55 | 22 | 150 | 30 |
| Cleveland | 20 | 6 | 30% | 6 | | 30 | 19 |
| Philadelphia | 30 | 9 | 30% | 10 | 4 | 45 | 12 |
| Pittsburgh | 40 | 12 | 30% | 5 | 1 | 55 | 6 |
| Brooklyn | 75 | 21 | 28% | 40 | 15 | 150 | 38 |
| Tampa | 8 | 2 | 25% | 6 | | 15 | 5 |
| Tucson | 8 | 2 | 25% | 5 | | 6 | |
| Boston* | 25 | 6 | 24% | 10 | 5 | 20 | 7 |
| U.S. total | 849 | 332 | 39% | 469 | 235 | 1516 | 453 |
| United Kingdom | 35 | 12 | 34% | 10 | 5 | 70 | 7 |
| Iceland* | 6 | 2 | 33% | 1 | | 45 | 35 |
| New Zealand | | | | | | | |
| Auckland | 10 | 4 | 40% | 1 | | 20 | 6 |
| Christchurch | 8 | 2 | 25% | 1 | 1 | 10 | 2 |
| N.Z. total | 18 | 6 | 33% | 2 | | 30 | 8 |
| Australia | 12 | 3 | 25% | 2 | 1 | 25 | 11 |
| Canada | | | | | | | |
| Vancouver | 15 | 4 | 27% | 2 | 1 | 35 | 5 |
| Montreal | 12 | 3 | 25% | 5 | 1 | 40 | 16 |
| Toronto | 20 | 2 | 10% | 3 | 1 | 40 | 12 |
| Canada total | 47 | 9 | 19% | 10 | 3 | 115 | 33 |
| Int'l totals | 979 | 371 | 37% | 499 | 251 | 1821 | 548 |
| Goal/Should be | 1000 | 500 | 50% | 500 | 250 | 1900 | 950 |
| IN THE UNIONS | | | | | | | |
| New Zealand | | | | | | | |
| NDU | 2 | 1 | 50% | | | 2 | 1 |
| MWU | 1 | 0 | 0% | | | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 3 | 1 | 33% | | | 3 | 1 |
| Canada | | | | | | | |
| UFCW | 10 | 2 | 20% | 2 | 0 | 15 | 2 |
| UNITE | 2 | | 0% | 2 | | 9 | 3 |
| Total | 12 | 2 | 17% | 4 | 0 | 24 | 5 |
| United States | | | | | | | |
| UMWA | 25 | 5 | 20% | 1 | | 25 | 0 |
| UFCW | 65 | 12 | 18% | 80 | 41 | 170 | 46 |
| UNITE | 35 | 2 | 6% | 30 | 12 | 70 | 4 |
| Total | 125 | 19 | 15% | 111 | 53 | 265 | 50 |
| Australia | | | | | | | |
| MUA | 2 | | 0% | | | 3 | 1 |
| Meat workers | | | | | | | |
| Total | 2 | 0 | 0% | | | | |
| raised goal* | | | | | | | |

Immigrant protests continue in California

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

REDWOOD CITY, California--Hundreds of marchers took to the streets here May 10 to demand equal rights for immigrant workers.

After gathering at Saint Anthony's church in Menlo Park, the 250 protesters were joined by others as they marched through working-class and Latino neighborhoods to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in Redwood City. Others came out of houses and small businesses expressing support for the demands.

The march and rally was sponsored by the Bay Area Gardeners Association, a group of gardening workers and small contractors founded in 1998. Among the chants were "No nos vamos a cansar. La licencia para manejar" (We will not tire—drivers license), and "no more tickets," aimed at cops blocking the entrance to the DMV. As in recent immigrant rights actions in Sacramento and San Jose, participants in the march were spirited and confident.

Three days later a demonstration of 100 in Salinas grew in size as it marched through that city. Workers drove to the action from Fresno, Palo Alto, and San Mateo. Members of the Indigenous Oaxacan Front of Mexico participated in the action. Signs at the rally demanded, "Amnesty for all," "No taxation without legalization," and said, "Braceros no, Amnistía sí," referring to proposals by the U.S. and Mexican governments to set up an expanded "guest worker" program, similar to the "Bracero" program that ended in the 1960s. This program is aimed at providing the capitalist class with a massive, low-paid, and temporary workforce of mainly Mexican immigrants who would have no option to stay in the United States.

The Salinas march and rally was sponsored by The Citizen Project, an organization founded by members of Teamsters Local 890 in response to the passage of the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 in 1994. The group's goal is to defend the rights of workers from all countries.

More protests are scheduled for May 27 and August 25 in San Jose.

José Sandoval, a leader of the Aztec Information Center in San Jose, reports that he has received numerous calls from across the country in response to radio interviews about the protests, including on nationally transmitted Spanish language stations. "I have so far faxed petitions to people in 37 areas who said they will circulate them," said Sandoval.

The petition is addressed to governors and the U.S. Congress and president. The petition demands the right for immigrant work-

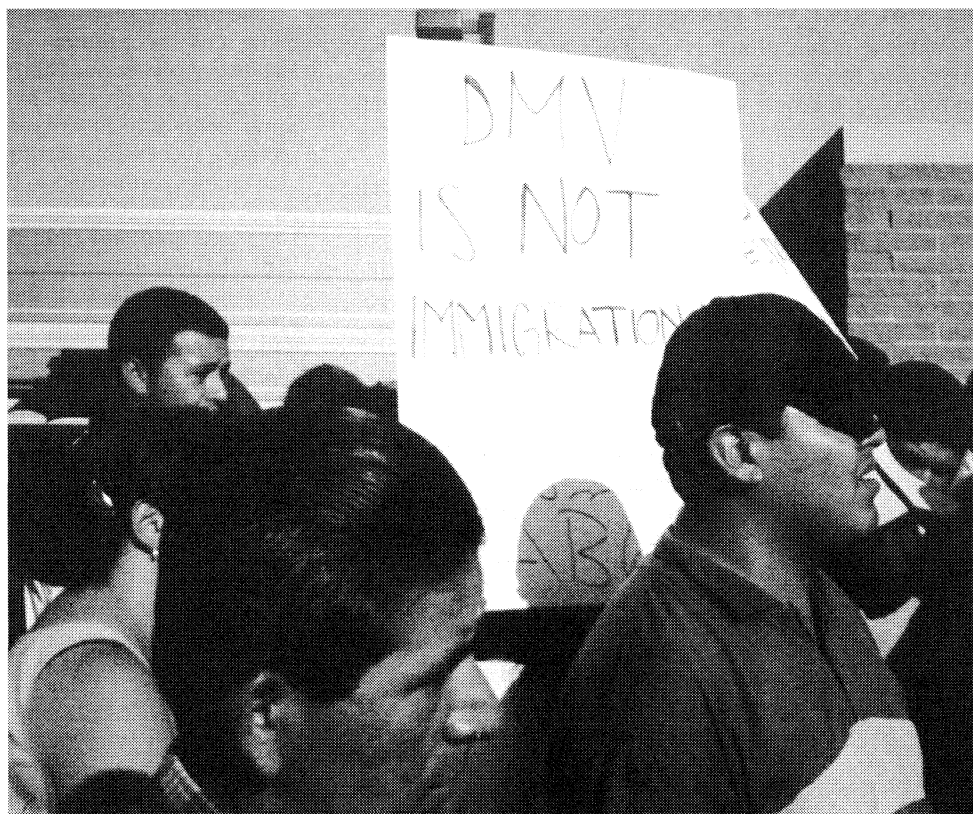
ers to have a drivers license and a Social Security card, the right to become a legal resident in the United States, and an end to police brutality and the massive imprisonment of working-class Latinos.

The protests come in response to the decision by DMV officials last October to begin verifying the validity of all new Social Security numbers through a linkup with the Social Security Administration as part of getting or renewing a drivers license. The DMV is also verifying all existing licenses with the Social Security Administration.

The 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act passed by Congress under the Clinton administration required a Social Security number to be included on drivers licenses by the year 2000. Currently 29 states use a Social Security number as the drivers license number or show it on the license.

Many demonstrators are supporting a bill now before the state legislature that would allow an applicant for a drivers license to submit identification other than a Social Security number. A common sign at the rally in front of the Department of Motor Vehicles read, "The DMV is not the immigration service."

Deborah Liatos is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 120.



Militant/Shirley Peña

Immigrants and their supporters march in Redwood City, California, May 10 to protest requirement to show Social Security card in order to obtain drivers license.

Young Socialists in New York kick off national \$2,400 fund-raising campaign

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

NEW YORK—Thirty people attended a fund-raising dinner and social organized by the New York chapter of the Young Socialists May 12. The event marked the second week of the eight-week YS national fund drive to raise \$2,400. The funds are needed for the operating expenses of the YS National Office, such as phone and Internet service, travel, and photocopying.

Bill Schmitt, a member of the New York chapter, said that the fund drive makes it "possible for the YS to be a self-financing organization, which means we can respond to the important political opportunities to build a communist youth organization in the United States today and collaborate with revolutionary fighters in other countries." Schmitt said that as the YS "recruits more members in new cities, and as we build the Second Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange and the

World Festival of Youth and Students in Algeria this summer, we will need to make more phone calls, travel more, and print more copies of the YS pamphlet."

Discussions during the evening fund-raiser where held in English, Spanish, and French. A young worker who has bought several Pathfinder titles in French and attends Militant Labor Forums in the Garment District Pathfinder Bookstore came to the social and brought two friends. At the social one person bought a copy of the French-language edition of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* by Jack Barnes.

Also attending the event was a young student and worker who first met the communist movement on a literature table in a subway station. After attending a meeting in Manhattan to hear Cuban youth leaders Yanelis Martinez and Javier Dueñas he has decided to attend the Youth Exchange in Havana this summer. He has also been participating in political activity with the YS, such as attending the April 22 march for abortion rights in Washington.

Chapter organizer Jason Alessio explained that the event was built throughout the week by setting up literature tables in workers districts in Manhattan and Brooklyn. "YS members and members of the Socialist Workers Party also publicized the fund-raiser on several college campuses as part of working with students there to build the Youth Exchange," said Alessio.

Socialists reached out to students at Brooklyn College during the week by setting up a literature table. Four people bought subscriptions to the *Militant* at the college. "The Militant Labor Forums in Brooklyn, the Garment District, and Upper Manhat-

Young Socialist Fund Drive May 6-July 1

| City | Goal | Paid |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| New York | \$700 | \$268 |
| Los Angeles | 450 | |
| Chicago | 300 | |
| Twin Cities | 300 | |
| Tucson | 300 | |
| Pittsburgh | 200 | |
| Philadelphia | 150 | |
| Seattle | 90 | |
| Tuscaloosa | | |
| Total | \$2,490 | \$268 |
| Goal | \$2,400 | \$300 |

tan the night before the social also gave a boost to attendance at the event," he said.

A total of \$280 was raised at the social toward the chapter's \$700 goal. If you are interested in making a contribution to the drive or in learning more about the Second Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange July 22-30 and the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students August 8-16 in Algiers, you can contact the Young Socialists at Times Square Post Office, P.O. Box 33, New York, NY 10108, (212) 695-1809, or youngsocialists@attglobal.net.

Jason Alessio, a garment worker, contributed to this article.

Federal execution delayed as FBI admits it failed to turn over evidence

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Six days before the U.S. government was to execute Timothy McVeigh, the Justice Department handed his lawyers more than 3,000 pages of documents pertaining to the case. The material had been withheld from them by the FBI.

The next day, Attorney General John Ashcroft delayed by one month the execution date for McVeigh, a rightist convicted of the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building. While Ashcroft told reporters that McVeigh was "clearly guilty," he said a delay was necessary to "protect the integrity of the system of justice."

In response to the release of the new documents, lawyers for Terry Nichols, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing, filed a new appeal with the Supreme Court. McVeigh is said to be considering doing so as well.

Following Ashcroft's announcement, President George Bush held a press conference to express his support for the postponement of the state-sponsored killing, the first to be scheduled under federal death penalty laws since 1963.

The belated release of the documents tarnishes the efforts of the Bush administration, following in the footsteps of President William Clinton, to bolster the use of the death penalty for federal offenses and counter a growing sentiment and movement against capital punishment. The administration is preparing an elaborate showcase execution of McVeigh, who claims responsibility for the bombing that resulted in 168 deaths and hundreds of injuries, by inviting family members of those killed in the blast

to attend a closed-circuit televised viewing of the lethal-injection killing.

There are more than 3,500 people on death row today. Since the death penalty was restored in 1976, more than 700 people have been executed, one third of them Black.

The postponement puts McVeigh's new execution date just eight days before the execution of another federal death row inmate, Juan Garza, a Latino. Garza is one of 17 Blacks and Latinos of a total of 20 people awaiting execution by the federal government.

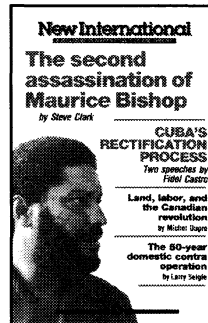
In the wake of this fiasco for the FBI, Congressional leaders have been scrambling to call for reforms, and debating whether computer problems or management errors are at fault. U.S. senator Charles Schumer, a Democrat from New York, called for a "top-to-bottom review" of the bureau. Pennsylvania Republican senator Arlen Specter said, "If we find deliberate concealment, that's obstruction of justice, and people ought to go to jail." Republican senator Charles Grassley from Iowa said, "I think there's a management culture here that's at fault."

Part of the discussion among these politicians is how to appoint a replacement for outgoing FBI director Louis Freeh with the credentials to clean up the bureau's image. In an article titled, "FBI's lapses present a challenge for new chief: reassure public," the *Wall Street Journal* quoted Jeffrey Weiner, past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers as saying that if the FBI can make such a mistake in a highly publicized case, "it isn't a leap of logic to assume it happens in others."

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Strikers speak out at socialist election forum in Canada

BY STEVE PENNER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—"I knew the workers were strong. I didn't know how strong until we went out on strike," said Penny Dean, one of the 105 workers who have been on strike against Purdy's Chocolates since the end of April. About 90 percent of the workers are immigrants and women. Dean explained that these workers, mainly Asians, are the backbone of the walkout.

The workers, members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union, are fighting for a guaranteed 40-hour workweek, a closed union shop, and improved benefits. Despite the company calling workers to try to convince them to cross the picket line, Dean said, only six have done so. Dean and Jagroop Dhaliwal, a shop steward at Superior Poultry, were guest speakers at a May 12 Communist League election campaign meeting featuring Joe Young, a meat packer who was the League's candidate in Vancouver-Langara in the May 16 British Columbia (B.C.) provincial elections.

