

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

40th anniversary of Second Declaration of Havana

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30,000 in Derry demand justice in British massacre

Workers, youth oppose anti-Catholic violence

BY JULIE CRAWFORD

DERRY, Northern Ireland—In what many called the largest march ever held here to demand justice for the massacre of 14 Irish freedom fighters by British troops in 1972, at least 30,000 people took to the streets in a show of strength February 3.

Workers, youth, and people of all generations took the cold, damp weather in stride as they traced the route of the civil rights marchers three decades ago January 30. They rallied at the spot where British paratroopers opened fire on the action, killing 14 and wounding many more. The 1972 march was called to oppose the internment without trial of thousands of civil rights and republican activists by Britain in August 1971.

Ever since, the fight to expose the responsibility of British imperialism for the assault, break the whitewash of the events organized by London, and clear the names of those killed has been intertwined with the battle to get the British out of Northern Ireland altogether. London has kept Ireland divided and claimed the northern six counties as part of the United Kingdom. Since late 1969 British imperialism has militarily occupied the north, imposing a reign of terror on the Catholic population.

Rally chairman Eamonn McCann de-
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Part of a throng of workers, youth, and other marchers in Derry, Northern Ireland, for 30th anniversary of Bloody Sunday. In 1972, British troops opened fire on a civil rights march killing 14. A fight to expose British imperialism's cover-up has been waged by Irish freedom fighters ever since. Some called this year's march the largest ever.

Coal bosses devastate workers' comp pay

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

PITTSBURGH—After years of cheating and obstruction by the West Virginia coal bosses, a dozen major coal producers agreed to pay nearly \$50 million in delinquent workers' compensation premiums. The \$50 million is a far cry from the \$406 million that coal companies owe to the Workers' Compensation Fund. Lawyers for West Virginia governor Robert Wise said the settlement was a "good deal"—even though some \$295 million in interest payments was "forgiven."

According to the most recent Workers' Compensation Fund audits, the top coal companies that owe money include Island Creek Coal (\$128.4 million); Massey Energy (\$71 million); the Pittston Company (\$53.2 million); National Mines (\$35.3 million); Peabody Coal (\$31.8 million); Dal-Tex Coal (\$20.6 million); Bluestone Coal (\$18.6 million); and USX Corp. (\$15.8 million).

West Virginia is the second largest coal-producing state and has one of the largest concentrations of coal miners in the coun-

try. Following a national trend, workers' compensation benefits to injured workers have been dropping. (After looking at the Bush Administration's proposed budget, this trend will continue as Washington plans further cuts in domestic programs, including job, health, and safety programs.)

The early January out-of-court settlement was aptly described by a former West Virginia Supreme Court Justice, who said the situation "smelled like a rotting carp." Unpaid Workers' Compensation premiums became a hot political issue in 1993 after the *Charleston Gazette* published a series of in-depth articles about how the large coal companies were using contractors to avoid their responsibilities and to weaken the union.

The series, "Coal field Contracts: Mining at What Price?" contained reports based on government records, internal company documents, as well as interviews with miners, contractors, and company and union officials.

The Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation (ACT), the main labor organization
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Hundreds condemn cop killing of Haitian youth in New York

BY CAROLE LESNICK

BROOKLYN, New York—The Haitian community here has organized a series of protests against the January 16 police killing of Georgy Louisgene, a 23-year-old worker. New York cops James Muirhead and Joseph Thompson shot Louisgene at the Vanderveer Estates housing project in East Flatbush. The two fired eight shots, five of which hit Louisgene, who was pronounced dead at the site of the shooting.

Four hundred people turned out for Louisgene's funeral February 2, which was followed by a march. Encouraging people to come to the action, his sister Abellard Louisgene told the *Daily Challenge*, "We want people to come from everywhere. It's not a matter of a Brooklyn man, of a Haitian man, it's a problem within the city of New York. It should be a concern to everybody."

Following the funeral mass, marchers accompanied family members and the funeral cortege to 3501 Foster Avenue where
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Funeral and march for Georgy Louisgene, who was killed by police, drew 400 people.

Bay Area unionists hit firing of socialist worker

BY BILL KALMAN

SAN FRANCISCO—"Mr. Italie's fight shows that workers have no boundaries—we suffer the same wherever we are," said Tony Segarra at a meeting here to defend fired Miami garment worker Michael Italie. "But they use the sons and daughters of workers in America to fight against workers around the world."

Segarra is a member of the Filipino Workers Association in the Bay Area. He helped organize a protest in front of the embassy of the Philippines here last week to demand an end to the renewed U.S. military activity in that country. Pat Segarra, of the Anak Bayan-Filipino Youth, added, "We must oppose and expose the U.S. military intervention in the Philippines and around the world."

Thirty-five people attended the January 29 meeting here, and another 45 turned out the next day in San Jose to hear the socialist garment worker talk about his fight to be reinstated at Goodwill. Italie also addressed a meeting on "Civil Liberties and You" in Fremont, sponsored by Tri City Peace Action, and spoke to a high school class at Foothills Middle College in Los Altos.

Italie, who ran for mayor of Miami on the Socialist Workers Party ticket, was fired October 22 after speaking out against the U.S. war in Afghanistan and in defense of the Cuban Revolution during a televised candidates' debate. Goodwill CEO Dennis
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Havana book fair is festival of Cuban Revolution

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA—Tens of thousands of people are expected to attend the 11th Havana International Book Fair, which opens here February 7. The 10-day fair, which is being held at the historic San Carlos de La Cabaña fortress overlooking the Havana Bay, is a major cultural event in Cuba and throughout Latin America.

Preparations for the event have been prominently publicized in the Cuban media. Thousands of working people, students, professionals, and others have been making plans to visit the fair, often saving their money weeks ahead of time to purchase books and pamphlets. Special shuttle buses are being provided to facilitate travel to the fair from different parts of Havana. Last year a record 200,000 people attended.

The popularity and mass character of the book fair here is a product of the Cuban Revolution. In 1961, 100,000 young people mobilized by their revolutionary leadership spread out across the country and wiped out illiteracy in a one-year campaign. For the past four decades, expanding access to education and culture has been a cornerstone of building a society where workers and
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Petition by Israeli reservists reflects wider war weariness

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

War-weariness in the Israeli population and the stepped-up military repression by the Israeli state against Palestinians fighting for self-determination have led to expressions of dissent by members of the Israeli armed forces.

More than 100 Israeli Army reservists have now signed a public statement saying that if called up to duty they will refuse to serve in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We will no longer fight beyond the Green Line for the purpose of occupying, deporting, destroying, blockading, killing, starving, and humiliating an entire people," declared the petition published in Israel's best-selling daily newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth*. "The price of occupation is the loss of the Israel Defense Forces' semblance of humanity and the corruption of all of Israeli society," the declaration also stated. The Green Line refers to the boundaries before the Israeli government launched a war against surrounding Arab countries in 1967, capturing the West Bank, the Golan Heights, the Sinai peninsula, and the Gaza Strip. The Sinai was later returned to control of Egypt.

"The statement, by combat officers and soldiers, amounted to the largest organized refusal by reservists to serve in the West Bank and Gaza in the last 16 months" since the latest upsurge in the Palestinians' fight against Israeli occupation, noted the *New York Times*.

The two reserve lieutenants who drafted the statement, David Zonshein, 28, a software engineer, and Yaniv Itzkovitch, 26, a university teaching assistant, said that their goal was to collect 500 signatures on the protest petition. They have both been suspended from their paratroop battalion by their commanding officer.

In interviews in *Yedioth Ahronoth* some of these reservists have been speaking out about the experiences they had as part of the Israeli military occupation force. These included firing at Palestinian boys who were throwing stones as far as 100 yards away,

posing no danger whatsoever to the troops.

Ariel Shatil, 32, said that in the Gaza Strip last September, his squad was supposed to fire heavy machine guns at a Palestinian town. "The gunfire penetrates thin walls and windows, and that kills people, and you don't know who you're killing," he said. Zonshein said that in an area where he served, houses and orchards were bulldozed in response to Palestinian gunfire.

"We all have limits," he stated. "You can be the best officer, and suddenly you're required to do things that you can't be asked to do: to shoot at people, stop ambulances, destroy houses when no one knows who lives in them."

Responding sharply to the growing expression of opposition to the Israeli rulers' military operations in the West Bank and Gaza, the army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, commented, "This is more than refusal to serve. This is incitement to rebellion."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon added his own warning: "It will be the beginning of the end of democracy if soldiers don't carry out the decisions of the elected government."

Most Israeli men are required to serve as army reservists until they are 45 years old. Since September 2000, more than 500 have refused to serve in the occupied territories. The majority have been quietly released. About 40 have been sentenced to up to 28 days in jail.

In mid-January, shortly after the Israeli army had demolished 60 Palestinian homes in a Gaza refugee camp, an article appeared in *Ha'aretz* by Dr. Yigal Shochat, a physician who used to be an Israeli fighter pilot, calling on F-16 pilots to refuse to bomb Palestinian cities.

"The divided opinion in the military ranks," noted a February 1 article in the London-based *Independent*, "was further exposed by revelations that a group of senior reserve officers led by a brigadier-general, were planning to present the government with proposals for the reoccupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the destruc-



Palestinian workers inspect collapsed roof of metalworks plant near Gaza, City destroyed by rockets fired by Israeli helicopters February 4.

tion of the Palestinian Authority."

Gas workers strike

At the same time, working people within Israel have been involved in several strike actions against government austerity demands. Workers employed by the Pi Giliot Gas Company walked off the job January 31, closing fuel supply depots around the country. The workers are protesting an announcement by management that 40 workers would be dismissed and wages for the remaining 180 would be cut by 20 percent. The workers rejected a call by the National Infrastructure Ministry to postpone their strike and begin immediate negotiations with the company.

According to an article in *Ha'aretz*, "Workers' committees from the National Insurance Institute...are expected to escalate work disputes, which have been going on for the past two-and-a-half weeks." They are demanding that 150 to 200 new employees be added to branches around the country.

Meanwhile, a strike by disabled workers entered its 50th day February 3 as protesters continued to demonstrate at the entrance to the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry in Jerusalem.

Assassinations of Palestinian fighters

The Israeli regime continues to carry out a policy of what they call "targeted killings," involving the assassination of Palestinians deemed to be leading the fight against military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. Dozens have been killed as a result of this policy, which just reinforced the determination of Palestinian fighters to press forward the fight for their rights.

Since the upsurge of protests started in September 2000, more than 250 Israelis and 800 Palestinians have been killed. Thousands more Palestinians have been wounded. Israeli forces have conducted deep incursions into Palestinian-controlled territory in the West Bank. For the past two months Israeli Army tanks have been sta-

tioned within 100 yards of the compound of Palestinian Authority president Yasir Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

In response to two recent suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem, including one by a young Palestinian woman on January 27, Israeli authorities have erected police checkpoints on the roads between East Jerusalem and the city's Jewish neighborhoods, and are discussing a plan to surround the city with barriers that would totally separate it from neighboring Palestinian communities in the West Bank.

Sharon, who is scheduled to meet with President George Bush in Washington, February 7, placed himself at the center of further controversy when he told the newspaper *Maariv* that he was sorry Israeli forces did not kill Arafat when they had a chance in Lebanon 20 years ago.

Despite Sharon's tough talk, the Israeli ruling class has been unable to build up a prowar spirit among the population. The petition by the reservists, while signed by a small number, takes place in the context of a weariness growing with the war against the Palestinians and a lack of perspective for any solution other than continued violence.

Added to this are worries among Israeli rulers over the prospects that the Jewish population will, in the long run, become a minority. With the Arab and Palestinian birth rates significantly higher than that of the Jewish population; the Israeli government has been encouraging immigration into the country.

An *Investor's Business Daily* article noted that instead of a net immigration, indications are that Israelis are leaving the country in greater numbers. "Many Israelis have dual citizenship and are spending more of their time outside Israel," the article said. "For recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Israel has become a way station. They move to Israel, then move to the U.S. The Census Bureau estimates there are 24,000 Israelis in the U.S. illegally," the paper reported.

THE MILITANT

Take down Confederate flag

Workers and youth in South Carolina continue to protest the Confederate flag flying on the state capitol grounds. The 'Militant' brings you coverage of demonstrations and working-class battles reflected in the fight to bring down this symbol of racism and terror aimed at all working people.



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Washington sharpens its trade weapon

BY JACK WILLEY

The U.S. ruling class has continued its course of taking advantage of its economic and military dominance to advance its trade interests against its imperialist rivals in Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and elsewhere. Washington has become increasingly aggressive in imposing tariffs against imports under the pretext of "anti-dumping" laws, at the same time as it gives billions of dollars in tax breaks to U.S. companies to boost their competitive position.

The U.S. rulers are also taking a tough stand against a number of semicolonial countries on a range of goods from agricultural products to textiles and steel.

Conflicts between Washington and its imperialist rivals have arisen over a bill approved by Congress soon after the September 11 events. The defense legislation allows the Air Force to spend as much as \$20 billion over 10 years in leasing 100 Boeing 767 jets to replace the current fleet of airborne fuel tankers.

European Union (EU) officials accused Washington of applying subsidies to the aerospace giant that give it an edge over its rival, Airbus. They pointed out that the deal had not been opened to competitive bidding and that Boeing's commercial operations are in fact underwritten by large government-funded defense and space operations—the fuel tanker plan being the latest example. Airbus is a consortium put together by the British, French, German, Italian, and other imperialist powers in Europe.

Several U.S. politicians and aerospace industry executives fired back, charging that Airbus receives state subsidies through government loans. In an effort to take some heat out of the dispute, the Air Force command announced that they may consider a tender by Airbus. Although the latter claims that it can lease the aircraft for 40 percent less money, the Air Force had shown no interest in giving the contract to a foreign competitor. A Boeing spokesman said that the government will simply use the Airbus offer to win some concessions from the Chicago-based company.

On January 22, in the latest round of punitive measures against the U.S. capitalists' competitors, the U.S. International Trade Commission imposed about \$500 million in tariffs on enriched uranium imports from four EU-member countries. The duties were set at more than 32 percent for Eurodif, the French government-controlled supplier, and at more than 2 percent on shipments by Urenco, a British-German-Dutch consortium.

Washington claims the uranium companies are "unfairly subsidized" and that France's exports were sold at an "unfairly low value." The trade commission said the United States Enrichment Company—the only U.S. producer of enriched uranium—will gain up to \$100 million in additional profits from the tariffs.

Washington is also considering slapping tariffs of up to 40 percent on steel imports to protect the U.S. steel trusts' home market. The move has not met with unanimous consent in the U.S. ruling class. Major corporations that heavily use steel in their products banded together in the Emergency Committee for American Trade have launched a counteroffensive to fight the tariff increases. They say the tariffs and quotas would cost U.S. companies that use steel up to \$34 billion over four years.

U.S. rulers lecture Tokyo

Despite these moves, U.S. Treasury secretary Paul O'Neill lectured the Japanese government about protectionist measures on January 23 during a visit to Tokyo. Addressing the continued decline of Japan's economy, the second largest in the world, O'Neill spoke against moves to let the yen fall in relation to the dollar.

"The weight of historical evidence shows that those who have tried to fix underlying economic problems with protectionist measures—and I count artificially depreciating the yen as one of those—actually weaken their own economy," he said.

A depreciating yen allows Japanese companies to gain a competitive edge for their exports by making them cheaper on the world market. At the same time the currency's decline increases the cost of imports into Japan. The yen has dropped 10 percent against the dollar since November.

The January 24 *Financial Times* of London expressed one of Washington's concerns, stating that "in the worst scenario, a

series of competitive devaluations by other Asian countries could trigger a flood of low-priced exports to the U.S."

The government in south Korea has also accused Tokyo of tacitly approving the decline in the yen's value. This is a particularly sensitive question as Japan is Seoul's second-largest trading partner next to the United States. The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency said south Korean exporters are losing out to Japanese manufacturers as a result.

Agricultural products

Washington is also waging trade wars on agricultural and fishing products on behalf of the giant monopolies that control the buying and selling of food and fibers. It barred imports of sugar from Mexico while flooding its southern neighbor with low-cost corn syrup. And import duties on garlic have gone through the roof, boosting its price on the U.S. market.

To the north, while most of the \$1.3 billion in trade that crosses the border between the U.S. and Canada every day remains duty-free, the two countries are in the midst of trade disputes over lumber, steel, wheat, and tomatoes. Eighty-seven percent of Canada's total exports go to the United States.

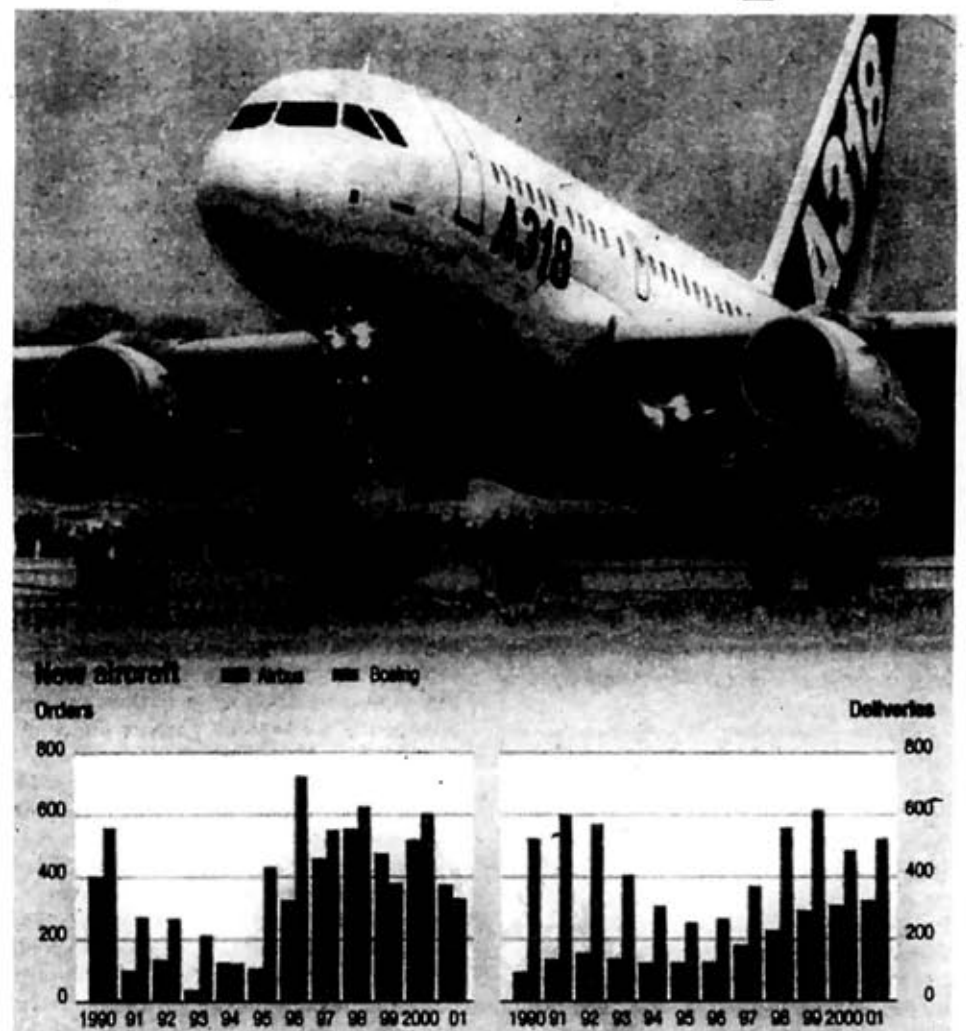
Last year, the U.S. government imposed 32 percent tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber. Canadian officials say that the measures have harmed an already weakening economy and forced mills to shut down. Sawmill closures have pushed thousands of people out of work.

