

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

New pamphlet in English of speeches by Thomas Sankara
— PAGE 9

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 66/NO. 25

JUNE 24, 2002

Anticolonial fighters champion Puerto Rico independence

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

UNITED NATIONS—The rulers of the United States “call themselves the defenders of democracy in the world, but they are the ones who are seeking to strangle the desire for freedom and the national integrity of my country,” stated Puerto Rican independence fighter Manuel González, speaking at hearings held here June 10 on the colonial status of Puerto Rico.

“They are the ones who for the last 42

See page 6 for statement to UN commission by SWP spokesperson Róger Calero

years have refused to recognize the right of our Cuban brothers and sisters to forge their own destiny, who scarcely a few weeks ago tried to strangle the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela, and who allow the Palestinian people to be massacred—all in the name of democracy. They are the ones who through brute force seek to impose their hegemony around the globe.”

González, general secretary of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, was part of a broad pro-independence delegation, both from Puerto Rico and from the United States, that forcefully brought their message to the in-

Continued on Page 7

Liberal Party crisis reflects divisions in Canadian ruling class

BY MICHEL DUGRÉ

TORONTO—Canada’s Liberal Party government of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is going through a political crisis as divisions within the Canadian ruling class are being fought out in the party.

Since May 26, three ministers have lost their jobs. Defense Minister Art Eggleton and Public Works Minister Don Boudrias were forced out of their posts after being accused of favoritism in the wake of a series of scandals around a sponsorship program.

A week later, as more facts seemed to indicate that the revelations at the source of these scandals were coming from inside the Liberal Party itself, Chrétien fired Finance Minister Paul Martin. Widely recognized as the second-in-command in the Canadian government, Martin is considered the front-runner in the race to replace Chrétien as head of the Liberals and become the next prime minister.

Deeply divided, the Liberal Party is now heading toward a leadership “review” where support for Chrétien will be put to a vote.

The Liberal Party is today the only capitalist party in Canada with a strong base both inside and outside Quebec. It won three elections since 1993. Even after weeks of being

Continued on Page 4

U.S. gov’t begins jailing citizens without charges

First fruits of ‘preemptive action’ at home and abroad

BY GREG McCARTAN AND MAURICE WILLIAMS

The U.S. government has begun to jail citizens without charges. This was revealed when Attorney General John Ashcroft announced June 10 that Abdullah al-Muhajir had been held since May 8, first in a high-security prison in New York, and then transferred to a military jail in Charleston, South Carolina.

In a sensationalist press conference from Moscow, the Justice Department head claimed Washington had captured a known terrorist who was exploring a plan to build and explode a radiological dispersion device, or ‘dirty bomb,’ in the United States. Officials later admitted al-Muhajir had neither a plan nor materials to make a weapon of any sort and that they think he discussed a vague proposal with leaders of al Qaeda.

Donna Newman, the lawyer for al-Muhajir, filed a writ of habeas corpus with a federal judge in Manhattan, seeking an order for authorities to produce her client in court so arguments can be made before a judge on the legality of his detention.

“My client is a citizen,” the lawyer said after the hearing. “He still has constitutional rights, the right to counsel, the right to be charged by a grand jury. And he has not been charged.”

Washington has also kept Yasser Esam Hamdi in prison and fought attempts by the

Continued on Page 12

Cubans mobilize to affirm their socialist revolution



Granma

More than 7 million Cubans marched June 12 in Havana and other cities to affirm the socialist revolution and reject recent slanders by U.S. president George Bush and other White House officials.

Bush joins Sharon in whitewashing Israeli assault on Palestinian towns

BY PATRICK O’NEILL

In a June 10 press conference after meeting with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Washington, U.S. president George Bush spoke in defense of the aggressive Israeli military operations against the Palestinian people. “There are people in the Middle East who want to use terror as a way to derail any peace process,” he said. “Israel has a right to defend herself.”

Bush made his statement as Israeli military forces occupied the West Bank towns of Jenin, Hebron, and Nablus, centers of

Palestinian resistance, and demolished most of what was left of the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in Ramallah. With PA chairman Yasir Arafat and other officials trapped in their offices, Israeli forces bombarded the compound, destroyed sections of the buildings, and then bulldozed debris to block entrances and exits to the headquarters. Palestinians and Israeli soldiers exchanged fire in the area. This was the second time within a month that Israeli forces had surrounded Arafat and his associates, placing them

under virtual house arrest.