Young and Dhaliwal, along with several other workers at the meeting, had earlier that day joined a rally of 300 people in support of striking Vancouver transit workers. The workers are fighting against the transit company's plans to replace full-time union positions with part-time and nonunion labor. Young warned that working people should oppose any attempt by the government elected on May 16—universally expected to be the B.C. Liberals—to force the transit workers back to work.

In addition to Dean and Dhaliwal, two other strikers from Purdy's and Superior Poultry and three other meat packers attended the meeting of 20 people.

At Superior Poultry, where workers recently concluded an almost nine-month

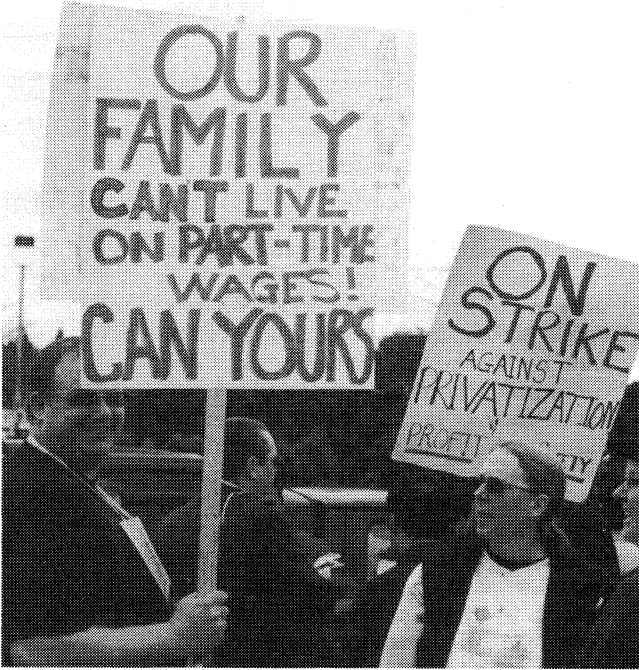
strike, the company only hires immigrant workers, Dhaliwal explained. "They hire people who cannot easily speak English. People who they think don't know their rights," he said. "People who can't easily find other jobs." The owners hoped that as a result they could better exploit the workers, he pointed out. The workers decided that "the only solution was to form a union" and 70 percent of them signed up to become members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

The company refused to sign a contract. After a year and a half of fruitless negotiations the workers were forced to go out on strike. Nine months after the walk-out began, the company gave in, signed a contract recognizing the union, and granted some improvements in wages and working conditions.

'Free ourselves from exploitation'

As a result of the workers' successful fight "people are feeling much more confident," Dhaliwal emphasized. "The workers know that if we are united there is nothing the company can do to us."

The labor movement needs to organize unions in more workplaces so other workers will be better able to fight for their rights, he stressed. "At the same time we should also tell them that a collective agreement is not the final solution," Dhaliwal said. "We need something more than that. We need to



free ourselves from exploitation. The only solution is socialism."

Struggles such as these show that "immigrant workers are an important part of the fight to transform our unions into more effective weapons of struggle," Young said at the meeting. "The capitalist rulers are campaigning against immigrants in order to divide the working class and to turn us against our fellow workers."

As examples, Young pointed to the jailing and deportation of Chinese immigrants and the frame-up trial over the explosion of an Air India plane, in which the government is portraying Sikhs from the Punjab in India as terrorists.

"The starting point of the Communist League campaign is that we are part of an international class—the working class," Young said. Opposing the rulers' anti-immigrant campaign and building solidarity with workers fighting for their rights across Canada and around the world is essential to uniting working people in a common



Both photos: Militant/Monica Jones
Left, May 12 rally supporting striking Vancouver transit workers. Above, Communist League candidate Joe Young participates in the rally.

struggle. "We should fight to establish a workers and farmers government that can put an end to capitalism, which is the source of the exploitation of working people," Young explained.

He pointed to Cuba's socialist revolution as an example of the road forward. In order to fight for fundamental change workers need to take political action, Young stressed. "That's why we should oppose the campaign by leaders of the New Democratic Party (NDP) aimed at weakening trade union ties to the party."

The NDP is a social democratic party with a program that supports capitalism. Nevertheless, the NDP was formed in part as a result of a layer of the working class recognizing that the unions needed to take political action against the bosses and their governments, Young said. It remains the only party that is linked to the unions and not directly controlled by the capitalists.

The Communist League is calling for a vote for the NDP in all the ridings except Vancouver-Langara where the Communist League is running. "It is the only way that workers can cast a class vote against the bosses and their parties," Young explained.

"Rather than campaigning to weaken trade union ties, as some NDP officials raise, a fight can be waged to forge a different program, a socialist program, one that advances the struggle to end the system of capitalist exploitation," said Young.

Steve Penner is a meat packer.

Fund gets \$10,000 this week

BY BOB ADAMS

Supporters of the Pathfinder Fund sent in almost \$10,000 this week at the midway point in the drive. Nearly half of the contributions came from the West Coast, where workers, young people, and other supporters of Pathfinder who attended meetings in Los Angeles and San Francisco gave \$4,600. In Los Angeles, several young people joined members of the Young Socialists at a local

restaurant for discussion prior to the event, which featured *Militant* editor Martin Koppel.

In San Francisco, Koppel was joined on a panel by Manuel Gonzalez, a college student in Santa Cruz, and José Sandoval, a central organizer of a recent immigrant rights demonstration in San Jose and long-time supporter of Pathfinder's working-class arsenal of books. Laurel Kelly, a member of the steering committee of the Pathfinder Reprint Project, spoke about the work of project volunteers around the world, who are turning every Pathfinder title into a ready-to-print digital file.

"We are now in a position to increase our goal," wrote Bev Bernardo following a successful fund meeting May 11 in Upper Manhattan. Some \$627 was raised at the event, which featured *Militant* staff writer Roger Calero.

"By asking people to make a contribution at a literature table," Bernardo said, "we collected \$15.75 in response to our books and signs in defense of immigrant rights and opposing police brutality."

Having already raised \$605, supporters in New Zealand have raised their goal from \$800 to \$1,145. Supporters in Sydney, Australia, held a Pathfinder fund celebration May 6. Some \$243 towards a goal of \$900 has been raised there, Doug Cooper writes. Peter Weitzel, a teacher and activist in the Australia Cuba Friendship Society, spoke at the meeting about *Playa Girón: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas*. The foreword to the new book, which recounts how students in Minnesota rallied to the defense of the Cuban Revolution during the U.S.-organized invasion in 1961, "emphasized how Cuba, then as now, provided encouragement for people to struggle," he said.

With another new book, *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, rolling off the presses at Pathfinder's printshop in New York, supporters of the fund have an excellent opportunity to raise money.

| Pathfinder Fund 2001 | | | |
|----------------------|----------|--------|-----|
| Country/City | Goal(\$) | Paid | % |
| Canada | 5,000 | 3,442 | 69% |
| New Zealand | 1,145 | 605 | 53% |
| United States | | | |
| Los Angeles | 6,000 | 4,250 | 71% |
| Allentown | 900 | 550 | 61% |
| Upper Manhattan | 3,300 | 1,827 | 55% |
| Philadelphia | 3,000 | 1,595 | 53% |
| San Francisco | 8,000 | 4,108 | 51% |
| Twin Cities | 4,000 | 1,993 | 50% |
| Chicago | 6,500 | 3,112 | 48% |
| Brooklyn | 4,000 | 1,879 | 47% |
| Newark | 3,000 | 1,340 | 45% |
| Boston | 3,750 | 1,495 | 40% |
| Washington, D.C. | 2,200 | 873 | 40% |
| Charlotte | 2,700 | 1,055 | 39% |
| Detroit | 2,500 | 970 | 39% |
| NY Garment Dist | 4,000 | 1,544 | 39% |
| Seattle | 8,000 | 2,600 | 33% |
| Houston | 3,500 | 930 | 27% |
| Atlanta | 3,200 | 715 | 22% |
| Pittsburgh | 6,000 | 1,258 | 21% |
| Omaha | 250 | 44 | 18% |
| Tampa | 600 | 100 | 17% |
| Des Moines | 1,400 | 175 | 13% |
| Miami | 2,000 | 235 | 12% |
| Birmingham | 2,500 | 235 | 9% |
| Grand Junction | 2,400 | 150 | 6% |
| Cleveland | 1,250 | 25 | 2% |
| Fresno | 225 | 0 | 0% |
| Other | | 507 | |
| U.S. Total | 85,175 | 33,565 | 39% |
| Australia | 900 | 243 | 27% |
| Iceland | | 25 | |
| Sweden | | 50 | |
| Int'l Total | 92,220 | 37,930 | 38% |
| Int'l goal/should be | 100,000 | 50,000 | 50% |

Socialist runs for mayor of Detroit

BY ILONA GERSH

DETROIT—The Socialist Workers Party launched the campaign of Osborne Hart for mayor of Detroit April 29 at a Militant Labor Forum. Hart gave an eyewitness account of the protests against police violence in Cincinnati following the cops' killing of 19-year-old Timothy Thomas.

"The Black community is seething in Cincinnati," Hart reported. "One after another, people I talked to said they will not let Cincinnati return to 'normal.' 'Normal' is what the city officials want. Instead of bringing quiescence, their policies brought thousands into the streets in political protest."

Working people in Detroit also face brutality from police and security guards on a regular basis. Hart has helped to build recent rallies and picket lines at stores in the city to press for prosecution of security guards who have attacked working people. Over the last 10 months, three workers have been killed by guards.

"The way the Cincinnati Black community poured out into the streets in protest is an example for us here in Detroit," Hart said at the meeting. "Their fight against ruling class racism is part of the growing resistance of working people to the increasing attacks by the bosses and their government."

Hart said the Socialist Workers campaign will discuss with as many youth, workers, and farmers as possible why working people can and must "wage a revolutionary struggle to replace this capitalist government with one of our own." He pointed to the example of the Cuban Revolution, "which established a government of workers and farmers. They uprooted a dictatorship imposed by U.S. imperialism that was responsible for racism, discrimination against women, and poverty. That opened the way to the first socialist revolution in the Americas."

To qualify for ballot status, a mayoral candidate must collect 416 signatures on nominating petitions. Supporters of the socialist campaign plan to collect double the required amount to gain a ballot spot.

The economic slowdown in the United States has hit Michigan hard, especially Detroit where layoffs in the auto industry are deeply affecting working people. At the same time, as part of the capitalist profit drive, the bosses are scheduling more overtime, known as "lean manufacturing" in the auto industry.

"Working people around the world do not have to accept the devastating conditions of joblessness, overwork and speedup, financial crisis, or the pressures of an insecure future," Hart said. "This is the framework of all the other candidates, Democratic and Republican. But it doesn't have to be our framework. Instead, the labor movement must demand a shorter workweek with no cut in pay, which must be binding on all employers as federal law. This would create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and lift the burden of capitalist-created unemployment off the backs of working people."

"We need to press forward in the battle to overcome the race and sex discrimination used to divide working people on the job and throughout society," the socialist candidate said. "We need to fight to enforce and extend affirmative action quotas in employment and on the job, as well as in education. We need to champion the cause of working people in semicolonial countries, tens of millions of whom face devastation as a result of capitalism. We can demand cancellation of the Third World debt and elimination of all trade barriers and tariffs erected by the U.S. rulers. These demands will build unity in the working class, which will make us stronger."

Hart said the fight to increase the minimum wage for all workers to the equivalent of union wages; to guarantee full health, disability, and pension benefits for all; and an automatic cost-of-living protection against sudden bursts of inflation are also central demands of his campaign.

Ilona Gersh is a member of United Auto Workers Local 157.

Revolutionary capacities of working people

'Cuban revolution taught workers and youth in the United States it is possible to s

Printed below is the preface to *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes. Copyright © 2001 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

The victory at Playa Girón punctured the myth of U.S. imperialism's invincibility. It left us with the conviction that the Cuban Revolution would be at the center of the class struggle inside the United States as long as the working class was in power in Cuba, and we had become convinced that such would be the case for the rest of our political lives.

Jack Barnes
March 2001

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

In less than seventy-two hours of combat in April 1961 near the Bay of Pigs, Cuba's Revolutionary Air Force, militias, police, and Rebel Army defeated an invasion by 1,500 Cuban counterrevolutionaries armed, trained, supported, and deployed by Washington. The stunning victory, Yankee imperialism's first military defeat in the Americas, had repercussions around the world—not least of all within the United States itself.

Jack Barnes takes that historic moment as his starting point for *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. It was the moment when Cuba no longer appeared as yet another victim of the most powerful country in history, but emerged as its equal. This is, at the same time, a book about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba, who taught us that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. It is a book about the unshakable confidence the workers and farmers of Cuba gave us in what working people are capable of.

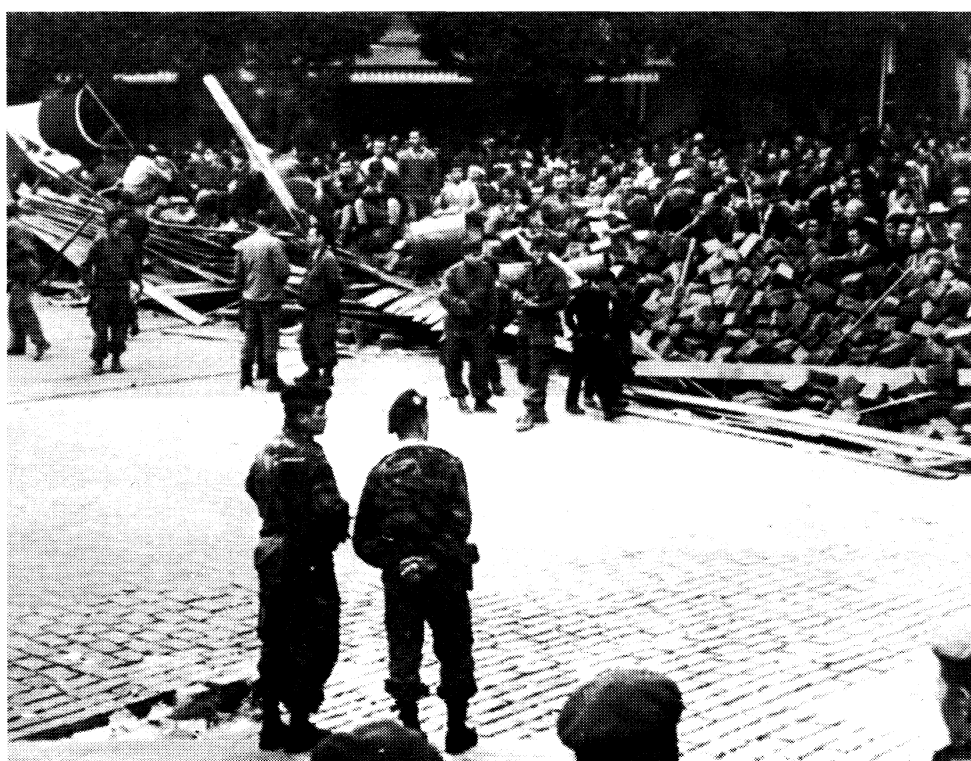
"The greatest obstacle to the line of march of the toilers," notes the author in the pages that follow, "is the tendency, promoted and perpetuated by the exploiting classes, for working people to underestimate ourselves, to underestimate what we can accomplish, to doubt our own worth." What the workers and farmers of Cuba showed us is that with class solidarity, political consciousness, courage, focused and persistent efforts at education, and a revolutionary leadership of high caliber like that in Cuba, tested and forged in battle over

the years, it is possible to stand up to enormous might and seemingly insurmountable odds and win.

