

# THE MILITANT

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Communists plan  
founding of party in Iceland

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 65/NO. 48 DECEMBER 17, 2001

# Bush to broaden FBI powers, backs Israeli war in Palestine

Justice Dept.  
widens assault on  
4th Amendment,  
militarizes border

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In a new move against the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Bush administration is floating plans to remove restrictions on FBI spying on political and religious organizations. Over the past two months the U.S. government has expanded the ability of cops to spy on working people and their organizations, in addition to other measures adopted under the USA Patriot Act.

The Justice Department under Attorney General John Ashcroft has also announced an agreement with the Canadian government to significantly tighten border controls. Ashcroft is deploying U.S. military aircraft and more than 400 National Guard troops to patrol 43 border crossings between the two countries. He said that 500 border agents are currently stationed at the U.S.-Canadian border, compared with 9,000 cops at the U.S.-Mexican border, which is about half as long. The Patriot Act orders the tripling of the northern border patrol.

Seeking any venue possible to push their militarization of the country, the White House's Office of Homeland Security said that the February 3 Super Bowl in New Orleans will be given special security status, complete with fighter jets and military attack helicopters to patrol the skies. SWAT

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Students in New York protest  
cuts in university funding



Around 500 students, faculty members, and supporters rallied at the Borough of Manhattan Community College December 5 to protest cuts in the university budget and demand aid from the federal government promised after the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center. (See article on page 10.)

Militant/Roger Calero

Imperialists send  
more troops into  
Afghanistan;  
support assault  
on Palestinians

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

Washington and its imperialist allies are expanding their military deployments in Central Asia and Afghanistan, pressing forward their brutal war to establish a protectorate in the country. British, German, and Australian troops have joined a growing U.S. strike force in Kandahar province, southern Afghanistan, that has begun to engage Taliban forces in the area. More than 1,300 marines, supplied with a rapidly growing store of weapons, vehicles, and attack helicopters, are operating from a desert base there.

At the same time, the White House is giving...  
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In Los Angeles,  
socialist worker  
wins support in  
free speech fight

BY NAN BAILEY

LOS ANGELES—With a visit here and in New York, Michael Italie carried out the first two legs of a nationwide tour to win support for his fight to reverse the political firing by the boss at the garment plant where he worked in Miami. Italie is also winning new support for the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, which is leading the fight to help the socialist worker win his job back.

"Mike Italie, a Miami mayoral candidate with the Socialist Workers Party, was recently fired from Goodwill Industries after appearing in a debate where he expressed opposition to the war in Afghanistan, support for the Cuban revolution, and union rights," reported an article in the *Daily 49er*, the campus paper at California State University at Long Beach in its November 28 issue. The paper announced that Italie would be speaking at an antiwar teach-in sponsored

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*Fidel Castro speaks to mass rally in Cuba*

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL  
AND MICHAEL TABER

HAVANA—"The most sophisticated technology they employ to try to turn us into slaves or subjects of a universal imperial power cannot and never will be able to defeat the consciousness and intelligence of human beings," said Cuban president Fidel Castro at a December 2 ceremony in Santiago de Cuba marking the 45th anniversary of the Nov. 30, 1956, uprising in that eastern city and the landing two days later of the *Granma* expedition.

Over that weekend here, hundreds of thousands of working people, students, and others across the island took part in rallies and other activities celebrating these two key events—that marked the beginning of the revolutionary war that was to topple the

U.S.-backed dictatorship in January 1959 and opened the door to a government of workers and farmers in Cuba.

In conversations with ordinary Cubans across this city, many saw these events not

simply as historical commemorations. In addition, they saw them as a response to Washington's war against the people of Afghanistan and the U.S. rulers' arrogant

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Israel bombs Palestinians,  
occupies cities in West Bank

BY GREG MCCARTAN

Tearing a page from the book Washington wrote, the government of Israel declared the Palestinian Authority a "terror supporting entity" and its security forces to be "terrorist groups," as F-16s and Apache attack

helicopters began bombing Palestinians cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Unleashing its most violent and wide-ranging assault in 14 months, the Israeli regime sent armored columns into several cities, occupying them as part of their expanding war against the Palestinian people and their fight for self-determination.

Justifying the assault he was about to unleash, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in a televised address, "Just as the United States is conducting its war against interna-

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Strike of 5,000 defends union at  
Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut

BY JACK WILLEY

EAST HARTFORD, Connecticut—Five thousand union members walked off the job here December 3 against Pratt & Whitney, a company that is among the largest makers of jet engines for commercial and military planes in the world.

Workers prepared for the strike by holding periodic rallies in the plant of up to 1,000 people, said union member Geraldine Provite.

"In 1985 a number of people crossed the

picket line, but this time there are only a few," Mary McClam said on the picket line. "There is stronger determination in the union and more people have said, 'enough is enough—we've had it,'" she stated. Workers belong to four locals of the International Association of Machinists.

McClam, with 26 years at the plant, one of four in the area, said union members "want to retire at 55 years old after 30 years. The company wants to raise that to 58. The

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Our publishing  
schedule

The *Militant* will be closed December 21-27. Issues will be published and sent to distributors and subscribers on December 20 and January 3.

Books from  
Pathfinder for  
working people  
and youth fighting  
imperialism and  
its war. Special  
offers, see page 7.

Teachers strike in New Jersey and New York — page 3

# Glass workers fight union-busting attacks in Indiana

BY JERRY ULMAN  
AND JOEL BRITTON

PORTLAND, Indiana—"Help Support Labor Rights," "Equal Rights for Workers," "We Need a Fair Contract," and "Contract Language Bad—Isn't that Sad."

These were among the handmade signs carried by striking Glass Workers and supporters from unions affiliated with the Muncie-based East Central Indiana Labor Council (AFL-CIO) at a picket line in front of the Jay County courthouse here November 14.

More than 100 workers marched in solidarity with four strikers at Indiana Glass Company in nearby Dunkirk who are facing contempt of court charges. The charges alleged the four violated an antistrike injunction issued by Circuit Court Judge Brian Hutchison after some 375 members of the American Flint Glass Workers Union walked off the job in October. Hutchison's father served as the company doctor at Indiana Glass. Among those joining the workers' action was State Rep. R. Tiny Adams from Muncie.

Workers packed Judge Hutchison's courtroom as he read plea bargained statements by strikers Coy Phillips, Dave Maynard, Dave Reynolds, and Beverly Bilbrey. After

emphasizing that each of the four strikers were "stipulating" that they had violated the injunction and were in contempt of court, Judge Hutchison slapped them with fines and jail time, which he suspended pending their abiding by the injunction for six months.

And in the cruelest blow, which drew bitter cries of "kangaroo court!" afterward in discussions in front of the courthouse and back at the union hall in Dunkirk, these union fighters were required to resign from their jobs at Indiana Glass.

One striker, Coy Phillips, had nearly 36 years at the company and another more than 20. Unemployment benefits can be denied to the four now because of the resignations, according to strikers.

Indiana Glass managers and a half dozen thugs from Huffmaster Security, who are used by the bosses to harass and attempt to provoke strikers, filled two rows on one side of the courtroom. The hired thugs, younger Black and Latino men, glared at many of the men and women on strike, most of whom were white. The thugs' behavior since early in the strike near the struck plant and around Dunkirk was key to provoking incidents that led to the trumped up charges against the strikers.



Militant/Jerry Ulman

Members of American Flint Glass Workers Union join with their supporters at picket line around Jay County courthouse in Portland, Indiana, November 14.

Unions in the region donated about \$6,000 worth of groceries, which were distributed to the strikers at the union hall the day before Thanksgiving. Negotiations—

overseen by federal mediators—resumed November 29. Three glass workers face criminal charges stemming from strike-related activities in October.

## Jailed journalist denied First Amendment rights

BY STEVE WARSHALL

HOUSTON—In a direct violation of her First Amendment rights, journalist Vanessa Leggett has been denied a full hearing by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. She has been held in the Harris County (Houston) jail for more than 130 days for refusing to turn over her files on a Houston-area murder case to a federal grand jury. Leggett had been working on a book about the case.

Leggett was found in contempt of court on July 20, 2001, by U.S. District Judge Melinda Harmon. On November 15, attor-

ney Michael DeGeurin disclosed that the 5th Circuit denied his request for a full hearing. In August, a three-judge panel had upheld the contempt ruling.

Leggett initially cooperated with a subpoena from the local prosecutor and turned over copies of notes and tapes of an interview she conducted during her research. When the federal grand jury demanded all of her files and information she refused.

"The government is trying to use her as their investigative tool," DeGeurin told the *Houston Chronicle*.

Leggett has since said she now regrets

cooperating with the authorities in the first place. She will be appealing the ruling to the United States Supreme Court.

National and international support has been won in defense of Leggett's democratic rights. On November 21, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee called on U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft to free Leggett. In a letter to Ashcroft she said, "Ms. Leggett presents no risk of flight, nor does she pose any threat to society or herself. Her only 'crime' was to protect her confidential sources in keeping with the traditional constitutional notions of a free press."

In addition, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press continues to work for her release. A photo of Leggett in her prison

uniform is featured on the committee's web site, along with a tally of the numbers of days she has spent behind bars. Dozens of organizations have called for her release including the Inter American Press Association, the Center for Individual Freedom, and the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

Leggett is by far the longest-held of any of the journalists who have refused to divulge their sources. In 1978, Myron Farber of the *New York Times* was held for 40 days in a local criminal case. In 1972, William Farr, then with the Los Angeles *Herald Examiner*, was jailed for 76 days for not turning over the source of leaked documents in the Charles Manson trial.

## Nepal gov't cracks down on rights

BY GREG MCCARTAN

The king of Nepal has declared a state of emergency, suspended basic democratic rights, and sent the Royal Nepal Army after Maoist guerrillas who oppose the government.

After three months of inconclusive negotiations, the Maoist rebels launched a series of attacks November 23 on police posts, army barracks, and government offices across the country, killing scores of cops and

soldiers. Negotiations broke off after the government refused to consider elections for a constituent assembly to write a new constitution, the main demand of the guerrilla group. Although there is an elected parliament, the country is ruled by King Gyanendra.

Under the state of emergency the police and army are given wide powers to search, arrest, and detain suspects, and to use force as needed. Constitutional articles guarantee-

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## THE MILITANT

### Protest assault on Palestinians

*With the blessing of Washington, the Israeli regime is stepping up its repression of the Palestinian masses who continue to fight for their land. Recent events highlight the fact that Israel is a death trap for Jews and will remain so until the Zionist state of Israel is replaced by a democratic, secular Palestine.*



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# Striking New Jersey teachers defy court order

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

MIDDLETOWN, New Jersey—Striking teachers in Monmouth County, New Jersey, are keeping the district's 17 schools shut down after defying a judge's back-to-work order, forcing cancellation of classes.

As soon as teachers walked off the job, State Superior Court Judge Clarkson Fisher issued a court order demanding that they return to work or face sanctions, which

## As we go to press...

Superior Court Judge Clarkson Fisher jailed 131 more striking teachers, boosting the three-day total to 135.

could include fines, jailing, and firings. "When it comes down to it, the union leadership and the membership are violating the law" by striking, said school board president Patricia Walsh.

"We will be requesting fines, jail, and if the circumstances are appropriate, that they be removed from their positions of employment," said school board attorney Douglas Kovats, according to the New Jersey *Star Ledger*.

"We will not be cowed," said Middletown Township Education Association (MTEA) president Diane Swaim in response. "We're sorry the board is using the courts to interfere with something that should be settled at the bargaining table."

And across the Hudson River in New York some 300 teachers at nine Catholic high schools also walked out November 29 in a dispute over wages and pensions.

"This strike is not just for High School North teachers but for all teachers in the Middletown district," said Claire Palamara. She was among some 200 striking teachers and secretaries walking the picket December 3 at Middletown North High School in defiance of a court order to return to work. The strike began November 29 in the face of massive media pressure to buckle under to demands by Monmouth County school authorities that teachers pay more for health benefits.



Militant/Mark Wierzbicki

**Striking teachers walk the picket line at Middletown North High School December 3. Hundreds of teachers and their supporters held a rally the next day outside Monmouth County's Hall of Records to protest the arrest of four teachers for disobeying a return-to-work court order. Walkout has shut down all 17 schools in the district.**

"This will set a precedent," said Palamara, if the teachers accept paying a percentage of their wages for medical care. While three school districts in Monmouth County pay a flat fee, "Middletown teachers have to pay a percentage of their wages toward health benefits."

Officials representing the 1,000 MTEA members say the major stumbling block to signing a new contract is the school board's demand that union members pay 12 percent of their premiums for medical insurance through payroll deductions, which would increase costs for the unionists by up to \$2,500 a year. The MTEA wants to maintain a flat \$250 annual fee that would cover family health care benefits. The teachers and secretaries already pay \$1,400 in other deductibles. Other issues include pay raises and workload.

"Once they have their foot in the door we will be paying health benefits all our lives," commented a teacher on the picket line, a point of view shared by many other strikers.

The union has presented several counter-offers, including higher co-payments for prescriptions. Karen Joseph, a spokesperson for the MTEA, said the school board negotiators rejected these proposals and talks broke down. The walkout was their second strike in three years.

Despite constant harping in the big-business media, with comments from parents saying the teachers "make good money," some parents and their children have come to the picket line to support the strike. "I live here and I want my kids to have experienced teachers," said Joan Muso, an x-ray technician for 17 years who was on the picket line expressing solidarity with the strike.

## 'We want to make a decent wage'

"We are parents too," declared striker Mel Clifford. "Some news media and some parents and taxpayers are sending our students the message that teachers are greedy and should be fired. When the strike is over, can they go back to telling our students to listen to their teachers and get good grades?"

Clifford was among a number of women on the picket line who said the strike was a "woman's issue." The school board was promoting an "old fashioned attitude" that "doesn't take teaching seriously as a profession. Teaching is seen as a woman's profession with unequal pay and unequal work. What is the uproar over our wages?" she pointed out.

"I'm a single parent," Clifford added. "I need to make a decent wage so that I can provide a decent living for my two children in the town where I live and work."

# Paper bosses at Finch plant in N.Y. impose concessions

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

NEW YORK—The Finch, Pruyn & Co. has imposed a concession contract on paper workers in Glens Falls, New York, dealing a serious blow to workers who belong to seven unions after five months on strike.

The 600 union members walked out June 16, opposing company demands for workers to pay 25 percent of health insurance costs. The unions were also fighting for increased retirement benefits. Taking advantage of layoffs by other paper companies, the bosses hired 400 replacement workers to get the plant running again.

"We had to settle for basically the same contract we went out on strike against," said Ron Gates, secretary-treasurer of the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union (PACE) Local 155.

But in final negotiations, the company moved to deny all but 42 strikers their jobs, saying they will retain the replacement workers. Finch, Pruyn also insisted that the new contract make the plant an open shop, instituting "voluntary" union membership for all employees hired after June 16. In addition the company maintained that workers would have to pay 35 percent of their health-care costs and set a deadline of midnight November 20 for the unions to accept the offer.

Union negotiators said the company's last-minute revisions of its offer confirmed their suspicions that Finch, Pruyn intended to break its unions. "It's union busting; that's what it's been about since day one," said Tim Palmer, vice-president of PACE Local 155.

The unions' negotiating committee made no recommendation to the membership of the seven striking locals, who had voted to reject the company's offer November 16 despite a growing number of workers crossing the picket lines. Prior to the company's placing of ads for permanent replacement workers in mid-October, no striking unionists had crossed the picket line.

Management also won increased flexibility in assigning work to carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and machinists who work at the Glens Falls paper mill. Additional concessions in the five-and-a-half-year contract include the elimination of double time pay on Sundays and significantly reduced holiday pay.



Militant/Patrick O'Neill

**Students from Cathedral High in Manhattan gathered around picket line chalk mark that reads "Fair Play = Fair Pay." Walkout involves 300 teachers at nine schools.**

# U.S. vows to use live ammunition again in Vieques

BY RÓGER CALERO

Organizations involved in the struggle to get the U.S. Navy out of the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico condemned a move by the U.S. government to resume the use of live ammunition during military exercises next January.

Facing rising protests, the Navy was forced to suspend the use of live ammunition in its bombing practices in Vieques after a 500-pound bomb dropped by a U.S. plane in April 1999 killed a civilian guard, David Sanes. His death sparked massive protests throughout the island that demanded a halt to the bombings and the dismantling of the U.S. military bases. This past July residents voted by a 68 percent majority for the U.S. Navy to leave immediately.

diately.

Hoping to use the imperialist war in Afghanistan to regain lost ground, the Marines' top brass requested exercises next spring with the aircraft carrier *John F. Kennedy* naval group using live ammunition. Navy officials point out at the same time how crucial the training in Vieques is to some of the naval battle groups currently participating in the assault against Afghanistan.

In response, Puerto Rican governor Sila Calderón sent a letter to Navy Secretary Gordon England saying that the use of live bombs "would inflame passions among protesters and create a very sensitive situation for all concerned."

A press statement released by the Com-

[On December 3 Clifford reported to the *Militant* that "four teachers were jailed tonight. The judge is trying to break us, calling people in one by one to answer questions and sign a paper saying they'll go back immediately or resign, and that negotiations won't resume until we go back.]

The teachers meet every morning to prepare for picket line duty and get updates on contract talks. The strike came a few hours after the end of a moratorium on contract negotiations both the union and the school board accepted after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

## N.Y. teachers strike Catholic schools

Meanwhile, in New York Catholic high school teachers are waging a battle for a living wage and pension. The teachers walked off the job September 10, a few weeks after their contract had expired, but went back to work after the World Trade Center attacks.

The Lay Faculty Association, the union representing 377 Catholic teachers and guidance counselors, is demanding a 15 percent wage increase and a second pension plan financed by contributions from its members. The current pension program administered by the archdiocese is a pittance, teachers say. According to one union official, a teacher who worked for the archdiocese for 25 years would receive pension benefits amounting to \$13,000 a year.