Just months ago the U.S. Commerce Department placed "anti-dumping" duties on greenhouse-grown tomatoes from Canada, an industry that exported 224 million pounds of tomatoes to the U.S. last year. One British Columbian company faces a 34 percent tariff and most others a 24 percent levy.

The U.S. rulers are now threatening penalties on Canadian wheat and steel. They will make a final decision February 15 on whether to impose duties on durum and spring wheat. The North Dakota Wheat Commission marketing director Jim Peterson has charged Canada's wheat board with using "monopoly powers" to engage in "price undercutting" and with offering other indirect subsidies to farmers.

Fishy pretext to curb Vietnam's exports

Meanwhile, Washington continues to put the squeeze on countries oppressed by imperialism. A recent example is the move to severely restrict fish imports from Vietnam. Vietnamese companies have captured 20 percent of the domestic catfish market in just four years, selling "basa" fish at lower



Airbus, backed by imperialist powers in Europe, is in competition with Chicago-based Boeing. The European Union is protesting a Pentagon deal giving Boeing \$20 billion to lease 100 jets. The lease would help bolster Boeing's slumping commercial sales.

prices. While the basa fish looks and tastes like catfish, Congress temporarily forbade Vietnamese importers from labeling it as such. The Senate may make the ban permanent under an upcoming farm bill—a move that could potentially slash Vietnamese imports into the country.

Catfish farming has expanded in the last decade as small capitalist ventures have tapped into this lucrative niche market. The Department of Agriculture has encouraged many working farmers struggling to make ends meet to convert their rice or soybean fields into fish farms. Having done that, they are forced to compete with the larger ventures. In the U.S., 120 million pounds of catfish fillets are consumed each year. In the state of Arkansas alone, the industry made \$750 million dollars in 2001.

Brazilian foreign minister Celso Lafer issued a sharp warning to Washington over the future of the Free Trade Area of the

Americas (FTAA) pact in mid December after provisions disadvantageous to Brazil's capitalist rulers began to come to light.

"If the American position in light of the 'fast track' is going to be extremely restrictive in relation to Brazilian products that are competitive for export," he said, "the Brazilian counteroffer will be equally restrictive." Lafer was referring to the "fast-track" authority granted U.S. president Bush in negotiating trade agreements. The bill granting this power was touted as giving Bush the ability to present trade agreements to Congress for straight yes-or-no votes. The legislators would supposedly lose the ability to make amendments.

It turns out, however, that the bill requires Bush to obtain Congressional approval before reducing tariffs on nearly 300 products, most of them agricultural. They include some of Brazil's most important exports.

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Capitalist recession bites as numbers seeking shelter, welfare benefits go up

BY RÓGER CALERO

The number of homeless families seeking emergency shelter has hit record numbers in several U.S. cities, and for the first time in six years the number of working people receiving welfare benefits went up. These statistics are part of the stark impact of the capitalist recession on workers, as tens of thousands continue to face layoffs, pay cuts, or short workweeks.

A study released in January by the Independent Budget Office registered an increase of 5,000 people in New York City who were receiving welfare benefits in the last quarter of 2001.

The report noted a drop in the benefit rolls of some 6,400 people from November to December last year. This decline was due to the fact that 38,800 families in New York City alone were cut off federal welfare programs in December after reaching the five-year lifetime limit set in 1996 by the Clinton administration. The survey also warned that more people who have lost federal assistance will turn to state-financed programs in the coming months.

Under the 1996 legislation responsible for the devastating cutback in welfare benefits and the elimination of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the states are to assist those ineligible for federal programs with funds doled out in block grants by Washington. These programs are not en-

titlements guaranteeing benefits to all who need them, as was the case with AFDC. Concerned with the number of people who are needing assistance, officials from several state governments are saying their funds will soon run out. One official in New York state said the government was being left "holding the bag when the national economy slows and people need help."

The economic situation has deteriorated so rapidly that the state of New York has had to submit a request for a \$740 million loan from the federal government to be able to pay unemployment benefits.

The onset of the recession has brought to light the increased number of bureaucratic obstacles put in the way of workers who need benefits. The Independent Budget Office survey estimates that at the present time five people, including children, will be added to the rolls for every 10 jobs lost. A decade ago, before the Clinton "welfare reforms" were enacted, eight people began receiving benefits for every 10 jobs lost.

A feature article in the *Los Angeles Times* January 12 focused on the record number of homeless people in major cities across the country. The article reported that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of families being evicted from their homes and apartments because they are not able to pay the rent.

"We are going to see some people who

never dreamed of being homeless, homeless or living in their cars. Or desperate," J. Thomas Mullen, president of Catholic Charities in Cleveland, told the *Times* reporter.

The newspaper cited a recent survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors showing a drastic increase in the need for shelter in two dozen major cities. Request for beds in homeless shelters increased by at least 20 percent in Kansas City, Denver, New Orleans, and Trenton, New Jersey.

The sharp raise in homelessness has been spurred by the growing shortage of affordable housing. The *Washington Post* reported January 23 that in the nation's capital alone there are 12,000 names on the waiting list for government Section 8 housing vouchers, and 8,400 families waiting for public housing.

Officials in New York City say that the increase in the cost of housing, combined with a reduction in the number of landlords honoring government vouchers and further cutbacks in social programs, could force thousands of people with AIDS and other disabilities into the streets.

Charities that provide emergency funds to families on the verge of becoming homeless are quickly running out of money due to the overwhelming demand. "There is nothing out there, absolutely nothing," a social worker with the Salvation Army told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Immigrants face growing cop, rightist attacks in Europe

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

With a rise in the number of rightist and cop assaults against and killings of immigrant workers in Europe, the question of immigration has become a central one from Denmark to Italy and from France to Poland.

A number of capitalist governments in Europe are promoting policies that give more room for conservative and right-wing outfits to campaign for restrictions on the rights of these working people. These groups and parties are taking advantage of the tightening economic situation to attempt to divide the working class by making immigrants scapegoats for rising unemployment and worsening social conditions.

The free movement of people in an expanded European Union (EU) has been a contentious issue among the 12 countries seeking to join the EU. The French and German governments, among others, are demanding that citizens of new member countries not be allowed to travel unrestricted in the EU for up to eight years. They also stipulate that countries gaining admittance must beef up their eastern borders with Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine to prevent unregulated immigration into Europe.

Anti-immigrant campaign in Germany

"With 4.3 million unemployed we can't have more foreign workers coming into Germany," Edmund Stoiber, of the conservative Christian Social Union, told reporters January 16. Stoiber, who is premier of Bavaria, was recently chosen as the party's candidate for chancellor. In challenging the incumbent social democrat Gerhard Schröder to a series of televised debates, he said he would "like to meet him when the jobless figures come out in February and ask him what he plans to do about it."

A few months ago the reelection of Schröder was considered a cakewalk in national elections scheduled for September. Stoiber, however, has opened up a small lead of 3 percentage points in the opinion polls.

While Schröder has backed measures to make it easier for some industries to hire workers from abroad, his government has also carried out assaults against sections of

the working class. After the September 11 events the German government has used its antiterror campaign to promote repressive measures targeting immigrants who are Muslims. Reactionary legislation was signed into law December 8 that authorized the banning of religious organizations if they are deemed to be "undermining democracy" or "inciting violence."

Four days after the new law took effect the government banned 20 organizations and conducted more than 200 raids in seven cities, entering offices, homes, and mosques.

Rightists have also made gains in Denmark, where elections took place last November. The right-wing Danish People's Party doubled its seats in parliament and became the third-largest party in the country. Its leader, Pia Kjaersgaard, scapegoated Muslims in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and campaigned for greater restrictions on immigrants.

Denmark's former prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, who was trounced in the elections, was dealt a blow one year earlier by the People's Party, which spearheaded the defeat of a referendum on adopting the euro. Rasmussen campaigned for joining the currency union, but the "no" vote won by 53.1 percent.

"I fear things could get worse with this new government," said Zarah Ahmed, a shopkeeper from Syria. Immigrants were being blamed for Denmark's growing economic and social problems, he said.

"Ugly remarks increased after September 11," said Wallid el-Amrani, a student from Jordan. "I often get called names when I go out on the town for a beer."

The Danish ruling class has kept tighter controls on immigration than most European countries. Out of a population of 5.3 million fewer than 5 percent are foreign born.

Beating by cops in Spain

The Spanish cops' treatment of immigrants from Africa has been highlighted in the recent brutal beating in Barcelona of a U.S. citizen who is Black. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is pressing the U.S. ambassador to Spain to file a formal complaint with Madrid.



Cops seize gas bottles from Muslim groups in Germany during raid on December 12, 2001. The German government conducted more than 200 raids and banned 20 organizations using antiterrorist law.

The man, Rodney Mack, the principal trumpet player in the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, was attacked by four cops in an underground garage after he left rehearsal. The cops claim that they were looking for a car thief who was "Black and roughly Mack's height." Mack says the police did not identify themselves. In the end he was charged with resisting arrest and attacking a police officer.

The NAACP expressed its outrage that neither the Spanish nor the U.S. governments have taken any formal action against the police officers. Spanish officials later admitted the beating was a "misunderstanding" but added that Mack fit the "characteristics" of skin color and height of the suspect the police were trying to apprehend.

Cops and the fascist National Front in Britain have collaborated in attacks on working people from the Indian subcontinent who live in the towns of Bradford and Burnley. Last July cops escorted a group of 100 racists from the predominantly Asian area of Burnley to the largely white area of the town and then pulled away to allow the fascists to launch attacks on a few Asian properties nearby. One resident said he spent 30 minutes calling the police while 60 thugs torched his home and shop.

Capital needs labor

The growth of immigration over the past decade, and the incorporation of tens of millions of immigrants into the working class across Europe, is a result of the natu-

ral workings of capitalism. Labor follows capital flows, and capital constantly seeks layers of toilers to draw in and superexploit in order to boost profit rates and international competitiveness. And population trends in Europe are pressing the capitalists to open the doors of immigration simply in order to prevent negative population growth.

In a July 2000 speech the European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, Antonio Vitorino, said the EU is "facing a changing economic and demographic situation which, I believe, calls into question our existing response to the phenomena of migration.... the zero immigration policies of the past 25 years are not working, but, in addition, they are no longer relevant to the economic and demographic situation in which the Union now finds itself."

Without a change in current birth rates among Europeans, the population of the continent will fall from 380 million to 340 million by 2050. France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom were the destinations for the big bulk of immigrants over the past decade. But to keep their populations at the same level, the four countries will need to increase immigration from 237,000 a year to 677,000 a year over that time period.

When the German government agreed to allow computer-related industries to hire and bring in up to 30,000 foreign workers in 2000, opposition parties responded with the slogan, "*Kinder statt Inder*," or "Children instead of Indians," pressing the rightist propaganda that German women should bear more babies rather than allow immigration from India.

Similar conflicts in Scandinavia

On January 17 three fascist youth in Norway were sentenced to prison for knifing to death Benjamin Hermansen, a 15-year-old African-Norwegian, last year. At their trial the three defendants, who are members of a fascist gang called the Bootboys, testified that they thought Norway should be reserved for white Norwegians. "We hate foreigners," they reportedly said at their trial.

The immigrant population in Norway has more than doubled since 1980 and now accounts for 5.5 percent of the country's 4.5 million people. Rightist figures have sought to scapegoat noncitizens for rising unemployment, a housing crisis, and other social problems. The right-wing Progress Party emerged as a force in the country's elections last September while the former ruling Labor Party suffered its worst defeat in 80 years.

All the traditional bourgeois parties adopted aspects of the Progress Party's anti-welfare, anti-immigrant program. The Progress Party itself waged a campaign to limit immigration to 1,000 people a year and championed a proposal to deport immigrants who have allegedly committed a crime. While the rightist outfit is not a formal part of the new coalition government, two of its members were appointed to chair the Finance Committee, which oversees the national budget, and the Social Affairs Committee, which deals with health and welfare issues.

In Sweden ultrarightist skinheads savagely beat a Hungarian-born worker last year as he left his job as a ticket collector in a subway station. Two months later traffic cops gunned down Idris Demir, a Kurdish immigrant from Turkey. Faced with the threat of deportation, Demir had fled after failing to provide the cops with identification and was shot in the back.

30,000 in Derry demand justice from British

Continued from front page

scribed the event as "the greatest gathering of people" ever witnessed in Derry. The featured speakers at the rally included Alex Attwood of the reformist Social Democratic Labor Party; Geraldine Doherty, of the Bloody Sunday Relatives, whose uncle Gerard Donaghy was killed by the British; and Gerry Kelly, the vice president of Sinn Féin, the political party that is leading opposition to British rule in Northern Ireland. McCann, one of the leaders of the 1972 march, chaired the rally and gave a concluding address.

"Bloody Sunday was planned...to terrorize the Nationalist and Republican people," Kelly told the rally. "It was designed to intimidate us...to abandon our quest for civil rights and national rights."

McCann said, "We have come a long way...the shining goal of justice for the Bloody Sunday dead is now in sight. The Bloody Sunday march has come to represent all those who suffer under imperialism and oppression all around the world. In winning justice we will win something for oppressed people from all parts of the earth." The official theme of this year's march was "One World, Many Struggles," to point to the connections with other countries fighting against imperialism.

The march was led by a contingent carrying photos and crosses bearing the names of their relatives killed by the British troops. They were followed by Republican bands, contingents protesting police collusion with right-wing death squads, Sinn Féin youth and party branches, and solidarity groups from the United Kingdom, the United States, the Basque country, Italy, and Germany.

Thousands at the march came from other

parts of Ireland, including the Irish Republic. People filled three coaches from Galway in the west of Ireland. Kerrill Qualter was on one of them. He said, "I am a republican and the united Ireland I fight for will follow as we fight for equal rights." Robert Duffy came on one of 20 coaches from Belfast. He had taken part in rallies to support parents at the Holy Cross school, where rightist thugs were attempting to prevent Catholic school children from entering the school by the front door.

The rear of the march was brought up by a several-thousand-strong contingent from the Derry Trades Union Council. The participation of trade union members in organized contingents was bolstered by the recent union mobilization against right-wing, anti-Catholic violence.

As part of a half-day strike by postal workers January 18 to protest the murder of a Catholic letter carrier by pro-British rightists and death threats against Catholic school teachers, local trade union activists say they organized a rally of 10,000 workers at the town. On February 4 postal workers walked out again after a phone called named a Catholic postman and warned him not to enter the predominantly Protestant Waterside. The workers refused to return to the jobs until the pro-British Ulster Defense Association issued a statement denying association with the threat. A mass meeting was organized for postal workers to hear the statement.

The week leading up to the action featured fund-raising concerts, panels on police brutality against immigrants, a concert by Christie Moore, and a television premiere of two movies, "Bloody Sunday" and "Sunday," depicting the events of 1972.

The mobilization over the past months,

as well as progress in the fight to expose the British government's responsibility for the 1972 massacre, helped ensure the massive turnout for the anniversary march this year.

With the advance of the Irish freedom struggle, and pressure from the campaign to demand justice in the case, the British government under Labour prime minister Anthony Blair agreed in 1998 to a new inquiry into the killing. A previous hearing, called the Widgery Commission, was part of a government cover-up. It sought to clear the soldiers, officers, and London of any wrongdoing, while placing the blame for the murderous assault on the Irish freedom fighters. The commission hearings, headed by British judge Lord Saville, began last November.

The Saville tribunal has been holding hearings here, and taking testimony from eyewitnesses. Many say they feel as if they are being prosecuted while testifying, but the crowd was clearly determined to continue the fight until the truth comes out.

Tony Doherty, whose father was killed on Bloody Sunday, said that for the families of those killed, testifying at the tribunal "is a horrible experience. But we need a sense of achievement. We forced the British government to admit the original inquiry was a whitewash. We disagree with the inquiry moving to Britain but now it is going, we will go too and call to those in Britain who believe in truth and justice to join us."

Among other events, a memorial service held January 30 was attended by more than 1,000 people. At another meeting a week before in London, Sinn Féin councilor Gerry O'Hara noted that one of the British army barracks in Derry was due to be closed by the British, calling it "a step forward." He

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In Ireland, stores order 355 Pathfinder books

BY ANN FIANDER

MANCHESTER, England—In three days of intensive sales work in Ireland at the end of January, two volunteer Pathfinder sales representatives visited 19 stores and gained orders for 355 books published or distributed by the publisher of revolutionary literature.

The top-selling title was *Capitalism's World Disorder* by Jack Barnes, with 35 copies ordered. At all the visits the reps showed a copy of this book to buyers and explained how it covered the economic crisis in the world today, and pointed to sections on Ireland, the United Kingdom, Argentina, and India. Eight bookstores placed orders.