That was the lesson internalized in the early 1960s by a vanguard of young people inside the United States aided, encouraged, and educated by veteran workers and farmers of the Socialist Workers Party. Their story is told here in "1961: Year of Education." Written as the foreword to the recently released Pathfinder book, *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas*, it describes the impact of the Cuban Revolution on youth who were already being radicalized by the deepening mass struggle to bring down the "Jim Crow" system of segregation in the U.S. South and roll back other forms of racist discrimination throughout the country. It recounts the work of the students who established a campus chapter of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee at Carleton College in Minnesota in the decisive few months culminating in the April 19 victory at Playa Girón, a committee that in the heat of events briefly became the largest campus chapter in the country. It describes the class-struggle lessons young people learned as they went through these experiences and tells how they began building the Young Socialist Alliance in the course of this work.

The second piece published here, "There Will Be a Victorious Revolution in the United States before a Victorious Counterrevolution in Cuba," is based on talks given by Barnes in both New York City and Seattle in March 2001 at meetings to celebrate the publication of *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs*. Among the 450 participants in these gatherings were dozens of volunteers from one end of the country to the other whose labor made possible the rapid, quality production of the book. The audiences spanned the generations from those who were already active partisans of the Cuban Revolution at the time of the Bay of Pigs to socialist youth who are today, forty years after the events, making this chapter of history their own.

Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs came off the presses in both Spanish and English just in time to be launched at a March 22–24 conference in Havana on "Girón: 40 Years Later." During that event the central political and military leaders of revolutionary Cuba whose guidance had assured the victory, including commander in chief Fidel



French Foreign Legion paratroops in foreground face off against revolutionary insurgents in Algiers, 1960. "The independence struggle, paid for in blood by some one million Algerians, was rapidly approaching victory" in the months following the Cuban defeat of the mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs, Waters writes. A workers and farmers government soon came to power, with National Liberation Front leader Ahmed Ben Bella at its head. "The liberation struggle in Algeria had an impact on layers of young people and fighters against oppression far beyond North Africa and France, of course, including in the United States."

Castro, joined to discuss the events that occurred four decades earlier with a U.S. delegation some of whose members either fought as part of the U.S.-trained and -financed Brigade 2506, helped prepare the CIA invasion plans, or acted as apologists and advisers for the administration of President John F. Kennedy.

Other activities marking the Cuban victory at the Bay of Pigs took place in numerous U.S. cities, from Miami to New York, from Seattle to Minneapolis to Boston. At each of them the focus was not only to tell the story of what happened many years ago, but to use that knowledge to understand the world today and prepare for coming battles.

Why do the U.S. rulers remain as ferociously determined to try to crush the Cuban Revolution as they were in 1961? It isn't complicated. The first free territory of the Americas still stands as a revolutionary and a socialist example for the oppressed and exploited the world over.

U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell explained it more accurately than he perhaps intended before an April 26 House Appropriations subcommittee hearing in Washington, responding to a congressman who questioned him about why the United States government maintains diplomatic relations with China and Vietnam, and had them for decades with the former Soviet Union, but not Cuba. In China, Russia, and Vietnam, Powell replied, "you can see leaders who the world is changing." But in Cuba, he said, Castro "hasn't changed his views in any way."

Mr. Secretary got it right, just as each of his predecessors has. The people of Cuba have never surrendered. They stand ready, as always, to aid revolutionary struggles wherever they may occur, by any means necessary. Their message to would-be invaders remains the same: If you come, you stay.

The most important response to the publication of *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs* came from new generations of readers who discovered something unanticipated in its pages. They had expected a clear and readable account of the historic battle from José Ramón Fernández, who led the main column of troops that defeated the invasion forces in April 1961. They had expected the truth and class clarity of the political leadership given the people of Cuba and the world in the speeches by Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, and Raúl Castro. They had expected to find expressed in the

pages of the book the determination and courage of the workers and peasants, overwhelmingly young, who fought and died on the road to Playa Girón to defend the first socialist revolution in our hemisphere.

The surprise was learning how a previous generation of young socialists inside the United States had waged an intense political battle in defense of the Cuban Revolution right here in the weeks leading up to, during, and after the U.S.-organized invasion. This previously unrecorded chapter in the history of the communist youth movement was to its continuators today not just an interesting account of something long past, however, but a model of mass work to be emulated now.

After reading "1961: Year of Education," several young socialists in Pittsburgh even decided to rent the video and organize a gathering to watch *Salt of the Earth*—the famous blacklisted movie about the unionization battle of largely Mexican zinc miners in the U.S. Southwest in the 1950s. Showing the movie and discussing it with one of the union organizers was among the activities organized in the months preceding the Bay of Pigs invasion by Carleton College students who were meeting weekly in a socialist discussion club, building a campus Fair Play for Cuba chapter, and rapidly becoming young communists. It was part of the broad education campaign that helped to politicize a layer of young people and prepare the ground for the response to U.S. aggression against Cuba. If the movie in 1961 stimulated the kind of political controversy and education indicated, the Pittsburgh young socialists surmised, then it must still be worth seeing. The movie, they thought, might be timely, and ring especially true, given the growing vanguard contributions of immigrant workers throughout the U.S. labor movement and the militancy today of union coal miners in that same part of the country, many of whom are Navajo, Mexican, or Chicano.

Most important, these young socialists acted on their conclusions.

I was one of the students at Carleton College for whom the defeat of U.S. imperialism at the Bay of Pigs was a watershed, and whose life course was changed by the activities of the people described in the opening chapter of this book. Before that sophomore year in college I had virtually no interest in politics. Had eighteen-year-olds been allowed to vote in the 1960 U.S. presidential elections, I would probably

CUBA and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes

**There will be a victorious
revolution in
the United States before a
victorious counterrevolution
in Cuba**

—Fidel Castro, March 1961

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made. It is about the class struggle in the United States, where the revolutionary capacities of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers.

And just as wrongly.

In English, Spanish, and French

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CUBA
and the
COMING
AMERICAN
REVOLUTION



JACK BARNES

NEW FROM PATHFINDER

is topic of new book

stand up to enormous odds—and win'

have cast a ballot for Richard Nixon. (Lowering the voting age to eighteen was an extension of the franchise only conceded a decade after that by the U.S. rulers, as they vainly sought to defuse the growing mass outrage among young people against being used as cannon fodder in the Vietnam War.)

Six months later I called myself a socialist, even though as yet I only vaguely understood what that might be.

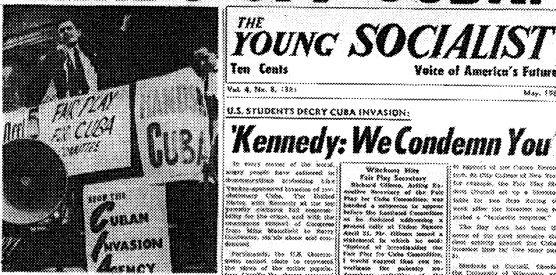
In the months leading up to the Bay of Pigs invasion, I attended few of the programs organized by the student government-sponsored Challenge program described by Jack Barnes in "1961: Year of Education." I missed the meeting at which national Fair Play for Cuba Committee organizers Robert Williams and Ed Shaw spoke, for example, because I had a paper to write or an exam to prepare for. I enjoyed the study of English literature and took it seriously! But the next day the entire campus was discussing that electrifying meeting. Like others who had not been there, it had an impact on me nonetheless.

As did hundreds of students at Carleton, I avidly followed the political propaganda war being fought out on the bulletin board in the Student Union, reading the daily newspaper and magazine clippings posted by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee as well as those put up by critics or enemies of the revolution. One of the Fair Play supporters gave me a copy of C. Wright Mills's *Listen, Yankee*, which I devoured in one sitting. That slim paperback—written by a radical, socialist-minded, motorcycle-riding, heart-attack-prone, pure-product-of-America professor who staunchly opposed Washington's policy toward Cuba—was not only my introduction to the history of Cuba's anticolonial and anti-imperialist struggle. It also opened my eyes to the arrogance and brutality of U.S. imperialist domination of Latin America. I began to think about and discuss with others what we in the United States who opposed that reality needed to do.

Like millions in Cuba before me, in the spring of 1961 I became a "Fidelista" before I was yet knowingly a "socialista." I was a bit like the teenage anti-aircraft artillery gunners in Cuba quoted in an article in the April 23 issue of the *Militant* newspaper. They described their reactions after listening to the speech by Fidel Castro hours before the battle of Playa Girón began, when he talked for the first time about the socialist character of the revolution in Cuba. "We didn't understand well what socialism was," one said, but "someone declared that if Fidel was a socialist, then we were socialists too, and everyone there agreed with that."

The night of April 19, 1961, as word

HANDS OFF CUBA!



Stand With Cuba!

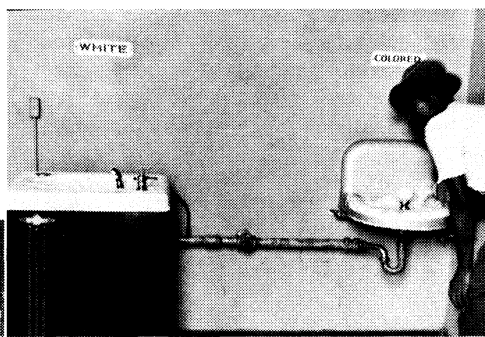
Washington, D.C.—The United States government, charged, threatened to use force to suppress the movement and leadership of the Cuban people. The United States government, charged, threatened to use force to suppress the movement and leadership of the Cuban people. The United States government, charged, threatened to use force to suppress the movement and leadership of the Cuban people.



spread across campus of Washington's crushing defeat at what we knew back then as Cochinos Bay, I joined in the celebration of our victory and never turned back.

The deepening revolution in Cuba was not isolated in the world of the early 1960s. Other powerful anti-imperialist struggles were advancing too; from Indochina to the Congo to Panama. Mass battles to bring down Jim Crow segregation in the United States were a form of the same struggles internationally and, at the same time, drew strength from them. And the reawakening struggles by Mexican-Americans and Chicanos were beginning to find echoes as well. In my own case it was the Algerian Revolution that had the deepest impact.

A few months after the Bay of Pigs, I found myself in France for the new academic year. The Algerian independence struggle, paid for in blood by some one million Algerians, was rapidly approaching victory. The great movie depiction of this struggle, *Battle*



Inset, racially segregated water fountains in North Carolina in 1950. Above, mass meeting in support of 1955-56 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott, in protest of requirement that Black people move to back of bus or cede seats to whites. The 381-day boycott, in which participants faced violent attacks and police harassment, ended in victory. The new book, Waters explains, "describes the impact of the Cuban Revolution on youth who were already being radicalized by the deepening mass struggle to bring down the 'Jim Crow' system of segregation in the U.S. South and roll back other forms of racist discrimination throughout the country."



Above, young members of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces were among the 600,000 people who joined Havana May Day rally this year. They marched past the U.S. Interests Section to protest Washington's embargo of Cuba and economic assault on the working people of Latin America and other Third World countries. Above left, May 1961 issue of the *Young Socialist*, newspaper of the Young Socialist Alliance in the United States. Below left, Cuban peasants receive title to their lands following first agrarian reform in 1959. "Why do the U.S. rulers remain as ferociously determined to try to crush the Cuban Revolution as they were in 1961?" Waters asks in preface to *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. "It isn't complicated. The first free territory of the Americas still stands as a revolutionary and a socialist example for the oppressed and exploited the world over."

of Algiers, captures much of the courage and determination of the Algerian people, as well as the immeasurable brutality of the French imperialist forces. No one should

miss it.

Paris resembled a city under siege during the closing months of the war. In the wake of a failed coup attempt, the Secret Army Organization (OAS), a clandestine fascist group based in the officer corps of the French army, had unleashed a campaign of bombings and assassinations in the capital aimed at bringing down the French government before it recognized Algerian independence. Paratroops armed with submachine guns stood guard twenty-four hours a day on every street corner, and plastic bombs exploded nightly in mailboxes and other public locations throughout the city.

Student antifascist committees were active in every faculty. They regularly organized demonstrations challenging the prohibition on street actions. Facing off against the much-hated special police force, the CRS, they inevitably sustained injuries and arrests. In February 1962 eight demonstrators were trampled and suffocated to death as those escaping a CRS attack fled into an abandoned metro station from which there was no exit. More than a million people poured into Paris streets to join the funeral cortege to the Père Lachaise cemetery, where the martyrs of the Paris Commune are also buried.

Despite the casualties still to come, the war was over. The people of Algeria had won. A few months later the Evian Accords were signed, ceding independence to Algeria after more than 130 years of French colonial rule. A workers and farmers government soon came to power, with National Liberation Front leader Ahmed Ben Bella at its head.

Joining these student demonstrations was my first direct experience with the terror of police brutality and the

reality of fascist violence. It was a political education that left an indelible impression. Unbeknown to me at the time, the student antifascist committees, whose actions in the streets of Paris were so indispensable to mobilizing support for Algerian independence, were led by my own comrades, young people in the leadership of the left wing of the Union des Etudiants Communistes (UEC—Communist Students Union). These youth were soon to be expelled from the UEC at the

Continued on Page 10

from Pathfinder

Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium

BY JACK BARNES

"The capitalist rulers offer us social disaster. They offer us depression. They offer us death from curable disease. They offer us war. They offer us fascism. They offer us an unending list of horrors. But we offer ourselves the ability to prevent those horrors from becoming the final reality, the confidence that we can transform that future."