"We've been doing too much for too long, for too little," said Charles Chesnavage, a teacher at Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx.

"The teachers are real good," Brittany Jackson, a ninth grade student at Cathedral High in Manhattan, told the *Militant*. "They should be paid as much or more as public school teachers. And we should not pay tuition fees while they are not being paid."

Public school teachers are also demanding a pay increase, which provoked the ire of New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani who condemned their call for better wages and pension benefits as "unrealistic." He demanded the union "show some respect for the city for what it's going through in terms of the terrible attacks on the city."

Randi Weingarten, president of the United Federation of Teachers, responded to the mayor's arrogance, saying he was exploiting the September attacks to evade the issue of higher wages. "When somebody caustically says that my members are not concerned about the city because we have the temerity to take the same position as we did before September 11—which is what we're doing—that's exploiting the tragedy."

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# Israel bombs Palestinians, occupies cities

**Continued from front page**  
tional terror, using all its might against terror, so will we, too." He vilified Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir Arafat, calling him "the greatest obstacle to peace and stability in the Middle East." Sharon made his remarks December 3, a day after returning from a meeting with U.S. president George Bush in Washington.

The following day Israeli air strikes targeted five locations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, all facilities of the Palestinian Authority (PA). CNN correspondent Matthew Chance said warplanes and helicopter gunships launched a "ferocious" assault in Gaza City, and tanks and bulldozers destroyed the Gaza City International Airport, the only air link from Palestinian territory. Israeli forces bombed or targeted with missiles buildings housing the Palestinian interior affairs and Offices of Preventive Security, facilities of police and security forces, as well as Arafat's offices. Three of the PA's helicopters were destroyed by missiles and machine-gun fire.

One attack was in a neighborhood with a school. Doctors said more than 100 people were injured, many of them children. Israel sent tanks into Ramallah and Nablus, in the West Bank, and closed off several other cities. An Israeli military official called the attacks "symbolic" because the bombings were not specifically trying to kill Arafat.

Israeli and U.S. officials worked overtime to justify the aggression by turning reality on its head, painting Israel as the victim of the Palestinians.

The Israeli regime claimed their most recent assault was in response to three sui-



Explosion from an Israeli missile destroys a Palestinian security headquarters in Gaza City. Two people were killed and scores injured in the attacks.

cide bombings by Palestinian militants over the weekend in which 25 people were killed. The cabinet resolution calling the PA a terrorist entity said the government would take "action on a broader scale than opted for until today," and demanded the PA "prevent terrorism, punish terrorists, and dismantle the terrorist network." Arafat rounded up 130 members of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas who are wanted by Israeli authorities, a number deemed insufficient by Washington and Tel Aviv.

In Washington, administration officials and leading Democrats supported the war

moves. "There is no way that Israel can negotiate a peace process so long as its country is being terrorized," U.S. president George Bush said. He demanded Arafat "respond forcefully to rout out those who killed." Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sharon "is responding in the way he believes is appropriate to defend his people and to defend his country."

U.S. senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, referring to Bush's threats against the Taliban in Afghanistan, said the "same message must be sent to the Palestinian Authority and to Chairman Arafat: Anyone who harbors or turns a blind eye to terror in their midst will be held accountable."

Standing by her side, Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, added, "What the president declared for Osama bin Laden in going thousands of miles away to fight, Israel will have to do just a few miles away."

Bush combined his backing of Israel with a new attack on workers' rights in the United States by freezing the assets of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, the largest American Muslim charity in the United States. Federal agents raided four offices of the organization, seizing file cabinets, office furniture, and computers. The government also froze assets of Al Aqsa Bank and the Beit al Mal Holdings Company. Bush claimed they funded Hamas.

"This action is really creating outrage in the Muslim community," said Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on American Islamic Relations, one of eight

organizations that urged Bush to reverse the freeze on funds. "The holy foundation has a long history of being a respected Muslim charity that does good work, not only in Palestine, but other parts of the world."

The foundation's chief executive denied the charge of funding Hamas, saying the organization is a humanitarian one. A large part of the yearly donations to the foundation come during Ramadan.

## Arab governments protest

Several voices from Arab governments in the region spoke out against the Israeli rationale for the attacks. "The weekend was not the beginning of the cycle of violence; the cycle of violence had started long before that," Egypt's foreign minister told the press. He called the military attacks "totally unacceptable."

Samir Ragab, editor of Al Gomhuria, the state-owned Egyptian newspaper, said the "reality is that the policy of Sharon and his associates is the reason for what is happening. There will be no solution unless there is a fundamental change in policy."

The secretary-general of the Arab League said that "as long as the Israeli government continues its policy of assassinations, building settlements, destroying homes, and blockading towns, the violence will continue." Articles appeared in the major English-language newspapers in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Over the past six months Palestinians have faced a widening war by the Israeli regime, which has used greater firepower and military occupation of Palestinian-controlled areas in its attempts to crush Palestinian resistance. Nearly 800 Palestinians have been killed in the conflict, including by targeted assassination by Israeli forces, a practice that is an official policy of the government of Israel.

In late November Israeli forces killed Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, a leader of Hamas, and another 14 Palestinians. Five children were blown to pieces November 22 when they kicked what turned out to be a remote-controlled bomb planted by the Israeli military. Large marches, including one of 3,000 Palestinians December 3, have condemned the assassinations and killings.

## Pathfinder Fund gets a boost, goals raised

BY RÓGER CALERO

"Pathfinder supporters here raised their fund goal again today," reported Tony Dutrow, Pathfinder fund director in Houston. "We expect to receive more pledges and contributions this week, as we follow

up on the work we began in building the fund-raising meeting." Supporters there sent out an appeal along with the notice of the meeting and followed it up with phone calls. "Today we received \$100 in the mail from one of those we sent a mailing to and called," he continued. "She couldn't make it to the event all the way from Louisiana, but wanted to make sure we got her contribution on time."

Coming out of a round of successful fund-raising meetings in several cities around the country, supporters of the Pathfinder Fund are discussing how to increase pledges and raise their local goals. They are responding to the political opportunities to distribute the revolutionary books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press, and to the need to raise substantial funds to keep the publishing program going.

With two weeks left in the drive, supporters are shifting gears in their efforts to close the \$22,500 gap between the total of local goals and the international target of \$125,000. A number of cities still need to talk to all supporters in their area in order to get pledges up to their adopted goals. Systematic work by socialist workers and Young Socialists along the lines of what is being done by supporters in Houston is needed in every city. The fund runs through December 15.

Developing a regional fund-raising list is a must for any proletarian organization. This includes both long-term supporters of Pathfinder, and the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and those who have recently met the communist movement. In face of the imperialist war against Afghanistan and the assault on workers' rights in the United States, many will stretch their available funds in order to give generously to a publishing house that combats the rulers' rationalizations for war and repression and presents a working-class perspective in the fight for a new society.

### Volunteer work project

On the final weekend of the drive supporters of Pathfinder are planning a volunteer work project at the Pathfinder building in New York. The project includes maintenance

work, organizing photographic files of Pathfinder and the *Militant*, setting up computers, and work to reorganize the printshop of the publishing house. The December 15-16 volunteer project will include a celebration of the work of the communist movement over the past several months as it campaigns against imperialism and war.

The workers, farmers, and youth that spoke at the fund-raising meetings last weekend brought to life the class struggle experiences contained in the more than 350 titles published and distributed by Pathfinder.

Supporters in Des Moines, Iowa, went over the original \$1,400 goal at their meeting. "Until recently I never imagined such books existed," said Juan Valadez at a meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. Valadez, a meatpacking worker from Omaha, Nebraska, who is active in the union-organizing drives at his plant, spoke at a panel of workers, a farmer, and youth on the impact that Pathfinder titles have had on their political life.

Among those commenting on the importance of reading Pathfinder books and keeping them in print was Larry Ginter, a veteran farmer activist, and Bob Peters, a member of the Communication Workers of America.

Mark Westerberg, a 21-year-old student who also works at a bagel bakery, described Pathfinder books as an excellent source of material for those opposed to imperialist wars. "It's only because of Pathfinder that we can read today of the last 150 years of the struggles of the peoples of the world," he added.

In Atlanta, 47 people showed up at a grand opening of the new Pathfinder bookstore and fund benefit titled: "The War against Afghanistan and the Struggle against Imperialism Today," featuring Ma'mud Shirvani, Pathfinder's Farsi-language editor. Among the participants were activists involved in actions against police abuse and racial profiling.

By the end of the weekend Atlanta had gone over their raised goal of \$4,300. They now have a new goal of \$5,000. In Detroit, supporters increased their goal for the third time and are looking forward to meeting the international target. Supporters are encouraged to send in their reports on goals, plans, and fund-raising activities projected for the next two weeks.

If you would like to get involved or make a contribution, contact your nearest Pathfinder Bookstore listed on page 12, or send in your check to Pathfinder, 410 West Street New York, NY 10014.

## Pathfinder reprint volunteers on a roll in book production

BY RUTH CHENEY

OAKLAND, California—Nine Pathfinder titles were prepared digitally by scores of Pathfinder Reprint Project volunteers in several countries during November.

The completed titles were: *Nueva Internacional* no. 1, which is the Spanish edition of "Opening Guns of World War III"; *Israel's War Against the Palestinian People*; *El Guerrerismo de EUA y la crisis económica mundial*; *Building Socialism in Cuba*; *Samizdat*; *Speeches for Socialism*; *Woman's Evolution*; *Malcolm X Speaks* in hardcover edition; and the *Writings of Leon Trotsky 1938-39*.

More than 60 percent of the publishing house's titles are now available on CD-ROM's, which can quickly and easily be used to produce these books in Pathfinder's printshop. Project volunteers have set a goal of having 75 percent of Pathfinder titles on CDs by the end of June 2002.

The Pathfinder Reprint Project was launched in early 1998 with a goal of converting all the books that existed only on film at that time to CD-ROM's.

Now, the staff of the Pathfinder printshop can put the digital files prepared by the reprint team directly on their modern computer-to-plate equipment. This allows the plates that go on the shop's printing presses to be prepared in a matter of hours, not days, as was the case when the books existed only on film and a much more labor-intensive method of production was required.

These November reprint project accomplishments came on the heels of completing an average of seven titles each of the previous four months. Janice Prescott is a New York volunteer who organizes the team that does the final preparation of the books and places the digital files and reproduced digital covers on CDs. She explained, "In the past we have occasionally turned in a large number of CDs, but usually there were

**Continued on Page 14**

Pathfinder Fund			
	Goal	Paid	%
<b>Tucson</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>Houston</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>84%</b>
Atlanta	5,000	3,827	77%
Allentown	1,650	1,220	74%
Tampa	600	385	64%
Los Angeles	9,000	5,640	63%
Upper Manhattan	3,500	2,161	62%
Washington DC	3,000	1,850	62%
Charlotte	3,650	2,140	59%
Birmingham	3,200	1,875	59%
Des Moines	1,400	780	56%
San Francisco	8,000	4,365	55%
Western Colorado	3,500	1,695	48%
Seattle	8,000	3,760	47%
Omaha	800	270	34%
Brooklyn	3,500	1,128	32%
Boston	4,000	1,420	36%
Twin Cities	4,000	1,370	34%
Detroit	4,000	1,339	33%
Philadelphia	3,000	975	33%
Newark	3,300	1,059	32%
NY Garment District	6,000	1,915	32%
Chicago	6,000	1,515	25%
Pittsburgh	5,000	1,210	24%
Miami	2,200	460	21%
Cleveland	1,500	100	7%
Other	0	1,042	0%
U.S. Total	97,650	46,779	48%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4,774</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Int'l Total	105,464	50,001	47%
Total Should be	125,000	102,500	82%



# Organizing to bring home circulation drive

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Socialist workers and Young Socialists in the United Kingdom are setting the pace in the final stretch of the circulation campaign, going over their goals for the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International*. The example set by communists in the UK can be emulated elsewhere, by not only meeting, but surpassing local goals. Partisans of the *Militant* in Canada, Australia, and Sweden have also gone over the top.

Articles in this week's *Militant* help show why there is so much interest in the socialist press and *New International* among working people and youth. Many are opposed to the imperialists' assault on Afghanistan and their triumphalist crowing over the results of their brutal war, already looking to find another country to target. Repressive legislation being hastily put in place in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States is being met with resistance by many who want to read a working-class newspaper to find out the truth behind the rulers' offensive. In many areas, workers are not putting off their fights against concession demands by the employers, but are going on strike to defend their interests.

These are the reasons the Young Socialists proposed extending the drive, and the *Militant* welcomed the initiative. With a concerted effort over the next 10 days, partisans of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* can go over the top in the drive to win 1,100 new readers to the *Militant*, 500 subscriptions to *PM*, and 800 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*. So far we have sold 932 *Militant* subscriptions, 359 *PM* subscriptions, and 548 copies of *New International*. The *Militant* will count all subscriptions received in the business office by noon on December 11.

With *New International* we have a special opportunity, as *Nueva Internacional* no. 1, containing "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III," is now available.

"We have several plans in place to fight for the last 10 *Militant* subscriptions needed to make our goals," wrote Elizabeth Lariscy from Los Angeles. "This week a meeting will be held in support of the Miami five, Cubans jailed on frame-up charges by the U.S. government. We plan to take the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to the downtown garment district, to college campuses, and to an immigrant rights demonstration.

"We set up a booth at the Latino Book and Family Festival in San Bernardino, California, where we sold three *Militant* subscriptions and three *PM* subscriptions, along with some \$200 in books," Lariscy wrote, including issues of *Nueva Internacional* with the articles, "U.S. Imperialism has Lost the Cold War" and "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War."

Lariscy added, "One student from Riverside College who spent a couple of hours talking politics with us at the booth bought a *Militant* subscription and six Pathfinder titles. Another young woman from California State San Bernardino urged us to visit her campus. She said to us, 'We need something like this so much,' referring to the books and periodicals.

"We also spent time explaining the case of Michael Italie and signed up a couple dozen supporters. One person who signed the petition defending Italie's case was a retired Filipino American Marine who said he has been stopped several times and questioned by cops since the events on September 11. He bought a copy of the *Militant* after talking with us about the war in Afghanistan."

In Des Moines, Iowa, Joe Swanson writes, "We sold one *Militant* subscription going to workers' homes in the workers' district where the Pathfinder bookstore is located. We also set up a table at Grinnell College inside near the students' cafeteria and sold two *Militant* subscriptions during discussions on the deepening assaults on workers' rights and the free speech fight of Michael Italie. We then attended a meeting nearby for the executive director of the Iowa American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). He was giving a talk to a recently formed ACLU chapter on the stepped-up attacks on democratic rights since September 11."

*Militant* campaigners in Colorado sent a sales team to Colorado College where they received a good response from students around the free speech fight of Italie. They sold eight copies of the *Militant*. "We also met with a miner who bought a copy of *NI* no. 7, which features the article 'Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq.' He decided to buy the book after discussions about the war in Afghanistan and the assaults on workers' rights," said Alice Kincaid. Another miner who works with us also bought *NI* no. 7 and said he is considering coming to our Pathfinder Fund event."

In Newark, New Jersey, Nancy Rosenstock reports: "We sold two *PM* subscriptions and a *Militant* subscription in the workers' district where we plan to relocate the Pathfinder Bookstore. I also sold a *PM* subscription this past week to one of my co-workers at the garment shop where I work.

"Our sales on college campuses have picked up a little over the past few weeks. This week we sold a *Militant* subscription to a Nigerian student at New Jersey Institute of Technology who remarked when he saw the paper, 'I don't believe anything the U.S. government says and I don't like what Bush is doing' with the stepped up assaults on workers' rights.

"Another student who recently purchased a *Militant* subscription at the Rutgers University campus here has started to attend the Militant Labor Forum and a class series on *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. He told us he wanted to get more involved



Militant/Patrick O'Neill

Participants in subscription drive sell *Militant* and Pathfinder titles in New York's Garment District, reaching out to garment and other workers in the area.

## Militant/Perspectiva Mundial subscription campaign—week 9 Sept. 22-Dec. 9

Country	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
United Kingdom	35	40	114%	10	12	20	25
Canada							
Montreal	12	14	117%	5	4	20	12
Vancouver	15	15	100%	3	5	20	9
Toronto	17	16	94%	5	2	17	13
Canada total	44	45	102%	13	11	57	34
Australia	16	16	100%	4	4	16	20
Sweden*	18	18	100%	4	4	12	16
United States							
Seattle	25	31	124%	10	7	25	23
Twin Cities*	45	55	122%	20	36	30	35
Houston	30	35	117%	15	7	45	19
Atlanta	36	40	111%	15	16	35	23
Miami	20	22	110%	20	18	25	27
Boston*	30	32	107%	13	12	25	16
Pittsburgh	40	42	105%	5	0	25	10
Philadelphia	25	26	104%	10	6	20	8
Upper Manhattan	65	66	102%	50	32	40	22
Detroit	35	35	100%	10	8	30	18
Charlotte*	20	18	90%	6	3	25	7
Des Moines*	40	36	90%	25	21	20	17
Western Colorado*	35	30	86%	8	8	15	9
Chicago	45	38	84%	30	7	35	22
Tampa	12	10	83%	5	5	14	11
Newark	45	37	82%	30	12	30	12
Omaha	11	9	82%	15	13	10	12
Los Angeles	50	40	80%	30	18	25	25
Tucson*	10	8	80%	2	1	6	6
Washington	25	19	76%	20	11	10	8
San Francisco	50	35	70%	25	19	40	18
Allentown	25	17	68%	5	4	10	6
NY Garment Dist.	100	65	65%	50	26	55	35
Brooklyn	60	32	53%	30	27	70	39
Cleveland	25	12	48%	4	4	20	15
Birmingham	20	8	40%	3	6	20	3
U.S. total	924	798	86%	456	327	705	446
Iceland	8	5	63%	2	0		
New Zealand							
Auckland	10	6	60%	1	1	8	5
Christchurch	7	4	57%	1	0	3	2
N.Z. total	17	10	59%	2	1	11	7
Int'l totals	1062	932	85%	491	359	737	548
Goal/Should be	1100	990	90%	500	450	800	720

### IN THE UNIONS

	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
United States							
UAW	5	6	120%			4	1
UFCW	55	53	96%	55	63	70	48
UNITE	35	17	49%	35	15	55	10
UMWA	20	7	35%	2	0	15	3
Total	115	83	72%	92	78	144	62
Australia							
AMIEU	3	2	67%			1	1
MUA*	2	1	50%			5	4
Total	5	3	60%				
New Zealand							
NDU	2	1	50%			1	0
MWU	2	1	50%			2	0
Total	4	2	50%			3	0
Canada							
UFCW	5	3	60%	1	0	8	5
UNITE	5	0	0%	2	3	3	0
Total	10	3	30%	3	3	11	5
raised goal*							

## New York rally backs striking nurses

BY SARA LOBMAN

SMITHTOWN, New York—More than 400 unionists and others rallied December 1 in support of striking nurses at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center. The 474 registered nurses, members of the New York State Nurses Association, have been on strike since November 26 after working without a contract for more than six months.