Buyers at stores also placed orders for 14 copies of Pathfinder's newest title *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution* by Victor Dreke.

Indeed, just under 40 percent of all the orders—some 130 books and pamphlets—

were for Pathfinder books on the Cuban Revolution. These included 23 copies of *Che Guevara Talks to Young People* and 9 copies of *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas* by José Ramón Fernández and Fidel Castro.

In 10 of the 19 stores visited buyers placed orders immediately. Two promised to send in orders, three took suggested orders, and four asked for catalogs to be left with them. The sales team drew its list of stores to target from previous contacts, Internet searches, and a directory of bookstores in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Bookstores visited included those in the city centers, at airports, and at campus commercial stores, as well as outlets run by political organizations.

The team's first sales appointment in Dublin was at a store outside the city center that has a high volume of sales. Over coffee, the buyer was happy to take time to dis-

cuss Pathfinder's list, look over samples, and study the catalog. This buyer decided to order 20 of each of four titles: *Capitalism's World Disorder*, *Che Guevara Talks to Young People*, *The Assassination of Malcolm X*, and *Nelson Mandela Speaks*.

A few buyers, when contacted by phone before the trip, were not willing to make appointments but nevertheless asked the sales reps to visit their stores to leave catalogs and a suggested order. The team made sure to do this to lay the basis for orders in the future.

In fact, in two such stores the buyers came out to meet the representative and look over the suggested order. At another, the volunteers had mailed the catalog to the buyer in advance. She studied it and then asked a colleague to look at the books. He ordered seven books, including *Black Music*, *White Business* and *John Coltrane and the Jazz Revolution of the 1960s*, both by Frank Kofsky, and *Nelson Mandela Speaks* and

How Far We Slaves Have Come, by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro.

The reps found noticeable interest in Pathfinder's titles by South African leader Nelson Mandela on the revolutionary struggle to overthrow the apartheid regime. A total of 42 books and pamphlets by Mandela were ordered. Forty-eight books of speeches by U.S. revolutionary leader Malcolm X were also placed and six titles on the struggle for women's liberation. In one city center store, a buyer said he wanted a range of books for his philosophy section. He ordered one of each title by George Novack listed in the catalogue.

A number of buyers said they liked Pathfinder's books. One who placed a small order for a city center store noted the high quality of the books. At a campus store the manager said he was impressed with the quality of the archive photographs, calling them "really lovely." He listened to a brief explanation of the international project of Pathfinder volunteers to turn the entire backlist of the publishing house into ready-to-print digital files. Having begun by saying he would not order any books, he held up *Che Guevara Talks to Young People* to look at. He decided to order two, "if only because of the quality of the front cover."

The sales team visited four university campuses to meet bookstore buyers and do some initial work promoting Pathfinder's list among academic staff. One visit was to a large campus library where the acquisitions librarian spent considerable time going through the catalog and showing the team around the facility. He offered to pass the catalog, together with an order form, to the political sciences librarian.

Following up on suggestions from bookstore buyers, the volunteer reps met with the head of the politics department at one university who looked through the catalog. He made further suggestions for the team about who to contact among his colleagues in Ireland and England about ordering Pathfinder titles. He invited the team to leave catalogs for the other members of the department.

"Pathfinder was taken seriously and treated with a lot of respect by buyers and academics we met," commented sales team member Debbie Delange shortly after returning from Ireland. She illustrated this point with a comment from a campus bookstore buyer who ordered *History of the Russian Revolution* by Leon Trotsky, among other titles. He said that "no self-respecting bookstore should be without this book."

'A wonderful accomplishment' say supporters of new Birmingham bookstore

BY CHERYL GOERTZ

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—The new Pathfinder bookstore on Bessemer Road was filled to capacity January 27 by supporters who gathered to celebrate the relocation of the bookstore to the Five Points West area of this city.

Coal miners, textile and other workers, and youth from the University of Alabama were among the 20 participants in the day's events. Socialist workers and youth traveled from Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina, for the program as well.

The featured presentation was given by Ma'mud Shirvani, editor of Pathfinder's Farsi-language program. He spoke on "Imperialist Militarism from the Middle East to the Indian Subcontinent: Washington's War Abroad—Extension of Growing Attacks on Workers at Home." Shirvani, who edited the Farsi-language edition of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, also gave a class on "Malcolm X and the fight against imperialism today" over the course of the weekend's events.

"Five Points West is part of the historic Ensley area of Birmingham, home to thousands of steelworkers and other industrial workers, many of them Black, and now includes a growing number of Latino workers," said textile worker Susan LaMont, who welcomed everyone to the program. "Since we've started concentrating more of our *Militant* sales in this area, we're finding many workers and young people who are glad to hear about a bookstore like Pathfinder opening in their neighborhood."

LaMont read a message to the meeting from Willie Evans, a leading activist in the strike that recently ended after nearly four years at Titan Tire in Natchez, Mississippi. Evans, a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 303L, wrote in part: "I send warm greetings to you on this blessed day, and congratulate you on the wonderful ac-



Militant/Dave Wulp
Above, Ma'mud Shirvani spoke on Washington's war at home and abroad. Right, celebration of new bookstore location attracted 20 participants.



complishments of the new location and Grand Opening of the Pathfinder Bookstore. This is another milestone that has been etched in time, leading toward our goals of educating the workers, farmers, miners, and the young generation in their rights by means of the many books and other materials that the

Pathfinder Bookstore has to offer."

The program was chaired by Brian Taylor, a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 2133. Taylor told the audience about the upcoming Havana International Book Fair, which Pathfinder will be participating in along with an international delegation.

The week before the opening, the *Birmingham Times*, a newsweekly widely read in this city's Black community, did an interview with Taylor about the new bookstore. The article appeared a few days before the event.

"Well, get ready for something totally new," wrote *Times* journalist Rabel Hardrick in the January 24 issue. "Birmingham's superbusy highway is about to welcome a new bookstore dealing with economic and social issues.... Pathfinder coordinator Brian Taylor says Bessemer Road is the ideal location for a Pathfinder Bookstore.... This is not the best time for small businesses, but [for] what Pathfinder is and does, it's actually prime time."

Participants in the grand opening donated more than \$600 to help with renovation of the bookstore. Volunteers have pitched in since early January to get the store in shape. In addition to workers and youth from Birmingham who worked on fixing up the bookstore, a team of Pathfinder supporters from Atlanta came over one weekend to help get the premises ready to open for business.

Farmers buy Pathfinder at protest in Greece, discuss political struggles

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece—Two supporters of Pathfinder set up a literature table at the Tembi Pass in Greece during a protest by farmers (see article page 16). The table contained Greek-language translations of Pathfinder titles as well as several English-language books and the *Militant* newspaper. The table was set in front of a roadside restaurant not far from the toll booths.

As farmers walked by as they went in for coffee, refreshments, or some food, several stopped and took a look at the books. Six picked up copies of *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* by Doug Jenness. One stayed at the table for nearly three-quarters of an hour to talk about questions ranging from the crisis farmers face in Greece, to the resistance of the Palestinian people and the U.S. imperialist war in Central Asia. Another farmer was interested in the example of the Cuban Revolution and picked up a copy of the Greek-language edition of *The Second Declaration of Havana*.

The next day the team of volunteers visited bookstores in the town of Larissa, the largest city in the Thessaly region. Three bookstores were found that carry a wide range of titles, including political books. One placed an order for 14 Greek-language books and pamphlets that include the articles and documents "Imperialism's March Towards Fascism and War," *The Second Declaration of Havana*, "1848 To Today: Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government," *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*, and *The Truth About Yugoslavia: NATO's War against the Working People of Yugoslavia*.



Coal bosses devastate workers' comp pay

Continued from front page

behind 21 lawsuits filed to force the coal companies to pay up, was disappointed with the settlement, saying that the amount was too low. Not surprisingly, the West Virginia Coal Association, opposed the agreement because it "still contends the coal companies weren't responsible for their subcontractors debts," according to the *Daily Mail*, a big-business newspaper in Charleston, West Virginia.

At the same time that the coal bosses were skirting their workers' compensation obligations, the fund fell deeper and deeper into crisis. In 1995 the Workers' Compensation Fund had \$2.2 billion in "unfunded liabilities." In response, former West Virginia governor Gaston Caperton led an assault on the workers' compensation law. One of the worst features included a provision making it harder for injured workers to qualify for lifetime "permanent total disability" benefits.

The employers abused the workers' compensation system and the state went along with it. "For years, the Workers Compensation Fund failed to collect premiums from employers, especially mining companies, amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars in losses," reported the *Gazette*.

Steve White, executive director of ACT, said, "Injured workers were made to pay for bad debts of coal companies. And the problems weren't being corrected. Benefits got cut, but the problem of companies not paying premiums continued."

A West Virginia official had an opposite response. "It was critical to address workers' compensation and its many financial problems to improve West Virginia's bond rating on Wall Street," he said. While ACT was organizing to keep the lawsuits alive, a concerted effort, led by William Vieweg, a former Bureau of Employment Commissioner, was made to kill the lawsuits.

Vieweg was an executive and lawyer for Island Creek Coal Co. between 1976 and 1986. However, he failed in his attempt to blame the contractors for the nonpayment of the unpaid premiums. Echoing this claim, Bluefield Coal president James Justice said, "We had no clue, none, that anybody owed anything until the article came out in the *Charleston Gazette* in December of 1996."

Vieweg's effort was slapped down by a McDowell County judge last fall, who said he had breached his "fiduciary duty," calling his actions "irresponsible and without any basis."

Getting away with murder

The facts behind the agreement show how the coal bosses have been getting away with murder. In response to a miners' upsurge around health and safety issues and union democracy in the 1970s, one of the ways the coal bosses have sought to break the United Mine Workers union was through the use of contractors. Particularly in the southern Appalachian coalfields of Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia, coal companies began to hire contractors to mine their coal, thereby shifting the costs of mining onto smaller companies. In practice this meant the contractors became responsible for providing health care, pensions, and workers compensation benefits.

The "philosophy" behind the switch to widespread use of contractors was spelled out in a confidential document, "The Massey Coal Company Doctrine," which began circulating in the early 1980s. According to the "doctrine," less attractive reserves, for example low coal seams, should be mined by contractors. "We are willing to settle for a smaller but reasonably assured profit, but avoid the mining risk," it said.

Reporting on how widespread this practice became, the *Gazette* noted that Massey and Island Creek used more than 725 different contractors in West Virginia and Kentucky. The paper reported most state agencies "never try to untangle complex corporate webs. Records show the West Virginia Workers' Compensation Fund, for example, has done little in the past to force Massey, Island Creek and other companies to pay millions of dollars owed by their contract miners."

The move to contractors was carefully planned out and executed by the big coal companies. In 1993, Thomas Hoffman, a Bituminous Coal Operators Association spokesman who is currently the head of CONSOL, said, "Look around corporate America at what people are doing to avoid health-care and other payments. They're contracting out work. That's the whole point

of using contractors."

By employing contractors, the coal corporations had other goals as well. One of the most important was to switch liabilities, often referred to as "legacy costs," of their union miners onto the contractors. For example, when a longtime union miner retires while working for the contractor, that contractor is responsible for paying his pension and lifetime health benefits. This is how companies like Massey and Peabody got rid of their union workers.

Benefits won by union in 1940s

These benefits were won by the union through hard fought battles in the 1940s. In the recent period, the union organized a demonstration of 8,000 miners in Washington in May 2000 to demand that the government honor its commitment to support lifetime health benefits for retired coal miners.

In addition, the coal bosses used contractors to bypass safety regulations contained in the 1969 Coal Mine, Health and Safety Act, as well as the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, which imposed new environmental standards on all coal companies. These laws were the product of a decade-long fight by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

In all of this the coal companies had one objective in mind: increase profits. Most contracts between the large coal companies and the contractors included the unilateral right of the coal company to cut prices and to cancel contracts on short notice. Numerous small contractors were forced to declare bankruptcy. It was not uncommon for contractors not to pay workers' compensation premiums, taxes, or royalties to the UMWA health and pension funds, and in some cases, even wages. Miners were left out in the cold with nothing.

Contract mining was not a small part of coal production. In 1991, coal from contract mining accounted for 42 percent of all coal mined in southern West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, and southwestern West Virginia. Contractors also accounted for a high percentage of injuries and fatalities in the mines.

From its inception in 1913, the workers' compensation system has worked poorly with workers getting the short end of the stick. The system is based on a "social contract" whereby injured workers are compensated for injuries quickly, and individual employers are immune from costly injury-related lawsuits. Even with this favorable setup, the bosses have been let off the hook countless times. "For years, the Workers' Compensation system paid a pittance, or nothing at all for bodies destroyed in the mines, mills and factories," reported the *Gazette*.

In addition, the coal bosses have consistently challenged workers' compensation claims to the point that in recent years 40 to 50 percent of all cases before the Supreme Court have been workers' compensation appeals.

Youth group in Atlanta demands inmates rights

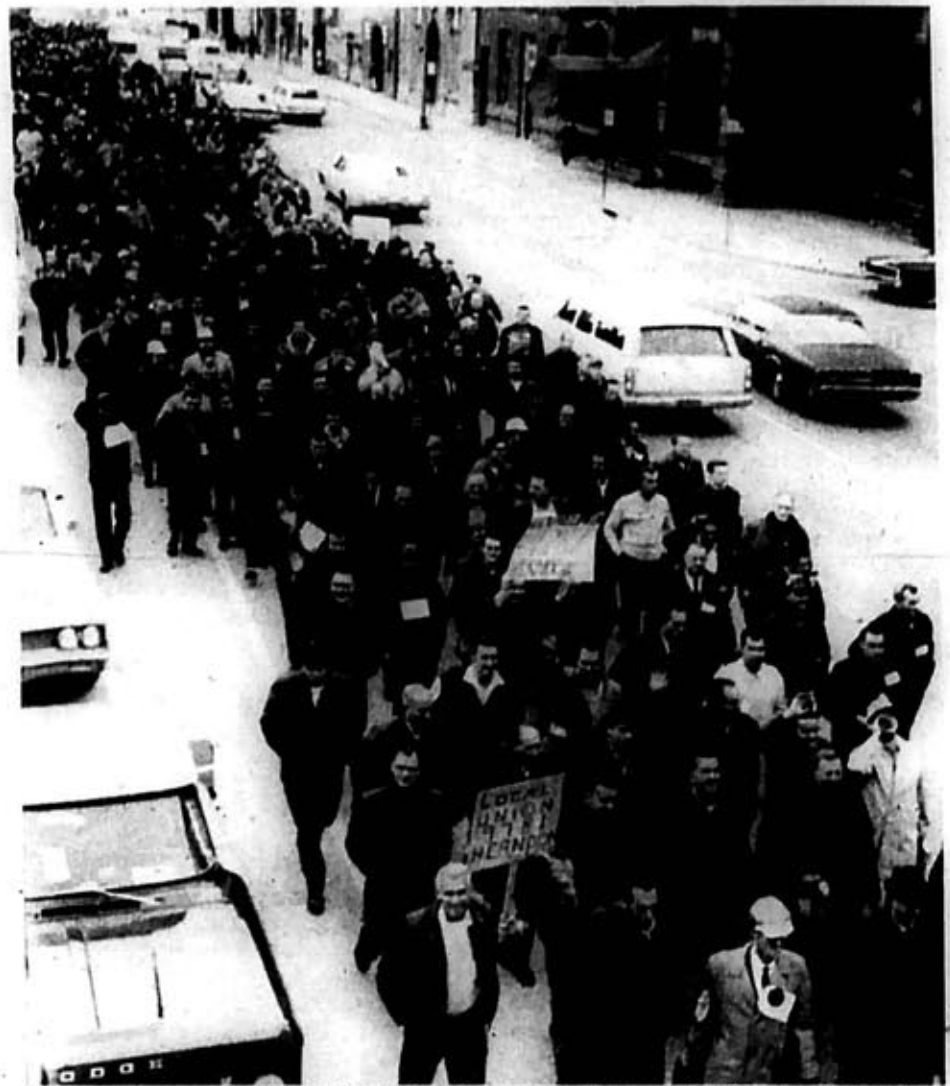
BY JAMES HARRIS

ATLANTA—Chanting, "Inmates are human not animals," and "Inmates have rights too," 25 people stood outside the Cobb County Adult Detention Center February 2 protesting the conditions in the jail. As the demonstrators chanted and held up signs, inmates crowded into the few tiny windows that weren't blocked out to wave encouragement.

The demonstration was called by New Order, a group of working-class youth that has been organizing actions against police profiling and harassment in the Cobb County area of Georgia. Last October New Order organized the first demonstration in anyone's memory against racial profiling in the county. They have been active since then and have called another demonstration for February 23.

A number of participants joined the February 2 action after hearing Gerald Rose, the founder of New Order, speaking about the protest on television. Some of the protesters have family members who are currently incarcerated in the jail. A majority of the participants have had brushes with the Cobb County "justice" system.

A woman who participated with two other members of her family described conditions



The most important change in workers' compensation came in the aftermath of the upsurge in miners' fight for democracy in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The high point was the black lung strike of 45,000 coal miners in West Virginia in 1969, who demonstrated in the state capital until a favorable black lung bill was passed. Above, black lung march in Charleston, West Virginia, February 1969.

The most important change in workers' compensation came in the aftermath of the upsurge in miners' fight for democracy in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The high point was the black lung strike of 45,000 coal miners in 1969, who demonstrated in the West Virginia state capital of Charleston until a favorable black lung bill was passed.

In the next few years, new laws were passed forcing the participation of employers in workers' compensation and increased funds were allocated for injured workers.

The political importance of the workers' compensation issue will only increase in the years ahead as the employers intensify their attack on the conditions of coal miners and other workers in West Virginia. Last year West Virginia led the nation in coal mine fatalities with 14, the largest increase in years and double the fatalities of the previous year. Nationwide, 42 miners were killed in the mines in 2001. There is also a big jump in serious health and safety violations, including those that re-

sult in serious injury.