As a total curfew was enforced in the days that followed, one journalist described the city as being “in a state of lockdown.” On June 10 alone, Israeli troops arrested 27 Palestinian youths.

Giving cover to Tel Aviv’s assault, which was presented as a response to a car bombing of a bus June 5 in which 13 Israeli soldiers and four other passengers were killed, Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters that in the “president’s eyes Yasir Arafat has never played a role of someone who can be trusted or who was effective.”

Both Sharon and Bush have demanded that Arafat mobilize his security forces and

Continued on Page 11

Strikers at Hershey block hike in payments for medical plan

BY HILDA CUZCO AND MARTY RESSLER

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania—Chocolate workers at Hershey Foods Corporation scored a victory in pushing back the company’s demand that they pay more for their medical plan. After 44 days on strike, the longest against the leading candy maker, the unionists by a vote of 1,848 to 226 approved a four-year contract that kept their health insurance copayments at 6 percent.

The 2,700 members of Chocolate Workers Union Local 464, affiliated with the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union, struck two major plants April 26 rejecting the company’s demand for an increase of 10 percent to 12 percent in their insurance co-payments.

Annual wage increases according to the new offer will be 46 cents an hour for the first year, 2.7 percent in the second, 38 cents

in the third, and 2.93 percent for the fourth. They will also receive \$525 in signing bonuses. The workers agreed to give up a total of 19 cents from the original contract proposal over the four years in exchange for keeping their health care payments the same. Their prescription card payments will not increase, and the contract includes an amnesty clause, which waves any disciplinary action against regular and probationary workers who participated in the strike.

“It was worth staying out, we stood strong,” said Debi Brown, a machine operator at the Rolo department, who participated in the 1980 strike against the company. “Then we braved the freezing cold and only got a 5-cent increase. We could have gone back out [to the picket line],” Brown added, “but this time we go back to work stronger.” This response was reflected in the smile.

Continued on Page 12

Also Inside:

- U.S. expands military commitment in Philippines 2
- Construction and postal workers in Germany prepare to strike for higher wages 2
- Cuban gov’t acts to hold down prices on basic food items 8
- Justice Dept. to begin fingerprinting visitors to United States deemed “security risks” 10
- U.S. occupation forces kill Afghan civilians, militia 13

Clash in Philippines fuels calls for greater U.S. military role

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

The June 7 clash between Philippine army soldiers and Abu Sayyaf fighters, which took the lives of two hostages held by the guerrillas, came amidst a chorus of calls for the relaxation of restrictions on the role of U.S. forces deployed in the country.

A number of capitalist politicians and military officers in both the United States and the Philippines argue that U.S. troops should be permitted to join anti-guerrilla patrols as part of their mission to "train and assist" their Philippine counterparts. Many also call for the extension of the U.S. mission beyond its present deadline of July 31.

Philippine nurse Ediborah Yap and U.S. missionary Martin Burnham were killed in the firefight, while Burnham's wife Gracia survived with gunshot wounds. After speaking to U.S. president George Bush in the hours after the unexpected battle, Philippine president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said that U.S. troops "no longer have to hold their fire" in pursuing Abu Sayyaf.

"President Bush assured us of the continuing help of the United States in pushing the operation forward," she added.

At present the U.S. forces, although allowed to respond if attacked, are officially restricted to a training and advisory role. Numbering 1,200, they include 160 military advisers, a number of trainers, several hundred intelligence and logistical support personnel, and about 300 Navy engineers. The latter are upgrading or building military facilities that include a World War II runway, a causeway, and 40 miles of road.

While the U.S. command is stationed on Mindanao, about half the troops are encamped on Basilan, an island of 300,000 people where Abu Sayyaf is based. The guerrilla group, whose hostage-taking activities and alleged links to al Qaeda provided the pretext for the U.S. intervention, numbers only 200 or fewer fighters. By contrast, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which calls for an Islamic state on Mindanao and which has agreed to a cease-fire with

the Philippine army, has some 25,000 cadre.

In the week before the June 7 clash, U.S. deputy defense secretary Paul Wolfowitz traveled to the Philippines for discussions with Arroyo and U.S. officers, including Adm. Thomas Fargo, the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific. Fargo and others pressed for permission to assign U.S. Green Beret advisers to active-duty Philippine army units.