Nurses from more than a half dozen area hospitals participated in the lively rally. Speakers included representatives of the Public Employees Federation, the Civil Service

Employees Association, the United Food and Commercial Workers union, and the Long Island Federation of Labor. Suffolk County legislature member Bill Lindsay and U.S. Congressman Steven Israel also spoke.

The nurses are demanding enforceable nurse-to-patient ratios in each department, an end to mandatory overtime, improved and stable health insurance, including for retired nurses, and guaranteed shift schedules.

Student nurses at Suffolk County Community College nursing school have refused to cross the picket line for their clinical rotations. They will work at another area hospital instead. According to the union, only two nurses have gone back to work. They joined about 100 nurses that management has hired to replace the strikers. "Some people say nurses have to take any job they're offered," striker Lois Booth noted. "But I think nurses should support nurses. It's a matter of principle." At least one local hotel, the Windham Watch, has refused to house the scabs.

The striking nurses have established a daily fact sheet called "On the Line." It is e-mailed to all the strikers and is also available on the picket line. Weekly meetings for the union membership are held each Tuesday. "The newsletters and meetings are important to keep everyone informed," striker Diane Rettig explained.

The nurses do not have strike benefits and will not be eligible for unemployment benefits for eight weeks. "But I won't vote for a bad contract because I'm hungry," Rettig said. "I work too hard for that. And I'm not going to settle for a crumb on the table. I want the whole sandwich."

A candlelight celebration in support of the strike is planned for December 7. For more information call the strike hotline at (800) 724-NYRN or check out their web site at [www.nysna.org](http://www.nysna.org).

## Government in Nepal imposes state of emergency

Continued from Page 2

ing freedom of speech and assembly and freedom of the press were also suspended. The government also mobilized the army to fight the rebel force.

The emergency order is in force for three months, after which it must be ratified by parliament. The steps against "terror" suspects do not have to be reviewed for six months.

King Gyanendra received backing for the repressive measures from Washington and European Commission officials. The latter "regretted" the "carefully planned and systematic" attacks by the rebels. The government of India said the state of emergency was a "necessary step."

The leader of the main opposition in parliament, the Unified Marxist-Leninist Party, said "his party was not consulted and he was suspicious of the government's motives," according to the *Financial Times* of London.

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# War in Afghanistan

Continued from front page

ing backing to the Israeli government's escalated war on the Palestinian people. "We're not about to tell Mr. Sharon what he should do," said U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell following a visit by Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon to the White House on December 2.

Near Kandahar, round-the-clock flights by military helicopters are bringing marines and equipment to Forward Operating Base Rhino, the Pentagon's name for the airfield complex they are constructing. The first marines landed at the base, described by Gen. Thomas Franks as a staging base for special operations forces in Afghanistan, on November 25, joined by 160 British special forces and U.S. commandos. By December 5 the number of marines had grown to between 1,300 and 1,400, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Three hundred plus miles away, British and U.S. special forces and more than 100 other U.S. troops have stamped their authority on Bagram air base, 20 miles north of Kabul, the capital city. Constructed by the Soviet government in the 1970s, the base became the country's only functioning airport after Kabul International was rendered unusable by an unexploded U.S. bomb.

U.S. military personnel handle air traffic control at the airport and provide their own security. Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division, sent from the unit of 1,000 stationed in Uzbekistan, control a checkpoint 100 yards up the road.

The Pentagon has announced that it is assessing a number of other airfields for use in military operations, to be manned by troops presently based in Pakistan. U.S. commanders are up front about their plans to increase the numbers and striking power of their forces in Afghanistan and elsewhere

## New facts about massacre of POWs by U.S. and British forces

Last week the *Militant* reported on the massacre by U.S. and British forces, along with their Northern Alliance cohorts, of 600 prisoners of war who had rebelled at the Qala Jangi fortress near Mazar-i-Sharif.

Since then, two new facts have come to light: the rebellion was sparked by CIA officers shooting a number of Taliban prisoners. And somehow 86 of the prisoners were able to survive three days of bombardment, giving up only when they had run out of bullets and the basement where they were was flooded with water.

One of the survivors said the prisoners were angered by the fact that they were transported to the fort. He said they had surrendered at Kunduz because the Northern Alliance said that if they gave up their weapons they would be allowed to go free and go to Kandahar.

Writing in the December 10 issue of *Time* magazine, Alex Perry stated that the prisoners—many with their arms tied behind their backs—were interrogated by CIA operative Michael Spann and another agent identified only as "Dave." "Why are you here?" asked Spann of one. "To kill you," said the prisoner, and rushed the CIA man. The agents then opened fire, starting the rebellion. The U.S. agents shot with their pistols and then with an AK-47 assault rifle, killing a number of prisoners before Spann was killed. In their majority still unarmed, the Taliban fighters overcame their Northern Alliance guards, freed their comrades, and took rifles and other weapons from an armory.

The prisoners were able to occupy much of the large fort. U.S. special operations forces and British SAS soldiers soon arrived and began calling in U.S. air strikes and giving instructions to Northern Alliance commanders. Tank rounds, mortar shells, and missiles were fired at the prisoners. An AC-130 gunship, arriving at midnight on the second day, sprayed the Taliban-held southern end of the fort with "a golden stream" of bullets, wrote Perry.

By the afternoon of November 27 surviving prisoners had been forced to take refuge in basements. The U.S. troops ordered Northern Alliance forces to pour oil into the basement of the building and set fire to it. The prisoners held out for another four days, firing at Northern Alliance soldiers who were dragging away, and looting, the many bodies. —P.O.

in Central Asia. "It could well be that marines could be positioned in any place inside the country, or Army forces could be positioned at another forward operating base at some point," said Franks on November 28.

Soldiers from the Army's 101st Airborne Division were assigned to Pakistan in the last week of November to provide security at three bases in use by U.S. troops, replacing the marines sent to Kandahar.

### Deployments in Central Asia

Increasing numbers of troops, including around 40 each from Italy and France, have been flown into Tajikistan. General Franks told the press that the United States, France, and other imperialist countries plan to send attack planes to Central Asia, including 18 fighter jets along with six French Mirages to Kyrgyzstan. A Pentagon official added that "the number certainly could grow." U.S. officers say that most planes will be based in Kyrgyzstan because of its superior airfields.

Neighboring Uzbekistan is also being used as a staging post for intervention by U.S. and other forces, including the 40 French marines now in northern Afghanistan at the Mazar-i-Sharif airport.

Like the imperialist powers, the Russian government has increased its military and diplomatic presence in Afghanistan, moving to reestablish its former Kabul embassy and to construct a hospital in the city. Moscow has functioned as a close ally of Washington, providing arms and equipment to the Northern Alliance and intelligence to the Pentagon, and clearing the way for Washington's use of bases in Uzbekistan and other former Soviet Asian republics.

The U.S. rulers hope to gain not just militarily but economically from their deals with the government of the Russian workers state. They are encouraging the Moscow-backed efforts of Russian oil companies to increase their production for the U.S. market. In addition to the rich oil fields in Central Asia, Washington is eyeing Afghanistan as a possible route for oil and gas export pipelines.

### U.S. protectorate takes shape

After nine days of negotiations in Bonn, Germany, delegates from four Afghan political factions adopted proposals December 5 for an interim government. In the words of the *New York Times*, they were "prodded" into accepting an agreement promoted by Washington and other imperialist powers through the United Nations. Representatives from the Northern Alliance and the former king predominated among the Afghans present.

Hamid Karzai, whose troops are cooperating with U.S. forces in the assault on Kandahar, will be the leader of the new government, in which Northern Alliance leaders will have a majority. Karzai is a relative of ex-king Zahir Shah, 87, who has himself been invited to serve as a possible head of state in a transitional government to follow the interim administration. According to the agreement, this transitional-interim period will last up to two and a half years before elections are held.

The agreement reinstates the 1964 constitution of the Afghan monarchy. The *New York Times* referred to this period of kingly rule as a "lost idyll." In fact, a popular rebellion forced Zahir Shah from his throne in 1973, ushering in a five-year period of revolutionary ferment.

In an annex to the document, delegates ceded, after initial objections, all sovereignty over the country by accepting the intervention of a UN military force. The document demands the Afghan forces "withdraw all armed military units from Kabul and other urban centers or other areas in which [such a] force is deployed." The UN Security Council is scheduled to authorize an "international security" force as early as December 22.

### U.S. bombing causes civilian casualties

As U.S. forces establish a military siege of Kandahar, and imperialist aircraft pound the city's defenders, bombing raids on Taliban-controlled areas in the east of the country have left a growing number of civilian dead and wounded.

U.S. planes struck the Afghan villages of Gudara, Akal Khan, and Balut on December 1. Among the many casualties, say witnesses, were at least 50 dead in Gudara, a town of 4,000 people. Residents say the toll



Members of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit on their way to take up their positions outside a base in southern Afghanistan.

was much higher. One person, Muhammad Tahir, told reporters that the bombers had come on three previous occasions, destroying sheltering trees and a waterfall that provides water. "Give my message to the Pentagon," he said. "This is our village. This is our only place for living."

The villages lie within a few miles of Tora Bora, 35 miles southwest of Jalalabad in the White Mountains, which has been targeted by U.S. commanders for heavy bombardment. They claim that Osama bin Laden has taken refuge in its reinforced complex of caves and tunnels.

Pentagon officials have insisted that they have hit only military targets. But their claims were undercut December 5, when three American servicemen were killed and about 20 wounded, along with an uncounted number of Afghan opposition fighters, when a B-52 bomber dropped a "precision-guided 2,000-pound" bomb on them, according to the *Times*.

### Testing new weapons

As in previous wars, Washington is testing new weapons in its assault on Afghanistan. The most recent are several new bombs designed to destroy underground shelters and kill everyone within them. B-52 bombers have already launched several 3,000-pound AGM-142 missiles, designed to penetrate rock and explode upon meeting the hardened structures of man-made tunnels. The weapon is jointly produced with Israel.

Military planners had other targets than Afghanistan in mind when they conceived these cave-busting weapons. "Long before we learned about bin Laden's caves, there were north Korea's caves," said Clark Murdock, the former deputy director of long-range planning for the Air Force. The Pentagon alleges that both north Korea and Iraq have stored "weapons of mass destruction" underground.

## Pathfinder titles spark discussion at Guadalajara, Mexico, book fair

BY FRANCISCO PICADO

GUADALAJARA, Mexico—"This is wonderful," said Francisco Pérez Romo, a 25-year-old Spanish literature teacher at a local high school, as he looked around this year's Pathfinder booth at the Guadalajara Book Fair. Pérez was one of the more than 300,000 visitors to the fair in this city, the most populous in the state of Jalisco.

Pérez's reaction to the display was not uncommon among many participants in the internationally renowned book fair who got a chance to see Pathfinder titles for the first time. "You tell me these books are from the United States, but you all speak Spanish," he said with a look of disbelief. Staffers at the booth explained the history of the publishing house and how widely the Spanish language is used among working people in the United States.

Pérez was handed four titles in the course of the explanation: *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*; *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*; *Capitalism's World Disorder*; and *Pathfinder Was Born with the October Revolution*. Pérez chose the latter two. "If I knew I was going to run into you, I would have saved my money," he said. Pérez came back later with a number of his students, who bought the *Communist Manifesto* and the pamphlet, *The Working Class and The Transformation of Learning*.

"I got this one last year," said Ernesto González Urritia, a first-year student from

Discussion and debate about whether to target Iraq or some other nation for military action are continuing to heat up among politicians and media commentators in the United States. "There may be a need to use military troops elsewhere.... We are keeping our options on the table," said President George Bush December 4. The issue has become a focal point of discontent with Washington among the rulers of the major European powers.

The *Financial Times* reported "growing doubts over a possible second phase of the military campaign as well as disappointment over the lack of consultation beyond military issues.... Berlin, Paris, and London have warned the U.S. administration that the international coalition could crumble if the Pentagon started focusing on Iraq." European Union officials complain of a "one-way flow of intelligence information," noted the paper.

These disputes started to surface after the U.S. Central Command put on hold any sizable Afghan deployments of the troops of other imperialist powers following the November 14 seizure of Kabul by the Northern Alliance.

Washington has made it clear that the UN occupation force prescribed by the December 5 Bonn agreement will be subordinate to the U.S.-led war. "The Pentagon remains concerned that a second, independent military command in Afghanistan will create complications and competition over the use of facilities like the Bagram air base [near Kabul] and may even get in the way of the war," reported the *New York Times*, citing unnamed UN officials. The U.S. commanders would "feel much more at ease if the British were running the show," said a senior official. London's troops, who have played an active part in the war on the ground and in the air, will head up the UN force.

the University of Monterey, as he showed a copy of the Spanish edition of *Lenin's Final Fight* to a couple of friends. Like González, a number of young people and workers who visited the booth this year had visited the Pathfinder booth in previous years.

Visitors asked countless times, "Is there a place to get these books in Mexico?" Many were pleased to learn about the coming inauguration of pathfinderpress.com, the publishing house's web site, planned to be up and running after the first of the year.

This year Pathfinder sold a total of 447 titles in Spanish, English, and French. Among the best sellers were *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, the final copy of which was sold on the second-to-last day. Fifty-three copies of the Spanish edition of *Che Guevara Talks to Young People* were sold, along with 30 copies of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, and 18 copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder* in Spanish. Also sold out two days before the conference ended was Thomas Sankara's *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*. A total of 67 English-language titles were sold, including several copies of *Marxism and Terrorism* and *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It*, along with *My Life* and the *History of the Russian Revolution*, all by Leon Trotsky; *Malcolm X Speaks*; and Nelson Mandela's *The Struggle is My Life*.



# Tensions rise between Turkish rulers and EU

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Tensions are mounting between the government of Turkey and the European Union (EU) in regard to moves to admit the Greek-controlled part of Cyprus to EU membership and over the impact on Ankara's regional interests of a planned EU rapid reaction military force.

To bolster its military capabilities, the European Union is seeking to put in place by January 2003 a 60,000-strong military force for use in protecting imperialist interests in Europe and abroad. As one of the 19 members of the U.S.-dominated NATO military alliance, however, Turkey has the right to veto the use of NATO military bases, aircraft, and other "assets," giving it the ability to effectively block deployment of the EU military force.

Ankara has been rebuffed in its attempts to join the EU. The moves by the imperialist powers to admit at least 10 countries in Eastern and Central Europe to membership by 2004, at the same time as Turkey's application is postponed to the indefinite future, has angered the country's capitalist rulers.

In mid-November officials from the British and U.S. governments spearheaded a round of negotiations designed to pressure Ankara to drop its threat of a veto over the use of NATO assets. According to the *Financial Times*, the Turkish government demanded "the right to participate in any operation by the new force which did not use NATO assets but which took place in its geographical vicinity." EU officials refused to accede to this demand, claiming that they were prevented from doing so by treaty obligations stipulating that the involvement of non-EU NATO members in EU military operations will be by invitation only.

The Turkish government announced December 1 that it had reached agreement over this dispute. However, a statement issued by the office of Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit December 2 offered no further details or comment.

On his way to a meeting of NATO foreign and defense ministers, U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell is making a stop in Ankara on December 4 to discuss this dispute and U.S. military ties with Ankara.

Turkey has the largest standing army of the European NATO powers and is a key military ally of Washington in the region. It has made its bases available to U.S. warplanes that have continued to bomb sites in Iraq to enforce a U.S.-imposed no-fly zone over large parts of Iraqi territory.

Ankara has given full backing to Washington's war against Afghanistan. It is the only majority Muslim country that has pledged to send soldiers into combat there and to lead a future UN-sanctioned occu-

pation force in the country. It has already dispatched a 90-member special forces unit to Afghanistan.

Home to 66.5 million people, Turkey is in the midst of a mounting economic crisis. The country is saddled with a \$109 billion foreign debt—one-quarter of its annual gross domestic product. Workers and farmers in the country face rising inflation and mounting joblessness. The value of the Turkish lira has fallen sharply since September 11, on top of a 40 percent drop in value earlier this year.

## Conflicts within European Union

Other conflicts are brewing within the EU over the rapid reaction force and the nature of the union itself. The Italian government is divided over whether to pull out of developing the A400M transport carrier, slated to be an essential component of the force's equipment.

At a recent Anglo-French summit, French president Jacques Chirac emphasized that his government agrees more with Britain than Germany over the role and direction of the EU. Berlin is in the forefront of projecting the creation of a federal Europe, with Germany at the helm. The rulers in France, Britain, and Spain, on the other hand, hoping to dilute the power of German imperialism in Europe, seek a federation of national states.

In talks with British prime minister Anthony Blair, Chirac insisted that "the purpose of Europe was to enhance the authority of its member states," reported a December 1 *Financial Times* article. "Building an EU role in foreign and defence policy was not aimed at weakening national governments. Quite the contrary, nations such as France and Britain needed to maintain their power and influence in a world that would increasingly see the emergence of other big powers—China most obviously—alongside the U.S."