The West Virginia Office of Miners Health and Safety and Training is woefully inadequate. In 2001 West Virginia spent \$6.2 million on mine safety, about \$4 million less than Kentucky, which is also under close scrutiny for safety violations. Under today's law a killed miner brings no more than a \$200 to \$300 fine against the coal boss. For the first time in two decades there are a significant number of young inexperienced miners in Southern Appalachian coalfields. As in the past, the fight around safety—from workers' compensation for industrial injuries, to black lung compensation, to preventing mine explosion like the one in Alabama last September—will be growing concerns for coal miners and coal field communities. Already this year, four coal miners have been killed—all of them in the Southern Appalachian coalfields.

Frank Forrestal is a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1248 and works in southwestern Pennsylvania.

in the jail, but asked the *Militant* not to include her name because she was afraid her husband could be victimized. She said her husband and other inmates were underfed. They are routinely given a single peanut butter sandwich for lunch and can wait as long as 10 hours for their next meal.

Two Latinas coming out after a visit nodded their heads in agreement after getting a translation of the woman's description of the conditions in the prison. They already knew the words for peanut butter because the man they were visiting had complained about it.

Denise Watson said that the inmates received inadequate medical care. Watson, whose son had been an inmate, said, "If one of them has problems with their teeth they just pull the tooth. There is no other dental care or if you need medicine you have to pay for it." Watson said prisoners had to pay \$5 for one Tylenol pill. Others nodded in agreement with her statements.

Black, white, and Latino visitors to inmates at the facility were overwhelmingly friendly to the action. Some spontaneously joined in. All had stories about the brutal conditions inside.

Gerald Rose said that for the last several weeks he has been getting reports that people are being mistreated in the facility.

"I have had several calls that the food is cold, the water is cold, and inmates are sleeping on the floor and being bitten by spiders. There are no recreational or educational facilities inside," he said. "There is also evidence that Cobb County will hold a person for up to 19 months on a misdemeanor charge without ever seeing a judge."

Another group that New Order is networking with is Mothers Advocating Juvenile Justice (MAJJ), which held a rally of close to 100 people January 29 to protest Georgia laws that treat children as adults in the prison system. The rally also backed parole for juveniles.

Under a law passed in Georgia in 1994, youth between the ages of 13 and 17 convicted of certain crimes like armed robbery must serve a mandatory prison sentence of 10 years with no chance of parole. According to a MAJJ fact sheet, 94 percent of children in the Georgia prison system are Black and have no right to education or health care. MAJJ will also be a part of the February 23 demonstration. This action will take place at 12:00 noon on the corner of South Cobb Drive and Concord Road. Call (770) 438-7938 for more information.

James Harris is a textile worker in Atlanta.

Bosnians protest U.S. taking six men to cages in Cuba

BY RÓGER CALERO

The Bosnian government's decision to hand over six men to U.S. authorities has provoked a strong reaction among the majority Muslim population in Sarajevo. The six were accused of being linked to an al Qaeda network that planned attacks against the U.S. embassy and American military facilities in Bosnia.

Despite the decision by a Bosnian court to release them for lack of evidence of their involvement in any terrorist attacks, the six men were given to U.S. forces and taken to the American naval base at Guantánamo, Cuba. Both the U.S. and Bosnian authorities insisted that the six still represent "a credible threat."

The news that six men rounded up in Bosnia are among the 100 being kept in Guantánamo in chicken-wire cages—constantly shackled and handcuffed—is at odds with Washington's portrayal of the camp as a jail for "unlawful combatants" captured in Afghanistan. The U.S. government refused to classify the men as prisoners of war or guarantee they will be treated under provisions of the Geneva Convention.

On January 18, the day the accused men were transferred to custody of U.S. authorities, some 300 people—including family members, friends and other supporters—attempted to block the move by demonstrating in front of the jail in Sarajevo where the six had been held since October. One day earlier a Bosnian court had granted an order against the deportation of four of the men. The demonstrators were dispersed by police armed in riot gear.

Of the six, five are originally from Algiers, and one from Yemen. All are married to Bosnian women. Many of the protests against their deportation have been spearheaded by their wives.

The deportations were made possible when the Bosnian government decided to strip the five men of their Bosnian citizenship. This has generated wider outrage among the Muslim population. Many see these moves as part of the broader attacks on their rights and the growing U.S. intervention and control of Bosnian institutions.

Although the country has a government, the imperialist-backed United Nations administration effectively governs the territory, can overrule any institution, and even has the power to remove elected officials.

"The Americans wanted the Algerians and got them," said Vlado Adamovic, a Bosnian Supreme Court judge quoted in the *Washington Post* January 31. "As a citizen, all I can say is it was an extra-legal procedure," he added. The same article in the *Post* described the cover of a popular Bosnian magazine depicting the figure of Uncle Sam urinating on the country's constitution and the European Human Rights Convention.

Washington and other European powers have demanded the Bosnian government deport Muslims who came to Bosnia in the early

1990s to fight on the side of the Bosnian army against Serbian forces. The imperialists claim that hundreds of Islamic militants residing in Bosnia have turned the country into a springboard for terrorist activities.

So far at least 20 people have been arrested by Bosnian and NATO authorities, who have launched investigations of Islamic humanitarian organizations. Last October NATO troops raided the office of a charity supported by the Saudi government. The squad confiscated computer equipment and arrested two Bosnian employees. Some 104 Arab residents have had their citizenship revoked as part of the Bosnian government's "antiterrorist" policies, and even former military commanders who fought on Bosnia's side have faced deportation.

"What the previous government has been doing is something that we won't stand for," said the acting interior minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, referring to the presence of immigrants. "We are going to correct that," he added.

Washington has praised the Bosnian government's moves against the Islamic groups. "We deeply appreciate their efforts both to protect our safety and to promote security in your country," said the U.S. ambassador in Bosnia.

The arrests have fueled criticism of what many see as the imperialists' double standard in relation to the capture of Bosnian Serb leaders accused of atrocities against Bosnian Muslims.

In response, Washington announced that it would "redouble" efforts to catch two Serbs indicted in 1995 for war crimes. Claiming that their renewed campaign to



Above, wives of the six men sent to Guantánamo, Cuba, were among those who protested the deportations outside Bosnian government building in Sarajevo on January 26. Right, police attack an earlier protest.



capture the two war criminals has nothing to do with the discontent generated by the arrests and deportations of Muslim citizens, the American embassy plastered the city of Sarajevo with posters offering up to \$5 million for information about the two. Efforts by the imperialist rulers to "bring to justice" those they deem war criminals has been part of its justification for U.S. and NATO military intervention in the region.

Currently, there are approximately 21,000 NATO-led troops in Bosnia, including 3,100

U.S. soldiers. Under the guise of "keeping peace" in the region, the imperialist occupying forces have used their military presence to advance imperialism's goal of weakening and ultimately reversing the conquests of the 1940s workers and peasants revolution in Yugoslavia that overthrew capitalism.

Miners union opposes proposed cuts in safety

BY RÓGER CALERO

In response to the budget proposals released by the Bush administration, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) president Cecil Roberts released a statement February 5. Roberts challenged aspects of the proposal that will stand out to working people, such as cuts in workplace training and safety programs and reduction in federal safety inspectors and enforcement agencies.

"On September 23, 2001, the UMWA mourned the deaths of 13 heroes who perished in a series of explosions at a Jim Walter Resources coal mine in Brookwood, Alabama," said Roberts. "For three years straight, coal mining deaths nationwide have been on the rise. In response to that reality, the Bush administration is now proposing to deeply cut money to the agency charged with policing America's coal mines in an effort to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities. This is definitely not the direction we should be taking."

"We may never know if one more MSHA

[Mine and Safety Health Administration] inspection might have saved the lives of those 13 heroes who died last September—or the 29 other miners who were killed nationwide in 2001—but it could have," he continued. "I challenge President Bush to publicly reconcile how—in the face of rising coal mine accidents and fatalities—he can justify cutting funds desperately needed to enforce America's mine safety and health laws," wrote the union official.

Among the cuts, the Bush administration is pushing for a \$7 million reduction in funding for safety enforcement along with eliminating 65 MSHA inspectors overseeing coal mines.

Further undermining safety on the job, Bush seeks to chop \$9 million in programs run by the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) at the same time that he demands

the agency increase the number of workplace inspections from 36,400 to 37,700 for the next fiscal year.

Along with eliminating all funding for the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers program, the Bush administration is also proposing cuts in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance. This office is responsible for overseeing affirmative action and other programs concerning discrimination on the job by federal contractors. The budget ax may also fall on the Women's Bureau, which deals with problems and concerns of women in the workplace.

Seeking to increase government intervention in the unions, the Bush administration has included 13 percent and 9 percent increases for the Office of Labor-Management Standards and the Office of Inspector General respectively. These agencies are responsible for auditing and investigating unions.

Washington sharpens trade weapon

Continued from Page 3

such as sugar, soybeans, and orange juice. Brazil's president, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, said that the United States "has recently passed fast-track for FTAA negotiations, but with conditions which, if they are taken to the letter, mean that there would be no FTAA."

These measures coincide with Washington's preparations to pass a \$175 billion 10-year subsidy program for the largest capitalist farmers and agricultural businesses in the United States.

Noting moves by the European Union to cut subsidies to farmers on the continent, an article in *Barron's* reported that "major agriculture-producing nations [that] took a more aggressive stance in the WTO [World Trade Organization] ministerial talks last November in Qatar...are now pressing the U.S. on its own agricultural protectionism. Brazil's agricultural minister, Pratini de Moraes, said Brazil won't take part in discussions for a Free Trade of the Americas until the U.S. reviews subsidies to its farm-

ers. Brazil is considering filing formal complaints with the WTO over U.S. protection of its soybean and cotton industries."

A recent USDA report on subsidies drew the ire of agribusinesses by presenting the fact that most such payments go to the wealthiest farmers.

Washington again showed its hard-nosed approach to trade competition from its "allies" during a January visit by Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit. A January 17 article in the *Wall Street Journal* stated that "despite its importance as a potential ally against Iraq, Turkey joined a lengthening list of anti-terror allies that have come away empty-handed trying to win trade concessions from the U.S."

Ecevit had little to show after urging Washington to open up its markets to Turkish steel and textile imports. Instead, Washington said it would urge the International Monetary Fund to loan the country more money. On February 4 the IMF announced a \$16 billion package of loans for Turkey, deepening its debt bondage to U.S. imperialism.

Hundreds condemn cop shooting

Continued from front page

the youth was gunned down. The route was heavily policed and participants in the protest were quick to express their anger and determination in a mixture of English, French, and Creole. Chants of "NYPD—murderers!" and "No justice, no peace!" were joined by "Nou Wè," Creole for "We witness"—pointing the finger of responsibility for the killing, and previous cop killings and assaults, straight at the New York Police Department.

The cops have said to the media that they shot Louisgene in self-defense, claiming he charged them with a knife and a stick. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said at the time of the shooting that Louisgene had been behaving in a "deranged" manner.

At the protest those who knew Louisgene said the police portrayal of the victim had nothing to do with the man they knew. Some pointed out that the young worker only weighed 115 pounds and could not be considered a threat to well-armed police. Louisgene, who was born in Haiti and had lived in the United States for nine years, worked at a CVS drug store.

Abellard Louisgene told the *Daily Chal-*

lenge that the family hasn't "heard anything from the police side, except the usual. But we have a lot of community support."

The protest came only two days before an action to mark the third anniversary of the police killing of Amadou Diallo in 1999. This killing followed the brutal torture of fellow Haitian Abner Louima. Police also killed Patrick Dorismond, a young Haitian-American, in March 2000.

Dahoud Andre of the Haitian Coalition for Justice explained that the protests "don't end with the funeral." In a phone conversation with the *Militant* he said future actions are being planned.

Participants in the protest, including members of the Haitian Coalition for Justice, the Haiti Support Network, and the Alliance of Haitian Immigrants, are determined to follow through on the appeal made by Abellard Louisgene.

On Radio Lakay two days after her brother's killing, she called on the whole community "to help us in this fight for justice. We must put an end to these assassinations."

Sara Katz contributed to this article.

Behind Washington's hostility toward Korean workers state

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

Among the countries named by U.S. president George Bush as members of an "axis of evil" in his January 29 State of the Union address was the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK). "North Korea," he said, "is a regime arming with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens... America will do what is necessary to ensure our nation's security," he said, including the development and deployment of "effective missile defenses."

In five decades of Washington's hostility toward Korea, the slander that the government of the DPRK is "starving its people" must stand as particularly outrageous to the workers and peasants of that country. The DPRK, suffering a years-long drought, has appealed to countries of the world for massive food aid. Washington, using food as a weapon, has tied its miserly contributions to pressuring Pyongyang to accept a range of economic and political concessions.

The Korean revolution carried out a massive land reform, a measure opposed by Washington, and extensive engineering projects to increase production of rice and other basic necessities. Korean workers and peasants rebuilt their country from the devastation of saturation bombing by U.S. forces during the Korea War.

The fact that the Korean people have fought for their independence and national sovereignty, made a socialist revolution in the north, and refused to accept the forced division of their country, is a thorn in the side of imperialism. And, like other countries, the ability of the Koreans to build, launch, and export longer-range missiles poses a problem for Washington's unchallenged world hegemony.

On February 2 the DPRK issued a statement protesting the threat and saying that the U.S. president had made the country "the second target of the anti-terrorism war." In another statement, President Kim Jong-Il declared north Korea, home to 22 million people, to be "invulnerable territory."

Like his predecessor William Clinton, Bush has repeatedly claimed that north Korea has constructed "weapons of mass destruction." Neither mentions that for more than two decades the largest concentrations of U.S. armed forces in Asia have been based in south Korea and neighboring Japan.

Some 37,000 heavily armed U.S. troops are stationed at the Demilitarized Zone and at dozens of other Korean military installations, while 48,000 are based in Japan. They are backed up by the nuclear-armed U.S. Seventh Fleet. U.S. forces and the 650,000-strong south Korean army conduct large-scale annual exercises targeting the north.

During U.S. imperialism's war against Afghanistan the Pentagon revealed it used a new generation of huge bunker-busting

bombs that it had been developing for use against north Korea.

On the economic front, the U.S. government imposed sanctions on north Korea in 1950, authorized under the Trading with the Enemy Act. That same year Washington launched its invasion of the peninsula. The sanctions were slightly eased in June 2000, but all exports and imports require express approval by the U.S. government.

Revolutionary struggles in Korea

The roots of that invasion and the unremitting hostility of the super-rich U.S. ruling class toward north Korea lie in the revolutionary struggles of working people across the peninsula during and after World War II. Korea, occupied by Japanese troops during wars against China and Tsarist Russia beginning in 1894, had been formally annexed by Tokyo in 1910 with the tacit agreement of Washington. The world war provided an opening to Korean workers and peasants to step up their struggles for national independence and social justice.

Meeting at Yalta in February 1945, representatives of the Soviet Union and the United States, the two major powers allied in the fight against Tokyo, agreed to divide Korea at the 38th parallel. Before Soviet and U.S. troops entered the country later that year, however, local revolutionary committees divested the Japanese authorities of power throughout the country, and a People's Republic, with its capital in Seoul, was established.

Once deployed in the south, the U.S. command disregarded this government. After abandoning an attempt to reinstate the Japanese authorities—a move which sparked widespread protests—U.S. General Hodge declared that "military government is the only government in south Korea."

An order issued by U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur stated: "The entire administrative power of the territory of Korea south of parallel 38 is under my jurisdiction. The population should unreservedly obey the orders issued over my signature. Those acting against the occupation or violating order and tranquillity will be mercilessly and severely punished. For the period of military occupation, English is introduced as the official language." In February 1946 Washington installed the dictator Syngman Rhee.

By contrast, the Soviet forces recognized the republic and sanctioned the activities of people's committees, which had seized Japanese and Korean collaborators' property. The northern government legalized all peasant seizures of land, and confiscated the land of the Japanese colonialists, their collaborators, and rent-racketeering landlords.

From the start the U.S.-backed south Korean government opposed national reunification, rejecting proposals from the north to merge the two administrations. Unification, meanwhile, was not only universally expected and demanded; it also corresponded to the peninsula's natural economy. The north was a source of wheat, fish, fertilizer, and heavy industrial products, while the south produced consumer goods and rice.

U.S. invasion and war

With the beginning of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, military forces from the north rapidly liberated more than 90 percent of Korean territory, including Seoul, the capital of the south. In those areas where Syngman Rhee's troops were driven out, land reform was instituted by the northern army, a measure welcomed by the impoverished peasants.

Washington then sent large numbers of troops, ships, planes, and tanks in order to try to smash the north Korean forces and regain domination of at least part of Korea. It was unable to deal a decisive blow to the north Korean army, but it pushed its troops back to the



Students in Seoul welcome the Korean People's Army in 1950. In first stage of war northern army instituted a widely popular land reform in the areas of the south that it liberated.

Yalu River, which borders China.

The new workers and farmers government in China responded by sending more than 1 million troops into the war on the side of the north. U.S. forces were pushed back, almost to where the demarcation line had been to begin with.

Washington carried out large-scale bombing for more than two years, especially over the north. Saturation bombing of the north was finally scaled back when it was determined that no meaningful targets were left in the resulting wasteland. Areas in the south were also bombed. The truth about the frequent atrocities carried out or supervised by U.S. forces is still being uncovered through the efforts of survivors and others in Korea.

Almost 6 million U.S. troops were eventually involved, 54,000 of whom died. Up to 4 million Koreans were killed, the great majority of them civilians.

The U.S. rulers, who viewed the war in Korea as the front line of their response to the anti-imperialist revolution throughout Asia, and a stepping stone to aggression against China, were stunned by the resistance of the Korean fighters and hundreds of thousands of Chinese volunteers. It was the first ever such defeat of the U.S. armed forces. Moreover, the mobilizations by Chinese workers and peasants to defend their revolution in the face of imperialist threats culminated in the establishment of the world's most populous workers state.

No Korean peace treaty was signed, leaving the combatants still officially at war today. The 38th parallel marks the demilitarized zone between north and south — now the site of a 150-mile-long wall built in 1977 by Seoul with U.S. backing — and the most important and explosive unresolved national division imposed by the victors of World War II.

U.S. backs dictatorship in south

In the decades after the war, Washington backed the military government in the south, both in its warlike stance toward Pyongyang and in its repression of struggles by workers, farmers, and students. The U.S. troops stationed in Korea provided backing to the brutal military crackdown on student and labor protests in the southern city of Kwangju in 1980. At the same time the U.S. and Japanese corporations and banks poured billions of dollars of investment into the south, using it as an export platform and profiting from the low wages paid to its workers. The industrial working class grew in numbers and confidence, building powerful unions and winning some significant wage increases.