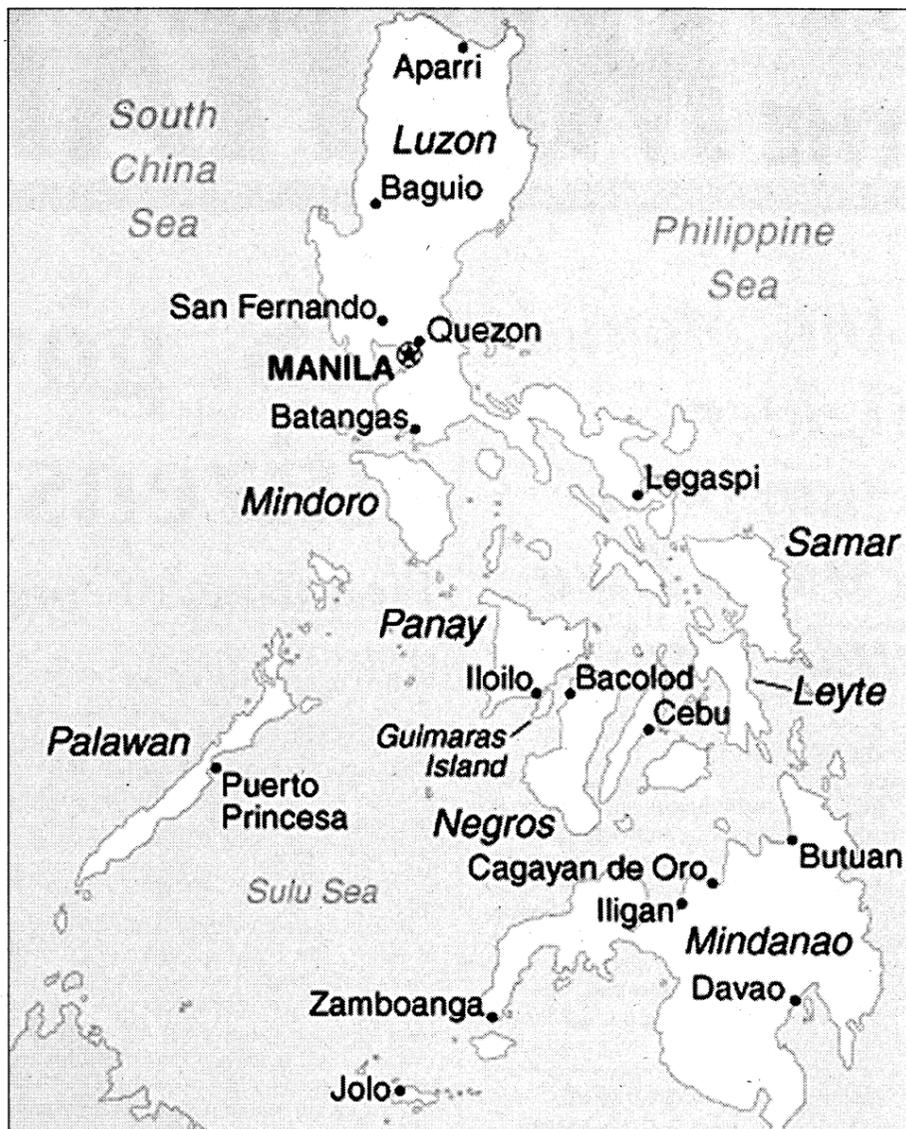
"I came away more of an advocate for engagement with the Philippines," said Wolfowitz on June 4.

Wolfowitz's boss, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, spoke with more caution. Asked his opinion of a more active U.S. role, he questioned "what the cost would be, what the numbers of people would be, what the benefit might be.... The mission in the Philippines has proceeded in precisely the way it was intended," he added.

Rumsfeld spoke three days before the deaths of the hostages. In an editorial immediately following the firefight, the *Wall Street Journal* claimed that the casualties "might have been avoided had U.S. Special Forces played a bigger role in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf."

The editorial noted one barrier to increased U.S. involvement: the "ban on action by foreign troops in the Philippine constitution." Like the closure of the U.S. Clark air base and Subic Bay naval base in the early '90s, this prohibition registered the mass opposition among Filipino working people to imperialist intervention and occupation. The *Journal*, however, suggested an out for the Arroyo government, stating that "a mutual defense agreement between the U.S. and the Philippines provides an exception when national security is involved."