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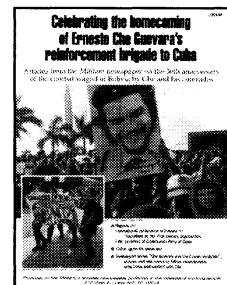
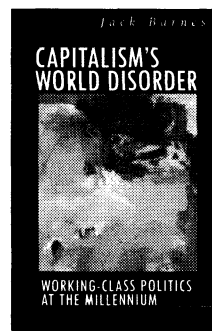
ARTICLES FROM THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE COMBAT WAGED IN BOLIVIA BY CHE AND HIS COMRADES

Includes October 1997 article by Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of the Algerian revolution, describing collaboration and solidarity with Cuba, and work with Guevara in Africa in the early 1960s.

This twelve-part series, "Che Guevara and the Cuban revolution," contains articles and interviews by fellow revolutionaries who knew and worked with Guevara.

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Revolutionary capacities of working people

Continued from Page 9

insistence of the leadership of the French Communist Party, in part for leading these actions, and they founded the Jeunesse Communiste Révolutionnaire (JCR—Revolutionary Communist Youth), the sister organization of the Young Socialist Alliance.

When I returned to Carleton for my senior year, I immediately joined the Young Socialist Alliance without the slightest doubt that a disciplined communist organization was necessary to meet similar conditions that were sure to be produced by capitalism in the United States.

The liberation struggle in Algeria had an impact on layers of young people and fighters against oppression far beyond North Africa and France, of course, including in the United States. Malcolm X was one of them. At a May 1964 meeting of the Militant Labor Forum in New York City, Malcolm pointed out that while only a few years earlier Ben Bella had been in the prisons of French imperialism, "today they have to negotiate with him because he knew that the one thing he had on his side was truth and time. Time is on the side of the oppressed today, it's against the oppressor. Truth is on the side of the oppressed today, it's against the oppressor." During both of his trips to Africa and the Middle East in 1964, Malcolm traveled to Algeria to meet with fellow revolutionaries.

There were strong ties connecting the Algerian and Cuban revolutions. The years immediately following independence from France saw close and growing collaboration between Havana and Algiers to aid anti-imperialist struggles from the Congo to Argentina to apartheid South Africa, and to defend the Algerian and Cuban revolutions.

In the fall of 1962 Ben Bella came to New York City to address the United Nations General Assembly on the occasion of Algeria being admitted to that body as an independent nation.

From there Ben Bella traveled to Washington for a brief state visit with President John F. Kennedy, and then, despite the open threats of his hosts, demonstratively flew straight on to Havana, where he joined his comrades-in-arms. In an account written thirty-five years later, Ben Bella recalled that he arrived in Havana on October 16, the very eve of the Cuban "Missile" Crisis, "amid indescribable scenes of popular enthusiasm" for the revolution and its solidarity with Algeria.

The first large-scale internationalist mission of Cuban volunteers was the dispatch of tanks and a column of troops under the command of Efigenio Ameijeiras, the head of the Revolutionary National Police battalion that had fought so tenaciously at Playa Girón; they went to Algeria in October 1963 to help the revolutionary government repel a U.S.-backed invasion by Moroccan troops.

With the overthrow of the Ben Bella-led workers and farmers government in June 1965, the defeat of the anti-imperialist forces in the Congo later that same year, and the withdrawal from the Congo of the Cuban volunteer troops headed by Che Guevara, the era of that type of close collaboration between Havana and Algiers came to an end.



More than forty years have passed since the last victorious socialist revolution. That is a long time, not on the historical scale, but in political time. A great deal has changed in the world.

We don't have to look far or delve that deeply, however, to see within the United States social forces being propelled into motion that are capable of transforming themselves as they come to realize in struggle that we need the same kind of revolution that the workers and peasants of Cuba carried to victory. From the streets of Cincinnati to the coal mines on the Navajo Nation, from the farm cooperatives of southern Georgia to the dairy farms of Wisconsin, from the port of Charleston to the packinghouses of Omaha, from the fields of California's Imperial Valley to the garment shops of Los Angeles and New York, as the pages that follow explain, "a vanguard layer of workers and farmers in this country is becoming more confident from their common fighting experience and thus more open to considering radical ideas, including the program and strategy of the modern communist movement. Whether

they know it yet or not, their own experience in life and struggle is bringing them closer to that of the workers and peasants of revolutionary Cuba."

This is not an ideological question but a practical one, a question of proletarian integrity, habits of discipline, and morality—of Marxism.

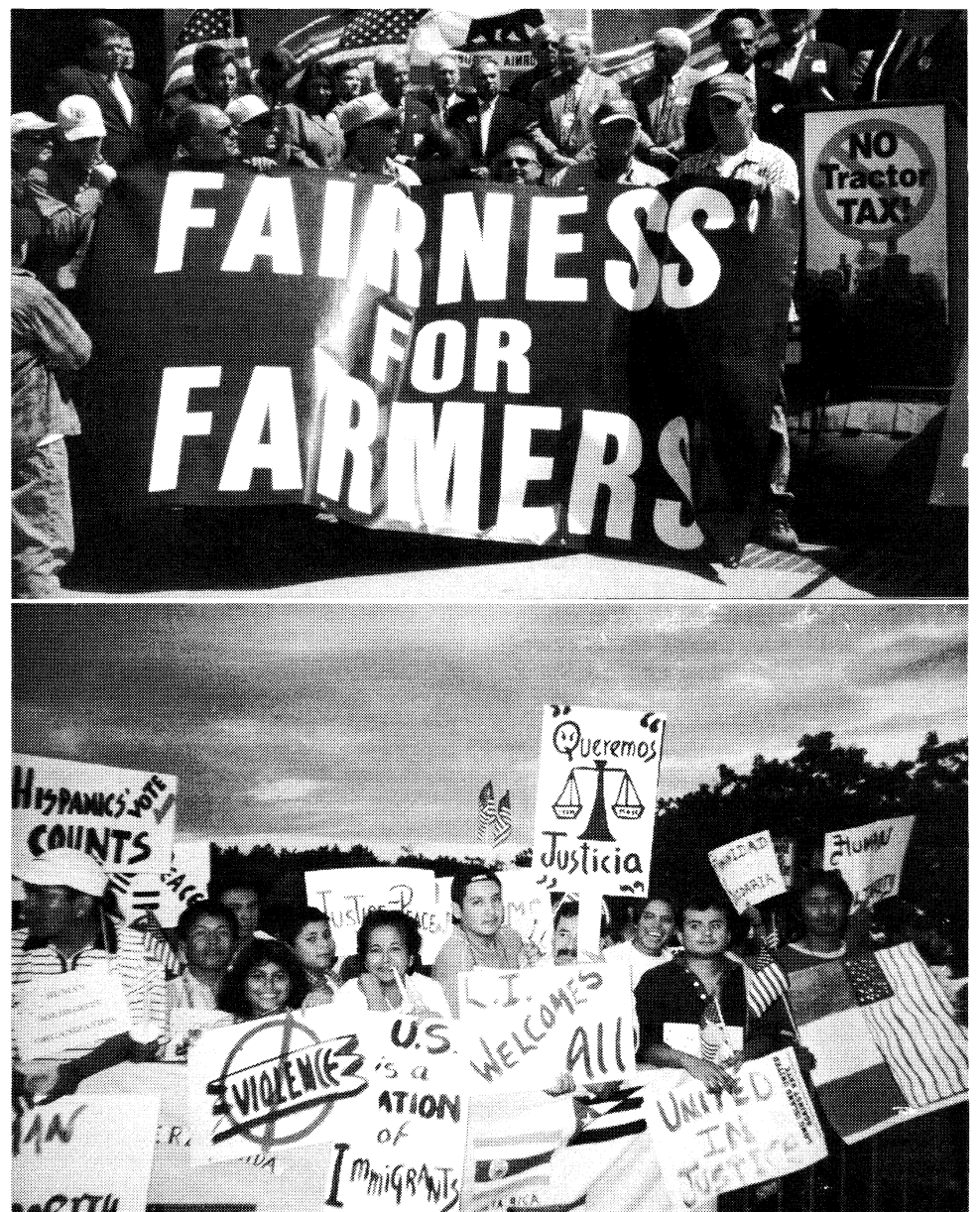
We've been reminded of that in recent weeks by the profound class divide that has opened once again in the United States following the acknowledgment by former Democratic U.S. senator Robert Kerrey of the civilian massacre he was responsible for more than thirty years ago in Vietnam. (He was moved to "bare his soul" just days before the story was to be printed in the *New York Times* and broadcast nationwide on CBS's *Sixty Minutes*!) Liberals are wailing about the personal agony Kerrey has been obliged to live with for these many decades—"the bad war made him do it." Meanwhile conservatives intone phrases about the "realities" of battle, defending the "free-fire zones" where every Vietnamese man, woman, and child was assumed to be "the enemy." Kerrey's only betrayal, as far as they are concerned, was later becoming a Democratic Party officeholder.

The bipartisan sanctimonious posturing should serve to remind us not only of the enormous price paid in blood by the people of Vietnam to gain their independence, but also of the example of the Rebel Army during the battle at Playa Girón, where not one prisoner, by the invaders' own testimony, was mistreated or abused, denied food, water, or medical treatment equivalent to that available to the Cuban troops. The same was true throughout the entire two years of the revolutionary war in Cuba where, despite the record of the Batista regime's brutal killers and torturers, no captured government soldier was treated by the Rebel Army in any way but with humanity and respect.

What determined the outcome at Playa Girón, as in Vietnam and Algeria, was ultimately not which side had the superior armaments, but the class character of the contending forces and what they were fighting for. That's what the U.S. rulers did not and can never understand. They did their mathematical calculations, as Che Guevara is quoted saying here, but they failed to measure the moral relationship of forces. "They have always been wrong about us," Guevara concluded. "They always arrive late."

They still are wrong about the capacities of the toilers, and they still always arrive late. And always will.

That class line is what hundreds of workers and farmers, and young people on dozens of campuses in the United States, were responding to during the recent speaking engagements by two Cuban youth leaders, Javier Dueñas and Yanelis Martínez. Their month-long visit to the United States took place as this book was being prepared. In talking about the opportunities and challenges facing working people and youth in Cuba today, in responding to what they saw and learned of the U.S. class struggle, and in answering the questions put to them ev-



Top, Militant/Sarah Katz

Top, April farmers protest in California State capital against tax on tractors. Bottom, rally in Hauppauge, New York, last year, to defend immigrant workers. Within the United States, Waters says, social forces are "being propelled into motion that are capable of transforming themselves as they come to realize in struggle that we need the same kind of revolution that the workers and peasants of Cuba carried to victory."

erywhere about the world and the future ahead of us all, these young Cubans kept shifting the focus to the ordinary workers, farmers, and young people just awakening to political life in both Cuba and the United States.

Above all, the two Cubans pointed to the capacities of working people and youth attracted to their struggles to rise to the level of consciousness, discipline, courage, and class solidarity necessary to take their own future in hand. This is what the people of Cuba have done, the example they've set, for the last forty-odd years.

"What is special is never the human material," says the author in the pages that follow, "but the times we live in and our degree of preparation. If we've worked together beforehand to build a disciplined, centralized workers party—with a program and strategy that advances the historic line of march of our class worldwide—then

we'll be ready for new opportunities in the class struggle when they explode in totally unanticipated ways. We'll be prepared to build a mass proletarian combat party that can take on the capitalist rulers in revolutionary struggle and defeat them. That is the most important lesson that every one of us can draw."

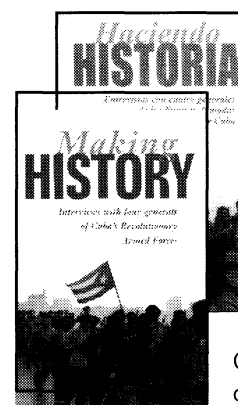
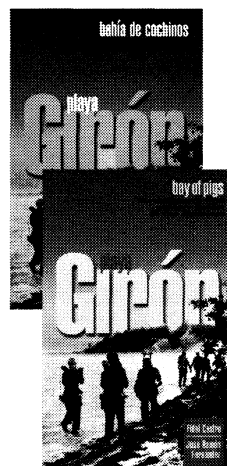
If the victory of the people of Cuba at Playa Girón is still stuck in Washington's craw some forty years later, it is not because of something that happened long ago or miles away. It is because of the present and the future right here in the United States, where, as Jack Barnes concludes in the opening chapter of this book, the revolutionary capacities of the workers and farmers are "as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the peasant and proletarian masses of Cuba. And just as wrongly."

That is what *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* is about.

New From Pathfinder

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What counts are 'actions, not waiting until kingdom come

Fidel Castro answers slander against Cuba by Canada's prime minister

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

In a nationally televised "roundtable" television discussion broadcast in late April, Fidel Castro answered an attack on the Cuban Revolution by Canadian prime minister Jean Chrétien.

The day prior to the opening of the April 20-22 Summit of the Americas held in Quebec City reporters asked Chrétien why Cuba was excluded from the meeting. According to an EFE news dispatch, Chrétien justified the action by claiming that the Cuban "regime" had failed "to take any action in regards to human rights," despite his having "spent hours trying to convince" Castro to do so during talks held by the two heads of state in Havana in April 1998.

In his televised response, Cuban president Castro explained that the meeting with Chrétien "had barely begun when [Chrétien] rather abruptly placed a short list of names on the table, a list that he had obviously received shortly before." This has commonly occurred, said Castro, whenever "we were visited by a political figure from a U.S. ally or an American politician: the State Department would hand them a list of people tried in a court of law or sentenced for counter-revolutionary activities."

Castro said he told the Canadian prime minister, "It is only in exceptional cases that the authorities proceed to arrest and prosecute those" whose "acts of provocation are grave or totally unacceptable." He contrasted "the misdeeds and crimes committed against Cuba by the United States" with the "irreproachable conduct and ethics of our Revolution despite the deluge of slander and lies heaped on Cuba."

From the very first years of the revolution, he said, including in the case of the 1,500 mercenaries who invaded the country with U.S. backing in 1961, the Cuban government "has been releasing those who had tried to destroy" the revolution over the course of four decades.

A number of other questions were discussed at the meeting, said Castro.

The Cuban president proposed that Cuba and Canada "set an example of cooperation by working out a joint health-care program for Haiti where Cuba would send the medical personnel, and Canada would provide the necessary medicines and equipment." He explained that Haiti is "one of the poorest countries in the world, with terrible health indicators, including the prevalence of AIDS, which threatened to become a human catastrophe."

Chrétien replied that he was "interested in projects for Haiti," said Castro. "He said he would study the proposal, and I said I would talk to the Haitian government."

"It would appear," the Cuban leader stated, "that this idea immediately brought another [project] to his mind." The Canadian prime minister proposed a joint effort with Angola and Mozambique to remove anti-personnel land mines. "You can contribute the workers, we will contribute the money," Chrétien told Castro.