During the 1990s, the U.S. rulers increased pressure on the north, seeking to take advantage of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the associated slump in the country's foreign trade. When agriculture was hit by a combination of drought, floods, and other disasters, Washington acted to sabotage United Nations food aid. In spite of these efforts, however, the workers state did not collapse; nor did its government make the kind of concessions demanded by the imperialists. In recent years, the economy in the north has shown modest growth again, although drought and shortages continue.

In the face of sustained struggles for

democratic rights, the south Korean rulers were forced to end military rule and hold elections. The country's first civilian president was elected in 1993. With support for reunification as strong as ever, the south Korean government has moved to accommodate north Korean proposals for negotiations, as the government in the north continued to advance its perspective of a peaceful negotiated process of unification. In the south, the Internal Security law forbidding any political activity favorable to the north or in support of reunification remains on the books, however, even as current president Kim Dae Jung has participated in talks with Pyongyang.

In 1994, the DPRK government signed an agreement with U.S. representatives declaring a moratorium on its nuclear program in exchange for commitments to build power plants and provide the country with fuel oil until the facilities are completed. More recently, it declared a unilateral suspension of missile testing until 2003. "There is no evidence it has reprocessed spent nuclear fuel over the past decade," reported the *Washington Post*.

Clinton freezes talks with Pyongyang

In late 2001, however, Clinton's administration put a freeze on its talks with Pyongyang. Throughout his administration Clinton had accused north Korea, along with Iraq, Iran, and other countries, of being a "rogue state" capable of launching a nuclear missile or a biological attack at the United States. The allegations have been used to justify a renewed effort by Washington to build a missile shield. Bush has maintained the freeze on talks, stepped up the rhetoric, and poured more money into the weapons program.

The north Korean government and people also face hostility from neighboring imperialist Japan. On December 22 a Japanese Coast Guard vessel fired on and sank a ship and its 15-member crew after 29 hours of surveillance and pursuit involving up to four Japanese boats. The incident took place outside Japanese territorial waters. Pyongyang has denied Japanese claims that the sunken vessel was a north Korean spy ship or involved in smuggling drugs, stating that the sinking of the ship was "nothing but brutal piracy."

South Korean government figures have expressed unease at these growing tensions, and particularly at Washington's warlike rhetoric. An official in Kim Dae Jung's National Millennium party described earlier threats against the north as "very disappointing. The United States delivers ultimatums and threats, and of course north Korea feels it has to react."

Citing south Korean "analysts and officials," the *Washington Post* cranked out the usual propaganda portraying the north Korean government as aggressive toward the south. "Any military action against the North Korean regime would invite immediate catastrophe for Seoul, a city of 10.3 million that is 34 miles away from the border and within range of North Korean artillery," the paper said. But it added a bit of the truth: "Residents of Seoul, where one-fourth of all south Koreans live, seem less concerned about the danger from North Korea than from Washington."



This mass of humanity has said 'enough'

40 years ago, Second Declaration of Havana resounded through Americas

This month marks the 40th anniversary of the Second Declaration of Havana. Printed below is an excerpt from the final pages of the declaration, printed by Pathfinder Press.

The declaration was widely discussed by working people in Cuba and approved by acclamation after being delivered by Fidel Castro to a rally of one million in Havana Feb. 4, 1962. The perspectives in the anti-capitalist document struck throughout the Americas like a bolt of lightning because they cut through decades of lies and distortions and illuminated the centuries of struggle against colonial and imperialist domination of Latin America and the Caribbean. The declaration points to the example of the Cuban Revolution as the way forward for the oppressed and exploited in the Americas and worldwide.

Three years earlier, on Jan. 1, 1959, rebel forces led by Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Camilo Cienfuegos, and others had overthrown the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and paved the way for a government representing the class interests of workers and farmers.

In May of that year the Cuban Revolution initiated a deep-going agrarian reform, confiscating the large landed estates of foreign and Cuban owners and distributing land titles to hundreds of thousands of peasants. By late 1960, through mass mobilizations of workers and peasants, Cuba had nationalized the country's mines, mills, factories, and banks and opened the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

On April 19, 1961, U.S. imperialism suffered its first military defeat in the Americas, as the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces and popular militias, defending their revolution, crushed within 72 hours the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

The invasion was part of an acceleration of hostile acts by the billionaire ruling families of the United States and their government in Washington. The Second Declaration of Havana a year later came days after Cuba had been expelled at Washington's behest from the Organization of American States (OAS). The OAS called on governments in the hemisphere to cut all economic and diplomatic ties with Cuba. On February 3, just one day earlier, Washington had imposed a trade embargo against Cuba, a policy that remains in place today, forty years later.

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To the accusation that Cuba wants to export its revolution, we reply: Revolutions are not exported, they are made by the people.

What Cuba can give to the peoples, and has already given, is its example.

And what does the Cuban revolution teach? That revolution is possible, that the people can make it, that in the contemporary world there are no forces capable of halting the liberation movement of the peoples.

Our triumph would never have been feasible if the revolution itself had not been in-



Cuban workers sign the Second Declaration of Havana, February 1962.

Bohemia

exorably destined to arise out of existing conditions in our socioeconomic reality, a reality that exists to an even greater degree in a good number of Latin American countries.

It inevitably occurs that in the nations where the control of the Yankee monopolies is strongest, the exploitation of the oligarchy cruelest, and the situation of the laboring and peasant masses most unbearable, the political power appears most solid. The state of siege becomes habitual, every manifestation of discontent by the masses is repressed by force. The democratic path is closed completely. The brutal character of dictatorship, the form of rule adopted by the ruling classes, reveals itself more clearly than ever. It is then that the revolutionary explosion of the peoples becomes inevitable.

Although it is true that in those underdeveloped countries of America the working class generally is relatively small, there is a social class which, because of the subhuman conditions in which it lives, constitutes a potential force that, led by the workers and the revolutionary intellectuals, has a decisive importance in the struggle for national liberation: the peasants.

Our countries combine the circumstances of an underdeveloped industry with those of an agrarian regime of a feudal character. That is why, with all the hardships of the conditions of life of the urban workers, the rural population lives in even more horrible conditions of oppression and exploitation. But it is also, with exceptions, the absolute majority sector, at times exceeding 70 percent of the Latin American population.

Discounting the landlords, who often reside in the cities, the rest of that great mass gains its livelihood working as peons on the haciendas for the most miserable wages, or work the land under conditions of exploitation that in no manner put the Middle Ages to shame. These circumstances are those which determine that in Latin America, the

rural poor constitute a tremendous potential revolutionary force.

The armies, the force on which the power of the exploiting classes rest, are built and equipped for conventional war. However, they become absolutely impotent when they have to confront the irregular struggle of the peasants on their own terrain. They lose ten men for each revolutionary fighter who falls, and demoralization spreads rapidly among them from having to face an invisible and invincible enemy who does not offer them the opportunity of showing off their academy tactics and their swaggering, which they use so much in military displays to curb the workers and students in the cities.

The initial struggle by small combat units is incessantly fed by new forces, the mass movement begins, and the old order little by little starts to break into a thousand pieces. That is the moment when the working class and the urban masses decide the battle.

What is it that from the beginning of the struggle of those first nuclei, makes them invincible, regardless of the numbers, power, and resources of their enemies? The aid of the people, and they will be able to count on that help of the people on an ever growing scale.

But the peasantry is a class which, because of the uncultured state in which it is kept and the isolation in which it lives, needs the revolutionary and political leadership of the working class and the revolutionary intellectuals, for without them it would not by itself be able to plunge into the struggle and achieve victory.

National bourgeoisie cannot lead

In the actual historical conditions of Latin America, the national bourgeoisie cannot lead the antifeudal and anti-imperialist struggle. Experience shows that in our nations that class, even when its interests are in contradiction to those of Yankee imperialism, has been incapable of confronting it, for the national bourgeoisie is paralyzed by fear of social revolution and frightened by the cry of the exploited masses.

Facing the dilemma of imperialism or revolution, only its most progressive layers will be with the people.

The current world correlation of forces and the universal movement for the liberation of the colonial and dependent peoples points out to the working class and the revolutionary intellectuals of Latin America their true role, which is to place themselves resolutely in the vanguard of the struggle against imperialism and feudalism.

Imperialism, utilizing the great movie monopolies, its news services, its periodicals, books, and reactionary newspapers, resorts to the most subtle lies to sow divisionism and inculcate among the most ignorant people fear and superstition against revolutionary ideas that can and should frighten only the powerful exploiters with their worldly interests and privileges.

Divisionism, a product of all kinds of prejudices, false ideas, and lies; sectarianism, dogmatism, a lack of broadness in analyzing the role of each social layer, its parties, organizations, and leaders—these ob-

struct the necessary unity of action of the democratic and progressive forces of our peoples. They are defects of growth, infantile sicknesses of the revolutionary movement that must be left behind. In the antifeudal and anti-imperialist struggle it is possible to bring the majority of the people resolutely behind goals of liberation that unite the spirit of the working class, the peasants, the intellectual workers, the petty bourgeoisie, and the most progressive layers of the national bourgeoisie. These sectors comprise the immense majority of the population and join together great social forces capable of sweeping out the imperialist and reactionary feudal rule. In that broad movement they can and must struggle together for the good of our nations, for the good of our peoples, and for the good of the Americas, from the old Marxist militant, right up to the sincere Catholic who has nothing to do with the Yankee monopolists and the feudal lords of the land.

That movement would pull alongside it the most progressive elements of the armed forces, also humiliated by the Yankee military missions, the betrayal of national interests by the feudal oligarchies, and the sacrifice of national sovereignty to Washington's dictates.

Where the roads for the peoples are closed, where the repression of workers and peasants is fierce, where the rule of the Yankee monopolists is strongest, the first and most important task is to understand that it is neither honorable nor correct to beguile people with the fallacious and convenient illusion of uprooting—by legal means that do not and will not exist—ruling classes that are entrenched in all the state positions, monopolizing education, owning all the means of information, possessing infinite financial resources—a power that the monopolies and oligarchies will defend with blood and fire and with the might of their police and armies.

The duty of every revolutionist

The duty of every revolutionist is to make the revolution. It is known that the revolution will triumph in the Americas and throughout the world, but it is not for revolutionists to sit in the doorways of their houses waiting for the corpse of imperialism to pass by. The role of Job does not suit a revolutionist. Each year that the liberation of Latin America is speeded up will mean the lives of millions of children saved, millions of intellects saved for culture, an infinite quantity of pain spared the people. Even if the Yankee imperialists prepare a bloody drama for Latin America, they will not succeed in crushing the peoples' struggles; they

Continued on Page 14

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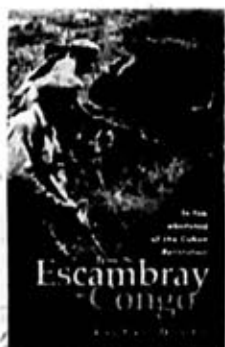
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'The right to speak your mind is the most basic right'

BY JAMES HARRIS

VALDOSTA, Georgia—Michael Italie, a Miami garment worker who is fighting his political firing from his job as a sewing machine operator at Goodwill Industries in Miami, presented his case to a January 26 meeting of about 30 members of the People's Tribunal of Valdosta. The People's Tribunal is a civil rights organization based in southern Georgia made up of farmers and rural workers.

The meeting was called to hear from Italie and New Order, a group of youth who are active in the working-class communities of Smyrna and Marietta, Georgia, and who organize to fight against police profiling and harassment.

New Order endorses Italie's fight. A 15-person van of Italie supporters and New Order members made the four-hour drive to Valdosta for the meeting.

Members of New Order spoke at the event, inviting everyone to a February 23 demonstration against police profiling in Cobb County. Founder Gerald Rose said that it was important for the two groups to begin working together and supporting each other. New Order would definitely be getting back down to Valdosta to work with the Tribunal, he said.

Willie Head, vice president of the People's Tribunal, introduced Italie as "someone he met a few years ago" in the fight to get justice for Willie James Williams, a Black man who was killed in police custody. Italie wrote several articles on the fight for the *Militant* and participated in marches and rallies around the case.

"The test of a man's character is not determined by the comfort in his life but in his discomfort," said Head in introducing Italie to the group.

Italie said that he had first become aware of the People's Tribunal back in 1999 when he read a report in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* of a southern Georgia demonstration of 1,200 people. "Although there are many incidents of police killings," he said, "the important thing is when people stand up to fight against it. It is important because when people see others like them standing up for their rights and fighting back it gives them the courage to do the same thing. This is the same for the fight I now find myself

in," said Italie.

Italie recounted for the audience the facts around his fight. "As a candidate for mayor of the city of Miami I spoke out in favor of the Cuban Revolution, for the right of workers to form unions, and against the war in Afghanistan. This proved too much for my employer, Goodwill Industries. I was fired explicitly for my political ideas."

Italie also explained that he had campaigned for an increase in the minimum wage. Many of his coworkers at Goodwill earn the minimum or less; he said, noting that disabled workers employed by Goodwill sometimes take home less than \$75 for two weeks' work.

At the end of the meeting People's Tribunal president Rev. Floyd Rose thanked both Italie and the members of New Order. "The right to speak your mind is the most basic right that you have and the fight that Michael Italie is waging is one that is important for us all," Rose said.

Most of those present signed up to become endorsers of the Italie defense committee. Jarvis Young, a 16 year old who works at a McDonalds in the area, told Italie that "I can really relate to what you said about the minimum wage. That's what we make where I work and it's just not enough." Young signed up to become part of the effort.

"This is a very important fight," said Jason Deveaux, a 22-year-old machine operator from Smyrna who made the trip. "Workers should not have to choose between our right to freedom of speech and our right to a job. Working people should not have to worry if their job is secure if they disagree with something. This is a big question."

James Harris is a textile worker in Atlanta.

Strike by New York nurses is solid



Striking nurses on picket line on Long Island February 4

Militant/Carole Lesnick

BY DAN FEIN
AND LAURA ANDERSON

MELVILLE, New York—More than 50 striking nurses picketed the Catholic Health of Long Island corporate offices here to publicize their fight for a new contract. The workers, members of the New York State Nurses Association, have been on strike for 71 days. They held signs demanding an end to forced overtime.

The 474 nurses went on strike November 26 against St. Catherine's of Siena Medical Center in nearby Smithtown. The strike remains strong and spirited, with only 30 workers having crossed the picket line.

Maureen Kavanagh said she started work last May and had to work 16 hours her first day after orientation. "I wanted to get at least a year experience in hospital work," she said, noting that the strike is "not what I expected." She explained that "nurses only have five minutes to feed the elderly at St. Catherine's. By the time these patients leave the hospital and go back to the nursing home, they have lost a lot of weight."

Wendy Farrar, who has 21 years seniority and works in the obstetrics unit, said that if nurses "don't deal with the issue of forced overtime, our profession will not endure."

Colorado coal miners back workers' rights fight

BY JACK PARKER

CRAIG, Colorado—"It has recently come to my attention that Mike Italie has been terminated from his job at Goodwill Industries," wrote Ed Hinkle, of United Mine Workers (UMWA) Local 1984 at the Deserado mine in western Colorado in a letter to Miami mayor Joseph Carroll.

"I am a coal miner, member of the UMWA and vocal in the union," Hinkle continued in the January 17 statement. "If Mr. Italie can lose his job for voicing an opposing opinion, I feel that I and all of my fellow workers can lose theirs for voicing their

opinion. Even though I oppose his views on Afghanistan, I feel that he has a right as an American to publicly voice his political views without losing his livelihood."

"As mayor of Miami, representing all the people of Miami, it is your responsibility to address this wrong," Hinkle wrote. "I respectfully request that you show your support for the constitution of the United States so as no one has the fear to lose their job for expressing their political views."

In a letter to the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights in Miami, Lawrence Oliver, president of UMWA Local 1332 at the McKinley mine in Tse Bonito, New Mexico, expressed a similar point of view. He said, "The United Mine Workers of America, Local 1332, District 22, at its meeting on January 17, 2002 approved to endorse Michael Italie's fight to defend his constitutional right, freedom to free speech and civil liberties."

"The local union speaks out against the injustices placed on working families. Mistreatment by Goodwill Industries hits the core of our democratic society and is a blatant and immoral assault on our constitutional rights."

"These two letters mark a step forward in the fight to get Mike Italie's job back," said Jason Alessio, also a member of UMWA-1984 at Deserado. "Both Ed Hinkle and the miners at McKinley were involved in important strikes in the last few years."

The Deserado miners struck Blue Mountain Energy for 11 weeks in 1999 over retirement benefits. The following year, the McKinley miners waged a 12-week strike against Pittsburgh & Midway Coal to defend the eight-hour day.

"Coal miners in western Colorado who are part of the effort to get Italie's job back thought that workers who had gone through these experiences would respond to the Italie case," said Alessio. "We were right."

Socialist workers in the area are also planning a trip to Kemmerer, Wyoming, to talk about Italie's fight with a number of former P&M strikers who work at the Kemmerer mine. "We think we will get a good response from them as well," Alessio said.

'We want to defend the First Amendment'

BY BILL KALMAN

SAN JOSE, California—"Last fall we got tired of all those American flags on the overpasses," Amy Courtney said. "So on November 27 Cassandra [Brown] and I hung a banner that read 'At What Cost?' over Highway 17 in Santa Cruz, next to a U.S. flag and another banner that said, 'Santa Cruz Loves New York.'"

Shortly after their banner went up it was removed by local cops, who left the U.S. flag and second banner in place. The cops

said that they were enforcing a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) policy banning "unauthorized" signs along freeway overpasses.

"We felt that our rights were violated, so a month later we put the banner back up, along with another one that read 'Are You Buying This War?'" Courtney said. The banners were again removed by Caltrans, while the U.S. flags remained.

Courtney and Brown filed suit against Caltrans, arguing that the policy was discriminatory and violated their First Amendment rights. Caltrans had insisted that their action was dictated by "safety concerns," not political content. On January 30 U.S. District Judge Ronald Whyte issued a preliminary injunction against the state agency, writing that the Caltrans policy "is not viewpoint neutral" and is unconstitutional.