In arguing for an extension to the July 31 deadline for U.S. withdrawal, officials in both Manila and Washington have stressed the alleged benefits of the engineering and construction projects undertaken by the U.S. forces.



"The U.S. troops on Basilan are...helping to build roads and bridges, drill water wells and improve medical care on the island," reported the Associated Press on June 8. They are "trying to buy all of their supplies and support services locally," it added. "Basilan widows do the soldiers' laundry, for example. American road-building teams have used 6,000 dump truck loads of 2-inch gravel broken by hand by Basilan residents."

"What we are trying to do is get the people of Basilan island to taste freedom and capitalism," said Brig. Gen. Donald

Wurster, the commander of the U.S. forces in the Philippines.

The U.S. embassy in Manila has drawn up a plan to extend this "civic action program to two more islands," reported the June 10 *New York Times*. The article addressed the question of "why the Bush administration chose the Philippines for its first major military foray after Afghanistan." The answer, it stated, "ranges from the desire for a quick victory over terrorism to, more broadly, the wish to reassert American power in Southeast Asia."

Strikes in Germany press for higher wages

BY RÓGER CALERO

Members of Germany's postal and telecommunications union Verdi have organized a series of warning strikes this month as part of their fight for wage increases.

At the same time a million construction workers who belong to the IG Bau union have cast ballots to determine whether or not to go on strike June 17. A walkout would be the first in the industry in more than 50 years. Construction workers voted after the company rejected the union's demand for a 4.5 percent pay increase. Labor disputes are also brewing among insurance and bank employees, strike votes are pending if the bosses do not agree to wage demands.

Some 10,000 telephone and postal workers in Hamburg and Munich stopped opera-

tions at Deutsche Telekom's call centers and Deutsche Post June 10 to press on their demand for a 6.5 percent wage hike.

A week earlier 200 postal workers in Hamburg and Cottbus stopped deliveries of an estimated 100,000 packages and letters. The union has warned that the strikes would spread to the rest of the country and could be extended to include bank and insurance companies' employees.

Verdi represents more than 4 million public employees and other workers in the service industry. The current wage negotiations will affect 120,000 employees at Deutsche Telekom and 240,000 postal workers.

A company as profitable as Deutsche Post should be in a position to pay its employees

Continued on Page 4

THE MILITANT

Keep up with workers' resistance today

From chocolate workers on strike against Hershey Foods, to workers at Friction Dynamics, the 'Militant' brings you coverage on the struggles of working people around the world who are resisting the offensive by the bosses and their government. Don't miss an issue!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

\$10 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

\$15 for 12 weeks

\$27 for 6 months

\$45 for 1 year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION _____ PHONE _____

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A20 • Britain, £7 • Canada, Can\$15 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$15 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £8 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr1,800 • New Zealand, NZ\$20 • Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 66/No. 25

Closing news date: June 12, 2002

Editor: GREG McCARTAN

Business Manager: JACK WILLEY

Editorial Staff: Róger Calero, Martin Koppel, Jack Willey, Brian Williams, and Maurice Williams.

Young Socialists column editor: ROMINA GREEN

Published weekly except for one week in June, August and December.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

E-mail: TheMilitant@compuserve.com

The Militant website is: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: **United States:** for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to

above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80. **Asia:** send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Militant, 1237 Jean-Talon est, Montréal, QC. Postal Code: H2R 1W1.

Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. **Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East:** £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address.

France: Send 65 euros for one-year subscription to Militant, Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris; chèque postale: 40 134 34 U.

Iceland: Send 6,500 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. **Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark:** 550 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9.

New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. **Australia:** Send Australian \$90 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 1240, Australia. **Pacific Islands:** Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

U.S. gov't to fingerprint 'security risk' visitors

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft has announced new Justice Department regulations requiring that more than 100,000 foreign visitors to the United States "who may pose national security concerns" be fingerprinted and photographed.

The federal government is also taking steps to widen the use of local and state police for arrests of people on immigration charges.

Current regulations require the registration and fingerprinting of citizens from Iran, Iraq, Sudan, and Libya. Under the new plan Syria will be added to the list, as well as other countries that the State Department and the INS "determine to be an elevated security risk."

A Justice Department fact sheet states that the attorney general has the authority to expand the list of countries through the publication of a Federal Register notice. U.S. government officials said the program will focus initially on those from about 20 Muslim and Middle Eastern countries who are deemed "security risks." Agency officials said the list will also include Cuba and north Korea.