"He undoubtedly did not realize," Castro said, "how offensive his proposal could be: a humanitarian cooperation project in which Canada and other rich countries provide the money, while we take on the risk of mutilation and death of our soldiers."

"I had the strong impression that he wanted to hire us as mercenaries," he said. "For a moment I felt overwhelmed by a sense of outrage, recalling the selfless spirit of sacrifice, the clean and noble history of a people who had confronted a brutal economic war and special period ready to die for their ideas. Could anyone pretend to take advantage of this situation to try tempting us with such a mission?"

Instead, Castro said, "I proposed what I considered a reasonable solution. We were willing to train all of the necessary personnel from Angola, Mozambique, and any

other country affected by such problems to carry out this task in their own territories."

By "November 1998," reported Castro, "seven months had passed, and there was still no word from Chrétien about the projects we had discussed."

When Hurricane Georges struck the Caribbean in September of that year, Castro challenged other governments to join in providing assistance to Haiti, where 150,000 people had been left homeless. In a speech at the 5th Congress of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), quoted in the television program, he said, "I am asking the international community: Do you want to help this country which, not so long ago, experienced a military invasion and intervention?" Castro proposed that "if a country like Canada...or France...or Japan would provide the medications, we are prepared to provide the doctors."

Cuba responds to Hurricane Georges

On December 4 Cuba sent its first emergency brigade to help the victims of Hurricane Georges on its own. Medical groups continued to arrive in the following weeks. "Meanwhile," Castro said, "our Canadian friends did not show any sign of life." Later, Cuba received a message through unofficial channels that Ottawa would donate \$300,000 to the medical project in Haiti.

Then, out of the blue, in March 1999, the Canadian minister of foreign affairs, Lloyd

Castro in Iran: 'Shah of imperialism will fall'

Continued from front page

in the Tehran daily *Kayhan*, May 10. "But as the shah of Iran was overthrown, this shah too will fall!" Castro said.

"We are confronting a great power that despite having all the mass media under its control and having superior economic and military power, has nevertheless been defeated in the ideological and moral fight with our people," Castro said. He also emphasized, "We should differentiate between the American people and their government."

Seven hundred students listened to Castro's speech at the University of Tehran auditorium while many more who could not get in stood outside watching on closed-circuit television. The speech, centered on explaining imperialist exploitation of Third World countries, was interrupted by standing ovations and shouts of "Fidel! Fidel!"

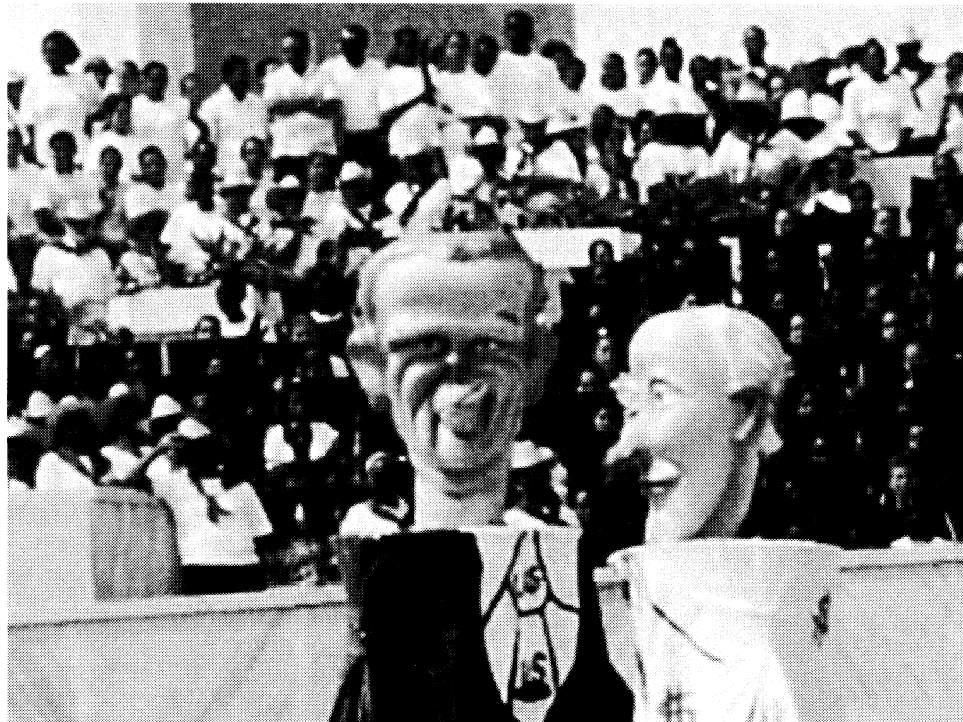
Before coming to speak at the university Castro was awarded an honorary doctorate at the Tarbiat-Modares (Teacher Education) University in acknowledgment of his contributions over more than four decades to struggles in defense of the oppressed countries of the world. Saeed Samnani, president of the university, pointed to the accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution in eradicating illiteracy and its ability to produce internationalist doctors, ISNA reported. "At this time several thousand Cuban doctors are serving in African countries," Samnani said.

Impact of Cuban Revolution

Introducing Castro, Mostafa Moeen, the minister of science, research and technology, spoke of the impact of the Cuban Revolution on national liberation movements around the world.

Moeen referred to a 1962 meeting in Cuba held to commemorate the anniversary of the 1957 student attack on the palace of dictator Batista. At the meeting, a student acting as the master of ceremonies read the testament of José Antonio Echevarría, a student leader killed by the regime's military forces during events surrounding the assault, but left out three sentences that referred to Echevarría's religious beliefs.

Castro spoke later in the meeting after talking to the student, who said he had been instructed not to read the three lines. After reading the three lines to the audience, Castro used the incident to explain why the Cuban Revolution, Marxism, and socialism have nothing in common with attempts to falsify history. (Castro's speech to the 1962



Militant/John Steele

A giant caricature puppet representing Jean Chrétien, prime minister of Canada, (on left) was part of a political satire presented at May Day rally in Havana. The satire, featured other heads of state, including U.S. president George Bush, poked fun at leaders who voted against Cuba at meeting of UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Axworthy, wrote the Cuban government a letter stating that due to certain court proceedings and draft legislation in Cuba, "I am asking my officials to refrain from undertaking new joint initiatives" and urging other Cabinet members to "reflect on their own programs of bilateral cooperation with Cuba."

Axworthy added he had put on hold "the Cuban request to undertake third country medical cooperation in Haiti."

"What bothered me most," about the letter, added Castro, "were not the punitive measures and threats against Cuba—after 42 years we are used to such treatment—

but rather the fact that the \$300,000 would never reach the sick people in Haiti."

The Cuban president said that despite the inaction of the Canadian government, there are today 469 Cuban doctors and health-care workers in Haiti who provide medical care to 62 percent of the Haitian population.

"Today, nobody can sabotage Cuba's cooperation with other countries in the Third World." What counts, he said, are "actions, not words, rapid responses, not waiting until kingdom come while there are human beings in poor countries dying every day and every hour."

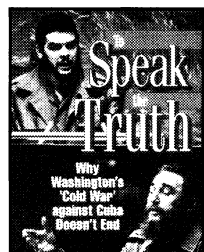
for others to plunder us," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei, who is also the spiritual head of state, told the Cuban president in a meeting that in accordance with Islamic belief, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers "resistance to and struggle against oppression in this world as righteous," reported Tehran morning daily *Hamshahri*. He added that people of Iran like Cuba because the country stands up to bullying from Washington and "according to our Islamic beliefs this is valuable." Castro responded that the U.S. imperialism "is very weak. We can witness this from nearby. After 40 years of revolution Cuba is stronger than ever."

In a joint statement the two countries condemned acts of terrorism as well as sanctions imposed by the imperialists, as those against Cuba, Iran, and Iraq. They also expressed their support to the "continuing struggles of the Palestinian people to gain their rights and, above all, the right of self-determination and the right of return for all Palestinian refugees." The two countries also condemned the massacres carried out by the Israeli regime.

Before leaving the country the Cuban president laid a wreath at the grave of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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Protests in Panama force gov't to retreat

Continued from front page

May 10, when thousands of workers and students took to the streets of Panama City. They protested at the barricaded presidential palace. Firing volleys of tear gas and rubber bullets, riot police repelled the protesters, who then marched on the National Assembly. The protests spread to working-class districts such as Chorillo, one of the areas hardest hit by U.S. bombers and troops during the 1989 invasion.

Dozens of students and workers were injured, and more than 200 arrested. At least 14 people were shot.

By the end of the day Vice President Arturo Vallarino announced that the government would reconsider the price hikes. Marcos Allen, leader of the National Confederation of Workers, blamed the government for the violence and vowed the protests would continue.

The groups organizing the protests included the National Council of Organized Workers, Federation of Public Employees,

National Transportation Council, and National Movement for Defense of Sovereignty (MONADESO), a grouping of labor and other mass organizations. Leaders of MONADESO refused to join with other organizations in negotiations with government officials that took place at the presidential palace, saying it was not neutral ground.

The ruling class was clearly taken aback by the scope and intensity of the resistance, and tried to undercut it. Moscoso claimed in a nationally televised address that "backward-looking" elements were using the population to attack the government.

Officials blame Cuba for protests

Trying to pin the blame for the crisis on something other than his government's policies, Justice Minister Winston Spadafora publicly pointed a finger at "foreign ideologies" after the huge May 10 protest, saying that "an embassy accredited by Panama" was financing some of the groups that were fighting the fare hike. The mystery agitator

was "widely thought to mean the Cuban embassy," reported the *Financial Times*.

The May 14 issue of the Panama City daily *La Prensa* published an article and a photo that it claimed showed Félix Luna Mederos, an official at the Cuban embassy, attending a meeting with some members of the construction workers union and student groups.

Cuba's ambassador to Panama, Carlos Zamora, rejected the accusations and denied the man in the photo was Luna. "We are very respectful of the principle of non-intervention as a basic principle of our foreign policy," Zamora said.

Relations between the governments of Cuba and Panama have been strained since the Moscoso regime refused to extradite CIA-trained terrorist Luis Posada Carriles. At the time of an Ibero-American summit last November, he was arrested in Panama after his presence was exposed by Cuban president Fidel Castro.

Posadas Carriles has been involved in numerous attempts to assassinate the Cuban leader, and took part in a 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner over Barbados that killed all 73 passengers and crew.

Specter of the Dignity Battalions

The Reuters news agency called the protests in Panama City "the worst night of rioting and looting in Panama since the 1989 U.S. invasion" that toppled the government of Manuel Noriega and installed a government—headed by Guillermo Endara, sworn in on a U.S. military base—that was more to Washington's liking.

Labeling protesting workers and students

"rioters" and "looters" is nothing new for the big-business media. The description of "rioting" after the 1989 U.S. invasion is a reference to the widespread resistance to the U.S. occupation forces.

In December 1989, Washington and the capitalist media employed similar terms to describe the Dignity Battalions, civilian militias of Panamanian workers and peasants—many of them Black—who put up stiff resistance to the occupation by 26,000 U.S. troops. Thousands were killed in the invasion, and thousands more left homeless. Washington bombed whole neighborhoods into rubble.

Cuban president Castro praised the Dignity Battalions as "heroes of Our America who are fighting for dignity, honor, and sovereignty of our peoples." He noted that Washington, whose forces took several weeks to assert their control, underestimated the resistance by working people.

The purpose of the U.S. invasion was to install a client regime, crush the struggle there for national sovereignty and social justice, undermine the Panama Canal Treaties, ensure the use of U.S. military bases in the country, and strengthen U.S. domination in the region. Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega, accused of drug trafficking charges because his regime did not always go along with Washington, was seized by U.S. troops, and then tried and convicted in a U.S. court.

Panamanian students and others have accused the current president, Moscoso, of bowing to U.S. demands, not only in implementing austerity measures but in refusing to extradite Posada Carriles to Cuba.

Another cop killing in Miami

Continued from Page 5

inquests over killings by police officers in Miami-Dade County and in each case the judge has ruled in favor of the cops. An indication of the widespread distrust of authorities here is the fact that federal prosecutors are now reinvestigating at least six of these cases. Five of them were initially signed off as "good shoots" in a series of reviews by police homicide detectives, major crimes prosecutors, internal affairs investigators, city police review boards, and court inquests.

In one of the cases designated a "good shoot" by Miami and Florida State cops and courts, 73-year-old Richard Brown was killed in a rain of 123 bullets fired by members of the Miami SWAT team. In March, federal prosecutors indicted five Miami cops on charges of obstructing justice for their part in the shooting.

The May 5 funeral for Singleton was held at the New Birth Baptist Church of Bishop Victor Curry, president of the Miami-Dade NAACP. Rev. Jerome Starling said at the service that what happened to Singleton "should not go on. We should get some justice for this family and make sure Nick's death is not in vain."

On April 25 in Stuart, Florida, 100 miles north of Miami, a grand jury cleared police officer George McLain of any wrongdoing in the shooting death of 32-year-old Stacey Scales. McLain shot Scales seven times April 14 after stopping him for allegedly driving his car with the lights off. The grand jury accepted the cop's story that Scales tried to flee, dragging the police officer on the side of the car, and that McLain felt his life was in jeopardy after the car stopped. McLain's attorney, David Golden, had earlier justified the shooting of the unarmed Scales, saying, "You have to pull the trigger and continue to pull the trigger until the threat is over."

Speaking at a Militant Labor Forum on May 4, Martin County NAACP president Rosalind Hall stated, "The investigation is not over until the NAACP completes its investigation into the killing." She pointed out that in the days after the shooting she re-

ceived calls from McLain's attorney, the police, and city officials, who tried to convince her of the cops' story. Instead, the NAACP helped organize a meeting of 250 people to protest the killing, where residents pointed to the racism in the 42-member all-white police force. Hall stated there would be another mass meeting to protest the grand jury decision and to discuss further steps to win justice in the case.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

IOWA

Des Moines

Celebrate the Publication of Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs. Meeting for the Pathfinder Fund. Speakers: Lawrence Mikes, Young Socialists, member, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789 in South St. Paul; Joanne Murphy, volunteer with Pathfinder Reprint Project. Sun., May 27, 5:00 p.m. Dinner, 4:00 p.m. 3720 6th Avenue, Des Moines. Tel: (515) 288-2970.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

No to the Death Penalty! Speakers: member of New Yorkers against the Death Penalty; Romina Green, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 372A 53rd Street, Corner 4th Ave. Tel: (718) 567-8014.

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East Timor: Canberra's Complicity in War Crimes Exposed. Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League, and member of Maritime Union of Australia. Showing of SBS Dateline program on September 1999 massacres of East Timorese independence supporters. Sun., May 27, 4:00 p.m. 176 Redfern St., Redfern, 1st floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9690 1533.