The EU has also won the tentative agreement of the Polish government that it will abide by conditions placed on its being considered for EU membership. The governments of Germany and Austria, seeking to stem the flow of workers across Europe from the new member countries, have demanded strict immigration controls for up to seven years. Applicant countries are also required to seal off their eastern borders, putting in place extensive surveillance and police checkpoints. Poland shares borders with Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine.

After pressing for a shorter time limit on the right of people in the country to travel to other EU states, the Polish government basically agreed with the German and Austrian demands. Warsaw had also sought to impose an 18-year moratorium on the sale of farmland to foreigners, opposing EU demands for a seven-year transition. Polish officials have

## 100,000 defend education rights in Spain



Some 100,000 students and university staff and faculty members march in Madrid on December 1 to protest a bill to overhaul university education. The plan includes increased funding for private colleges and the placement of businessmen on university councils. "Instead of creating a high-quality public university, they are giving support to the private universities," said José Luis Domínguez, a student and retired shopkeeper. March sponsors included the opposition Socialist Party, the two main labor federations, and the national Union of Students. Plans for further actions reaching out to high school students are under way.

now said they accept a 12-year freeze.

The European Union is also on a collision course with Ankara over plans to take Cyprus into membership by 2004. The Greek Cypriot government, which rules two-thirds of this Mediterranean island nation of 750,000 people, has been granted the status of full candidate for membership since 1997. Turkish prime minister Bülent Ecevit has stated that if this step is taken then the Turkish government would move ahead and annex the portion of the island occupied by Turkish troops.

Cyprus's 1960 achievement of independence from the United Kingdom included constitutional guarantees to the Turkish minority. In 1974 an attempt by the government of Greece to seize control of the island was met by Turkish military intervention. Ankara now controls one-third of the island. Nine years later the Turkish-held area declared itself the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). The republic is recognized only by Turkey, however.

The European Union's enlargement com-

missioner, Günter Verheugen, has made clear that Cyprus's admittance to the EU will "not be held hostage to diplomatic caution or political intransigence by Turkey," stated a November 15 *Financial Times* article.

"What will happen if Turkey annexes the TRNC? Europe will say that Turkey is annexing EU territory," stated Tuncay Özilhan, chairman of Tusiad, the main Turkish business federation. "Then what will be the implications for foreign capital and the markets?"

"At risk for Turkey is its own candidacy to join the EU," noted the *Times*, "since the admission of a divided island would probably lead to fresh quarrels between Ankara and the EU as well as to the creation of one more EU state opposed to Turkish membership."

The London-based big-business daily reported that Turkish officials "have assumed that Turkey's enhanced strategic importance after September 11" would lead Washington to oppose EU moves to admit Cyprus. "We have made it very clear to the Turks that we could not, and would not, get the Europeans to stop this," insisted a U.S. official.

For the first time since the collapse of UN-sponsored talks last year, the 77-year-old Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, is planning to meet December 4 with 83-year-old Greek Cypriot president Glafcos Clerides, under the sponsorship of UN special envoy Alvaro de Soto, to discuss this impasse.

Some in the U.S. big-business media have urged Washington to forge a much closer military and political alliance with Turkey. "As a leading secular Islamic state, Turkey can use its influence—and its sizeable army—to help America defeat Islamic terrorism in Central Asia and beyond," argued an op-ed column in the *Wall Street Journal* by historian Melik Kaylan.

The writer cited the "battle-readiness of Turkish troops" who have a lot of experience under their belts attempting to suppress Kurdish fighters for independence "in terrain and conditions not unlike Afghanistan."

"Now is the time for Turkey as a Western proxy to replace Russia's influence in the area," wrote Kaylan. Ankara, he said, is "one of Islam's few functioning democracies."

For the past year Turkish authorities have conducted a brutal campaign in an effort to break up a yearlong hunger strike protesting the introduction of cell-based jails to replace the large prison dormitory wards where political prisoners are able to function together.

In early November cops used armored cars, tear gas, and batons to break into homes in Istanbul where the hunger strikers are living. Last December authorities stormed jails across the country in an attempt to end the strikes. Two soldiers and 30 prisoners died. The death toll from the hunger strikes has reached 42.

## Books for working people and youth fighting imperialism and its war

### The Guevara Talks to Young People

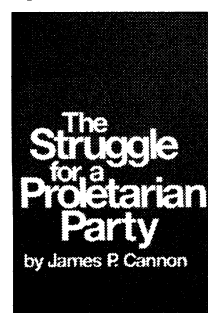
Ernesto Che Guevara, drawing on his experience as a leader of the Cuban Revolution, talks as an equal with youth of Cuba and the world. In English and in Spanish. **\$12** (regular \$14.95)

### Malcolm X Talks to Young People

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A founder of the communist movement in the U.S. and leader of the Communist International during Lenin's time defends the proletarian program and party building norms of Bolshevism on the eve of World War II. **\$21.95**



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*Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*  
by Jack Barnes

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#### Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

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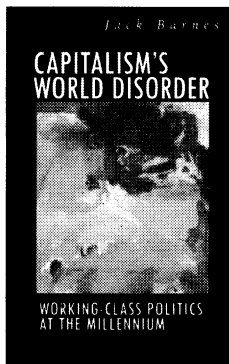
See directory on page 12

### The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

A handbook for the new generation coming into the factories, mines, and mills as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality of capitalism today. In French, English, and Spanish. **\$16** (Regular \$19.95)

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From Pathfinder

# Socialist worker wins support in Los Angeles

Continued from front page

by the campus Antiwar Student Coalition the following day.

Fifty students attended the teach-in. In his talk Italie explained the events that led to his firing from Goodwill Industries on October 22. "After I spoke at a candidates' forum that was reported on the television news, I was questioned about my views by supervisors while I was trying to work," said Italie. "On October 22 a company manager informed me, 'I have been assigned to tell you that because of your views of the U.S. government, you are a disruptive force and cannot work here any longer. Get your belongings and go.'"

"U.S. foreign policy is an extension of what they do at home," Italie said to students at the teach-in. He pointed to the Bush administration's moves to establish military tribunals for people who are not citizens, the government's detention of more than 1,200 immigrants, and the questioning of 5,000 men of Middle Eastern descent across the country. "My firing is part of this assault on workers' rights across the country," said Italie. "In firing me, Goodwill chief executive officer Dennis Pastrana aims to intimidate me and other workers."

Italie explained the same views he voiced in his campaign for mayor of Miami in the November 2001 elections. "The U.S. government for decades has exploited, insulted, and carried out murderous violence against the peoples of Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. By its actions U.S. imperialism is turning this country into a death trap for working people who live here. A revolution by workers and farmers is needed in this country to take the power out of the hands of these war makers," Italie said. "These are the ideas I was fired for and I will continue to speak them. But whether or not you agree with those ideas, I ask your support for my right to not be fired for my ideas."



Militant/Nan Bailey

Michael Italie joins picket line against Forever 21 clothing company in Los Angeles. "I'm here to extend my solidarity and support your important struggle," he said.

Among those who signed a petition protesting Italie's firing at the meeting were students who identified themselves from the Turkish Students Association, La Raza Student Association, the Indian Students Association, the Black Student Union, and Iota Phi Theta fraternity.

The following day Italie spoke to 20 students at El Camino High School.

On December 1, he participated in a picket line of 45 garment workers and their supporters. The workers are employees of Forever 21, a popular retailer of young women's clothing. They have organized a

campaign of weekly pickets to demand the minimum wage, payment of back wages, overtime pay, and better working conditions in the six plants they worked in that produce clothes for the retailer. Italie addressed the picketers, saying, "I 'm here to extend my solidarity and support for your important struggle. The way you are standing up to fight for your rights is an important example for working people everywhere. I also want to invite your support for the fight to protest my firing from Goodwill Industries in Miami. It's a fight on behalf of all of our rights as well."

## Free speech meeting held in New York

BY BILL SCHMITT  
AND BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—Some 60 people packed a meeting room at the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) regional office in Manhattan December 4 hear Michael Italie speak about his fight against the political firing from a nonunion garment shop in Miami, and to begin building a New York chapter of the Committee to Defend Free Speech and the Bill of Rights.

The meeting was chaired by David Beal, an organizer with the Union of Union Representatives. Beal read a message to the meeting sent by Adam Hurter, a student at Wesleyan University, who was one of 18 people arrested on frame-up charges of inciting to violence for participating in an October 25 demonstration against Washington's war in Afghanistan in Hartford, Connecticut. The message extended solidarity to the fight to win Italie's job back and stated that "free speech is being trampled on in America."

Italie pointed to some of the struggles by working people he has been reaching out to as part of spreading the word and seeking to win support for the fight to win his job back. This included participating in rallies of garment workers in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The morning before the meeting here Italie joined a rally outside the Employment Relations Board attended by some 60 Catholic high school teachers who are on strike against the Archdiocese of New

York for better wages and improved pensions.

"I was fired not for anything having to do with my job performance," stated Italie, "but for expressing my point of view in opposition to the U.S. war in Afghanistan, in defense of the Cuban Revolution, and for union rights. Companies don't want you to speak up about immigrant rights, police brutality, and especially unions."

According to statistics recently released, noted Italie, 32 percent of those living in Miami have incomes below the government's official poverty level. "Of those who work at Goodwill, many more than 30 percent are in this category," he said. Many workers make between \$5 and \$6 an hour, with no benefits. "This company, which pitches itself as an advocate of the disabled, hires handicapped people and pays them even less than the \$5.15 an hour federal minimum wage," Italie noted.

"This fight is not just around being fired from my job, but is aimed at making this company and others like them pay the maximum political price for taking such actions," stated Italie. "We want them to think twice, and three times, and not fire people for their political ideas."

"Without the First Amendment all those other rights contained in the Bill of Rights are without foundation," said Italie. Under federal law a company cannot fire you for being Black or a woman, but if this attack on First Amendment rights holds up the

bosses could attempt to dismiss you if they didn't like what you had to say about Black rights or women's rights, he noted.

"Running for office should not make you a target for your employers," stated Italie. "If you don't have the right to speak out and advocate your ideas, then all your other rights go down the tube. And all working people need these rights to fight for unions and for dignity on the job."

Italie pointed out that he is meeting up with others who have recently been victimized for expressing their political views. He pointed to the case of Mohammad Rahat, a 22-year-old Iranian research technician who was fired from his job at the University of Miami September 25 for comments he had made.

A lively discussion period ensued in which questions were asked about the response of his former co-workers to the firing and what other steps can be taken by supporters wanting to join this fight for freedom of speech.

Italie pointed to the excellent response received by defense committee supporters at a recent book fair in Miami, where 150 people signed petitions demanding that Goodwill reinstate him to his job and that the mayor and city commissioners use the powers of their office to enforce First Amendment rights and make sure this step is taken. A number of high school students at the fair expressed real interest in this fight, one of them had already put the facts about Italie's case onto a web site.

A young Dominican worker employed at a racetrack in Queens, who attended the New York meeting, expressed surprise upon hearing about this case. "Outside the United States many people think that this country is the biggest democracy in the world," he said, "but what you hear outside the United States is very different than what you experience living here." He conveyed interest in joining the efforts of the newly formed New York Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights.

A collection netted \$729 in contributions from audience participants. "This is a very good showing on short notice," stated Beal in closing the program. "It's something we can now build on."

More than 40 people heard Italie speak at the Peace Center in Los Angeles later that day. Italie showed a video of some of the news coverage in Miami of his fight for free speech. He reported that he had been informed two days earlier by unemployment officials in Florida that five weeks after his firing they have just assigned someone to investigate his request for unemployment benefits. He described working conditions at the nonunion Goodwill Industries plant from where he was fired and the stakes involved in his campaign.

"One of my supporters asked me if I thought Goodwill Industries CEO Dennis Pastrana made a mistake or a stupid move in firing me," stated Italie. "My answer is no. This is a thought-out move on his part. He's trying to set a precedent and stake a claim that he has a right to fire workers like me for their ideas," Italie said. "This is why it is so important to fight this. I've come to Los Angeles to ask for your support in this campaign. I ask your help in making this boss pay the highest political price for what he's done. An effective fight will make him and every other employer think twice before doing this again."

Other speakers at the event included Esperanza Hernandez, a garment worker at Forever 21 who met Italie earlier that day at a picket line demanding that the company pay its workers. Hernandez explained the issues involved in that struggle and asked those at the meeting for their support.

Also speaking were Antonio Arriaga, coordinator of the Puerto Rican Alliance; Emily Paul, from the California State University at Long Beach Campus Progressives and Antiwar Student Coalition; David Roman, from the California State University at Los Angeles Cuba Study Group; and Joseph Harvey of NORAID. All four have endorsed the Italie fight.

"Puerto Ricans can sympathize with Michael's case," said Arriaga. "We have been suffering a double standard from the U.S. government for more than 100 years."

"I'm not content living in a country that says one thing and does another," said Emily Paul. She described the efforts of students at California State University at Long Beach to fight for democratic rights. She and others are circulating a petition demanding that the university administration not cooperate with the "Patriot Act" signed by president George Bush on October 26. The act allows the federal government to get and review students' records from university administrations without the student's knowledge or consent. "It's important to support Mike and others like him," she said.

"I thank Mike for taking up this challenge," said David Roman. "He's defending human values, American values. The American revolution is ongoing. Our threat is not foreign terrorists. It is those wearing blue flannel suits and sitting in high places. These freedoms Mike is speaking about are worth fighting for."

Irish activist Joseph Harvey said, "Mike Italie is deserving of our support. I think it's interesting the three sore points that the company fired him for—Afghanistan, Cuba, union rights." Harvey explained why in his opinion the views expressed by Italie on these issues were just.

"I think your fight is our fight," Lawrence Rey of the Puerto Rican Alliance told Italie during the discussion period that followed the presentations. He volunteered to help work to win support for Italie in Los Angeles. Out of the meeting, he and a several others set the date for a meeting to establish a Committee to Defend Free Speech in Los Angeles. Meeting participants raised \$1,000 for the defense effort.

From Pathfinder

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For more information, petitions, endorser cards, or to schedule speaking engagements for Michael Italie, contact:

### Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights

P.O. Box 510127  
Miami, FL 33151  
tel: 305-724-5965  
defendfreespeech@yahoo.com



# Meeting in Iceland marks steps toward a communist league

BY HILDUR MAGNÚSDÓTTIR  
AND ÓLÓF ANDRA PROPPÉ

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland—Thirty people attended a public meeting here to discuss a working-class campaign against imperialism and its war against working people, and to celebrate the formation of an organizing committee that plans to found a Communist League in Iceland next year.

Among those attending the event, titled, "Imperialist War in Afghanistan, Resistance among Working People in Iceland, and Building the Communist Movement," were young people who had recently met the Young Socialists, workers from several key industries in the country, and other supporters of the *Militant* and Pathfinder Press.

"There are very good reasons why we want to found a communist league," said Ögmundur Jónsson, who works at a fishnet factory here. "The imperialists are trying as hard as they can to justify the bloody assault on Afghanistan—an assault they have promised to bring to other countries as well. At the same time they are deepening their attacks on the rights and living standards of working people in this country."

Pointing to the potential of the working class to resist, organize, and mount revolutionary struggles, Jónsson, said that around the world "there are increasing skirmishes by broad layers of the population" who are standing up to fight against the increasingly harsh reality of life under capitalism.

Jónsson is a member of the Young Socialists who has helped lead the formation of the Communist League Organizing Committee here. Over the past nine months he and other members of the Young Socialists in Iceland—seeing the wars, economic depression, and assaults on workers' rights that imperialism has in store for humanity—took a number of initiatives in international politics and in Iceland that posed the need to form a proletarian party.

These included building a delegation to the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students in Algeria, an event that demonstrated the possibilities for rebuilding a world communist movement as part of anti-imperialist struggles around the world; participating in international projects to distribute Pathfinder books, such as at the Havana book fair earlier in the year; and participating in communist conferences in Sweden and the United States.

## Strikes and solidarity

During the same time workers in Iceland have voted down a number of contracts with the bosses. At an aluminum factory near here, union members rejected a contract because the bosses demanded inclusion of a clause that would increase individual pay incentives. In another city, workers at communal day-care centers went on strike, turning down a contract negotiated by the officials of their union three times. They continue to be supported by the overwhelming majority of the parents.

Last spring, workers on trawlers and other fishing vessels waged a hard-fought two-month strike. They had been without a contract for most of the last decade. In addition, nurses' aides walked off the job re-

cently, another example of this resistance. An important aspect of these struggles is the extensive support they have received from other working people.

Jónsson said meeting these workers, talking politics with them, and introducing them to the *Militant*, helped members of the Young Socialists see that the "greatest obstacle to the capitalists' hopes of increasing exploitation of working people and to establish puppet regimes in oppressed countries such as Afghanistan is the resistance of the working class around the world."

As YS members began to relate to working-class struggles in Iceland, several decided to get jobs in basic industry as part of orienting to the working class and building a communist current within the trade unions here.

Out of these developments, several generations of communist workers and young socialists met for two days prior to the public event. They decided to join their forces and, over the next several months, work together and discuss programmatic documents in order to lay the basis for the formation of a communist league.

## Acceleration of class struggle

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International* magazine and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, was the keynote speaker at the public meeting.

"When the imperialists go to war the class struggle in no way diminishes," she said. "Instead, it accelerates. The pace of politics internationally picks up, along the lines that have been prepared long before the war began." Washington's growing tendency to use military force abroad to try to salvage the decline of world capitalism, and the U.S. rulers' assault on workers' rights, the social wage, and the unions are two of the long-term trends that have speeded up since the launching of the imperialist war drive September 11. Establishing a military foothold in the oil-rich region of Central Asia, made up of republics of the former Soviet Union, has been a goal of U.S. imperialism for some time, she said.

Waters described U.S. president George Bush's speech to the United Nations General Assembly November 10, in which he ticked off "obligations" to Washington that are "binding on every nation with a place in this chamber." Those who don't heed, he said, "will know the consequences."