According to Ashcroft, this will be the first phase of a system allowing authorities to monitor any of the 35 million visitors who come to the United States each year. Dubbed the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, the program mandates visitors over age 14 who hold nonimmigrant visas to comply with the new rules before they are allowed into the country. Their fingerprints, photographs, and other information would be matched against a federal database and put into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) maintained by the FBI. Immigrants with green cards supposedly would not be affected by the new rules.

Those staying more than one month would be forced to periodically register with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). They would also have to submit information on employment or enrollment at a school, along with their street and e-mail addresses and telephone number. Foreign visitors would have to register every year or face fines, imprisonment or deportation. They would also be required to inform the INS when leaving the country.

The new rules are based on the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act. This law broadened the basis for the exclusion and deportation of noncitizens and introduced the "alien address report system" requiring all immigrants in the United States (including most temporary visitors) to report their current address to the INS. Under this law the attorney general can order the fingerprinting and registration of "any class of aliens, other than those admitted for permanent residence," according to the Justice Department.

Once again justifying an assault on workers rights under the pretext of the campaign

against terrorism, Ashcroft declared, "In this new war, our enemies' platoons infiltrate our borders quietly, blending in with visitors and tourists and students and workers."

Use of local cops

The 650,000 local and state cops across the country would be checking the NCIC "regularly in the course of traffic stops and routine encounters," said the Attorney General. Ashcroft said he would ask the nation's cops to "undertake voluntarily" the task of "arresting aliens who have violated criminal provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act or civil provisions that render an alien deportable."

Currently state and city police departments do not make arrests on civil immigration violations. In 1996 the Clinton administration signed into law a measure authorizing the attorney general to make agreements with local and state governments to enforce immigration laws. Now the Justice Department has drafted a legal opinion arguing that cops have the "inherent authority" to enforce immigration laws. Pilot programs have been developed in Florida and South Carolina to implement this measure.

The move to involve police departments in such activity has sparked an exchange of conflicting views among cop officials and other bourgeois political figures. "It's political dynamite," said a police department official in Chicago. "We have an executive order from the mayor's office where we don't do anything with immigration. When we stop someone, we don't ask them what their alien status is."

"Antiterrorism teams made up of federal, state, and local officers that have been formed in most larger cities since the Sept. 11 attacks would help immigration officials register visa holders already living here," wrote *New York Times* reporter Eric Schmitt. He noted that the "antiterrorism teams" would use "procedures similar to those employed to find 5,000 mainly Middle Eastern men" who were sought for interrogations allegedly in connection with the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Meanwhile, according to the June 6 *Washington Post*, the focus on citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria would prompt "immediate complaints that the system amounted to racial profiling of Middle Eastern visitors."

"This is going to lead to enormous racial profiling," said Cecilia Muñoz, vice president of policy for the National Council of La Raza.

Hussein Ibish, a spokesman for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said the approach of the government to "view the immigrant population in general as suspicious and dangerous... includes a pretty big group of people."

Of the 31 million immigrants living in the country an estimated 8.5 million are with-

out legal documents. The INS has established a new Bureau of Immigration Enforcement that will oversee border patrols, investigations, and spying operations as part of a projected crackdown on the approximately 3 million noncitizens who carry expired visas.

Many of those whose papers are not "in order" are working people, employed across the country in factories, mills, field jobs, restaurants and other industries. They have increasingly joined struggles for workers' rights, led union organizing drives, partici-

pated in social protest actions, and fought attempts to criminalize and dehumanize sections of the working class.

The regulations are the first step in meeting a bipartisan Congressional mandate for developing a system to monitor all those who travel to the United States, said Ashcroft. The INS announced in early May that a new tracking system to monitor 1 million foreign students would be up and running in a several months. The system will link every U.S. embassy and consulate abroad with every INS port of entry in the country.

Locked-out unionists in Texas fight for benefits, pensions



Militant/Steve Warshell

Members of the Texas City Metal Trades Council locked out of Sterling Chemical.

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

TEXAS CITY, Texas—"Over 92 percent of the union members came out to vote and 80 percent voted to reject the company's offer," picket captain Allan Bolen told the *Militant*. Then the company, "at 11:59 p.m. on June 7, immediately locked us out even though the union offered to keep working and continue negotiations."

Bolen is one of the 216 members of the Texas City Metal Trades Council Local 347 who are now locked out of the Sterling Chemical plant in that Gulf Coast city.