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

Oppose U.S. Anti-China Military Drive! Sat., May 26, 7:00 p.m. Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (3) 365 6055.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Battle of Algiers—a film about the struggle against French colonialism in Algeria. Sponsored by the Young Socialists and Garment District Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 19, 7:00 p.m. For more information, call (212) 695-7358.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia

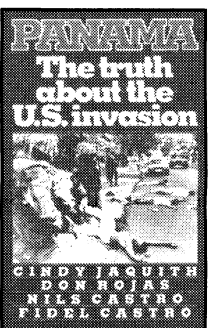
Drop All Charges against the Charleston Five! March and rally to demand justice for International Longshoremen's Association members charged with "inciting to riot." Saturday, June 9, 11:00 a.m. Assemble at Memorial Park (corner of Gadsden and Hampton). March to statehouse for a rally at noon. For more information, call (888) 716-7362, or visit www.scpronet.com

FROM PATHFINDER

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E-mail: milpath.auckland@actrix.gen.nz

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Succulent as a lamb chop—California ordered that wages of shepherds be increased by \$300 a month over the next two years,



Harry Ring

bringing them up to \$1,200. They will continue to slave 90 hours a week in pastures devoid of running water, electricity, or toilets.

Bankers and cops, hearts and

flowers—The Wells Fargo Bank in Austin, Texas, will offer bank accounts to undocumented immigrants. The cops had told them that without a bank to put their money in, immigrants were a target for thieves. Those opening an account will receive two ATM cards, one for the relatives in Mexico, giving them easier access to money sent home. The bank didn't mention what the fee would be.

High noon at the loony bin—Rep. Martin Schneider (D-Wisconsin) has introduced a bill making it legal for relatives of victims of domestic abuse to beat up the alleged abuser. Declared the lawmaker: "I know it's a radical idea. It's kind of

like the Old West."

Bought their own bull?—Wade Cook Financial Corp. enjoyed a brisk response to its advertising claim that it could teach folks to pocket a monthly 15 percent on market investments. All they had to do was cough up \$7,995 to attend a two-day how-to seminar. Now it has disclosed that last year the company lost \$2 million of its own money playing the market. The obvious question, did they lose the money following their own advice or ignoring it?

Watch your step—"WASHINGTON—Forty percent of workers have no long-term disability

coverage, while 42 percent of those who do consider their coverage inadequate, a new study shows."—News item.

Read it and rebel—In 1999, a fire at the Tosco oil refinery in Martinez, California, claimed four workers' lives. A fifth escaped with horrendous injuries. Since then there have been blasts at the two plants in the Los Angeles area, with at least one worker badly injured. Tosco expressed "remorse" for the four deaths in Martinez, and the state levied a fine of \$810,000. Now it's been reduced to \$400,000.

What's to worry?—The Dept.

of Energy's budget for '02 will trim spending for cleaning up nuclear waste by some \$354 million. Increased spending for weapons-related activity will be about \$231 million.

Plentiful as money—Bill Gates, who has a lock on most of the sale of the world's computer software, seemed at a bit of a loss explaining how his Seattle-area mansion scarfed up so much water. (News bite: Enough to flush 1.3 million toilets). Said a family spokesperson: "Bill and Melinda are very concerned. They are very surprised. Those of us who live around here have not often thought of water as a scarce commodity."

Algerian revolution toppled French colonialism

Printed below is an excerpt from *Workers and Farmers Governments Since the Second World War*, an Education for Socialist bulletin published by Pathfinder Press. The bulletin contains articles by Robert Chester on the anticapitalist revolutions that established workers and farmers government in Yugoslavia, China, Cuba, and Algeria, as well as historical background drawing on the lessons of the 1917 Russian Revolution.

In addition to the section reprinted here, Chester describes the evolution of the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) and the emergence of a revolutionary leadership headed by Ahmed Ben Bella. In the wake of agreements with the French government, the FLN met in May 1962 and adopted a revolutionary document. That program pointed to the mass participation in the struggle against French colonialism as opening a new phase in Algerian history. Among other measures, it pointed to the need to deepen the mobilization of the masses of workers and peasants in order to carry out a sweeping agrarian reform, the nationalization of basic industry, and the widening of education throughout the country.

Reacting to a French nuclear test in the Sahara, Ben Bella issued decrees in March 1963 making permanent the status of the nationalized sector of the economy; establishing rules for the organization of worker and peasant self-management in industry, agriculture, and commerce; and stipulated how profits from the enterprises were to be distributed. Land ownership by the French was eliminated by the following October. These actions marked the emergence of a workers and farmers government in the country, Chester writes.

The author describes how the new government ran into increasing conflict with French imperialism, as well as bourgeois and petty bourgeois wings of the movement. Over the next two years, due to underdevelopment, shortages of skilled workers and administrative personnel, and indecisiveness on the part of the leadership, a stagnation of the mass struggle set in. Ben Bella's popular support declined, and the "peasantry on whose support [Ben Bella] had relied became impas- sive." Ben Bella was overthrown in a coup by Houari Boumedienne, the Algerian military leader, on June 19, 1965. Copyright © 1978 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.



BY ROBERT CHESTER

The Algerian revolution rose on the wave of a colonial upsurge that swept Asia and Africa after World War II. The first action of the Algerian National Liberation Front (Front de Libération Nationale—FLN) was a guerrilla attack on November 1, 1954 against the French in the Aures mountains of Eastern Algeria. This took place just six months after the French defeat at Dienbienphu [in Vietnam]—a defeat that accelerated the disintegration of the French colonial empire.

The economic causes for the movement were clear. In 1954 the *colons* (French settlers, also known as *pieds noirs*) comprised only 11 percent of the population, yet they held 42 percent of the industrial jobs. Ninety percent of industrial and commercial activity was in European hands. The best agricultural areas were controlled for the most part by the *colons*, who owned large, modern estates.

In contrast, the Algerian people were exploited and repressed. Undernourishment

was the norm for the majority of the native population. Ninety percent of the population was illiterate and only one Moslem child in ten went to school. All "dangerous" Algerian leaders were either jailed or subjected to house arrest while Algerian representation in the legislative bodies and in the civil service was of a strictly second-class character. In 1955 the independence struggle began to grow rapidly.

Against this liberation struggle, France threw the full weight of its modern army, supplied with the latest weapons from NATO. In the seven-and-a-half-year war more than 400,000 French troops—including almost two-thirds of the air force and half the navy—engaged in the war. The French also used the most refined counterinsurgency methods. In addition to planes, tanks, and naval blockade, they used electrified barriers to seal off the borders of Tunisia and Morocco, operated dragnets to isolate the rebels, and wiped out more than 8,000 villages in a scorched-earth program. They employed the most sophisticated and diabolic methods of terror, espionage, and torture in the attempt to smash the liberation movement.

Casualties were extremely high. Two-and-a-half million persons were displaced as a result of the war, and more than a million deaths were directly attributed to it. More than 300,000 orphaned children flooded the cities, while 300,000 other Algerians were driven into Tunisia and Morocco, where they became an additional base of the liberation struggle.

In spite of all these measures, the French controlled much of the country only by day. The rebels controlled half of it by night.

The war produced severe economic and political strains on an already weakened France. Its repercussions caused the downfall of the "socialist" government of Guy Mollet and the Fourth Republic, bringing the Bonapartist government of De Gaulle into power in 1958. De Gaulle saw that a military solution to the Algerian problem was not possible and he sought to resolve the conflict through a political settlement. He offered the Algerians ostensible political equality in a so-called "peace of the brave" that still maintained French hegemony over Algeria. The response of the FLN was to set up a provisional government in exile in September 1958, and step up the fight for independence.

Mass demonstrations for independence

The *pieds noirs*, who comprised the main base for French rule in Algeria, violently opposed any concessions. When De Gaulle offered the Algerians three choices—integration with France, independence, or independence in cooperation with France, (in each case requiring assurances that French capital would continue to play the dominant role)—the *pieds noirs* called for the overthrow of De Gaulle.

The FLN was far from a united organization. Among the original groups that began the liberation action, there was little agreement on policy beyond the goal of independence. There were differences between the radicals in the cities, the bourgeois nationalists under Fehat Abbas, the leaders of the feudalistic tribes, and the religious Arab intellectuals who wanted to maintain the old Islamic traditions. Even the most advanced leaders, who considered themselves socialist, spoke of socialism only in a broad general sense. They had no ties with any international tendency in the world radical move-

ment. Ahmed Ben Bella's ideas, for example, were summed up in his statements, "I am a believer in socialism, short of Marxism," and "No socialism without Arabization."

The decision of the *pieds noirs* to engage in a bloody struggle to prevent independence



Hundreds of Algerian students protest in Algiers, against violent police crackdown in the Berber region of Kabylia, May 3. The Algerian revolution in the 1950s "rose on the wave of a colonial upsurge that swept Asia and Africa after World War II," Chester writes. "Against this liberation struggle, France threw the full weight of its modern army."

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 28, 1976

CRYSTAL CITY, Tex.—Four million people in Texas are the victims of an incredible rip-off by a gas utility. Many poor people are now paying more for gas than for the food they cook with it. Some are paying increases as high as 800 percent!

The swindle is being carried out with the collusion of the Texas Railroad Commission, a state body that is supposed to regulate utilities and the prices they charge.

The Lo-Vaca Gathering Company sells natural gas to 400 Texas cities and towns, large and small. In 1973, Lo-Vaca went before the railroad commission and explained that the price it was paying for gas was going up and it wanted permission to pass on the increase to its customers. The commission agreed.

Since then, every month, Lo-Vaca simply has added to its bill what it says is the increased cost it is paying.

A fight is being waged against this highway robbery. It is being led by the Raza Unida city council in Crystal City. They refused to pay, and some twenty other municipalities have since followed suit.

Lo-Vaca put their lawyers to work. So far courts have upheld Lo-Vaca and the railroad commission. Crystal City is now appealing to the State Supreme court.

I recently talked about Lo-Vaca with Esequiel Guzmán, the city manager in Crystal City. What did he think of Lo-Vaca's recent threat to go out of business?

"I wish they would," Guzmán replied. "I don't think they should be in that business. I think it should be controlled by the government. A natural resource should be available to everybody. I don't think profit should determine the availability of a natural resource."

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

May 28, 1951

The intellectual atmosphere of American university campuses is dominated by "fear...uncertainty...frustration...hysteria," according to a study of thought-control at 72 colleges and universities by Kalman Seigel, in the *N.Y. Times* May 10 and 11.

Seigel quotes an article in the Yale University paper, *The Daily News*, which typifies the student attitude:

"We cannot believe that the American people will indefinitely tolerate this control over youthful lives by looming up before them the spectre of the 'loyalty check.' We cannot believe that this virtual blockade of the market-place of ideas can go on for a lifetime.

"And yet, despite hope, we see the sky growing darker, the night of thought-conformity closing in. We see college men growing more and more docile, more and more accepting the status quo, paralyzed by fear of their futures, radicalism snuffed out where it should flame the brightest."

Seigel sums up the situation as a "subtle, creeping paralysis of freedom of thought and speech...attacking college campuses in many parts of the country, limiting both students and faculty in the area traditionally reserved for the free exploration of knowledge and truth."

But Seigel points out that on many campuses students and teachers are fighting back. "At a number of...colleges students reported that the pressures toward conformity, which many felt had filtered through college walls from the community at large, made them 'mad' and more articulate, and had stimulated increased free expression."

Bringing down the final empire

“One shah still remains in the world. That is the shah of imperialism, which is entrenched near my homeland. It is an exploiting shah that wants to impose its system on the entire world and drag it into oppression. But as the shah of Iran was overthrown, this shah too will fall!”
—Fidel Castro at University of Tehran, May 9, 2001

These words by Cuban communist leader Fidel Castro are accurate. They are just as accurate as his statement 40 years ago that “there will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba.” Castro pointed out that imperialism, whose main headquarters is in Washington, is the number one enemy of humanity.

This enemy—the superrich handful of ruling U.S. families who live off the exploitation of the world—is one that working people in the United States and around the globe have in common. This reality is underscored by Washington’s moves today to reinforce its domination in Europe and the Pacific. The U.S. government is seeking to wield the club of its military superiority, pressing to develop a missile system—threatening China and other nations it comes into conflict with—that would give it a nuclear first-strike capability. Washington must increasingly resort to military means, from the permanent presence of U.S. troops in the Balkans to the U.S. Navy’s use of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, for war practices in the face of overwhelming opposition.

Castro pointed out in his speech to Iranian students that the U.S. empire, while brutal, is getting weaker. This too is accurate. Capitalism’s built-in contradictions are leading to increased economic rivalry and divisions among the imperialist powers—Washington, Berlin, Paris, London, Tokyo, Ottawa, and others. Their economic system is volatile. And their increasingly brutal methods of exploitation

and rule are generating resistance and pushing working people toward each other. Producing its own gravediggers, the U.S. employers are drawing to this country millions of working people from around the world, changing the face of the working class and U.S. politics forever—as heard in the confident voice of immigrant workers today demanding to be treated like equal human beings.

In this world, revolutionary Cuba is a living example to working people that we can overthrow the exploiters, take political power, and chart a course in the interests of the majority of humanity. Cuba’s example becomes attractive to increasing numbers of working people, from Panama to Argentina to south Korea—where capitalist regimes offer tear gas, rubber bullets, layoffs, and social cutbacks as their “solutions” to the crisis. And resistance here—from striking garment workers in California and Pennsylvania to protesters against police brutalization in Cincinnati—is leading a growing number of workers and farmers to becoming open to considering a working-class, communist political alternative.

The new Pathfinder book *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* makes a powerful case for working people and youth who are repelled by capitalism’s dog-eat-dog system to join in the struggle to bring down the final empire, and build a society to meet the needs of the vast majority. It argues convincingly that if we work together to build a disciplined, centralized workers party, with a program and strategy that advances the line of march of our class worldwide, we’ll be prepared to forge a mass working-class party that can take on the billionaire minority and defeat them.

Part of that job—and an enjoyable one for revolutionaries—is to get this book into the hands of as many workers, farmers, and youth as possible who are open to this prospect, and to discuss it together with them.

The biggest foe of human rights

U.S. imperialism received its comeuppance when it failed for the first time since the founding of the United Nations in 1947 to be elected to the UN Human Rights Commission.

The imperial arrogance of the U.S. rulers was dealt a blow that left them sputtering and lashing out not only at Cuba and China, two countries they had targeted recently at the commission’s session in Geneva, but at their European allies as well. U.S. officials began questioning the need for the anonymity of the secret vote that prevents the most egregious forms of imperialist bullying and blackmail.