The revolutionary government of Cuba, which in a statement issued October 8 called the war on Afghanistan a "war of the former colonizers versus the formerly colonized," irked Washington by not going along with its charade at the United Nations, Waters noted. Washington's ambassador to the UN, John Negroponte, singled out Cuba, saying its representative made "a pretty outlandish statement, and totally unwarranted under the circumstances."

In the speech, Cuban foreign minister Felipe Pérez Roque denounced the United States for waging an "ineffective, unjustifiable bombing campaign" that has "targeted children, the civilian population, and International Red Cross hospitals and facilities" in Afghanistan. Negroponte said representa-



Militant/Hallbjorn Gudmundsson

Panel of speakers at public meeting to discuss a working-class campaign against imperialism and its war against working people. The banner in the back reads: "Workers and oppressed people unite! Join the communist movement!"

tives of Iraq "made a pretty negative statement of their own, but even theirs was not as strident and vitriolic as the Cuban statement."

Waters took on an argument by one columnist in a big-business paper who said the world situation could be defined as a "post-imperialist chaos" marked by "defensive imperialism." Far from inexplicable chaos, she said, the wars, synchronized economic downturn in the major imperialist countries, and assaults on workers' rights, are examples of how capitalism works.

It is imperialism, not terrorism, that is the question of the 21st century, Waters said. And it is the working class that can lead to victory not only workers and farmers, but big sections of the middle class who will respond to the leadership given by working people in the struggle for a new society.

Waters concluded by explaining a passage in a forthcoming Pathfinder book by Victor Dreke, a combatant in the Rebel Army that led workers and peasants in a revolution to topple the Batista dictatorship in Cuba in 1959, and who remains an active leader of the Cuban Revolution today. Dreke's father, who was not a supporter of the Batista dictatorship but wanted his son to stay out of trouble, encouraged him not to get involved in anything, especially not any political organization, because "the rich folks will stay on top." Dreke explained this was a common view, "until the victory of the revolution. Fortunately, I didn't listen. I'm a revolutionary because I didn't listen to my dad."

Given the world developments and the direction imperialism seeks to take humanity, "Now is the time to really get involved" in building a revolutionary proletarian party, Waters said.

## Iceland's rulers back Washington

"Iceland is not a small and peaceful country far away from everything," panelist Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdóttir, a member of the Communist League Organizing Committee, told the meeting. "We can quote Colin Powell, the U.S. secretary of state, to verify that. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the defense agreement between the United States and Iceland last spring, he said in a message that Iceland was 'amongst the most resolute supporters of the air raid on Kosovo, who helped bestir others to keep their intentions.'"

"The Icelandic rulers have independent interests around the world," she said, "and they aggressively push for 'their share' of the profits." Gunnlaugsdóttir said Icelandic capitalists who own fishing vessels and fishing rights pay extremely low wages to crews made up of workers from both Iceland and other countries.

"It was not in September or even this year, that we came to the conclusion that capitalism was rotten," said Gunnlaugsdóttir. "It is the struggles of working people in Iceland and the determination of workers to defend their unions that helps make possible the building of a Communist League today."

Gunnlaugsdóttir reported at the public meeting that part of the work to launch the Communist League will be to produce the first issue of *New International* in Icelandic. The organizing committee is reviewing key articles and documents in *New International*, among others, to provide the political foundation of the program of the new party. The magazine, which carries articles on Marxist politics and theory, "contains some fundamental documents that we intend to vote on,

and we invite all those who are interested to study them with us," she said.

Other speakers on the panel were Jonathan Silberman, a leader of the Communist League in the United Kingdom; Jacob Perasso, a member of the Young Socialist National Executive Committee in the United States; and Kristoffer Schultz, a leader of the Young Socialists in Sweden.

In his presentation Schultz said that the Swedish ruling class was also attacking workers' rights under the pretext of fighting terrorism. "The Swedish ruling class wants to be in on the imperialist war. It tries to portray its intervention as 'sweet capitalism,' by sending personnel to build a hospital in Afghanistan," he said.

Perasso, pointing to roundups and jailing of working people by the United States government, moves to institute military tribunals, and testing the waters for use of sedition laws, explained that the U.S. rulers are running into some resistance to the curtailing of workers' rights.

## Opportunities to recruit to movement

The imperialist war, the resistance to the rulers' drive against workers and farmers at home, and the growing economic crisis are giving the Young Socialists "the biggest opportunity for recruiting to our movement in several years," Perasso said. Membership in the YS is growing in a number of countries, a product of the work communists are doing, including putting up book tables on a weekly basis in workers' districts and on college campuses, and becoming a part of workers' struggles.

In the discussion, a young man said that in talking with co-workers about the war, "they say it will benefit the Afghans in the long run, even though I argue how brutal it is. How would you explain that it is not so?"

"It is important to point to the real history of imperialism and the fact that the imperialists have never done anything to benefit the people in Afghanistan," Mary-Alice Waters said in response. "Everything they ever do is to the benefit of their own interests. In 1979, the U.S. government started sending money and war supplies to various groups in Afghanistan in order to overthrow the regime that was supported by the Soviet Union. Afterwards, Washington left a war-torn Afghanistan in devastated condition. In order to answer questions such as your co-workers asked, we must address the question of imperialism, not just this particular war."

Jonathan Silberman noted that social progress for working people in Afghanistan "will come out of the struggles of farmers and workers there against imperialism and capitalist exploitation, or it will not happen. We don't look at people in Afghanistan as the 'poorest people in the world,' but as fighters, which they have proven themselves to be for many decades."

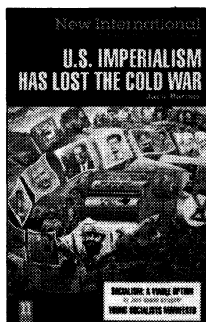
Over the weekend, socialist workers and members of the Young Socialists put up book tables at high schools and in front of a supermarket in the main shopping street in Reykjavik. A high school student purchased a subscription to the *Militant* and many more students stopped for discussions about the imperialist war on Afghanistan and about workers' struggles all over the world. Some participants in the weekend meetings also participated in a public meeting hosted by the Campaign Against Military Bases on the situation in the Middle East.

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**PATHFINDER**  
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# North Korea rejects Washington's demands

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

At a November 26 press conference, U.S. president George Bush demanded that the government of north Korea allow U.S. inspectors into the country, once again keeping up Washington's military and diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang.

"I made it very clear to north Korea that in order for us to have relations with them, that we want to know, are they developing weapons of mass destruction?" Bush said. "And they ought to stop proliferating," he added, referring to north Korea's export sales of missiles.

Bush's demand followed a similar threat against the government of Iraq, demanding that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein "let inspectors back into his country, to show us he is not developing weapons of mass destruction." A reporter asked: "What will be the consequences?" Bush answered: "He'll find out." Governments that develop "weapons of mass destruction that will be used to terrorize nations," he said, will be "held accountable."

Another reporter inquired: "I'm just asking if you're expanding your definition to countries who don't just harbor terrorists, but also develop such weapons?" Bush replied: "Have I expanded the definition? I've always had that definition, as far as I'm concerned."

The previous week, U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control John Bolton had accused Pyongyang of developing biological weapons. The government of south Korea chimed in, claiming that its neighbor possesses up to 5,000 tons of anthrax, smallpox, and other such substances. Neither produced any evidence for the accusations.

Responding to the White House statements, a north Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson described Bush's demands as "unreasonable." The November 29 statement added that "north Korea cannot sit idle" while Washington insists on "raising questions over our human rights record...and demanding an inspection of weapons of mass destruction."

Washington has stepped up its propaganda war in spite of Pyongyang's condemnation of the September 11 attacks, and its declarations of support for United Nations treaties that outlaw financial support for alleged "terrorist" organizations.

Commentators in the big-business media have noted Washington's stance. The November 29 *Wall Street Journal* listed the workers state, which has defended itself

against imperialist hostility for more than five decades, as a possible "next candidate" for Washington's "campaign against terrorism," along with the Philippines, Colombia, Somalia, Iraq, Libya, and Iran.

While Iraq is at the top of the list of likely targets for "Phase II of the war," wrote David Sanger in the November 25 *New York Times*, "there is a hint of talk about another secretive, totalitarian nation with a troublesome history of nuclear and germ warfare: North Korea." Describing the sum total of that "history," Sanger mentioned north Korea's sale of missile technology to Pakistan, and its operation of a nuclear reprocessing plant that the CIA asserts may have produced enough nuclear material to use in a few nuclear weapons.

The journalist described "one scenario" in which "the United States...gives countries long suspected of hiding their nuclear, chemical or biological weapons programs short deadlines to open up to intensive international inspections. If they refuse, as they have in the past, Washington will quickly raise the pressure, apply sanctions through the United Nations, and vaguely threaten that at some point diplomacy will give way to bombs."

## More formidable than Taliban

Should Pyongyang continue to resist Washington's demands, wrote Sanger, quoting a high-ranking administration official, "they might be urged to consult the Taliban" about the risks of stiff-arming Washington." However, the *Financial Times* quoted diplomats in Seoul, south Korea, who pointed out that north Korea, which has substantial, well-armed and trained armed forces, along with millions of pro-revolution workers and peasants, "would be a far more formidable opponent than the Taliban."

Talks between the two governments on the Korean peninsula began again in September after a six-month hiatus that followed a freeze on diplomatic initiatives by President Clinton and hostile statements by Bush. Pyongyang withdrew from the talks after Seoul put its military and police forces on alert following the attacks in Washington and New York. Later that month south Korean soldiers fired warning shots at north Korean counterparts who had allegedly entered a no-go area in the Demilitarized Zone.

On November 22 the south Korean military test-fired a short-range missile described by officials "as part of a program to

develop new missiles capable of hitting targets in most of North Korea," reported the *Agence-France Presse*. Four days later soldiers exchanged shots across the border. There were no casualties.

These probes notwithstanding, government officials in Seoul have expressed concern over Washington's belligerence toward the north. "United States pressure is disturbing. The situation is building toward a crisis," said Kim Jae Il, a spokesperson for the Millennium Democratic Party of President Kim Dae Jung. *JoongAng Ilbo*, a major daily newspaper that criticizes President Kim's

"Sunshine policy" of official support for talks with Pyongyang, said, "The United States should not drive North Korea into a corner with strong words or tactics."

The United States maintains the division of the two Koreas with 37,000 heavily armed troops stations in the south, backed by the nuclear-armed U.S. Pacific fleet. Ever since the 1950-53 Korean War, the people in north Korea, where capitalism has been overturned, have defended their revolutionary conquests, and continued to demand withdrawal of the U.S. forces and unification of the country.



Although we have an article on the teachers' strike in Monmouth County, New Jersey, on page 3, we thought readers would like to see this late-breaking photo of some of the 135 teachers as they left the courtroom of Judge Clarkson Fisher, Jr., heading to jail. With fists in the air the teachers remained defiant in face of the judge's attempts to break their strike and force the teachers back to work.

## 5,000 strike Pratt & Whitney

Continued from front page

medical insurance for retirees is outrageous. We gave back in previous contracts, including reopeners, but they always seem to be able to give bonuses to the higher-ups and cry poor when it comes to us."

More than 4,000 of the eligible 5,100 union members turned out for the strike vote and 70 percent cast their ballot to walk out. Many cited concerns over the company's contracting out of work and threats to move the plants elsewhere.

"The bottom line for us is job security," said Wayne McCarthy, president of Local

707 here. "The company says they want to move jobs out of Connecticut and we know they want to have people there work for less and nonunion."

The local president said the strikers have received support from Teamsters, postal workers, and several local restaurants and businesses. A tent near the lively picket line of 50 union members was supplied with food donated by strike supporters.

The company has responded by putting 2,000 managers and salaried employees to work covering union members' jobs, vowing to meet deadlines for customers.

## University students in New York rally against budget cutbacks

BY RÓGER CALERO

NEWYORK—Chanting, "No more budget cuts! Education is a must!" and "We'll feel like a million, when we get the \$20 billion!" close to 500 students, faculty members, and supporters rallied at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) December 5. The action protested cuts in the university budget announced by Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and demanded aid from the federal government promised after the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Speakers at the rally opposed Mayor Giuliani's budget cut, announced through an executive order to city agencies requiring that they don't spend 15 percent of this year's budget. The money would remain in the budget but cannot be used for any school activities.

"All two-year colleges are going to be cut and it is going to affect all the minorities that come here," said Hector Pichardo, president of the Dominican Club at BMCC. "This is the first time in two years that the staff and students have come together in a protest like this," he said. "We want this money now!"

"This war is very convenient for the government," said Monica, a 20-year-old freshman at BMCC. "They are attacking us here too!"

"We are here to call on the government to make good on the promise to deliver the \$20 billion in aid promised to rebuild the city," said Jane Young, a professor at BMCC, in her opening remarks at the rally. She was

referring to the \$9 billion the Bush administration has not delivered as part of a "reconstruction package" for the city. "They have money to clean up the mess, but they claim they don't have money to restore all services."

Bill Friedman, of the Professional Staff Congress chapter at BMCC, the union that represents faculty and professional staff at CUNY, said that in addition to the two towers missing, there were also 100,000 missing jobs that have been cut since the attack with no plan for workforce development. "The airlines get bailed out by the government and they turn around and lay off workers," he continued.

After the rally, the crowd marched around the campus, which is located nearby the World Trade Center site, receiving the support of trucks and cars passing by.

## The Communist Manifesto

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Explains why communism is derived not from preconceived principles but from facts and proletarian movements springing from the actual class struggle. \$3.95

## CUBA and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes

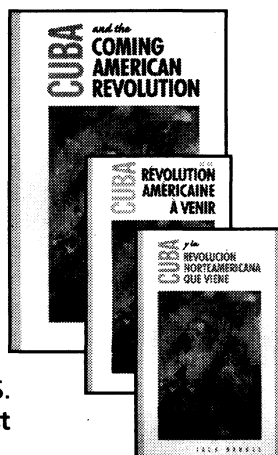
There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba

— 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." Preface by Mary-Alice Waters. In English, Spanish, and French.

"Reading Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is the most useful book to prepare for all of the questions we face in world and U.S. politics today." — Frank Forrester, recent Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.





# Justice Dept. widens assault on Constitution

Continued from front page

teams and National Guard troops will patrol inside and outside the stadium. Military experts are also considering equipping security forces with portable antiaircraft missile launchers. (No supporters of either team, the *Militant* has learned, will be given the antiaircraft weapons—a precaution against kickoff returns, long runs, or touchdown passes being blown up by partisan troops.)

Under the guise of fighting a "war on terrorism" the Bush administration is barging ahead with its assault on the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees "due process" and "protection from unreasonable search and seizure." The Fourth Amendment states that the "right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

The Patriot Act allows the police to sneak into someone's home or office and search the premises without telling the owner; gives cops the authority to wiretap phones, personal e-mail, and the Internet, supervised by special courts granting secret authorization; and allows agents to use "roving wiretaps" to monitor phones used by an individual.

On November 30 White House officials announced plans to revise guidelines imposed on the FBI in the 1970s in the aftermath of the Watergate crisis. These would open the door for reviving the FBI's widespread domestic spying operation called Cointelpro, which was used to disrupt the movement against the Vietnam war, the Black Panther Party and other civil rights organizations, the Socialist Workers Party, and other political groups.

Under current guidelines the FBI, an agency under the U.S. Justice Department, cannot send undercover agents to spy on groups that gather at mosques or churches

unless they have probable cause or evidence that indicates someone in the group has already committed a crime.

"We are conducting a comprehensive review of all guidelines, policies, and procedures," said Justice Department spokeswoman Susan Dryden.

A revision of FBI policies dovetails with the administration's measures to establish military tribunals to try noncitizens accused of terrorism, the interrogation of 5,000 men of Middle Eastern descent, and the detention of more than 1,200 people, "nearly all of whom are unconnected to the events of September 11," the *New York Times* reported.

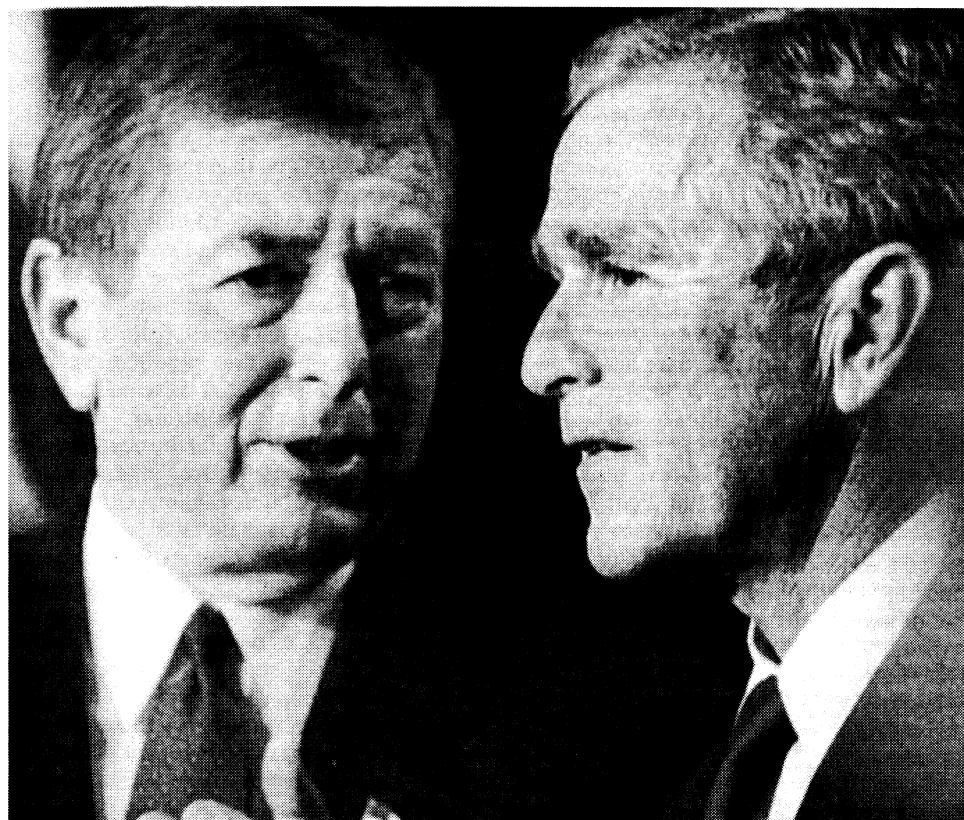
The *Times* noted that the detentions have provoked debates among some FBI officials who "have been openly skeptical about claims" that some of those held in detention were Al Qaeda members and that the "strategy of making widespread arrests" had prevented attacks.