"Retirees' health care and pensions are a big reason for us being out here," added John T. Wright, a Vietnam veteran and material handler in the plant. "The company's Human Resources man, Wayne Parker, told the union that the problem is the retirees just aren't dying fast enough. This is totally not acceptable!" The company is demanding a 50 percent hike in retirees' insurance premiums, an increase of more than \$500 a month. Re-

tired workers and their spouses will have to pay more than \$600 per month for health insurance, which they say they cannot afford.

While this reporter was talking to the pickets, several retired workers drove up and offered encouragement as well as cold soda and water to the locked-out unionists. An awning set up to provide a little relief from the sun contained an ample supply of food and soft drinks.

Luke Harlen, another picketing material handler, said the company demanded workers carry pagers all the time without compensation and wanted to divide the union over pay scales. "They didn't want to give 20 of us the same pay as the rest. Up to now," Harlen said, "all the crafts bargained together and are in the same union together and get the same pay. They want to divide us up."

"Equal pay for all the crafts is our tradition here in Texas City," Bolen added.

The company is also pushing safety cutbacks. "See that Astrodome-like thing out there?" Wright continued. "That's full of ammonia. If that goes it will take Texas City with it. Having the plant run by management like it is now is a real danger. They don't have either the skills or the experience." This point has particular meaning in Texas City, which was destroyed in 1947 by a series of explosions at the docks, refineries, and chemical plants.

In a statement released June 8, the union spoke out on the company's disregard for public safety. "The lockout is unfortunate, and also unsafe for the community... Texas City residents have expressed serious concerns over the company operations in the absence of the union workforce."

The pickets agreed that they planned to stay out until they could all go back in together. "That's what the union is," Wright explained. "We're together in this."

"Before the vote, I even took out a loan against my pension fund for this lockout," Harlen added. "We all have to COBRA our health insurance after this month when the company cuts us off. My daughter has diabetes and I have to pay the insurance bill. I don't mind building up debts on other things, but that's something she's just got to have."

The union plans to have a protest action along Palmer Highway in Texas City on Saturday, June 15, to seek support for the locked-out unionists and retirees. Union members and their supporters will be posted on street corners from the highway all the way down to the plant next to the bay, and will talk to motorists and shoppers and get information out about the lockout.

Tom Leonard contributed to this article.

Bay Area hotel workers: 'We have to fight'

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

SAN FRANCISCO—Ellie Bayona is a laundry worker and has worked 17 years at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf, a 127-room hotel in San Francisco. She and 44 other workers went on strike at the company in late May. The workers held a three-day strike over the Memorial Day weekend, worked five days, then struck again.

The strikers and their supporters are maintaining picket lines from 6:00 a.m. until midnight. When asked about the mood of the workers Bayona said, "We have to fight." Those on strike include workers in

the laundry, room cleaners, and front desk workers.

Workers at the hotel must clean 16 rooms a day. This results in injuries at the workplace and no lunch breaks for them. At other area hotels employees must clean 14 a day and if there are a lot of rooms where people have checked out, which take longer to clean, they can clean 12 a day.

Anabel Ramirez has worked at this Marriott 11 years, currently three days a week in the laundry and two days a week cleaning rooms.

"I had my wrist operated on two times," she said. "There are many people who have been on disability. We have to work very fast and it is heavy work. They push us too much. They never say thank you. They are always saying your work is not good enough. They pick on people. They'll give you a verbal warning, then a written, then they can fire you. Workers make \$13.59 an hour at other hotels. Here at the Marriott we make \$11.16 an hour."

The Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE) Local 2 has been negotiating with the Marriott Courtyard for more than seven months. The workers are demanding a reduction in the workload and higher wages and they point out they have not had a wage increase since 1998, a time of increased cost of living in the Bay Area.

Workers from many hotels have joined

the spirited picket lines, and helped to hand out flyers and keep a beat with chants and noisemakers.

Eugenio Chávez comes to the picket line three times a week. He has worked for 20 years in the pantry at the nearby Hilton Hotel. He said workers struck the Hilton at Fisherman's Wharf 10 years ago and won. The Hilton's contract expires in August 2004.

"We work hard and we aren't asking a lot," Chavez said. "We want them to give us fair contracts with the millions they make. We are very united. We pay rent, bills, and raise our children. They are millionaires because of us."