The *Wall Street Journal* editors wailed that “the torments of the world’s most unfortunate men, women, and children will be monitored not by the U.S., but by the likes of Sudan, China, Libya, Algeria, Syria, Vietnam and Cuba.” The wealthy owners of the *Journal* did not, however, indicate even a short list of countries where they consider the “most unfortunate” to reside. Perhaps Iraq, where U.S. imperialism and its allies are responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands; Angola, where a rightist army unleashed by Washington and its apartheid allies in the 1980s has killed and maimed countless numbers; Puerto Rico, whose people are kept in colonial subjugation by the U.S. government; or the United States itself, which has the highest incarceration rate in the world along with a record number of state-sponsored executions.

The *Journal* editors lamented the fact that John Negroponte, “an experienced and savvy diplomat” nominated by President George Bush to be U.S. ambassador to the UN, has not been confirmed yet. Negroponte’s qualifications to monitor human rights include his stint as ambassador to Honduras in the 1980s, when he was a key actor in the U.S.-backed contra war that aimed to overturn the Nica-

raguan workers and farmers government and that was responsible for the deaths of thousands of Nicaraguans.

The vote also brings into relief the rising tensions between U.S. and European capitalists over markets, military jurisdiction, and trade. U.S. elected officials and pundits in the bourgeois press attacked France and other European “allies” for not making way and giving Washington what it considers its anointed place on the human rights body.

In the weeks leading up to the election, U.S. officials had organized to once again use the commission as a platform to advance—not human rights—but U.S. imperialism’s drive to deal blows to the Cuban and Chinese workers states. They failed to get a resolution passed condemning China for human rights violations, but succeeded by a narrow margin in bringing their economic and political clout to bear to push through a condemnation of Cuba, leaning heavily on representatives of countries that depend on U.S. trade and aid.

The resistance by workers and farmers in other countries to the brutality of the U.S. capitalists, which the UN vote in part and in a distorted way expressed, encourages the toilers in the belly of the beast to refuse to tolerate a system in which cops in Miami, Cincinnati, Newark, New Jersey, and elsewhere walk away scot-free after killing unarmed workers.

This is at the same time as the so-called U.S. justice system has now put nearly 2 million people behind bars and as capitalists who deal in energy and medicine make huge profits while workers pay sky-high prices for fuel and die for lack of medical treatment. And it makes clear why the Nicaraguan revolutionaries that Negroponte and his masters attacked called the U.S. ruling class “the enemy of humanity.”

Gov’t targets democratic rights

The spy scare campaign promoted by Washington and the big-business media around the latest round of arrests of two Japanese scientists in Cleveland and three Chinese scientists employed by Lucent Technologies, is aimed at providing justification for trampling on democratic rights and increased government surveillance operations against working people at home and abroad. The Economic Espionage Act of 1996 and other such measures seek to strengthen the U.S. rulers’ powers in anticipation of the growing resistance by broadening layers of workers and farmers to the conditions of their exploitation and oppression.

In the case of framed-up scientist Wen Ho Lee, U.S. prosecutors also claimed they had overwhelming evidence with which to convict Lee of stealing the “crown jewels” of U.S. nuclear weapons secrets and handing them over to the Chinese government. Papers such as the *New York Times* ran extensive articles purporting to back up the case. Unfortunately for Washington and the *Times*, the frame-up unraveled and Lee was set free.

At his confirmation hearing, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld spoke with candor when he said the government needs to focus on “considerably improving our intelligence capabilities so that we know more about

what people think, and how they behave, and how their behavior can be altered, and what the capabilities are in this world.” President George Bush signaled the rulers’ intentions with his order to CIA director George Tenet to make a comprehensive review of the nation’s intelligence capabilities, and the appointment of David Szady to fill the new post of counterintelligence czar.

The formation of joint FBI and local police unit task forces on “domestic terrorism,” the deployment of a new generation of spy satellites that also conduct massive electronic eavesdropping, along with the use of computer databases to spy on millions of people, go hand in hand with the training exercises of special National Guard units in East Brunswick, New Jersey, and Washington’s establishment for the first time ever of a military command for domestic operations. These are all steps the rulers are taking in preparation for coming social battles.

This is why we must reject the use of secret evidence against “suspected terrorists,” and oppose the powers granted to the INS to arrest and deport suspected “illegal aliens,” without even the right to judicial review or appeal. These moves by the U.S. rulers are aimed at the labor movement, Black rights activists, and all fighters for justice.

FBI espionage arrests

Continued from front page

stealing nuclear weapons secrets, the U.S. government spying agencies have emphasized the need for a more “proactive” counterintelligence program.

U.S. president Bush recently created the post of National Counterintelligence Executive, which was established by Clinton in the final weeks of his presidency. The new spy outfit draws on various government agencies with the stated aim of protecting U.S. government and corporate “secrets,” and expands counterintelligence collaboration between the government and U.S. big business.

“More and more cases of scientific and industrial espionage have come to light in recent years, a reflection of the rising value of research,” stated an article in the May 10 *Washington Post*, in an effort to explain moves by Washington to widen its spying operations.

Van Harp, a special agent in charge of the Cleveland office of the FBI, was quoted by the *Post* as saying that the arrest of Okamoto and Seizawa is “a manifestation of the intent of Congress when they passed this law,” referring to the 1996 Economic Espionage Act.

Asian employees at Lucent Technologies and groups representing Chinese scientists and engineers in the United States have expressed their concern about how Asians and Asian-Americans are being portrayed after the arrest. Cheuk-Yin Wong, chairman of the Overseas Chinese Physics Association, said that by “involving a racial tone the investigators induce irrational fear. The penalties do not seem that large for the kind of attention (by the government and press) being given to the allegations.” He added, “This kind of thing has a chilling effect on the Chinese-American scientific community.” Asian employees are the largest minority group at Lucent, comprising 11 percent of the 104,000-member workforce.

Government investigators have claimed that they have no evidence that Datang Telecom or the Chinese government had knowledge of the alleged conspiracy and they have also left open the degree of involvement of the Japanese research institute that Okamoto went to work for and the government agencies that oversee it.

On a related front, the Bush administration announced May 7 the appointment of Vice President Richard Cheney to head up a commission to develop a plan for responding to terrorists attacks in the United States and the establishment of a new office within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate the response of federal agencies to “terrorists attacks involving so-called weapons of mass destruction,” as the *Post* put it.

On May 11, some 100 city, state, and federal officials in New York took part in a drill “intended to ensure that emergency, law enforcement, health care, and other officials know how to respond should a terrorist strike New York City,” according to the *New York Times*. The “mock disaster” was organized around a “terrorist released bubonic plague at a basketball game at the Upper East Side armory,” the paper reported.

The FBI and local police departments have already established joint task forces in 30 of the 56 FBI divisions to combat “terrorism,” which is defined by the FBI as any individual or organization that uses unlawful “force or violence” to advance “political or social objectives.”

British elections

Continued from Page 16

of Irish nationalists has grown.”

“This weakening of one part of the United Kingdom has helped fuel moves towards independence in Scotland and to a lesser extent in Wales too,” said Davies. In 1999 London conceded a “devolved” parliament for Scotland and an assembly for Wales. This has begun to provoke a response by right-wing politicians who are promoting “English nationalism.” For example, a new book by Conservative Member of Parliament Richard Body, titled *England for the English*, argues that “English” values are under attack.

The media has also commented on allegations by Conservative politician Norman Tebbit that devolution for Scotland has led to a rise of anti-English attacks there.

“The coming apart of the United Kingdom is a reflection of the historic decline of British imperialism,” Davies said. “This means the enemy of workers and farmers at home—and of tens of millions around the world—is weaker than ever today. It hastens the day when the revolutionary struggles of working people can replace a government that represents only the exploiters with one of workers and farmers themselves.”

Pete Clifford is a member of the Transport and General Workers’ Union in London.

Correction

The article in the May 21 issue titled “California raisin farmers demand payment for crop” contained two errors. The quote beginning “A lot is at stake in this struggle.” should be attributed to Mike Logoluso, not his brother Rick Logoluso. The next to last paragraph was inadvertently cut. It read:

Among the participants were five farm workers. They have labored for one of the farmers on the bus for many years. This year he won’t have any work for them, because he can’t afford to farm. One of the workers, who requested that his name not be published, said that “the situation of farmers” had brought him to San Francisco. “The fact that they haven’t been paid affects the workers as well,” he said.

Asians in Britain respond to racist attacks

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

OLDHAM, England—"We're not looking for trouble but we'll defend our areas," said 16-year-old Ibbly Chowdry. He was among 200 Asians lining each side of Chadderton Way in the Westwood section of this town May 5. People were also on the streets in Glodwick on the other side of town.

Oldham, near Manchester, has a population of 220,000 people. Asians from the Indian subcontinent form about 12 percent of the population, according to official figures. In Westwood a majority of residents are Bangladeshi, and many of Glodwick's residents are of Pakistani origin.

Halfway between these two neighborhoods a group of about 50 rightists had assembled to march, answering a call made by the National Front, a fascist organization, to defy a government order banning this march and all political processions in the town for a period of three months.

The city deployed more than 500 cops in what their commanding officer, Chief Superintendent Eric Hewitt, described as "zero tolerance" policing. The police presence turned the town center, which would normally be crowded with shoppers during the public holiday weekend, into a ghost town.

The previous weekend, fascists, masquerading as supporters of Stoke City football club, which was playing in Oldham, carried out attacks on properties of Westwood residents. "The fascists came into our area singing, 'Clap your hands if you hate the Pakis,'" said Ali An, 18.

"When we responded, the police attacked us. I had to have three stitches after a policeman clubbed me with his truncheon," he said, as he bent over to show his head wound. "As they beat me, they also called me Paki." Ali reported that young Asians are routinely harassed by the police.

Three weeks earlier, on April 19, the Greater Manchester police issued figures claiming that 62 percent of racial attacks reported in the Oldham area were committed by Asians against whites. Police chief Hewitt announced that there was "a very real danger" that Asian youth would try to establish "no-go areas" to exclude whites. In February Hewitt had remarked, "We cannot hide from the fact that the trend of racial crime in Oldham is continuing to rise.... Sometimes the motive is robbery, but often it is just violence. The attackers are gangs of Asian youths aged between eight and 18."

Hewitt's statement followed the release by Scotland Yard last October of national figures, claiming, in the words of the *Daily Telegraph*, that "more whites [have] become victims of racially motivated crime." The police have been trying to recuperate ground lost following the killing of Steven Lawrence in London. A government-sponsored inquiry into his death charged the Metropolitan Police with being "institutionally racist." Since then the police say they treat an incident as racially motivated if the victim or a witness says it is.

"Sometimes drunken white gangs come

into Glodwick and make trouble," said Khaled, who like many didn't want to give his second name. "The police don't do anything. After we kick them out of the area, the police say to them 'who attacked you?'" The police then write up the incident as a racist attack on whites.

A major media campaign, initiated by the *Oldham Chronicle* and taken up by the national press and TV, followed an April 21 assault on 76-year-old Walter Chamberlain, who was attacked in an industrial estate adjacent to the Westwood residential area. The issue became a prominent talking point in workplaces up and down the country. A 15-year-old Asian has been arrested and charged with robbery, causing grievous bodily harm, and racially motivated grievous bodily harm.

"Asian youths attack D-Day veteran, 76," was the headline of *The Times* of London. "No-go Asians attack veteran," claimed the *Daily Telegraph*. His son Steven though denied that it had been an anti-white attack. "It was a violent assault on an elderly man," he said in a television interview. "As a family we don't think it's a race issue at all—it's an assault."

Going door-to-door in Glodwick and Westwood, this reporter found that residents were eager to condemn the attack on Chamberlain. "It was a mugging," said Khaled. "Mugging is thuggish. We don't like this. No pensioner should get mugged. But the media has hyped it up with all the talk of no-go areas. There is a small minority of antisocial types in this community as there is everywhere."

Claims of no-go areas were similarly rejected. Aisha, a student at Manchester University, came to the door with her father, Hussain. "I have friends of different nationalities and backgrounds who come and visit me," she said. "None of them ever have any problems. Have you had any problems wandering around this area?" she asked.

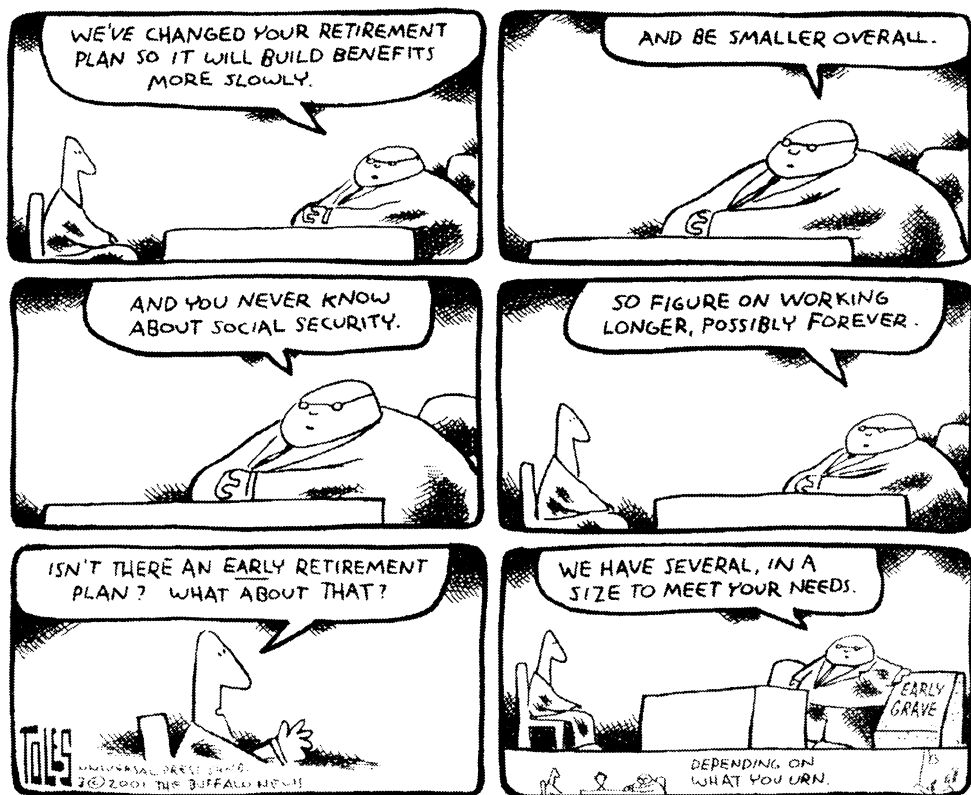
Hussain pointed out that the *News of the World* had published a map with an arrow pointing to where the attack on Chamberlain had occurred. "They said it was in Glodwick to back up their claim that Glodwick is a no-go area. In fact it took place on the other side of town."