"It's just not the case," said one unnamed official. "We have 10 or 12 people we think are Al Qaeda people, and that's it. And for some of them, it's based only on conjecture and suspicion."

## Immigrants offered bribes for snitching

In line with moves to expand FBI covert operations, Ashcroft dusted off another program to give noncitizens a special visa classification if they finger someone as being involved in terrorist activity. The initiative, dubbed by Ashcroft the "Responsible Cooperators Program," was part of a law put on the books during the Clinton administration. It expired in September, but under the co-sponsorship of liberal Democrat Edward Kennedy was signed into law by Bush on October 1.

In response to Ashcroft's announcement and the sweeping detentions and interrogations of noncitizens, Lebanon's ambassador Farid Abboud remarked, "It seems to us a big dragnet and fishing spree." After all the hoopla, the government quietly announced



U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft, left, and President George Bush are pushing a range of measures that target Fourth Amendment rights. Washington is also deploying 400 National Guard troops on the Canadian border.

it would grant the special status to only 50 people a year.

On December 3 Justice Department officials in Michigan announced the extension by one week of the deadline for young Middle Eastern men to respond to letters instructing them to set up appointments for interviews about the September 11 hijacking. Officials explained they had received no response to 365 of the 550 letters they had sent. This was not surprising, after the *Detroit Free Press* reported an Immigration and Naturalization Service memorandum

stating that interviewees could be held without bond if the investigators developed an interest in more questioning.

"There is such a deep mistrust here," said Mohammed Abdrabboh, an attorney who represents Arab immigrants in Michigan. "People think it's becoming a dragnet, and this memo just confirms that."

One Arab youth, Osama Awadallah, held in detention at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, has charged prison guards with physical abuse, including kicking his leg and yanking his hair to force him to face a U.S. flag. He was attending college in California when he was arrested as a material witness on September 21.

Prosecutors had probed using sedition laws against Awadallah, supposedly in connection with the government's investigation of the September 11 hijackings. Prosecutors in Manhattan announced in early November that a federal grand jury was investigating whether there was a "seditious conspiracy to levy against the United States" on the part of the student, who allegedly knew one of the suspected hijackers.

Last month Judge Shira Scheindlin ruled that the youth's testimony "has convinced me that the evidence against Awadallah is not particularly strong," and ordered him released on bond.

## Immigrants speak out against attack on rights

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

A small but growing number of immigrants who have been swept up in the U.S. government's dragnet are making their voices heard in protest against the assault on workers' rights.

Arab-American organizations say hundreds of people of Middle Eastern origin have contacted them with complaints of mistreatment at work because of their nationality or religion. Nearly 100 people have filed discrimination complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against their employers for harassment and unjust firings.

One of them, Ossama Elkoshairi, an Egyptian-born U.S. citizen, said he was called into the bosses' office at the Wal-Mart store in Fairfax, Virginia, where he worked. He was questioned for two hours by company officials and an FBI agent about his views on Afghanistan and the U.S. bombing. He was then fired and told he was not permitted on the premises of any Wal-Mart store.

Those who have been jailed have been mostly noncitizens of Arab descent, but some of those snatched up include naturalized citizens, a Palestinian born in the United States, and dozens of Israeli Jews. Some of the detainees have spent months in prison and there have been at least two deaths reported among those who have been arrested. According to a *New York Times* article, "a senior law enforcement official said...the government has yet to find any evidence indicating that any of them had knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks or acted as accomplices."

A coalition of Arab-American and civil rights organizations have filed a request based on the Freedom of Information Act demanding a list of those who are jailed, where, and why. The Justice Department has denied this request and a similar one made by members of the U.S. Congress.

One immigrant from Egypt, Osama Elfar, who worked as a mechanic for an airline in St. Louis, has been in jail for two months. He began a hunger strike at the Charleston, Missouri, prison November 23 to protest his incarceration. "When you're here, you don't know day from night," he said. "A lot of things that were on my mind I do not believe it anymore, like a fair trial and the freedom of speech."

Some of the detainees are U.S. citizens who have lived in the United States for decades. Two Palestinians, Fathi Mustafa and his son Nacer, were arrested September 15 in Houston after U.S. Customs agents questioned an extra layer of lamination on their passports. They were traveling to Mexico to buy goods for their store near Fort Myers, Florida.

"No one explained anything to me. I sat in jail without knowing what day it was or what hour it was," Fathi Mustafa told the *Fort Myers News-Press*. "I've lived here for 35 years and every time I told them the truth, they'd find something else to question me about."

The elder Mustafa, a 65-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen who has lived in the country for nearly 40 years, spent 10 days in jail and was forced to wear a leg monitor to track his movements after his release. His 24-year-old son, a U.S. citizen who was born in Puerto Rico, was kept in jail for more than two months be-

fore being freed.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has jailed some 70 young Israelis who came to the United States and found jobs. Charged with working without proper documentation, some have been detained since September 11. The INS has dubbed the Israeli detainees as "special" non-terrorist cases.

Yael Antebi, who is being deported, was detained because her tourist visa prohibited employment, an offense that rarely results in detention for those with valid immigration papers like her.

## Rulers to appoint top general for North American Command

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Senior U.S. military officials have reached agreement to formally establish a North American Command by appointing a four-star U.S. general as a regional commander-in-chief, the *Washington Post* reported November 21. The move has received little press coverage outside the *Post* article.

Washington maintains regional military commands covering every country on earth, except for North America. The Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 prohibits military personnel from searching, seizing, or arresting people in the United States. Recent exceptions to the act have eroded this prohibition by allowing military forces to suppress domestic unrest; crimes related to nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons; or for use in the "war on drugs."

Sen. John Warner is reportedly pushing legislation to repeal the Posse Comitatus Act. "There comes a time when we've got to reexamine the old laws of the 1800s in light of this extraordinary series of challenges that we're faced with today," he remarked at a hearing October 25.

The Clinton administration proposed the establishment of a homeland command three years ago, but then-defense secretary William Cohen "quickly dropped it after protests from civil libertarians and right-wing militia groups alike," the *Post* wrote. "Critics expressed alarm at the prospect of military forces encroaching on areas tradi-

tionally considered the responsibility of civilian emergency response, law enforcement, and health agencies."

But despite the *Post's* account, Clinton did appoint a two-star general to head what was called the Joint Task Force Civil Support within the Joint Forces Command. Cohen said using a name such as the "homeland defense command" was "premature" at the time.

After the September 11 events, Bush set up the Office of Homeland Security, headed by Pennsylvania governor Thomas Ridge.

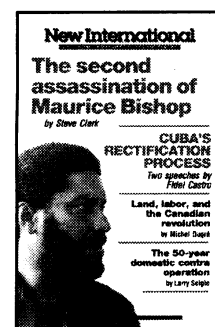
Commenting on the militarization of the United States, the *Post* noted that "military forces have been thrust into new domestic security roles," such as using Air Force jets to patrol the skies over U.S. cities, and the deployment of thousands of National Guard troops at airports, bridges, and border checkpoints. These forces all have different chains of command, and one senior Pentagon official told the *Post*: "We think it's time to clarify things."

The Posse Comitatus Act came into being as a result of opposition by reactionary forces, including former slaveholders and growing layers of the U.S. ruling class, to Radical Reconstruction following the Civil War. Congress passed the act after then-U.S. president Ulysses Grant sent troops to former Confederate states to monitor voting in the 1876 presidential elections. It remains on the books today.

### PATHFINDER

In *New International* no. 6

### Washington's 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation



LARRY SEIGLE  
As the U.S. rulers prepared to smash working-class resistance and join the interimperialist slaughter of World War II, the national political police apparatus as it exists today was born. Documents the consequences for

the labor, Black, antiwar, and other social movements and how the working-class vanguard has fought over the past fifty years to defend democratic rights against government and employer attacks. **15.00**

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# Fidel Castro addresses mass rally in Cuba

Continued from front page

threat—as President George Bush put it last month in his speech before the United Nations General Assembly—that for every country in the world that does not join in “the fight against terror” there is “a price to be paid. And it will be paid.”

In face of imperialism’s course of “plunder, exploitation, wars, and destruction of the conditions for life on the planet,” Castro said at the Santiago celebration, the world “will be conquered by ideas, not by force.”

“There is no weapon more powerful than a profound conviction and a clear idea of what must be done,” the Cuban leader said.

## Opening of revolutionary war

Forty-five years ago, 82 revolutionaries, led by Fidel Castro, set sail from Tuxpan, Mexico, aboard the yacht *Granma* to launch a revolutionary war against the tyrannical regime of Fulgencio Batista. They landed in southeast Cuba on Dec. 2, 1956. In Santiago the rebel forces organized in the July 26 Movement, led in that city by Frank Pais, spearheaded a popular uprising to coincide with the landing of the expeditionaries.

While just over half the *Granma* combatants were killed or captured by the dictatorship’s army within days of the landing, seven men managed to regroup, rifles in hand, over the next two weeks. By the end of December, they and roughly a dozen

other surviving combatants had established a base of operations for the Rebel Army in the nearby Sierra Maestra mountains.

Two years later, on New Year’s Day, 1959, Batista fled the country in face of the Rebel Army victories in eastern Cuba and its capture of Santa Clara, the third-largest city, as a popular insurrection swept the island.

This year, in addition to the December 2 rally of 100,000 in Santiago’s Antonio Maceo Plaza, on November 30 thousands of local residents joined in reenactments across the city of key events in the 1956 uprising, such as the assault on the former police headquarters. Featured speakers at these activities included veterans of the rebellion.

A public rally of 10,000 the next day condemned Washington’s arrogant and unending aggressive policies against Cuba today, from the conviction and imprisonment earlier this year of five Cubans framed up on charges of “conspiracy to commit espionage,” to the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act, which encourages residents of the island to emigrate to the United States outside legal channels. Demonstrators voiced outrage at the news of the latest casualties of this policy—30 Cubans, including 13 children, who drowned trying to cross the Florida Straits in a flimsy boat that was part of a U.S.-based operation to smuggle immigrants from the island.

## Armed Forces Day

The December 2 rally—celebrated annually as Armed Forces Day, the day Cuba’s Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) were born with the *Granma* landing—included a military review in Santiago. According to the Cuban newspaper *Trabajadores*, it was the largest held to date outside Havana.

Several thousand men and women marched in impeccable formation, headed by 200 men on horseback dressed as *mambises*, the 19th century plebeian fighters in Cuba’s war of independence from Spain. The contingents included regular troops of the FAR and Interior Ministry, members of the Revolutionary National Police and territorial militias, as well as the workplace militias known as the Production and Defense Brigades.

Also marching were combatants from several generations of revolutionary struggle—the Rebel Army and underground urban struggle of the 1950s; the April 1961 victory over the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs; the fight against U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries in the

Escambray mountains and elsewhere in the early 1960s; and voluntary internationalist missions abroad. Hundreds of marchers were organized by the trade unions, the small farmers association, the Cuban Women’s Federation, student groups, and other mass organizations.

## Unmistakable message to Washington

The military parade sent an unmistakable message to Washington and its imperialist cohort. That message was echoed in an interview with Revolutionary Armed Forces minister Raúl Castro, featured December 1 in the Cuban press. Stressing that the country’s military and political preparedness relies on the mobilization of the entire population, he said that Cuba is “a peaceful nation. But no one should doubt that the FAR, together with the entire fighting people, are capable of inflicting such a high price on any aggressor and its allies that they will have to think about it many times” before launching an attack.

In his December 2 speech, Fidel Castro elaborated further on the strength of the Cuban Revolution. He gave a vivid account of the landing of the *Granma* expedition and how the Rebel Army, which grew to 3,000 combatants with weapons, prevailed over great odds, including an enemy army of 80,000 well-armed, U.S.-supplied troops. At every turning point in defending and advancing the Cuban Revolution in face of imperialism’s vastly superior resources, he stressed, the determining factor has been the organization and political understanding of the Cuban people.

Recalling the events of the first weeks after the *Granma* landing, Castro said:

When we resumed fighting with seven weapons, no one could ever even have dreamed we had any possibility of success. But we adapted to the enemy’s technical resources and enormous power despite the insignificant forces and means available to us. Ideas are and always will be the most important weapon of all.

Our experience has taught us that if one day our country were to be attacked and even occupied by powerful forces, each and every man or woman, wherever they may be, can be an army. When a combatant or group of combatants are left cut off or isolated, they can and should assume responsibility for their own actions and continue fighting. The invader will then be forced to fight against an army, ten armies, a hundred armies, a thousand armies, a million armies.

Addressing the younger generations, Castro said, “It is you who will live in the most difficult and decisive century of human history. Your most sacred duty is to prepare for that.... An all-encompassing and all-round culture on a mass scale—something no society has ever dreamed of—is now a real possibility within reach of all Cubans.”

Those who took part in the *Granma* landing, Castro said, “would be envious of every one of you for the struggle that now lies before you—one with much more far-reaching objectives, that is, to defend and develop what has been achieved and, to the extent of our abilities, do for humanity what we believe we have done for our homeland.”

Castro pointed to the internationalist example revolutionary Cuba has set, and continues to set, by sending thousands of volunteers, from soldiers to doctors, throughout the world to aid countries struggling against imperialist exploitation.

## ‘We’re ready’

Across the island, working people organized actions marking the November 30 and December 2 events. Members of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, for example, spoke in schools to give firsthand accounts to students of these turning points in the revolution.

Hermes Caballero, who fought in the November 30 uprising in Santiago, said he was invited to speak to the ninth grade students at Marta Abreu High School in Havana’s Playa municipality. “The students were very interested in hearing our account, and there was a period of questions and answers afterward,” said Caballero, who was a schoolteacher and a July 26 Movement member in Santiago at the time of the uprising. He was accompanied by another Combatants Association activist who spoke to the students about the *Granma* landing.

On December 2, in the nearby neighborhood of Náutica, some 20 members of the local Combatants Association chapter held a celebration at a chapter member’s home. Similar gatherings took place in neighborhoods throughout the island. Those interviewed by the *Militant* included combatants from the revolutionary war, participants in the Escambray campaign, and volunteers who had served on internationalist missions in Indochina, Nicaragua, and Angola.

If Washington ever attempts an assault on Cuba, said one member of the Association, the Cuban people will defeat them.

“We’re ready,” she said.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**The Working Class and the Struggle against Imperialism Today: Why Workers, Farmers, and Youth Should Oppose Washington’s War on Afghanistan and Attacks on our Living and Working Conditions at Home. A Pathfinder Fund Event.** Speaker: Steve Clark, editorial director, Pathfinder Press. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. 506 Springfield Ave., 3rd Floor. Donation: Program and Dinner \$5 each. Tel: (973) 643-3341.

### NEW YORK

#### Brooklyn

**Capitalist Crisis, Working People’s Resistance in Latin America.** Speaker: Luis Madrid, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. 372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) Tel: (718) 567-8014.

#### Garment District

**Young People Organize to Fight Imperialist War and Attacks against Rights in the United States.** Fri., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

#### Upper Manhattan

**Stop the Assault on Workers’ Rights.** Speaker: Richard Sorrentino, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. 540 W. 165 St. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

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## —CALENDAR—

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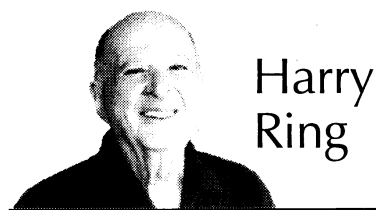
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**Federal brain trust**—"U.S. intelligence agencies are recruiting psychics to help predict future attacks and to find Osama bin Laden."



Harry Ring

"The recruits, known as 'remote viewers,' claim to be able to visualize happenings in distant places by using paranormal powers."—Web site, the *Times*, London

**P.S.**—"The U.S. government

established a remote viewing program, known as Stargate, in the 1970s in an attempt to utilize skills claimed by psychics to combat communism. "The program, at the Stanford Research Institute in California, was shut down in 1995 at the end of the cold war."—The *Times*.

**Big Brother with big eye-ball**—"The FBI is going to new lengths to eavesdrop, building new software to monitor computer use and urging phone companies to help make wiretaps more reliable. The FBI's 'Magic Lantern' technology would allow investigators via the internet to secretly install powerful software that records every keystroke on a person's com-

puter."—Associated Press

**Ol' Big-Nose down the block**—"This is going to be a good program. People will be able to check on the criminal backgrounds of renters, neighbors, even friends. I suspect some fathers may want to check out the guys dating their daughters."—Paul Doyle, a Colorado legislative hack, burling with enthusiasm over a Bureau of Investigation plan to post criminal records on an internet program.

**Rich wool**—"WOOLRICH'S HOMELAND BLANKET WRAPS YOU IN A PATRIOTIC TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM. In times of peril, it helps to surround

yourself with icons of America's heritage. The traditional throw by Woolrich is made right here in the USA. Keeps you and your spouse warm when the winds of war put a chill in the air.... A portion of these proceeds go to the World Trade Center Relief Fund. \$89.95."

**100% cop**—In Lexington, North Carolina, Sheriff Gerald Hege's holiday card depicts him holding the severed head of Osama bin Laden and a greeting, "Happy Ramadan!"