José Bonilla was at the picket-line and works at the Holiday Inn during the summer full-time and in the winter part-time. He also works at the Hilton Hotel as an extra as well as does banquets. He works an average of 50-80 hours a week.

"We are supporting the workers and need to support workers whenever they are fighting or on strike," said Bonilla. He has participated in the regular picket lines at the Marriott in downtown San Francisco. The workers there won union representation four years ago but the hotel still refuses to sign a contract.

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

From Pathfinder

Labor's Giant Step

The First Twenty Years of the CIO: 1936-55

Art Preis

The story of the explosive labor struggles and political battles in the 1930s that built the industrial unions. And how those unions became the vanguard of a mass social movement that began transforming U.S. society. \$26.95

Liberal Party crisis

Continued from front page

on the defensive around the publicity contracts, it remains at close to 50 percent in the polls, more than three times stronger than any other party in Canada.

The bipartisan political system that has dominated political life for most of the years since the creation of Canada in 1867 shattered a decade ago when the Conservative Party suffered a devastating electoral loss, almost eliminating it from Parliament. This was accompanied by a regional fragmentation of bourgeois politics, with the right-wing Canadian Alliance, the official opposition, being present exclusively in Western Canada, and the Bloc Quebecois, the third party in Parliament, existing only in Quebec.

Today, tensions in the ruling class more and more find their expression inside the Liberal Party itself.

The media is trying to reduce the crisis to a "personality conflict" between Chrétien and Martin. But more facts are coming to the surface indicating that political questions underlie the tensions between the two main factions inside the party. At the source of the current crisis are how best to push forward the assault on working people in face of resistance to austerity cutbacks on the provincial level, and the question of Quebec.

A decade ago Chrétien defeated Martin by a small margin for the party leadership. Their contest was centered on the question of how to deal with Quebec. Martin was then supporting the Meech Lake Agreement, portrayed as containing a few concessions to the rights of the Quebecois.

Chrétien and Martin have "always disagreed about the government's policies toward Quebec," said Richard Gwyn, a *Toronto Star* columnist, June 5. "To Chrétien, Martin had always been too much the accommodationist...towards Quebec," he wrote, while Martin was "always much readier to at least consider...concessions."

Chrétien and Martin also disagreed on the

so-called Clarity Bill, the main piece of Ottawa's response to its quasi-defeat in the referendum. This law defines the type of questions that the Quebec government would need to raise if it was to hold another referendum. It imposes a minimum percentage vote that would be required for Ottawa to recognize a victory of the Quebec government in the referendum.

"The success of the Clarity Bill represented the single greatest personal success of Chrétien during his term as prime minister... Chrétien thus had won his lifelong jihad against separatism," said Gwyn in his article.

Quebec remains a key question

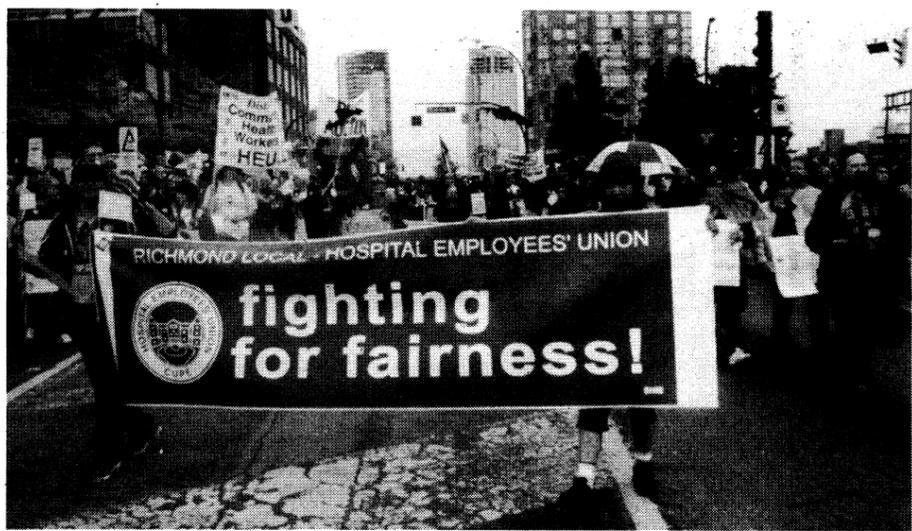
The conflict between those supporting the hard line against Quebec, and those who favor minor concessions, has been at the center of politics in Canada since the 1960s. It remains a key question, essentially because nothing has been settled from the point of view of Canada's capitalist rulers.