Caltrans officials reacted by saying that they would bar all banners, signs, and flags from overpasses. Courtney disagreed with this approach in an interview in the *San Jose Mercury News*. "It would be an unfortunate outcome if Caltrans decided to deal with this order by saying 'No flags, no nothing,'" she said. "Hopefully, their new policy will allow for open and robust discussion. It's become more than our banner—at this stage, we want to be defending the First Amendment."

The Caltrans lawsuit has sparked a back and forth discussion in area newspapers. The *Sacramento Bee* editorialized in favor of the judge's decision, writing, "Ever may it wave—but not over the freeway." The *San Jose Mercury News* has printed a number of letters to the editor, both for and against the decision. One woman wrote, "The banners...encourage us to consider the consequences of the course our government has chosen to take in the war on terrorism."

In a statement issued in support of the case of Italie, Courtney and Brown explained, "We are the true defenders of democracy, those of us who defend a worker's right to a political ideology both on and off the job. We will not be silenced and we are infinitely grateful to learn that you will not be silenced either."



From Pathfinder

Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State

Frederick Engels

Includes the appendix, "The Part Played by Labor in the Transition from Ape to Man," in which Engels explains that capitalist production, including agriculture, is concerned with only "the most immediate results." As long as the "usual coveted profit" is made, the capitalist is satisfied and unconcerned with human, environmental, or other consequences. \$17.95

Lenin's Final Fight

Speeches and Writings, 1922-23

In the course of his final fight to maintain the communist course of the Bolshevik Party, Lenin discusses tasks of establishing public education, literacy, electrification and industrialization as bases for strengthening the alliance between the working class and the peasantry and joining the international fight for socialism. Compiles speeches, articles, and other documents from this period. Also available in Spanish. \$19.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12 or visit www.pathfinderpress.com.

Bay Area unionists hit political firing of socialist worker

Continued from front page

Pastrana told the *Miami Herald* that he dismissed Italie because "we cannot have anyone who is attempting to subvert the United States of America" work at the plant.

Goodwill did not contest Italie's filing for unemployment benefits, and the State of Florida Unemployment Compensation Program stated in awarding Italie's benefits that the "claimant was discharged because of political views. No information has been submitted which substantiates misconduct." Supporters of workers' rights and Italie's fight have formed the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, which is sponsoring his nationwide tour.

Many people in the Bay Area were able to learn about Italie's struggle January 28 on radio station KPFA's popular interview program "Living Room," hosted by Kris Welch. Italie spoke along with Alia Atawneh, a Palestinian now living in the United States. Atawneh is fighting her October 9 firing by Macy's department store. She says she was singled out by the bosses because of her nationality.

The public event here the following day was held at the Quaker Meeting House in downtown San Francisco. Italie explained the working conditions at Goodwill, a non-union employer, and the support he has won across the country in his fight against the political firing. The socialist pointed to a number of other cases of workers, students, and teachers he has met who are standing up to the employers and the government to protest victimization similar to what he faced at the hands of the Goodwill bosses.

"The execution today of Stephen Wayne Anderson by the State of California fits in with the ruling-class attacks on workers' rights," Italie said. "Pain of death is the ultimate penalty that the rulers use against working people." State governor Gray Davis had turned down Anderson's clemency petition January 26.

"It is working people who are the targets of the rulers campaigns against 'crime' and 'terrorism,'" Italie said. "U.S. government

officials are floating the idea of legalized torture, both at Camp X-Ray and here at home. This is directed against workers and farmers in this country."

Denise Alvarado, a member of Comité 98 that organizes solidarity with the struggles of the Puerto Rican people, also spoke at the meeting. She pointed out how the protesters on Vieques who are opposing the U.S. Navy's use of the island for mock invasions and target practice have been brutalized by U.S. marshals and Navy personnel for the crime of trespassing on their own land.

"There have been 1,200 arrests in the last two years," she said. "We have to stand together to fight unjust abuses." She also explained that her organization is raising funds to travel to Cuba this March to attend the "Tear Down the Walls" conference, organized as part of the struggle to win amnesty for political prisoners held in U.S. jails.

Fight of airport screeners

In the discussion period, Daz Lamparas who has endorsed Italie's fight and is an organizer with Service Employees International Union (SEIU), explained another aspect of Washington's assault on workers' rights.

Last November, Congress passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which mandates that the 28,000 workers at airports who screen bags be replaced by next November with a federalized workforce. Those employed must show proof of U.S. citizenship.

"The SEIU has filed a lawsuit on behalf of nine screeners against this law, which violates the 'due process' provisions of the Fifth Amendment," Lamparas said. It is estimated that a quarter of screeners around the country are not U.S. citizens, and that in California some 40 percent of the screeners at the Los Angeles and San Jose airports are non-citizens. The number rises to 80 percent at the San Francisco International airport. Many of the screener workers are Filipinos.

The SEIU lawsuit, filed together with the



Militant/Rolande Girard

Mike Italie, right, with California dairy farmer Frank Faria, who was active in organizing milk dumps to protest low prices farmers received from milk processors.

American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, aims to have this law struck down for being unconstitutional and discriminatory.

'Workers produce the wealth'

In San Jose, supporters of Italie's fight held a public event at the SEIU Local 1877/Janitors for Justice union hall. Joining Italie on the platform was Alia Atawneh; José Sandoval, central organizer of the rolling demonstrations demanding drivers licenses for immigrant workers; John Fogarty, western regional representative of the Irish American Unity Conference; Dave Wald, a member of Informed, which organizes solidarity with the Cuban Revolution; and Rick Trujillo, a transit worker who helped organize the meeting, and Amy Courtney and Cassandra Brown, who had just won a free speech lawsuit. The speakers expressed their solidarity with Italie and spoke about the struggles they were involved in.

Zak Khanfar explained that his wife Alia was fired "because she explained that Palestinians did not like the U.S. support for Israel. The U.S. is shifting towards what we lived with back home," he said. "More militarization and spying."

In the discussion period a friend of Alia's,

Hiam Yassine, said that she too had been fired from Macy's in Santa Clara because of her nationality. Yassine, a Palestinian who wears a head covering, was allegedly fired because she offered a customer a 10 percent discount, a common practice at the store.

John Fogarty saluted Italie's fight for constitutional rights, "which is what the people of Northern Ireland are fighting for." The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing the freedom of speech and assembly, "is first because without it, the other nine amendments mean nothing," he said. "It's not enough to have a Bill of Rights. You have to fight for them everyday or they're just words on paper. We support Mike in his fight!"

Courtney and Brown had just won a lawsuit the day before against the California Department of Transportation because the state agency had taken down their antiwar banners overlooking the freeway while leaving U.S. flags hanging there. "Thank you Michael for fighting for all of us," Brown said.

A number of individuals and organizations who were not able to make the public meetings sent statements of support. These included Anamaria Loya, executive director of La Raza Centro Legal in San Francisco; Frank Faria, a dairy farmer from Escalon, California, active in organizing the milk dumps two years ago to protest the low price farmers got from the milk processors; and Wendall Chin, of the Chinese Progressive Association in San Francisco. Chin pointed out in his statement that "it is critical that workers are allowed to organize without suppression from institutions and agencies."

Also sending messages were Ron Lind, secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 428 in San Jose; Amy Dean, executive director of the South Bay Labor Council, Santa Clara; and Riva Enteen, of the National Lawyers Guild. Enteen wrote, "It is outrageous that Michael Italie was fired purely on his political beliefs. People of conscience must stand firm and demand that this injustice be remedied."

Walter Johnson, head of the San Francisco Labor Council, has also endorsed the case.

Supporters of Italie's case at both meetings responded to an appeal for contributions to cover legal expenses and the general work of the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights in Miami. Deborah Liatos, a meat packer and supporter of Italie's fight who chaired both meetings, announced that a total of \$1,405 was collected, with another \$565 pledged to help carry on Italie's fight.

To schedule speaking engagements for Michael Italie in your area, please send the proposed dates and events planned to the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, P.O. Box 510127, Miami, FL 33151-0127. Tel: (305) 724 5965 or E-mail: DefendFree-Speech@yahoo.com

The committee is urgently in need of funds to produce literature, pay for phone calls, and plan travel. Financial contributions, large and small, can be sent to the above address. Please make checks out to the Free Speech Defense Fund.

Bill Kalman is a member of UFCW Local 120 in San Lorenzo, California.

Dairy farmer: 'I support freedom of speech'

The following written statements were read at the public meetings in San Francisco and San Jose supporting the Michael Italie defense case.

Amy Dean, executive director, Santa Clara County/South Bay Labor Council, San Jose, California:

"A boss's disagreement with the political opinions expressed by an employee is not cause for dismissal and should not sit well with any trade unionist. In this case brother Michael Italie, a sewing machine operator in a nonunion plant and a candidate who qualified for ballot status for the office of mayor of Miami, Florida, was fired for practicing the same rights all of us use and depend on everyday: namely, free speech.

The proud and long-standing tradition of the Santa Clara County/South Bay Labor Council is to oppose infringements on the Bill of Rights in any form. The First Amendment right to free speech should never come at the expense of losing your job.

Under union protection, any local would be justly calling for immediate reinstatement of brother Italie to protect not just him, but all the brothers and sisters at the plant and elsewhere."

Ron Lind, secretary-treasurer United Food and Commercial Workers Local 428

in San Jose:

"While terminating a nonunion worker for articulating a controversial political position may be technically legal, it flies in the face of the democracy that we are supposedly fighting to defend. Regardless of whether or not we agree with Michael Italie, we should not sit idly by and allow the employers to begin to move down such a slippery slope."

Wendall Chin of the Chinese Progressive Association in San Francisco:

"The Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) extends words of solidarity in support of Michael Italie's case and the importance of protecting our freedom of speech and democracy. It is critical that workers are allowed to organize without suppression from institutions and agencies. The CPA wishes the best towards Mr. Italie. Good luck!"

Frank Faria, dairy farmer and member National Farmers Organization in Escalon, California:

"There are a lot more people that support Michael Italie's case than you would think. While Americans are often afraid to go against popular policy, we have had freedom of speech for so long that we assume it's our right. But yet we have a case where it was denied. We have to get back to what this country was built on.

Somebody has to stand up and become a rallying point. It's too bad it has come to this, but it was also too bad that we had to dump milk to make a point while people around the world go hungry. If they can do this to Mr. Italie, they can do it to anyone. I express my support for freedom of speech and protest Mr. Italie's firing."

A letter from Anamaria Loya, executive director, La Raza Centro Legal in San Francisco to Miami mayor Joseph

Carollo:

"On behalf of La Raza Centro Legal, I am writing to urge you to uphold the constitutional rights of Mr. Michael Italie. It is our understanding that Mr. Italie was fired from his employment at Goodwill Industries solely for holding different political views than those held by his employer. It is our further understanding that Goodwill CEO Dennis Pastrana has publicly stated that this is the sole reason for firing Mr. Italie.

Mr. Italie has a constitutionally-protected right to freedom of expression. We are appalled by the actions of Goodwill CEO Dennis Pastrana. We urge you to do whatever is in your power to provide justice in this matter. Mr. Italie should be immediately reinstated to full employment without harassment from his employer."

A letter from Louie Rocha, president of Communication Workers of America, Local 9423 in San Jose, to Goodwill CEO Dennis Pastrana:

"Everyday we see new ways the terrorists have succeeded in their efforts to destroy the freedom that we enjoy as Americans. The latest I found is the actions you took in firing Michael Italie for his political views.

Whether I agree or not with Mr. Italie's perspective is not the issue, but rather his right to state his opinions in our free, democratic society. His opinions may not be what is popular but they are his views and his right to express them must be allowed. Isn't freedom of speech one of the many privileges the people of Afghanistan were deprived of? Isn't this censorship?

As a labor leader, I feel obligated to challenge this attack on all workers rights. Re-instate Michael Italie and allow freedom of speech to be one of the greatest privileges Americans possess."

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Havana book fair is festival of revolution

Continued from front page
farmers hold power.

The Havana International Book Fair, held since 1984, took place every two years until 2000. Since then it has become an annual event, as publishing in Cuba has steadily recovered from the depths of the economic crisis that followed the collapse of the regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and devastation of Cuba's foreign trade. This year, for the first time, in the three weeks following the Havana event, the book fair will go on the road to some 15 cities in provinces throughout Cuba. This will make books more accessible to hundreds of thousands of Cubans beyond Havana.

Some 66 Cuban publishers and at least 51 foreign publishing houses are expected to have exhibits. This year the fair is dedicated to Cuban poet and author Miguel Barnet. The guest of honor is France, with a special pavilion featuring publishers from that country, as well as seminars and other activities on the works of Victor Hugo, Jules Verne, and other French literary figures.

Special presentations will be held on a wide range of books. They include titles by Cuban writers such as Nancy Morejón and Anton Arrufat, U.S. authors such as Ray Bradbury and Dashell Hammett, and Norwegian, African, and Caribbean literature.

A number of titles by prominent participants in the Cuban Revolution will be featured. They include, among others, books by Gen. Raúl Menéndez Tomassevich, a combatant in the Rebel Army, which led the revolutionary struggle against the U.S.-backed



Militant/Martin Koppel

Pathfinder Press is organizing three special presentations at the Havana International Book Fair this year. One will launch *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution*, an interview with Cuban revolutionary Victor Dreke. From left, Mary-Alice Waters and Mike Taber from Pathfinder Press with Victor Dreke in Havana in December 2001.

Batista dictatorship to victory in 1959; by Enrique Oltuski, one of the leaders of the underground revolutionary struggle in the cities organized by the July 26 Movement in the late 1950s; and by Orlando Borrego, who fought under the command of Ernesto Che Guevara in the Rebel Army and worked

closely with him in the revolutionary government in the early 1960s.

As in previous years, Pathfinder Press has a stand at the Havana book fair, featuring many of its more than 300 titles, which offer the indispensable continuity of the modern working-class movement. Staffing the

booth is an international team of workers, Young Socialists, and other supporters of the communist movement from Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Pathfinder is organizing three special presentations at this year's fair. One will launch *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution*, an interview with Cuban revolutionary Victor Dreke, who fought in the revolutionary war, was a leader of the struggle to wipe out U.S.-directed counterrevolutionary bands in the Escambray mountains in the first half of the 1960s, and was second in command of an internationalist mission in the Congo in 1965 led by Ernesto Che Guevara.

Another event will present Pathfinder's *Playa Girón/Bay of Pigs: Washington's First Military Defeat in the Americas*, by Fidel Castro and José Ramón Fernández. Fernández, who will be the featured speaker at the event, commanded the main column in the battle that defeated a U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

A third event, organized jointly with the Cuban publisher Tricontinental, will present Pathfinder's *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983-87 popular democratic revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso, and *Equality and Social Participation of Women in Mozambique*.

Immediately following the closing of the Havana fair, the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution is sponsoring a series of presentations of *From the Escambray to the Congo* in half a dozen cities and towns in the central provinces of Villa Clara and Sancti Spiritus. Dreke and the book's editor, Mary-Alice Waters, will present the book in Santa Clara, Sagua la Grande, Placetas, Manicaragua, Sancti Spiritus, Trinidad, and Topes de Collantes. The Association organizes Cuban revolutionary fighters of many generations, ranging from the struggle against the Batista dictatorship to internationalist missions around the world.

— MILITANT LABOR FORUMS —

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Collapse of Enron: Example of What Capitalism Holds in Store for Working People. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 4229 S. Central Avenue. Tel: (323) 233-9372.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Fight Against Racism Today. Fri. Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2791 Lakewood Ave., SW. Tel: (404) 763-2900.

IOWA

Des Moines

Celebrate the New Book from Pathfinder Press: *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution*. Speaker: Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party. Sun. Feb. 17, 1:30 p.m. Lunch at 12:00 noon. Donation: \$5 forum, \$5 lunch.
El Hajj Malik El Shabazz: a Documentary on the Life and Ideas of Malcolm X. Fri. Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. Both events at 3720 6th Avenue. Tel: (515) 288-2970.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Fight for Black Rights and the Rise of Working-Class Resistance. Speaker: Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876. Fri. Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. 4208 W. Vernor. Tel: (313) 554-0504.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

End British Rule in Ireland. Commemorate 30th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday. Speaker:

Abby Tilsner, Socialist Workers Party. Fri. Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 506 Springfield Ave., 3rd Floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (973) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Communism and the Explosion of Popular Resistance in Argentina. Speaker: Romina Green, Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists, participant in *Militant/Perspectiva Mundial* reporting trip to Argentina. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) Donation: \$5. (718) 567-8014.

Garment District

Cuba's Proletarian Internationalism and Its Impact in Africa. Speaker: Luis Madrid, Socialist Workers Party, helped to interview Victor Dreke for Pathfinder's *From the Escambray to*

the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 545 8th Avenue 14th Floor. Donation: \$4. (212) 695-7358.

Upper Manhattan

Malcolm X: His Legacy for the Working-Class Movement. Speaker: Seth Dellinger, Young Socialists. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. 599 W. 187th Street, 2nd Floor. Donation: \$5. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Oppose Use of "Anti-Terrorism" Laws against Supporters of Tamil Struggle for Self-Determination in Sri Lanka. Speaker: George Arulanantham, president, New Zealand Tamil Society. Fri., Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m. 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Suggested donation: \$3. Tel: (09) 276-8885.

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— CALENDAR —

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

What Cuba Stands For. Speaker: Fernando Garcia Bielsa, First Secretary, Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:00 p.m. Central American Rescue Center, 2845 W. 7th Street. Sponsored by Los Angeles Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba. Tel: (310) 419-2983.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Cuba in Today's World: from the Miami Five to Camp X-Ray. Speakers: José Luis Noa and Oscar Redondo of the Cuban Interests Section. Wed., Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. Reception at 7:00 p.m. University of Pennsylvania, Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street. Tel: (917) 971-3284.

Class series on *From the Escambray to the Congo—In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution* by Victor Dreke. Sponsored by the Young Socialists and the Socialist Workers Party. Wed., Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13. 5237 N. 5th St. Tel: (215) 324-7020.