**The world saviors**—Of 129 Denver cops who have killed or wounded someone since 1990, three were disciplined or reprimanded, according to department

records.

**The better to freeze their assets**—In San Jose, California, the National Guard wants to ensure the safety of the Armory where homeless people take shelter on wintery nights. To achieve this, people seeking a bed will be required to pose for a photo ID card. Those who already have such a card would need a new one.

**The 'Disappeared'?**—Attorney General John Ashcroft declared he would not reveal the identities of the people being jailed since September 11. This, he said, ensures their privacy. Also a help, he neglected to mention, is the privacy of solitary confinement.

## Protesters condemn political firing in N. Carolina

BY LOUIS TURNER

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Protesters gathered outside government offices here November 20 demanding that the political firing of Ahmad Daniels, the director of the Mecklenburg County Office of Minority Affairs, be reversed.

Daniels was fired for a letter he wrote to *Creative Loafing*, a local alternative newspaper. In the letter, published in the October 10-16 edition of the paper, Daniels said, "I bristle when John Q. Public proclaims that as a result of September 11, we are, at the drop of a hat, 'all Americans.' For other African Americans and myself, these words ring hollow. Such words are indicative of a collective that for centuries has either been unable or unwilling to see the political oppression, economic exploitation, and social degradation endured by Blacks."

"It is an unmitigated affront for anyone to assume," Daniels wrote, "that the horrific events of one day will magically erase the personal and institutional racism that pervades the very fiber of the United States and thus make my new moniker American." He added, "The events of September 11 must serve as a clarion call that this nation's words and actions continue to touch people around the globe in ways that are humiliating, harmful, and deadly."

Harry Jones, Mecklenburg county manager and Daniels's boss, was prompted by an e-mail from County Commissioner Bill James to read the letter by Daniels. Jones responded to the commissioners with an e-mail saying that he planned "to have a serious discussion with Daniels later that day." In that meeting, Daniels told the *Militant*, Jones gave an ultimatum: "Resign by noon or you're fired by 3:00." Under this pressure, Daniels submitted his resignation by noon and was told to have all of his things out of his office by 5:00.

At the November 20 protest organized by the Coalition for Peace and Justice, 16 defenders of freedom of speech attended the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners meeting, many with their mouths taped shut in a symbolic gesture. Everyone held signs with slogans such as, "Rehire Ahmad Daniels" or "No freedom without freedom to write."

The reinstatement of Daniels was not a scheduled point on the agenda of the meeting, so several protesters spoke from the floor under the "public appearance" point. Coalition for Peace and Justice representative Steve Abraham called the actions against Daniels

tantamount to censorship, and a violation of his First Amendment rights.

Adrian DeVore spoke in defense of Daniels's right to express his opinions as an African American. The final speaker, Naomi Craine, speaking on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party, voiced her support for the reinstatement of Ahmad Daniels. She also explained how the forced resignation of Daniels is part of the continuing war on workers' rights in the wake of the imperialist-led war in Afghanistan. She also pointed to other political firings, such as that of Michael Itale, recent Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Miami.

Three local television stations as well as several newspapers covered the protest. Prior to the meeting the media lined up to film and ask questions of the protesters, who were delayed from joining the meeting so that they could answer all the questions from the press.

This is not the first time Daniels has come up against Jones or the commissioners. Last year Daniels attempted to change the name and objective of the minority affairs office to Human and Cultural Diversity, and expand its objective to include sexual orientation.

Later, Daniels had made plans to attend a United Nations-sponsored conference on racism held in South Africa as a representative of the Mecklenburg County Office of Minority Affairs. County manager Jones said the trip was not in the budget and made it clear that Daniels was not to attend under any circumstance.

Undeterred, Daniels financed the trip on his own. At the conference, Israel was heavily criticized for its treatment of the Palestinians as was the U.S. government for its unconditional support of Israel. Commissioner James may have summed up Ahmad Daniels's stint as minority affairs director best when he said, "I think Ahmad's inability to take no for an answer contributed to his lack of a harmonious working relationship" with county officials.

Recently Daniels attended a peace rally against the U.S. war in Afghanistan. A picture in the October 3 edition of *Creative Loafing* showed Daniels holding a sign that read: "International answer: act now to stop the war and end racism."

Daniels is not a newcomer to the defense of Black rights during wartime. His record dates back more than 30 years. A national campaign was waged in 1967 to overturn the military court-martial of Daniels and William Harvey on trumped up charges of



Coalition for Peace and Justice activists, many with their mouths taped shut, gather outside November 20 meeting of Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners to protest political firing of Ahmad Daniels, for expressing his point of view.

mutiny. Daniels and Harvey, both Black marines, along with several others, decided they had a reasonable cause not to go fight in Vietnam and presented it to their commanding officer. The campaign was successful and the two were honorably discharged and compensated.

In the context of the current war, Daniels urged people to see "the importance of the First Amendment. This is not against Ahmad Daniels. It is bigger than me. It is bigger than Harry [Jones]. It is about keeping a system from encroaching on opinions that are not a part of it."

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



December 17, 1976

CLEVELAND—Speaking before a rally of more than 300 steelworkers here November 30, Ed Sadlowski hit hard against the steel corporations' attempt to blame layoffs on steel imports.

"Foreign imports do not have the impact the American steel industry says they do," the insurgent candidate for union president maintained.

"You can't attribute a Japanese worker for taking an American worker's job. That is the boss's game. He'd like you to think that."

With thousands of steelworkers being laid off across the country, this emotion-charged issue points up the fundamental difference between Sadlowski's approach and that of the present United Steelworkers of America leadership.

Current President I.W. Abel and his hand-picked successor Lloyd McBride are flag-waving partisans of the anti-import drive, absolving the steel profiteers of all responsibility for layoffs.

Abel and McBride call for import quotas and tariffs to protect "our" industry, and for joint labor management efforts to increase productivity so "our" corporations will be more competitive.

Sadlowski put the blame for unemployment squarely on the bosses. And he rejects union cooperation with productivity drives that eliminate jobs and endanger workers' lives through speedup.

"For every American worker whose job has been lost by foreign importation," Sadlowski told the Cleveland rally, "five American workers' jobs have been lost because of BOF [Basic Oxygen Furnace] shops."



December 17, 1951

The Pennsylvania Senate has passed a bill requiring that every public worker, officeholder, or political candidate sign a "loyalty" oath, and the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania is preparing to act on it. This action closely follows the enactment of a witch-hunt measure by the state legislature outlawing the Communist Party.

Pennsylvania is one of the strongholds of CIO unionism. Specifically, it is the area where Phillip Murray's own union, the United Steelworkers of America, has its greatest strength and largest districts.

The CIO, at its recent convention in New York, voted a strong resolution condemning just such laws as the one now under consideration in the Pennsylvania legislature. The CIO convention came out strongly against the Smith Gag Act, and asked for revision of all existing laws which infringe on civil liberties by curbing rights of free opinion and speech.

The Pennsylvania gag act hits directly at the civil rights of all Pennsylvania workers, not merely at the Communist Party. The law specifically destroys fair judicial procedures, putting the burden of proof upon the accused person, and shielding the accuser from the need to prove his case, or even from the need to confront the person he is accusing. The innocent must prove his innocence in a biased court, and he must prove it without even knowing the specific charges against him.

The Pennsylvania coal and steel bosses have used such legislation against the labor movement in the past, and they will do it again.

## Italy: unions set two-hour national strike

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The three main trade unions in Italy have called for a two-hour national strike for the beginning of December to protest plans by Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi to move ahead with new antilabor legislation making it easier for Italian companies to fire employees. The protest will be the "first serious clash" between the unions and the Berlusconi government since its election seven months ago, noted a *Financial Times* article.

The proposed law would give government ministers power to amend Italy's 1970 "workers' statute"—the cornerstone of Italian labor law—for the first time since its adoption. Among the articles in the statute that employers would like to see changed or eliminated

is one allowing courts to order a company with more than 15 workers to reinstate an employee if he or she is found to have been unfairly dismissed. The government is also seeking to slash welfare benefits and expand the use of part-time workers.

After meeting with Berlusconi, the leaders of the three main unions—the CGIL, CISL, and UIL—announced a "breakdown" in negotiations on this issue and called for the strike action.

However, the *Financial Times* noted government officials said the "two-hour strike was milder than anticipated." Sergio Cofferati, head of the CGIL public sector union, "appeared to favor calling a prolonged general strike, but the two smaller unions seem ready to negotiate," the paper added.

# Cuba's revolutionary example

As Washington widens its military action in, and control of, Afghanistan, it will inflict increasing brutality on working people of that country. After directing a massacre of hundreds of prisoners of war, U.S. military forces began dropping giant bombs that have rarely even been tested before. Their claims of precision, never-miss-the-target weapons were undermined when, once again, ordinance rained down on U.S. and allied troops, killing three American soldiers and many more Afghans. U.S. forces are now laying siege to Kandahar, while bombing the city on a daily basis.

Along with increased numbers of troops, warplanes, attack helicopters, and murderous CIA agents in Afghanistan, Washington is extending its military tentacles into other countries of Central Asia, and its UN-blessed puppet regime is preparing to take over in Kabul. Even writers for the big-business media have a hard time covering up the fact that this has all the trappings of just another war of imperial aggression.

As Washington drives ahead with its imperialist assault on working people, the U.S. rulers are running into more people who are standing up to their imperial dictates. The government of north Korea has rejected U.S. demands to let inspectors snoop around their country, allegedly looking for weapons of mass destruction, something Washington has plenty of. U.S. imperialism's real intention in regards to north Korea, where a mighty revolution threw out both the Japanese and American occupiers, can be seen in the weapons undergoing live testing in Afghanistan today. Military planners openly admit that the 3,000-pound cave-busting bombs now being dropped by B-52s were developed for use against north Korea.

Despite declarations by Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. president George Bush, the Palestinian people refuse to accept that living under the boot of Israeli occupation has anything to do with self-determination. In the face of bombings and military assault, they persevere with their decades-long struggle against the imperialist state that is responsible for their dispossession.

At home, hundreds of young men in Detroit, among the 5,000 nationwide slated for FBI interviews, have refused to show up for their interrogation. To them and many others, Washington's so-called "war against terrorism" is looking more and more like the same old war against workers'

rights. And, with September 11 receding, many workers are deciding they should continue their struggles to defend their unions, jobs, and livelihoods, even in wartime.

In spite of running into some opposition in bourgeois circles, the Bush administration still enjoys bipartisan backing for his anti-constitutional measures. Washington will continue to push forward the militarization of the United States, the whittling away of constitutional protections in the Bill of Rights, and the centralization of power in the hands of the executive branch of government. Hand-in-hand with the government's attacks, the employers, too, will attempt to use harsher methods.

Amid these attacks, the Cuban Revolution continues to provide an example for working people around the world. Taking the moral high ground against the escalating wars and barbaric acts of U.S. imperialism, Cuban president Fidel Castro told a rally of 100,000 on December 2 that in the face of imperialism's course of "plunder, exploitation, wars, and destruction of the conditions of life on the planet," the world "will be conquered by ideas, not by force."

Washington will never forgive the Cuban people for their action in showing the road forward in 1959 by toppling the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, and opening the road to a government of workers and farmers and the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

Reading the article in this week's *Militant* describing the mobilizations of the Cuban people over the past week, one gets a sense of the confidence and human capacities that the revolution, through common struggle over four decades, has brought out in workers and farmers in the country. Fidel Castro's statements are not bravado, but accurate assessments of the fact that imperialism cannot defeat the Cuban Revolution by military force. His view that the Cuban people can prepare for "an all-encompassing and all-round culture on a mass scale—something no society has ever dreamed of" is also a reflection of the accomplishments of the revolution.

As Washington deepens yet another of its wars in Afghanistan that have left large parts of the country decimated (this is its threat to anyone else who dares stand up to the declining empire), Castro's statements help to show why the road of the Cuban Revolution remains the only alternative for working people around the world.

# Free the teachers, back the strikers

Working people in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey have several important struggles they can throw their solidarity behind. Teachers in New Jersey, who are setting an example in refusing to cave in to the dictates of a judge ordering them back to work only hours after going on strike, need widespread backing from the labor movement as growing numbers are put behind bars. Strikes against jet engine maker Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut and the walkout at Catholic schools in New York City are two other strikes where union support can make a difference.

The actions of Judge Clarkson Fisher, Jr., in Monmouth County, New Jersey, are aimed at breaking the teachers' strike and forcing them back to work. In addition to taking a stand against the school district's attempt to shift health care costs onto their backs, many teachers point out that their fight is also against unequal wages paid to women. The action comes at the same time as public school teachers across the Hudson River are facing down Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who is taking a hard line against pay raises. Teachers there are rejecting the mayor's attempt to use the "fiscal crisis" scam following September 11 as a reason to moderate their demands.

The rapid moves by the Monmouth County school authorities, backed by Judge Fisher, are cut from the same cloth as the union-busting drive by Finch, Pruyn & Co. in upstate New York. The company imposed severe concessions and dealt blows to the unions at its Glens Falls plant by successfully hiring hundreds of strikebreakers. Solidarity with these new strikes can make a difference in the outcome.

Many of the teachers in New Jersey ascribe an added urgency to their fight, as they see it as one that will make a difference for other teachers. Let the employers get away with these attacks, they point out, and other teachers and public employees will be next in line. That working-class attitude is one that can win the teachers a lot of support.

A visit to one of the struck Catholic schools in Manhattan by a *Militant* reporter turned up another sign of the kind of solidarity that is possible. Hundreds of students, let out of class early because all the teachers were on strike, poured out of the school. Many supported the teachers in their demand for a pension and wage increases to close the gap with their public school counterparts. That's a good sign both for today and the future.

# Arson attack hits Arab center in Chicago

BY LISA POTASH

CHICAGO—"We will rebuild and we will get back to work," said Ali Hussain, co-founder of the Arab American Action Network (AAAN) and owner of the building that houses it and the Arab Community Center. Hussain issued his statement after a December 3 arson attack on the building, located on the southwest side of the city. The Arab Community Center has been housed there since the early 1970s, offering classes and cultural activities. The offices and community center were housed above a bedding and drapery shop and a Dollar Store, where the fire has been determined to have started. The attack occurred late in the evening and no injuries were reported.

"We are determined to emerge from this challenge stronger than ever before," read a statement released by AAAN vice-president Ali Abunimah on behalf of the organization.

Acting AAAN director Hatem Abudayyeh said that the center has received 15 harassing phone calls and a number of similar e-mails since September 11.

Also on December 3, the U.S. government froze the assets of the Holy Land Foundation, a Muslim charity. Television reports showed federal officials removing even the chairs from the foundation's offices in Bridgeview, a Chicago suburb which has been the scene of several anti-Arab demonstrations at a local mosque. The government has accused the foundation of funding the political activities of Hamas, a Palestinian organization. The *Chicago Sun-Times* headlined its front page, "Local terror link shut down."

Discussing the television coverage, several of this reporter's co-workers remarked that this was typical of police treatment over the years of Blacks in Chicago. The city has a large Palestinian and Arab population and a history of public protests in support of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

*Lisa Potash is a garment worker and member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees in Chicago.*

# Quebec protest

Continued from Page 16

Canada to date, 4,000 marched in Montreal November 17 demanding an end to the war in Afghanistan. Sponsors of the action included the Quebec Women's Federation, the Muslim Council of Montreal, and the Confederation of National Trade Unions' Montreal Central Council. On the same day 1,500 marched in Toronto.

The Montreal marchers also took aim at the repressive "antiterrorist" law C-36, which provides for detention without charges, compulsory testimony and the denial of the right to silence, and wide powers for electronic surveillance. The federal government has presented another "public security" bill legalizing the establishment of zones under military control. It also permits the declaration of a state of emergency in the absence of war.

Victims of the government's dragnet of immigrants since the September 11 attacks have begun to speak out.

Mohammed Attiah is pursuing a lawsuit and human rights complaint against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. He was fired from his job at Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. after he was questioned by the federal cops. Through a public legal battle the 54-year-old Canadian citizen, proved he was a target of racial profiling and won back his job. His lawyer pointed out that had Bill C-36 been law at the time, the "evidence" against him would have been secret.

More than 200 people demonstrated November 22 in Montreal against the decision of the government-owned French-language television network Radio-Canada to suspend one of its longtime journalists, Normand Lester, after the publication of his new book, *Le livre noir du Canada anglais*, (The Dark Side of English Canada).

The book is a sharp condemnation of Canada's history of oppression of the Quebecois, Native peoples, Acadians, and others. The demonstration was called by the Quebec nationalist Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste Youth Council.

It is no accident that all this resistance is taking place in Quebec, the largest oppressed nation within Canada. There is deep-going discrimination against the Quebecois as shown by recent figures for the new megacity of Montreal. The privileged English neighborhood of Westmount has a budget more than three times that of the working-class French-speaking Villeray.

It is not just the defense of Normand Lester that has a clearly Quebec nationalist character. The fight of the teachers to defend their dignity and that of the student youth, and the protests against the closing of the only auto assembly plant in Quebec are all seen as combating the second-class status of Quebecois in Canada.

Calls by the federal government for special powers and military zones remind many in Quebec of the military occupation of Quebec in 1970 when Ottawa used a kidnapping by a nationalist group as a pretext to assault the nationalist and labor movements, sending in the army and rounding up hundreds of innocent people.

A representative of the Quebec government has voiced opposition to the proposed law C-42 saying it will be used to sanction an occupation of Quebec in the event of a declaration of independence.

*Al Cappe is a meat packer and a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 500 in Montreal.*

# Reprint volunteers

Continued from Page 4

very few the months before or after. We now are consistently turning in seven, eight, and even nine without turning ourselves inside out. This is real progress."

The pace of work that makes it possible to send this many completed titles to Pathfinder each month is picking up throughout every area of the project. An example of this is the work on graphics, which is headed up by Bobbi Sack, a volunteer from Cincinnati. This team reproduces electronically the attractive Pathfinder covers and also photo signatures and other graphical images that are found in the books. Sack noted that in November the graphics team also had its best month. "We really have something to celebrate! Last month, for the first time, we sent graphics files for 10 books to the CD team—that magic number that has eluded us for so long!