Hussain spoke of the conditions working people in the local area face. A worker in the only remaining textile mill in the town, he receives the national minimum wage of £3.80 per hour (£1 = US\$1.42). "I have to work 12 hours overtime per week just to survive," Hussain said. Many Asian immigrants once worked in the 350 spinning and weaving mills here, almost all of which are now shut. Unemployment among Pakistanis stands at 16 percent and among Bangladeshis at 25 percent, according to the *Guardian* newspaper, which describes the parts of Oldham where many Asian families live as "among the poorest places in Britain."

"My family like others around here came for a better living," said Naveed Asghar, 25, who was born in Glodwick. "They came to work in the textile mills doing jobs that no one else wanted. I think there's a broader agenda behind these attacks. They want to stereotype us. They want to make people think that we are visitors and outsiders. The new government terrorism laws and deportations make people think that we are bad people," he said. "They want us to do menial jobs that higher class people won't do and they keep us in ghettos. They need us in order to bring down everyone including poor white people."

The younger generation is more confident and less prepared to put up with racist police and media stereotypes, said Biju. Sixty-six per cent of the Asian community in Oldham are under 24.

Jonathan Silberman is a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union in Luton, near London.



LETTERS

Keeping up with struggles

I am a prisoner who is highly interested in receiving your informative newspaper so that I can not only stay abreast of the constant struggles going on but also so I can share this type of information with my fellow comrades imprisoned with me.

I am anticipating your understanding and look forward to become more conscious with the information you print in your newsletter.

A prisoner
Romulus, New York

No wages paid in Texas

Please place my name on your prison subscription mailing list if possible. As Texas does not pay wages for work done I am without funds to pay for a subscription.

A prisoner
Iowa Park, Texas

Censorship battle

Since receiving a free copy of your newspaper I have attempted two times to send \$6.00 for a subscription. The security office has twice denied this order. This is clearly an act of censorship! I am a politically conscious and active prisoner. I have been battling with this institution over incoming mail since I was transferred here last April.

I realize the \$6.00 may not be worth it from your side but this fight is about much more than the money.

This is a small battle that involves a whole revolution. As long as the system can deny all political material we will never be able to educate!

A prisoner
Chester, Pennsylvania

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

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.

Militant Prisoner Fund

The *Militant* offers reduced subscription rates to workers and farmers behind bars. A six-month subscription costs \$6, and one year costs \$12. We send a free sample copy on request. Free complimentary subscriptions are sent on a first-call first-served basis according to budgetary constraints.

Contributions make these special rates possible for those who cannot afford regular rates. Please write your check payable to the *Militant* and send your donation to: **Militant Prisoner Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.**

INS stages five factory raids in Iowa

BY KEN DAVIS
AND EDWIN FRUIT

DES MOINES, Iowa—The Immigration and Naturalization Service organized five raids on egg production facilities in northern Iowa April 24, arresting 91 workers for allegedly not having documents.

The workers, who pack eggs into crates for shipping and who are mainly from Mexico, were rounded up at Boosma, Inc. egg facilities in Wright and Hardin counties. They were taken to Camp Dodge outside Des Moines and held for deportation. According to the *Des Moines Register*, the INS has "other investigations involving agricultural operations in Iowa and Nebraska."

Large-scale factory farms

The area of Iowa where the raids occurred is home to a growing concentration of large egg and hog operations. According to a local resident, Lincoln Township of Wright County, which is six miles wide by six miles long, contains 6.4 million hens.

One "mega-site" has 10 hog barns and 14 chicken barns. These large producers hire immigrant workers to staff the facilities. "I'm not against Mexican immigrants," the local resident told the *Militant*, "but I am

against the conditions they have to work under."

The raids took place in the context of rising immigration to Iowa. In addition to *la migrá*, these workers and their families have been subjected to a reactionary backlash by forces opposed to immigrants having rights. A bill to make English the "official language" of Iowa was passed by the state senate. But following a mobilization of 250 people at the Capitol to protest the measure, the bill was changed to recognize English as the "common" language. No further action was taken by state legislators before the end of the 2001 session.

The Coalition for the Future American Worker has been running ads on Des Moines area radio stations attacking immigration to Iowa. The ads urge listeners to call the White House and demand "No more foreign workers," and say that "Iowa already has its share of foreign workers." Claiming to speak in the interests of working people, the ad points to rising unemployment figures as the reason "Iowans need jobs themselves."

Edwin Fruit is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149 in Perry, Iowa.

Texas prisoners demand wages for work

BY ARTHUR X. CARSON

AMARILLO, Texas—Prisoners in Texas, supported by the National Paralegal and Institution Coalition, have begun a boycott of Colgate Palmolive Company products in the prisons.

The objective of the boycott is to achieve pay for prison labor, cheaper hygiene products, a moratorium against the death penalty, and enforcement of the law in contract procurement with minority businesses. Texas prisoners are subjected to the highest execution rate of any state.

Prisoners in Texas recently formed the coalition to take up issues concerning human rights and their living and working conditions. A resolution of the coalition states that "denial of wages is exploitation" and prevents "financial autonomy for self-maintenance of prisoners."

Among the jobs workers in prison are doing are manufacturing boots, shoes, office furniture, and other items; assembly of

school buses for the Texas public school system; data processing for state and private agencies; and production of fixtures for jail and prison cells.

According to the coalition, materials produced by the prisoners are sold back to the prison and other companies. Funds for the prisoners' labor are placed into an account that allows for the prison to pay the prisoners, if the prison director chooses to do so.

Colgate, which has a monopoly to sell its products to the 150,000 prisoners in Texas, charges exorbitant prices to workers behind bars whose only source of funds is from family and friends. Despite the majority of poor and minority prisoners, the prison system appears to routinely deny outside minority contractors the opportunity to supply products to the prisons, the coalition says.

Arthur X. Carson, is the chairman of the National Paralegal and Institution Coalition.

Communist League candidate in UK supports union, antiracist struggles

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON—From joining Asian youth fighting racist attacks in Oldham to supporting farmers protesting high fuel price rises and the devastating impact of the government's response to the foot-and-mouth disease, the Communist League's election campaign has been involved in struggles and speaking out in the interests of working people, said Paul Davies.

Davies works at General Motors in Luton and is the Communist League candidate in upcoming parliamentary elections in the United Kingdom. He is standing in the North Southwark and Bermondsey constituency in London.

The campaign is taking place in the midst of a deepening social crisis here, marked by breakdowns in the country's infrastructure, layoffs and plant closings that are forcing thousands of workers on the streets, racist assaults, and a growing nationalist chorus among the capitalist parties. Hand in hand with these attacks at home is the growing permanence of British military intervention abroad, from Yugoslavia to Iraq, and from Sierra Leone to northern Ireland.

"The effects of the crisis of world capitalism and the impossibility of the superwealthy rulers to offer any road forward for humanity other than increasing brutality, racism, attacks on wages and democratic rights, and war," Davies said, "are questions an increasing numbers of workers and farmers want to discuss and do something about. As a result, our campaign has gained a hearing for a fighting, working-class, and socialist alternative." The election is scheduled for June 7.

The Labour Party, headed by Prime Minister Anthony Blair, is expected to win a clear majority of seats after four years in office. In the last election in 1997 working people voted heavily for Labour, hoping to put behind them the years of assault from the previous Conservative governments. But instead, workers have had to face a continuation of those attacks, the communist candidate said. "This is leading to noticeably less enthusiasm for Labour and many working people are discussing what to do or beginning to take action in response to this assault.

Strikes by rail workers

For example, Davies and his supporters will be joining picket lines of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT), which is planning to strike June 4 and June 6 in protest of moves to turn part of the London Underground over to capitalist companies. "During the election period," said Davies, "these workers are showing that the fight by the unions, far from being over as the capitalist politicians would wish, is the key to defending safety on the job, wages, and working conditions." In addition, RMT members are striking on the South West Trains network for three days in May to stand up to moves by the bosses to weaken the union through imposing new work conditions on the rail workers.

A central part of Davies's campaign has been discussing with workers the importance of building an alliance with farmers in Britain who face the worse crisis in decades. On top of being gouged by sky-high fuel prices—including taxes on fuel—working farmers have been devastated by the impact of the government's policy of slaughtering livestock in response to the foot-and-mouth disease.

"Although the disease is not that harmful to humans and rarely kills animals, the government's mass slaughter policy is driven not by their desire to protect working farmers but the need to defend the profits of big agribusinesses," Davies said. Recently, the leading foot-and-mouth disease laboratory in the country reported that many animals identified in the field as having the highly contagious disease showed no signs

of infection upon closer inspection. Some 2.5 million animals were killed by the government in a belated and disorganized drive to eradicate the disease once it was detected.

In response to a number of capitalist politicians claiming that farmers are making out like bandits on their compensation claims for farm animals killed, Davies urged working people to "reject every attempt to divide us, especially between those in the cities and the country. Far from greedy farmers being the problem, it is the capitalist monopolies and banks—and the government that stands behind them—that are the common enemy of workers and farmers. Farmers are being driven more deeply into debt and off the land. Workers have a stake in preventing the capitalists from driving into impoverishment and ruin any and all sections of exploited producers."

Racist attacks

Davies and his campaign supporters joined 100 other protesters this past week for a third counterdemonstration against marches by the fascist National Front in the area where Davies is running for office. The main slogan raised by the fascists is "rights for whites," echoing some capitalist politicians and police who claim that today the main problem of racism is that of Blacks or immigrants directed against whites. The fascists also get wind in their sails from policies and statements by government officials, such as the drive spearheaded by Home Secretary Jack Straw to more than triple the number of deportations of workers from other countries seeking asylum in Britain.

Davies's campaign has been pointing to the growing struggles of workers and farmers around the world as an example of the allies that working people in the United Kingdom have. "The capitalist parties seek to block working people off from joining in a common struggle with our allies around the world by getting us to think in terms of 'our country' not 'our class,'" Davies said. "This also divides the working class right here in the United Kingdom, making it harder to wage a common struggle against the assault by the bosses and their government."

For example, Labour leader Anthony

Blair said when he announced his campaign that he is seeking to make Britain stronger in relation to Europe and the world, bemoaning the fact that Britain was still not the leading nation "that our weight, prosperity and history demand." Conservative leader William Hague made his focus an appeal "to all those people who believe in an independent Britain," adding his party would "give you back your country."

Campaign supporters plan to join a May

27 march in Glasgow celebrating the 20th anniversary of the fight by Irish nationalists imprisoned in the British-occupied north of Ireland who went on a hunger strike demanding political status. "Ten prisoners died in this fight," Davies said, "but within a year their demands had been won; this fight helped turn the corner in the Irish freedom struggle. From then on London was pushed back and the confidence and determination

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Paper workers walk out



Militant

Striking paper workers walk picket line at Weyerhaeuser mill in Washington state

BY DAVID FERGUSON

LONGVIEW, Washington—Production is at a standstill at Weyerhaeuser's paper mill here and at three other locations in Washington and Oregon due to a strike by 1,373 paper workers.

Passersby sounded horns and waved in solidarity to several dozen pickets at five entrances to the plant here where 681 work-

ers walked out May 8. Nurses were among the first visitors to the picket lines. Bill, a union picket, said, "We supported the nurses when they were on strike, and now they are coming to support us." Longshoremen and sawmill workers are honoring the picket lines set up by members of the Association of Western Paper and Pulp Workers (AWPPW), bringing the Weyerhaeuser company further troubles in an area with strong union traditions.

The company is trying to force the union to agree to contract changes that would allow the contracting out of much of the work currently done by union members. "I've worked down there for nearly 39 years," said Ron Rice, a journeyman technician. "I've been through every strike since the AWPPW was formed and I have never seen Weyerhaeuser try to stink up a negotiation like this by trying to outsource or subcontract or contract these other jobs out. They're basically trying to break the union, and the rest of the unions better take note in the area because it could happen to them next."

Other stumbling blocks to a contract are the pension and health plans. "We are going backwards because we have to pay so much for medical," Bill explained. "They've been bullying us into a little pittance," said electrician Rob Wallin. "People are looking toward retirement, saying, 'Hey, we got nothing to retire on.' I guess you could work until you're 75, but I don't want to."

"As long as it takes" chimed in several pickets when asked how long they were willing to stay out. "We're getting real good support from the people," said mill worker Michael Mayfield. His wife Christy propped up a sign reading, "the greed is growing," a parody of the company's slogan, "the future is growing."

Rick Walker, who has worked at the mill for 34 years, said workers were ready to strike. "We made the signs Saturday," he said. "A hundred or so people showed up at the union hall just to prepare. Everyone's pretty up for this."

Strikers at Hollander Home Fashions in Pennsylvania resist provocations

BY TOM MAILER AND CANDACE ROBBINS

FRACKVILLE, Pennsylvania—After two weeks on strike, workers at Hollander Home Fashions here are not backing down in the face of physical assaults by security guards and a court injunction limiting pickets in front of the plant.

Roy Bower, who previously worked at Hollander, "was helping hold back a tractor trailer when [a guard] stomped on his foot, breaking it in two places," explained his son, James Bower. The guard is employed by Huffmaster Crisis Management, which was brought in by Hollander bosses to help break the strike. Two days later he was back on the picket line with a cast and crutches. Bower's wife Sandra and his son James are both on strike. According to Sandra Bower, her husband is not the only former worker who has volunteered for a regular picket shift.

The next day another picket was injured in the same way, suffering torn ligaments and a contusion on his leg. Union members are maintaining discipline on the picket line despite these provocations.

The strikers, members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), walked out May 1 demanding better wages, a pension, and dignity on the job. Out of 120 union workers,

91 are on strike.

They join more than 450 fellow garment workers on strike at Hollander's two plants in Vernon, California, and others in Tignall, Georgia, who are honoring a picket line set up by strikers from California. Two Frackville strikers have traveled to Georgia to lend support to the workers at the Tignall Hollander plant.

On May 10 a Schuylkill County court ruled in favor of the company in Frackville and imposed an injunction limiting the number of pickets allowed at the plant entrance to eight. All others must remain 300 feet away.

Joanne Strenkowski pickets the afternoon shift. She is a pillow bagger with four years on the job. Strenkowski explained that she and her co-workers have to bag and box 300 dozen pillows a day to make just over \$7 an hour on piece rate. "We're not machines," she said. "We're human beings." Strenkowski's father was a member of the United Steelworkers of America for years and had always told her, "If you want something, you have to fight for it."

Strikers report that no additional union members have returned to work since the strike began. One newer employee worked a few days into the strike to complete his probation period, signed up with the union, and then joined the picket line.