'Where is this Afghanistan?'—The 750 Canadian troops based in Afghanistan are decked out in green camouflage. Meanwhile,



Harry Ring

government cheeks are beet red. Asked why the soldiers were dressed in green for a desert area, a defense ministry spokesperson re-

sponded, "I have no idea." That was according to the January 19 *Vancouver Sun*.

'Move, you meatheads!'—Tan blankets (not available in varied hues) will be shipped to Afghanistan, reported the same day's *Toronto Globe & Mail*.

And that's just average—"The average chief executive officer in a major American corporation in 2001 made 531 times as much in pay, bonuses, and stock options as the average factory worker, according to the...Institute for Policy Studies and United for a Fair Economy...."—

Orange County Register.

Cheap as dorm space—If you're pondering sending a family member to UCLA, here's how to trim housing costs: In neighboring Beverly Hills, there's a "for sale" home with elbow room. Built in 1909 as a hunting lodge, its many features include 12 bedrooms, 20 bathrooms, a padded music room, and a walk-in safe. Asking price, \$29 million.

The Hypocritical Oath?—In several cities, doctors are offering special care to patients who pay a fee in addition to medical insurance. It wouldn't be seemly to as-

sert some patients will get better quality care than others. So there are amenities, such as round-the-clock access to the doctor's cellular phone number. One Seattle doc will take on the family. The extras include heated towel bars, marble showers, and personally monogrammed robes. Your regular coverage plus a \$20,000 annual fee.

Woosh—Pfizer, the world's biggest drug company, racked up a profit in the last quarter of 2001 of \$2.11 billion.

Aha! Didn't know they don't know—A University of Colorado

study found that an achievement test of 10th grade Colorado students included questions for pupils in the 11th and 12th grades. Others were found to be more difficult than college entry exams.

Help Wanted—The readers who help keep this column going with the clippings they send in are surely wanted—especially those from other countries. Like the Canadian reader who sent the two Afghanistan clippings this week. You can do likewise. Send clippings to: Great Society c/o Pathfinder Books, 4229 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA. 90011.

Mass actions protest vote fraud in Madagascar

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Massive demonstrations and a general strike have swept across the island of Madagascar to protest what is widely perceived as vote rigging in the recent presidential elections.

Most shops, banks, and transport services, including the island's main airport, have been closed by the general strike, now in its second week. On February 4 hundreds of thousands marched through the streets of Antananarivo, the nation's capital, in a show of support. A week earlier, half a million people had jammed into the streets to demand the current government led by President Didier Ratsiraka step down.

The presidential elections held December 16 pitted Marc Ravalomanana, the current mayor of Antananarivo and a wealthy industrialist, against Ratsiraka, a naval admiral, who has ruled the country for 22 of the past 25 years, 17 of them in his capacity

as head of the military. In 1996 he was elected president.

"The opposition candidate Marc Ravalomanana clearly won the ballot with more than 200,000 votes over President Ratsiraka," reported the BBC news service. "But the official vote said he secured only 46 percent, short of the absolute majority needed to avoid a second round of voting."

The nation's High Constitutional Court certified the government's tally, ruling that Ravalomanana won 46.2 percent to Ratsiraka's 40.8 percent, and scheduled a runoff vote for February 24. Ravalomanana, on the other hand, insisted he won 52.1 percent of the vote and issued a call for an indefinite strike to back his demand to be named the outright winner of the presidential vote. He also announced that he would boycott the scheduled second round vote.

Bruno de Foucault, president of the employers' organization the Group of Free En-

terprises and Partners, said that the strike was costing the owners of the companies affiliated with this group, many of them textile manufacturers, more than \$850,000 a day. U.S., Japanese, and European officials have held meetings with representatives from the opposition to express their concerns about mounting instability in the country.

The massive street mobilizations and ongoing strike actions have thrust hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants in this nation of 15 million people into political action, shining a spotlight on the legacy of 75 years of French colonial rule and ongoing imperialist exploitation.

Madagascar, which gained its independence from France in 1960, is one of the poorest countries in the world. Some 75 percent of its population live below the government's official poverty line, 85 percent of urban children are undernourished, and 55 percent of the population is illiterate. The nation is

saddled with a \$4.4 billion debt owed to banks in the imperialist centers, while per capita income is just \$250 a year.

In the early 1970s the government nationalized all French-owned financial interests and closed French bases and a U.S. space-tracking station.

The regime commenced opening the country to foreign investors in the mid-1990s. It began privatizing state-run industries, set up an export-processing zone, with reduced corporate tax rates for exporting companies, and eliminated local-ownership and content requirements for investors from abroad.

In June 2000 the U.S. Congress passed the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which allowed 23 sub-Saharan countries, including Madagascar, to export textile products to the United States duty-free. This move boosted Madagascar's exports to the United States to \$133 million in the first half of 2001, compared with \$63 million the previous year.

However, this has been of little benefit to those employed in these plants. The textile bosses instead have reaped super-profits off the labor of working people through long hours, forced overtime, no benefits, and abysmal wages. Last year, according to an article in the January 2 *Wall Street Journal*, textile workers in Madagascar received an average pay of just 37 cents an hour.

S. Carolina rally condemns Confederate flag



Militant/Dean Hazlewood

Some 1,500 people marched on Martin Luther King Day, January 21, in Columbia, South Carolina, demanding removal of Confederate battle flag from state grounds.

BY CONNIE ALLEN

COLUMBIA, South Carolina—At press conferences leading up to rallies to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., leaders of the NAACP laid out plans to step up the boycott of tourism in South Carolina to demand that the Confederate battle flag be removed from statehouse grounds.

The fight to remove the flag was a focus of a January 21 rally at the statehouse here to celebrate King Day. A crowd of 1,500 marched through the rain, chanted, and sang to demand the removal of the flag and to reinvestigate the fight for equality.

A busload of 35, mostly young people from the Charlotte, North Carolina, NAACP youth chapter, came to be part of the protest. Carrying signs reading, "S.C. Suffers from the 'confederacy of the mind'" and "It's not about heritage," youth were eager to talk about why they thought it was important to be at this rally. Racist backers of the state's decision to continue flying the Confederate battle flag on Capitol grounds claim the flag represents the heritage of people in the state.

Samantha Smith said she came to "experience the march and what Dr. King believed and to stand up for what I believe." Keith Winfield added that he joined the action to "preserve our heritage and dignity; to bring that rag down, like we brought the Confederacy down."

Keynote speaker Rev. Julius Caesar Hope, the NAACP national religious affairs direc-

tor, described the drive for school vouchers as the newest form of segregation. "Vouchers don't educate, they segregate. They will destroy public education."

The marchers cheered Hope's denunciation of overpopulated prisons and the high rate of incarceration of Black men. He pointed to increasing poverty and the AIDS epidemic as continued ravages of racism.

In a press conference January 12 Nelson Rivers II, NAACP national field director, explained that protests at the border of the state are "our way of standing at the Georgia and North Carolina borders [and asking] that you not stop, not stay in hotels, and don't buy gas."

South Carolina has been the target of economic sanctions against tourism since 1999. Following a rally on King Day two years ago of more than 50,000 here, the state legislature moved the Confederate battle flag from atop the statehouse dome and "placed it in the in the faces of the people," said James Gallman, head of the NAACP in South Carolina. The flag is a symbol that "reeks of hate and prejudice and symbolizes domestic terrorism." The so-called compromise move of the flag was implemented against the opposition of the NAACP.

In a January 28 press conference, South Carolina attorney general Charles Condon threatened to sue the NAACP if it conducts these protests. "If the NAACP uses South Carolina's rest stops and welcome centers

to urge visitors not to buy in South Carolina or to stage demonstrations or protests," he said, "I will take legal action."

Connie Allen is a member of UNITE Local 1501 in Kannapolis North Carolina.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

25 YEARS THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEET PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

February 18, 1977

LOUISVILLE—Protesting acts of racist terror and harassment, two Black families and a Native American family testified before the Jefferson County Fiscal Court here January 18.

They were joined by fifty supporters representing the NAACP, American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild, Socialist Workers Party, several pro-desegregation groups, and the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, which organized the delegation.

The families, who live in predominantly white Louisville suburbs, testified that police, courts, and elected officials were unwilling to defend them against racist violence.

Mike Incashola, a Native American, complained to the court that instead of protecting his family, police treat him like the "troublemaker." Incashola said his family's windows have been shot out, their dog stabbed to death, and their children attacked on the way to school.

Last April forty people stood in their front yard screaming, "Get out of the neighborhood! Why don't you go live in a tepee!" A fire was set in the Incashola back yard on Christmas Eve. Atfis Coleman, a Black resident of Okolona, a white area where antibusing activity has been centered, told the court, "I'm not just here for my family. I'm here for everybody. If it can happen to my family, it can happen to anyone."

The Colemans have had bricks with racist notes attached thrown through their windows and have been shot at. Last March dynamite blew a hole in their driveway.

Barbara Daugherty and her six children lived peacefully in Louisville's Fairdale section for three years—until school segregation began last fall.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

February 18, 1952

NEW YORK, Feb. 14—Spokesmen for the profit bloated steel corporations have consumed an entire week, in hearings before the Wage Stabilization Board on the steel contract dispute saying "no" to every single demand of the CIO United Steelworkers Union.

There would be no wage increase without a price increase they said, repeating the same refrain over and over again like a broken record.

They were unalterably opposed to a productivity wage increase, they said because it was "inflationary." They denied the right of the workers to share the benefits of increased productivity in the form of higher wages but reserved such benefits for the stockholders and company executives—which, presumably wasn't "inflationary."

The demand for the union shop, they said, was contrary to the most sacred traditions of the "free enterprise system" and they would refuse to recognize any decision by the WSB granting the union shop demand.

They were opposed, they said, to the union seniority demands and would resist any attempt to encroach on the "prerogative" of management to use the merit system. Owen Fairweather attorney for the steel moguls, contended "the national interest would be 'poorly served' if the union won its seniority demands."

They reserve for themselves the sole right to determine incentive plans, job allocation, number and composition of jobs to be filled, etc., etc., and insisted that anything short of absolute company authority in such matters was "socialistic." And so on down the line.

U.S. hands off Korea!

Class-conscious workers and defenders of Korean sovereignty around the world should be on higher alert after the U.S. president's attack on north Korea in his State of the Union speech. Bush's slanderous and completely unfounded charge that Pyongyang simultaneously hoards weapons of mass destruction and starves its own people is designed to prepare public opinion for increased military pressure on the workers state.

The U.S. ruling class and its politicians are today confronted with the fact that in spite of the immense strains placed on the north Korean economy during the 1990s by the combined blows of a collapse in trade with the former Soviet Union and a succession of natural disasters, the workers state has not fallen to pieces. Nor have workers and farmers gotten down on their knees before the imperialists' demands.

Faced with this failure, the U.S. rulers, driving to reinstate the most brutal forms of capitalist exploitation in north Korea, are increasingly compelled to prepare for military assault.

The tens of thousands of U.S. troops in south Korea have never had a defensive purpose; installed after the defeat of one brutal imperialist assault, they are a reminder of Washington's long-term preparation for another. The same broad conclusions confront the imperialists in their relations with the other workers states.

Bush's sabre-rattling has jeopardized preparations for the resumption of talks between the governments of north and south. Seoul, faced with near-universal support for reunification, had started to renew moves to accept the north's offer of negotiations. The rulers in the south are in a relatively weak position, caught among powerful class

forces, among them the south Korean working class. Substantial postwar industrialization has increased the numbers and weight of the southern proletariat. Workers have formed powerful unions over recent years and have used them to fight for wage increases and other rights.

Washington's harsh rhetoric against north Korea is a sign not of strength, but of the fact that it must lash out with military force to try to slow its decline as the world's final empire. The same is true of its attempts to increasingly militarize U.S. society, and of its war on Afghanistan. The imperialist rulers offer humanity no prospect of economic development or peace, but only increasing doses of crisis, brutality, and war.

Whatever its desires for a military "solution," however, Washington knows that it faces a formidable foe in the working people of Korea. Through massive struggles across the peninsula in the decade following World War II, they dealt heavy blows to imperialist domination and capitalist and landlord exploitation. In three years of pitched battle, they handed the mighty U.S. war machine its first big defeat. Without their victory, which weakened Washington and ended the racist illusion of its absolute power, the Vietnamese victory over U.S. imperialism would have been much more difficult and cost an even higher price.

In resisting U.S. imperialism in the past and today, the working people of Korean city and countryside strengthen the struggles of workers and farmers in the United States, and of everyone who faces Washington's brutality. To reinforce our common fight, we should demand: An end to the threats against north Korea! For normalization of U.S.-north Korea relations! All U.S. troops out of Korea!

Israel out of occupied territories!

The more than 100 Israeli Army reservists who have stepped forward to sign the petition against serving in the occupied territories shine a spotlight on the widening war weariness within the population of Israel. The development points to the dead-end trap the capitalist rulers in the state of Israel have constructed for the Jewish population, as they more and more simply bring violence through brute military force upon the Palestinian people.

The biggest crisis for the capitalist rulers of Israel is their inability to halt the Palestinians' fight for self-determination and a homeland. Resistance continues as opposition among the Palestinian people mounts to the Israeli clampdowns, bombings, and incursions. Heavily armed Israeli military forces have carried out assaults on Palestinian towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including with tanks, bulldozers, and heavy armaments. Despite all these moves they have failed to generate a prowar spirit among substantial layers of the Israeli population. And they have failed to find a "replacement" for the Palestinian Authority because the Palestinian people themselves remain unbroken.

The state of Israel is a death trap for the Jewish people who live there. It only offers those who reside there insecurity, permanent conflict, and frequent wars. This has been true since the time the Zionist regime was founded more than 50 years ago, but it has never been clearer than today.

Working people and some middle class layers face the prospects of ever greater economic hardships, declining standards of living, and the requirement that they send their male children into the army and reserves—up until they are 45 years old—to do battle with Palestinian youth. No wonder that some of those who in the past would have immigrated to Israel, or have dual citizenship, are changing their minds and deciding to instead move to the United States. In fact the Census Bureau estimates there are 24,000 Israelis living in the United States illegally.

This declining immigration combined with rising birth rates for the Palestinian population living inside Israel, means that by the year 2050, according to a UN study, Palestinians will outnumber Jews within the state of Israel.

The petition of the army reservists points to the need to demand Tel Aviv withdraw from all occupied territories and respect the right of Palestinian self-determination. This will help to open up a fight by Palestinians, Jews, and all working people in the region against their common exploiters and class enemies—the Israeli capitalist rulers and the imperialist allies. Only by taking the road of forging a revolutionary leadership that can lead the fight for a democratic secular Palestine to replace the Israeli state will the wars and violence be brought to an end and a way opened up for working people to begin to chart a road forward.

Give to Books for Cuba Fund

The *Militant* urges its readers to make a generous contribution to the Books For Cuba Fund. For a number of years the *Militant* has organized this fund, to which workers in the United States and other countries have contributed thousands of dollars. Donations from working people and others to the fund make it possible to send books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press to organizations and institutions in Cuba. The titles can also be sold at book fairs in pesos, at prices Cubans can afford.

At this year's Havana International Book Fair Pathfinder will organize three special presentations, including one of its newest title, *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution* by Cuban Revolutionary leader Victor Dreke. Plans reported in this issue for book launching events following the book fair are further indications of both the importance of and the need for the fund.

During the book fairs, requests for Pathfinder titles have been made by students, workers, soldiers, librarians, teachers, and others. In response to the political interest in these titles, donations of books have been made to libraries and other cultural institutions in Cuba.

Last year contributions to the fund enabled the revolu-

tionary publishing house to donate 300 copies of its Spanish-language edition of *Making History: Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces*. Seven boxes of the books were turned over to leaders of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution, who planned to make the book available to every single one of the organization's municipal groups.

Pathfinder publishes titles such as these because they are needed by young people and working people in Cuba, the United States, and all around the world. By reading Pathfinder they can gain a better understanding of the brutalities of imperialism and capitalism. Pathfinder books help workers and youth learn about the communist movement and the continuity of communism, and to see how women and men can change society's economic structure and social relations through making a socialist revolution.

This year's fund got off to a good start with contributions and pledges of more than \$1,600 at the January 26 event held at the Pathfinder building in New York, covered in last week's *Militant*. More contributions, large or small, are welcome. Please send checks or money orders made out to the *Militant* and earmarked "Books for Cuba Fund" to the *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Second Declaration of Havana

Continued from Page 9

will only arouse universal hatred against themselves. And such a drama will also mark the death of their greedy and stone-age system.

No nation in Latin America is weak—because each forms part of a family of 200 million brothers, who suffer the same miseries, who harbor the same sentiments, who have the same enemy, who dream about the same better future and who count upon the solidarity of all honest men and women throughout the world.

Great as was the epic of Latin American independence, heroic as was that struggle, today's generation of Latin Americans is called upon to engage in an epic that is even greater and more decisive for humanity. For that struggle was for liberation from Spanish colonial power, from a decadent Spain invaded by the armies of Napoleon. Today the call for struggle is for liberation from the most powerful world imperialist center, from the strongest force of world imperialism and to render humanity a greater service than that rendered by our predecessors.

But this struggle, to a greater extent than the earlier one, will be waged by the masses, will be carried out by the people: the people are going to play a much more important role now than they did then, the leaders are less important and will be less important in this struggle than in the one before....

Already they can be seen armed with stones, sticks, machetes, in one direction and another, each day, occupying lands, sinking hooks into the land which belongs to them and defending it with their lives. They can be seen carrying signs, slogans, flags; letting them flap in the mountain or prairie winds. And the wave of anger, of demands for justice, of claims for rights trampled underfoot, which is beginning to sweep the lands of Latin America, will not stop. That wave will swell with every passing day. For that wave is composed of the greatest number, the majorities in every respect, those whose labor amasses the wealth and turns the wheels of history. Now they are awakening from the long, brutalizing sleep to which they had been subjected.

For this great mass of humanity has said, "Enough!" and has begun to march. And their march of giants will not be halted until they conquer true independence—for which they have died in vain more than once. Today, however, those who die will die like the Cubans at Playa Girón: they will die for their own, true, never-to-be-surrendered independence.