"Our quality has not suffered," added Sack. "In the last several months we have received many reports back from Pathfinder's editorial department noting that they had 'no corrections at all' to the work the graphics team prepared."

A few months ago the reprint volunteers also undertook the responsibility of helping the publishing house prepare its online catalog for a January 1 launch. Reprint volunteers have finished entering into a catalog database all the relevant information on each Pathfinder title from author, to an international standard book number, commonly called an ISBN number. This information will now be carefully proofread by the volunteers. They are also preparing the digital images of the book covers so that a substantial number of the attractive covers produced by Pathfinder can be viewed by anyone who logs onto the new web site after the first of the year.

The staff of Pathfinder's printshop also had a busy month producing Pathfinder titles. Fifteen titles were newly printed during November, coming on the heels of 10 titles printed in October. For more information or to join the Pathfinder Reprint Project, please e-mail Ruthchen@pacbell.net



# Jobs for all—for a shorter workweek with no pay cut

Printed below is an excerpt from *The Transitional Program for Socialist Revolution* by Leon Trotsky. The piece quoted is found under the chapter titled "The death agony of capitalism and the tasks of the Fourth International." This programmatic document, also known as the Transitional Program, was drafted by Trotsky in April 1938, approved by the SWP National Committee that month, and adopted by the founding conference of the Fourth International held in France in September 1938. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY LEON TROTSKY

Under the conditions of disintegrating capitalism, the masses continue to live the impoverished life of the oppressed, threatened now more than at any other time with the danger of being cast into the pit of pauperism. They must defend their mouthful of bread, if they cannot increase or better it. There is neither the need nor the opportunity to enumerate here those separate, partial demands which time and again arise on

tion can serve as slogans for the proletariat, because these are but two ends of the same stick. Against a bounding rise in prices, which with the approach of war will assume an ever more unbridled character, one can fight only under the slogan of a *sliding scale of wages*. This means that collective agreements should assure an automatic rise in wages in relation to the increase in price of consumer goods.

Under the menace of its own disintegration, the proletariat cannot permit the transformation of an increasing section of the workers into chronically unemployed paupers, living off the crumbs of a disintegrating society. *The right to employment* is the only serious right left to the worker in a society based upon exploitation. This right today is being shorn from him at every step. Against unemployment, "structural" as well as "conjunctural," the time is ripe to advance, along with the slogan of public works, the slogan of a *sliding scale of working hours*. Trade unions and other mass organizations should bind the workers and the unemployed together in the solidarity of mutual responsibility. On this basis all the work on hand would then be divided among all existing workers in accordance with how the extent of the working week is defined. The average wage of every worker remains the same as it was under the old working week. Wages, with a strictly guaranteed *minimum*, would follow the movement of prices. It is impossible to accept any other program for the present catastrophic period.

Property owners and their lawyers will prove the "unrealizability" of these demands. Smaller, especially ruined capitalists in addition will refer to their account ledgers. The workers categorically de-

nounce such conclusions and references. The question is not one of a "normal" collision between opposing material interests. The question is one of guarding the prole-



Worker during Great Depression in 1930s

tariat from decay, demoralization, and ruin. The question is one of life or death of the only creative and progressive class, and by that token of the future of mankind. If capitalism is incapable of satisfying the demands inevitably arising from the calamities gen-

erated by itself, then let it perish. "Realizability" or "unrealizability" is in the given instance a question of the relationship of forces, which can be decided only by the struggle. By means of this struggle, no matter what its immediate practical successes may be, the workers will best come to understand the necessity of liquidating capitalist slavery.

## Trade unions in the transitional epoch

In the struggle for partial and transitional demands, the workers now more than ever before need mass organizations, principally trade unions....

The Bolshevik-Leninist stands in the front-line trenches of all kinds of struggles, even when they involve only the most modest material interests or democratic rights of the working class. He takes active part in mass trade unions for the purpose of strengthening them and raising their spirit of militancy. He fights uncompromisingly against any attempt to subordinate the unions to the bourgeois state and bind the proletariat to "compulsory arbitration" and every other form of police guardianship—not only fascist but also "democratic." Only on the basis of such work within the trade unions is successful struggle possible against the reformists, including those of the Stalinist bureaucracy. Sectarian attempts to build or preserve small "revolutionary" unions, as a second edition of the party, signify in actuality the renouncing of the struggle for leadership of the working class. It is necessary to establish this firm rule: self-isolation of the capitulationist variety from mass trade unions, which is tantamount to a betrayal of the revolution, is incompatible with membership in the Fourth International.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

the basis of concrete circumstances—national, local, trade union. But two basic economic afflictions, in which is summarized the increasing absurdity of the capitalist system—that is, *unemployment* and *high prices*—demand generalized slogans and methods of struggle.

The Fourth International declares uncompromising war on the politics of the capitalists, which to a considerable degree, like the politics of their agents, the reformists, aims to place the whole burden of militarism, the crises, the disorganization of the monetary system, and all other scourges stemming from capitalism's death agony upon the backs of the toilers. The Fourth International demands *employment* and *decent living conditions* for all.

Neither monetary inflation nor stabiliza-

## LETTERS

### Japan's deployment

The news analysis article "U.S. War Accelerates World Political Trends" in the November 19 issue points out that Japan, following passage of new legislation allowing its armed forces to participate in military operations overseas, has sent a fleet of military vessels to the Indian Ocean.

This is expanded on in an article in the November 22 *International Herald Tribune*

by Nayan Chanda, of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization. Chanda points out that the dispatch of four destroyers, a support ship, and eight aircraft by Tokyo "marks a major turning point: the reemergence of Japan's naval forces from constitutionally mandated quarantine."

While noting Tokyo's moves to mute opposition to the deployments from the governments of China and south Korea, he adds that although "a large majority of Japanese public opinion is sympathetic to the American-led war against terrorism, recent polls show only 8 percent in favor of active Japanese cooperation."

Prime Minister Koizumi's move to send destroyers equipped with the Aegis battle-management system, was, in the end, blocked, "out of concern that state-of-the-art intelligence, communications and command and control capabilities might be seen as overly aggressive," Chandra says.

Bill Kalman  
Albany, California

### New support for Italie

New Jersey supporters of the fight to reinstate Michael Italie won support from women's rights fighters at the New Jersey State NOW conference held in New Brunswick, New Jersey, November 17. Conference participants registered strong opposition to attacks on democratic rights during the discussion on "Civil Liberties and the Future," rejecting the false argument that workers must give up some rights in order to gain "security."

The discussion began with an older activist denouncing the proposed national identity card. A teacher pointed to the increased policing and harassment of public school students that started long before the war against Afghanistan. A Black woman described recent harassment at a movie theater and explained that the theater chain has a written policy stating it has the right to search moviegoers' purses in order to promote safety.

Support for Mike Italie's fight against his political firing was raised during the discussion and 15 activists signed the petition. Additionally, truth kits were distributed to some individuals who are considering writing protest letters.

Sarah Harris  
Newark, New Jersey

### Tribunals and executions?

How can there be freedom or justice in a land with secret military tribunals and secret executions? President Bush is now

warning Iraq not to develop "weapons of mass destruction" to "terrorize nations." I wonder how the untold thousands (who's counting?) of dead Afghan civilians feel with American weapons of mass destruction raining terror upon them daily.

If we are defending civilization, where are the calls for democracy in Afghanistan? If we are pursuing justice, why did Bush refuse the Taliban's offer to extradite bin Laden to a neutral country for trial? No, the world's richest nation is spending billions to attack the world's poorest people over a new oil pipeline valued at several trillion dollars.

Think of it as an investment in Bush's energy policy which will guarantee we'll need all that oil.

Wayne Skipper  
Eugene, Oregon

### Opposes Patriot Act

The passage of the Patriot Act and its goal of ending terrorism is a cover-up for its real purpose, and that is to silence opposition to the U.S. global imperialists' interventions throughout the world and at home, and catching alleged "terrorists" and disposing of them by military tribunal, even allowing summary execution. It is a shameful attack on all of our civil rights.

I recently came across the matter of Ali Yahgi, a 15-year resident of Albany, New York, from Jordan, who is one of the 1,000 individuals picked up after the September 11 attacks. He owns a pizza store there.

According to the *Times Union* article written by Phil Bayly, Yahgi's only crime is being an outspoken public critic of U.S. policy and he is to be deported any day now. His family assures the *Times Union* he has no association with any terrorist group and that it is his political opinion that is causing his deportation.

I would like to suggest that there is a possibility of establishing a coalition or committee to oppose the Patriot Act from a farmer and working people's perspective. What is being done is just like the Palmer Raids; it smells of Cointelpro and other activities by the U.S. intelligence community.

Tom Siblo

Catskill, New York

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.

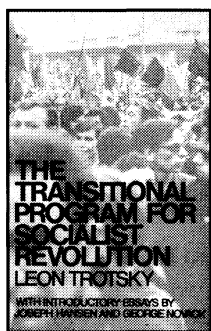
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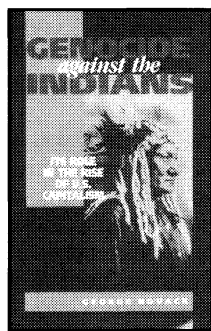


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## Workers in Quebec resist bosses' attacks

BY AL CAPPE

MONTREAL—Despite efforts of the Canadian capitalists to maintain an atmosphere of war fever and imminent danger due to terrorism, working people are resisting the attacks on their working conditions and their rights. Much of this recent resistance has been centered in Quebec.

Defying a government ban on striking and threats of harsh penalties, 7,300 members of the Montreal Teachers Alliance set up picket lines at 210 primary and secondary schools November 19–21.

"For all the women and all the men who teach, this profession is underpaid because it's a job where women predominate," a union flyer explained. "The time has come to render justice and to think about the future of education. On November 21, the law on pay equity must apply."

This is the date set by the provincial government for implementation of pay equity in legislation adopted in 1996. The law uses complex, unjust, and arbitrary criteria to determine how jobs held by women are to be compared with jobs in other areas. Despite this, the teachers should be paid at least Can\$7,000 more a year. But the government has denied this increase and is also claiming that teachers work only 36 hours a week. It has postponed its final decision for yet another year (Can\$1 = US 63 cents).

On November 20 more than 1,000 teachers, many of them young, rallied in down-



Nurses in Halifax, Nova Scotia, applaud decision to honor picket lines set up by other health-care workers during strike in June. Mood of resistance among workers still marks Canada today despite rulers' efforts to maintain war fever.

town Montreal, closing a major boulevard for more than 90 minutes. The next day 200 union members picketed outside the school board building.

"The strike was an experience that gave us confidence and allowed us to see ourselves in a different way," said Josée Séguin,

a teacher at St. Clement's primary school, in an interview with the *Militant*. "We marched from school to school. We received support from workers at a large factory we visited as well as from parents of our students. We handed out leaflets to nurses at a hospital. We were getting our point across

because so many people honked their car horns as they passed by the school board picket."

A November 20 meeting of Local 500 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union called for support of the teachers. Thousands of members of the local who work in large supermarket chains, particularly as cashiers, are also involved in pay equity procedures.

The stakes in the teachers' fight against discrimination are also underscored by a November 29 press report on the implementation of a 1989 law in Quebec that mandated affirmative action measures by businesses in the province. The article said that only 1 percent of businesses covered by the law had met targets for the hiring of women, Blacks, Native peoples, and others.

"Despite the fines and the other repressive aspects of the government's response, it was right to go out on strike," teacher Sandra Prémont told the *Militant* at the school board protest. "Striking might be controversial but there is no other way to make ourselves heard."

Among other actions in the province was a demonstration November 24 by 600 members of the Canadian Auto Workers, a full one-half of the workforce at the General Motors assembly plant in Boisbriand, north of Montreal. The unionists denounced the company's decision to close the plant—the only car assembly factory in Quebec.

Two days later, members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada who work for the Postal Service voted to authorize a strike, while several thousand members of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees who work in men's clothing in Montreal are gearing up to oppose major concessions they expect the bosses to demand. The union contract expires November 30. Unionized airline workers laid off by the bankrupt carrier Canada 3000 have held several marches demanding wages owed to them and government action against layoffs.

Montreal university students demonstrated November 29 to demand the Quebec government respect its promise to inject \$200 million into education, while on the same day 500 demonstrated in Quebec City demanding the construction of social housing. Transit workers in the city of Laval on November 30 refused to collect fares to back up the demand for the reopening of their contract.

In the largest such demonstration in  
**Continued on Page 14**

## Rainstorm causes massive damage in Algeria

BY NATALIE SEGUIN  
AND CARLOS CATALAN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Storm sewers sealed by the Algerian government as part of its war against opposition forces helped turn torrential rains in the northern part of Algeria into deadly flooding.

Algiers, the capital and a coastal city with a population of 3.5 million, was by far the hardest hit by the November 9–10 storm. The number of victims across the country has risen to 749 as of November 26, of which 698 were in Algiers. Nearly 1,200 families have been relocated and many schools were wiped out, depriving 8,000 youth of their education.

"We had never seen anything like it. On the one side, there was water coming down at a speed of 100 kilometers [62 miles] an hour and on the other, waves that reached a height of five meters [16.5 feet]," said Farid in an interview with the *El Moudjahid* newspaper. Farid lives in the Bab-El-Oued working-class district, among the worst hit by the storm. He was also part of volunteer teams of some 60 people who attempted to rescue people in the water. But, he said, "by evening, there were only a dozen of us left. The flood took the majority. Half of those who died at Bab-El-Oued were the lifeguards."



Workers in Algeria clear away massive damage wrought by torrential rains.

In an interview, Rafik Zeggane, a young Berber from Algiers, told the *Militant* his experiences that day. After returning to his neighborhood from a trip downtown "the first shadows of disaster appeared and the sound of firefighter's sirens were resounding everywhere," stated Zeggane. "The road that led to Bab-El-Oued had become a river of mud, taking with it hundreds of cars and their passengers. The houses bordering the road to the Triolet market where people come everyday to shop were swallowed up. By 3:00 p.m. the rain stopped and the poorest districts of the capital found themselves trapped underneath mud and debris and the remains of cars, and with hundreds of dead."

Zeggane participated in the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Algiers last August, an anti-imperialist gathering attended by 6,500 young people from around the world. Zeggane said the flooding was made much worse by the fact that "the ducts built to take away rain water were sealed in 1995 on orders from the army, under the pretext that they permitted terrorist groups active in the capital to have freedom of movement."

On November 13, Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika visited the disaster site. Demonstrations of angry youth shouting antigovernment slogans erupted across the capital. In a statement faxed from Paris to the media, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) declared that authorities "are largely responsible because they closed underground alleys and tunnels in Algiers for fear of them being used by the armed opposition as hideouts."

The FIS is a bourgeois opposition group that launched armed attacks after the elections it was set to win in 1992 were canceled by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN). A civil war has raged since, claiming the lives of 100,000 Algerians. The newspaper *Liberté* also reported that "sewer ducts, which should be regularly cleaned, especially with winter coming, weren't."

Algeria is a country oppressed by imperialism with a foreign debt of \$30 billion and an unemployment rate of 30 percent. From 1954–1962 the Algerian workers and farmers led a successful revolution against French colonialism. A revolutionary government of the toilers established under the leadership of Ahmed Ben Bella was overthrown three years later in a coup by a pro-

capitalist wing of the FLN led by Houari Boumedienne.

More recently, Algeria was the scene of mass demonstrations demanding national rights for the Berbers, an oppressed nationality in Algeria. Zeggane, who was part of those demonstrations, said of the situation in the country today: "Savage capitalism has increased the number of layoffs, of unemployed, of beggars, and of the homeless. This new disaster aggravates this situation and pushes our patience to its limits."

On November 11, the Algerian government declared a national catastrophe and appealed for international aid. Since then, aid has arrived from Tunisia, Morocco, and France. Tunisia has sent 28 tons of medicine, food, blankets, and mattresses. France and Morocco each sent a civil security team of 30 people.

## VW workers accept concessions demanded by company in Brazil

BY RÓGER CALERO

A week after 16,000 auto workers at Volkswagen in Brazil voted to go on strike, union members accepted company demands to cut salaries and working hours by 15 percent to prevent 3,000 workers from losing their jobs. Located in São Bernardo do Campo, São Paulo, the plant is VW's largest in Brazil.

The contract was negotiated at VW's headquarters in Germany and presented by union officials as a way to preserve jobs. The auto workers walked off their jobs when negotiations reached a stalemate after plant managers refused to reverse the layoff of 3,000 workers. Union leaders called the termination an act of "aggression, truculence, cowardice, and terrorism." Previous to the agreement the union had accused the company of "blackmail" for using the threat of the layoffs to force the agreement.

In negotiations, VW officials demanded the pay cut while promising some job security for the workforce through 2006. Of the 3,000 workers that were dismissed last week, only 1,500 have gone back to work, with the other 1,500 remaining out on paid leave until January 31. The agreement also calls for placing 700 workers in a "volun-

tary" retirement program.

Immediately after the agreement was signed the company announced that jobs will be tied to overall sales. "The guarantee of employment is linked to the behavior of the Brazilian market," said VW Brazil president Herbert Demel to the press after the agreement was approved.

VW operates five plants in Brazil and employs 26,800 workers. It's the largest private company in Latin America's biggest economy. Faced with sharp competition, VW has been moving to cut labor costs and pressure the unions in São Paulo. Automakers have been shifting production out of São Paulo to other states where the average wages of auto workers are 30 percent lower. Between 1995 and 1999 companies have moved close to 600,000 jobs out of São Paulo.

"I think that we are all relieved," said Demel about the outcome of the strike. "We secured a mature accord, but the road was a little rocky," he added.

José Pastore, a consultant to the National Industry Confederation, praised the outcome of the negotiations by saying that the unions "have become more professional, realistic and better informed."