Patria o muerte! [Homeland or death]
Venceremos! [We will win]
THE PEOPLE OF CUBA

Havana, Cuba
Free Territory of the Americas
February 4, 1962

The National General Assembly of the People of Cuba resolves that this Declaration be known as the Second Declaration of Havana, translated into the major languages, and distributed throughout the world. It also resolves to urge all friends of the Cuban revolution in Latin America to distribute it widely among the masses of workers, peasants, students, and intellectuals of this continent.

30,000 march in Derry

Continued from Page 4

noted that pro-British forces are protesting the job losses of 165 jobs at the barracks. He said Sinn Féin is "in favor of the best possible redundancy terms for those workers. But the barracks must close."

Following the Derry memorial service, Bogside resident Mickey Roddy pointed to the three army watch towers that look into the Bogside. "One of the barracks may close and the British troops are no longer on the streets, but they're still spying on us. They have watched this service. For the British to withdraw completely in one go would be like surrender," he said. "They won't do that, but eventually they will go."

Reflecting the determination of the relatives to press the fight for justice, Liam Wray, whose brother was killed on Bloody Sunday, said, "If the Saville Inquiry doesn't deliver the goods we will be here for another 30 years."

Paul Davies, Rafael Ayala, and Roy Inglee contributed to this article.

CUBA

and the Coming American Revolution

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution, by Jack Barnes, 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.

Conquest of power poses need to advance culture

Printed below is an excerpt from *Problems of Everyday Life* by Leon Trotsky, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for February. The book includes articles on social and cultural issues in the struggle to create the foundations for a new society, written for the Soviet press in the years immediately following the October 1917 socialist revolution in Russia. Topics covered range from art, religion, science, and cinema to the education of youth and the emancipation of women. The item quoted is taken from the chapter titled "Not by politics alone," and was first published in *Pravda* on July 10, 1923. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY LEON TROTSKY

Not by politics alone. This simple thought should be thoroughly grasped and borne in mind by all who speak or write for propaganda purposes. Changed times bring changed tunes. The prerevolutionary history of our party was a history of revolutionary politics. Party literature, party organizations—everything was ruled by politics in

They have become more complicated, more detailed and in a way more prosaic. Yet, in order to justify all the past struggle and all the sacrifices, we must learn to grasp these fragmentary problems of culture, and solve each of them separately.

Now, what has the working class actually gained and secured for itself as a result of the revolution?

1. The dictatorship of the proletariat (represented by the workers' and peasants' government under the leadership of the Communist Party).

2. The Red Army—a firm support of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

3. The nationalization of the chief means of production, without which the dictatorship of the proletariat would have become a form void of substance.

4. The monopoly of foreign trade, which is the necessary condition of socialist state structure in a capitalist environment.

These four things, definitely won, form the steel frame of all our work; and every success we achieve in economics or culture—provided it is a real achievement and not a sham—becomes in this framework a necessary part of the socialist structure.

And what is our problem now? What have we to learn in the first place? What should we strive for? We must learn to work efficiently: accurately, punctually, economically. We need culture in work, culture in life, in the conditions of life. After a long preliminary period of struggle we have succeeded in overthrowing the rule of the exploiters by armed revolt. No such means exists, however, to create culture all at once. The working class must undergo a long process of self-education, and so must the peasantry, either along with the workers or following them. Lenin speaks about this shift in focus of our aims and efforts in his article on cooperation:

We have to admit [he says] that there



First soldiers university in Bolshevik Russia, formed by troops at the Tauride Palace in Petrograd. "We must teach every soldier to read and write," said Trotsky.

has been a radical modification in our whole outlook on socialism. The radical modification is this: formerly we placed, and had to place, the main emphasis on the political struggle, on revolution, on winning political power, etc. Now the emphasis is changing and shifting to peaceful, organizational, "cultural" work. I should say that emphasis is shifting to educational work, were it not for our international relations, were it not for the fact that we have to fight for our position on a world scale. If we leave that aside, however, and confine ourselves to internal economic relations, the emphasis in our work is certainly shifting to education. ["On Cooperation," in Lenin's *Collected Works*, Vol. 33 (Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1966)]...

'Teach every soldier to read and write'

Nothing, therefore, but the problems of our international position keeps us, as Lenin tells us, from the struggle for culture. Now these problems, as we shall see presently, are not altogether of a different order. Our international position largely depends on the strength of our self-defense—that is to say, on the efficiency of the Red Army—and, in this vital aspect of our existence as a state, our problem consists almost entirely of work for culture: we must raise the level of the army and teach every single soldier to read and to write. The men must be taught to read books, to use manuals and maps; they must acquire habits of tidiness, punctuality, and thrift. It cannot be done all at once by some miraculous means. After the civil war and during the transitional period of our work, attempts were made to save the situation by a specially invented "proletarian military doctrine," but it was quite lacking in any real understanding of our actual problems. The same thing happened in regard to the ambitious plan for creating an artificial "proletarian culture." All such quests for the philosophers' stone combine despair at our deficiency in culture with a faith in miracles. We have, however, no reason to despair, and

as to miracles and childish quackeries like "proletarian culture" or "proletarian military doctrine," it is high time to give such things up. We must see to the development of culture within the framework of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and this alone can assure the socialist content of the revolutionary conquests. Whoever fails to see this will play a reactionary part in the development of party thought and party work.

When Lenin says that at the present moment our work is less concerned with politics than with culture, we must be quite clear about the terms he uses, so as not to misinterpret his meaning. In a certain sense politics always ranks first. Even the advice of Lenin to shift our interests from politics to culture is a piece of political advice. When the labor party of a country comes to decide that at some given moment the economic problem and not the political should take first place, the decision itself is political. It is quite obvious that the word "politics" is used here in two different meanings: firstly, in a wide materialist and dialectical sense, as the totality of all guiding principles, methods, systems that determine collective activities in all domains of public life; and, on the other hand, in a restricted sense, specifying a definite part of public activity, directly concerned with the struggle for power and opposed to economic work, to the struggle for culture, etc. Speaking of politics as concentrated economics, Lenin meant politics in the wider philosophic sense. But when he urged: "Let us have less politics and more economics," he referred to politics in the restricted and special sense. Both ways of using the word are sanctioned by tradition and are justified.

¹Trotsky's discussion of disputes over "proletarian military doctrine" will be found in his *Military Writings* (Pathfinder Press, 1971), and his discussion of "proletarian culture" will be found in *Literature and Revolution* (Ann Arbor, 1960).

LETTERS

'War against terrorism'

I've been reading your articles on the so-called "war against terrorism" with interest because at least one gets an objective view from you as compared to what many newspapers write here at home. Just a day before yesterday I also watched with interest George Bush labeling Iran, Iraq, and North Korea as evil countries, bent on destroying America and the world as if the world begins and ends with America. With such an arrogant attitude, I see Bush making many more enemies for the innocent Americans. Churchill Mbatha
Johannesburg, South Africa

Kashmir independence

Two recent articles in the *Militant* regarding the India-Pakistan struggle said, "New Delhi seeks to deal a decisive blow to the Kashmir independence movement" and "Washington's assault has been to back the Indian government's demand that Pakistan

crack down on Kashmiri independence forces based on its soil."

Do you have evidence that Pakistan backs independence for Kashmir? Independence may well be the proper political attitude toward Kashmir—but that is not to say that Pakistan backs it, or that the Islamic fundamentalists involved in the attacks are independence supporters. On the contrary, it appears that all Indian and Pakistani moves are to retain their portion of Kashmir, or expand it.

R.D.
Santa Clarita, California

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.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

the direct and narrow sense of that word. The revolutionary crisis has intensified political interests and problems to a still greater degree. The party had to win over the most politically active elements of the working class. At present the working class is perfectly aware of the *fundamental* results of the revolution. It is quite unnecessary to go on repeating over and over the story of these results. It does not any longer stir the minds of the workers, and is more likely even to wipe out in the workers' minds the lessons of the past. With the conquest of power and its consolidation as a result of the civil war, our chief problems have shifted to the needs of culture and economic reconstruction.

February BOOKS OF THE MONTH

★ ★ ★ ★ Pathfinder Readers Club SPECIALS

Malcolm X Talks to Young People

Speeches in the U.S., Britain and Africa

"I for one will join in with anyone, I don't care what color you are, as long as you want to change this miserable condition that exists on this earth"—Malcolm X, Britain, December 1964. \$10.95, special price: \$8.00

Feminism and the Marxist Movement

MARY-ALICE WATERS

Since the founding of the modern revolutionary workers movement 150 years ago, Marxists have championed the struggle for women's rights and explained the economic roots in class society of women's oppression. \$3.50, special price: \$2.50

War and Crisis in the Americas, 1984-85

FIDEL CASTRO

\$19.95, special price: \$15.00

Problems of Everyday Life

Creating the Foundations for a New Society in Revolutionary Russia

LEON TROTSKY

Articles from the early Soviet press on social and cultural issues in the struggle to forge new socialist women and men. \$27.95, special price: \$21.00

Polemics in Marxist Philosophy

GEORGE NOVACK

Novack defends scientific socialism—the generalization of the historic line of march of the working class, first advanced by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. He answers those in the twentieth century, who, parading as the true interpreters of Marx, have provided a "philosophical" veneer for the anti-working-class political course of Stalinist and social democratic misleaderships around the world. \$20.95, special price: \$16.00

Un programa de acción An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. \$5.00, special price: \$4.00

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long



Health workers rally against cutbacks

BY MIKE BARKER

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Chanting "Hey, hey, ho ho! Union busting has got to go!" 2,000 health-care workers and their supporters marched through downtown Vancouver on February 2 to protest Bill 29, the so-called Social Services Improvement Act.

"Private Health Care: Greed Before Need" read one of the signs carried by workers at the demonstration. Other rallies took place that day throughout the province, including in Richmond, a suburb to the south of Vancouver. In rural British Columbia, 2,000 rallied in Grand Forks and another 250 in Castlegar in the West Kootenays.

Passed during a late night session of the provincial legislature on January 27, Bill 29 breaks existing union contracts in health care and social services. The law ends all protection against contracting out for 90 percent of the 46,000 members of the Hospital Employees Union (HEU). Many members of the British Columbia Nurses Union (BCNU) and the Health Sciences Association (HSA) who are not directly involved in bedside care are affected by the bill, which also gives hospitals the unrestricted right to lay off workers without regard to seniority.

According to the *Vancouver Sun*, "Virtually every health-care service that doesn't directly touch a patient's bed can be contracted out.... That means private companies could provide hospital laundry, maintenance, accounting and technology services."

The new law also cancels agreements that



Some 2,000 members of the Hospital Employees Union and their supporters marched February 2 to protest union-busting legislation and other attacks on wages and working conditions. Three days before workers had gone out in a one-day strike across British Columbia and held rallies in 11 different communities.

would have brought the wages of more than 13,000 lower-paid workers in group homes and other community services closer to those paid other health-care workers.

On January 29 workers responded to this attack by waging a one-day strike across British Columbia (B.C.) and holding rallies in 11 different communities. Approximately 500 workers attended a Burnaby rally organized by the British Columbia Government

Employees Union.

At the spirited rally held after the February 2 march in Vancouver, HEU member Brenda Klock, a cook at the Royal Columbian Hospital, told the *Militant*, "They have no respect for the working class, the poor, and the elderly. All private health care will do is give less service to the people of B.C. and profit off the backs of workers. We need to fight and show up at all the ral-

lies and write MLAs [members of the provincial legislature.]"

Denise Siteman, a HEU care aide at Holyrood Manor, a long-term care facility, pointed out that besides wanting to "privatize, shut everything down, and cut wages," the government also aims "to break the unions because we are powerful." Two female care aides in the HEU at Burnaby Hospital, who didn't want their names used, said they were there to "protest job cuts—the government is putting us out of a job. There's a lot at stake here. A lot of us are single mothers. Do they want us to go on welfare?"

Members of other unions such as the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the HSA, and the BCNU also came to the action with their union banners. Karen Stearman, a HSA member at the Cancer Agency, said, "Tearing up contracts is evil. If you get rid of the unions, you're creating a fearful, have-not society. We're acting to protect our basic rights."

Darlene Kennedy, a teacher at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School, sported a "Proud to be a teacher" button. On January 28 45,000

teachers across the province staged a one-day walkout to protest a contract imposed by the Liberal government. "We're all in this together," Kennedy stated. "I have friends in the health-care system, but everyone is affected. Something needs to be done—look at what this government is doing to seniors."

Anger at attacks on services to elderly

Many protesters expressed anger at the government attacks on income and services provided the elderly. Since the beginning of the year, subsidies for prescription drugs have been severely reduced, a monthly income supplement of \$49.50 has been eliminated, and the cost of subsidized bus passes has shot up from \$45 a year to \$40 a month. "Taking away bus passes from seniors—that's nasty," said a HEU housekeeper at St. Paul's Hospital.

In a further reflection of the broader concerns of working people at the rally, many participants spiritedly chanted "Six bucks sucks" when one of the speakers at the rally referred to the Liberal government's introduction of a so-called "training wage" of \$6 an hour that allows employers to hire some new workers below B.C.'s minimum wage of \$8 an hour.

Looking ahead to future actions, Gretchen Dulmage, a cook at the Children's and Women's Hospital and vice-chair of her HEU local, said she "hopes that we're successful in the court case." The officialdom of the HEU has challenged Bill 29 in the courts based on Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "I think we should also shut down the province—and not just for a day," Dulmage added.

Many workers at the rally spoke of their plans to attend the February 23 rally in front of the provincial legislature organized by the B.C. Federation of Labour and the B.C. Health Coalition. Unions across B.C. are hiring buses and organizing car pools to take workers there. The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of B.C. has reserved 30 buses and expects as many as 10,000 seniors to join the rally.

This growing resistance has begun to create divisions within the ruling class over how far it can push these attacks. The *Vancouver Sun*, the main daily in the city and an outspoken supporter of the province's Liberal government, has called for rethinking the cuts to bus passes for seniors and legal aid programs.

Mike Barker is an HEU member who works at Vancouver General Hospital. Beverly Bernardo and Joyce Meissenheimer contributed to this article.

Farmers in Greece march for debt relief

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN AND MARIA PLESSA

ATHENS, Greece—Thousands of working farmers organized tractorcades across Greece on January 28 to demand government action to address the increasingly desperate situation they face. Cotton, tobacco, olive, fruit, wine grape, and dairy farmers joined together in a united mobilization.

The range of the farmers' demands reflect the depth of the crisis in the countryside. They are protesting cuts in subsidies for their products, low prices, and production ceilings. They are demanding aid for the extensive damage caused by exceptional snowfall throughout the country in early January. Farmers are also opposing government moves to sell off the state-owned Agricultural Bank of Greece (ATE) and are pressing for debt relief. They are also demanding substantial increases in farmers' pensions.

In the cotton-growing region in the heart of the Thessaly plain, about 15 cotton farmers gathered in the smoke-filled café in the village of Itea in the early morning hours of January 28. They said they planned to attend a farm rally several hours later, one of many across the agricultural regions of the country.

Cotton farmer Apostolos Makris said a growing number of farmers are forced to rent land to increase production, cutting into already thin profit margins. "Between the cost of production and rental of land, we break even," he said. "To make matters worse, there are production limits imposed on us by the European Union. If we produce more, our price drops," meaning that the farmers will not even meet their production costs.

"Many cooperatives have now closed," he said. "We cannot get tools, fertilizers, and so on from there. We now have to buy these from private companies. But the ATE no longer gives us loans."

Makris said retirement pensions for

farmers run from 47,000 to 65,000 drachmas a month, about US\$121 to \$168. "This is not a livable situation," he said, emphasizing that "pensions must be raised." The pension received by farmers is about half the minimum amount allotted to workers in the city.

Makris said that he expected the tractorcade to be smaller than planned because the cotton mill operators had suddenly given farmers only three days in which to deliver their cotton. "The aim is to force farmers to take their cotton to the plants, thus diverting them from the mobilizations set for this week," he said.

Noting the importance of price subsidies for working farmers, Lambos Zarras, a young tobacco farmer, said that 80 percent of their income from tobacco derives from government price supports. The subsidy "is what allows us to live," he said. "Now, in three years time, the subsidy will be totally abolished. For us, that means being forced off the land!"

"Let me tell you something else," Zarras said. "We get paid 120 drachmas for one kilogram of tobacco. Once this is sold as cigarettes in the stores it fetches 35,000 drachmas. The state and the merchants get all the profit, not the farmers."

Farmers' action wins support

The protest involved around 300 tractors. Most were decked out with black flags symbolizing the death of the family farmer. The lead tractor pulled a trailer with a dead pear tree killed in the cold spell. The procession headed for the Tembi Pass, a main north-south highway connection. At the pass, the tractors forced traffic onto one lane.

A rally of 500 farmers held that evening won backing from dozens of passing truck drivers, as well as many motorists, who honked their support.

A few enraged drivers got out of their cars and screamed obscenities at the farmers because of the traffic jam. The capitalist

press has played up the "danger" caused by "inconsiderate" farmers blocking the roads. Government spokesperson Christos Protopapas said the roadblocks "are not responsible acts and they put farmers in conflict with the interests of society."

In a red-baiting attack, he also called on the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) to clarify its position on the roadblocks. Several KKE members are leaders of the farm organizations.

The government mobilized 2,000 cops for the action. Police helicopters flew above the tractorcades in a blatant attempt to intimidate the farmers.

Christos Benekis, a working farmer from the Karditsa region in Thessaly who was at the Tembi Pass, said that over the past years farmers had purchased a lot of "equipment from the industrialists. It was okay when prices for our products were good. Now, with the big price drop, people can't pay their debts. The problem is mounting and farm auctions are on the increase. This is not yet a massive phenomenon since the [ATE] bank is not carrying out the auctions. Rather, foreclosures are now mainly organized by individuals or companies."

"However," he said, "this will change and it will happen on a mass scale once the ATE is privatized. Then there will be no political cost for foreclosures and auctions by the privatized bank."

He said 70 percent of the cotton farms are owned and worked by small producers. "This is a great problem for us," he added. "We are staring hunger in the face!"

In face of the widespread protests, the government announced on January 30 an emergency relief fund for damage caused by the winter cold. It also set cotton prices at 300 drachma per kilogram, a price above many farmers' expectations.

Maria Plessa is a member of the Federation of Foreign Airline Employees and works at the Athens International Airport.