While not as central, the scandals surrounding Ottawa's sponsorship program that precipitated the current crisis are also revealing.

Ottawa used the program to raise the presence of the Canadian flag and Canadian symbols in Quebec by sponsoring sporting, cultural, and other events. Between 1998 and 2000, Public Works Canada sponsored 555 such events in Quebec, compared to 43 in Western Canada and 82 in Ontario. In one typical case Ottawa gave \$333,000 to sponsor a hunting and fishing show that never took place. The show was organized by a company that received 17 percent of the \$232 million given by Ottawa through the sponsorship program since it was started in 1997.

In a letter to the *Globe and Mail*, Stéphane Dion, Canada's minister of intergovernmental affairs, defended the publicity campaign, by saying that "Canada will not let itself be driven out of Quebec."

On June 4, Ralph Goodale, the new Public Works Minister, announced that his min-



Militant/Monica Jones

Some 20,000 working people and students turned out for a May 25 rally against cuts being imposed by the Liberal Party government in Vancouver, British Columbia.

istry would spread sponsorship cash more evenly across the country, now that "Quebec's separatist threat [is] receding."

To reassure themselves, bourgeois politicians and commentators insist today on the current demise of the Parti Quebecois (PQ) in the polls as a sure sign that "separatism is dying." They forget that the drop in popular support for the PQ, the party that had called the referendum in 1995, is a result of its decision to implement Ottawa's austerity campaign in Quebec.

The PQ's declining support, however, has not resulted in increased backing for the federalist Quebec Liberal Party (QLP), but instead has boosted a third party, the Action Démocratique du Québec (ADQ). This party tries to maintain a middle road between the PQ and the QLP but has never had more than two members in Quebec's National Assembly. The ADQ has the advantage of having never been tested in power.

The PQ is experiencing the same fate as other provincial governments that have been responsible for carrying through the rulers' assault against the working class and farmers. The New Democratic Party government

in British Columbia was kicked out of office for pursuing such a course. In Ontario, Conservative Party leader Michael Harris recently resigned after his government was forced to confront the resistance of working people to years of harsh austerity measures. In order to survive politically, his successor is doing everything possible to distance himself from the policies of the previous administration.

Following in the steps of the Ontario government, the British Columbia Liberal government of Gordon Campbell is now confronting the initial stages of a social movement centered on the trade unions, including massive marches in Vancouver and Victoria this year.

Economic expansion

Over the last decade the Canadian economy has performed relatively well for the capitalist rulers. "Canada over the course of the last five or six years has put in place one of the most remarkable economic transformations we have ever seen," said Paul Martin in his first speech after being fired as finance minister.

These high marks were won first and foremost by capitalists in Canada taking advantage of the economic "boom" in the United States during the 1990s, an expansion built on the backs of U.S. working people. Exports from Canada increased sharply during those years, thanks in part to the continuing decline in the value of the Canadian dollar.

During that same period the Canadian economy has become less competitive, with a gap in productivity levels opening even wider between the United States and Canada due to the relative lack of success the Canadian rulers have had in carrying through their drive to lower the standard of living of working people and whittle away at health and safety conditions on the job.

There has been little open debate between the wings of the Liberal Party on cutbacks in education and medical care, or about the antiunion attacks that it is leading on the provincial level, like in British Columbia.

Strikes in Germany

Continued from page 2

a respectable wage, said a trade union official in the southern region of Bavaria, where strike preparations are under way. The national mail carrier has rejected the union's proposal, calling it out of the question.

These latest wave of strike actions come on the heels of a successful fight by the metal workers union in May that forced the bosses in the auto industry to agree to the union's demand for a 4 percent wage increase.

German capitalists economists and the big-business press have insisted that wage increases higher than 3 percent would be damaging to Germany's weak economic recovery. The German bosses warned of further job losses if they were forced to pay more.

Speaking at a strike meeting in Hamburg, Verdi union president Frank Bsirske said that the union demand was "justified pay for work that will make an economic upswing in Germany at all possible. Nothing will happen without pressure. So, we're starting today."

"After a prolonged period of economic stagnation, German workers are increasingly sceptical of government and employers' argument that wage moderation is the key to recovery," noted a BBC report describing the sentiment during the wage negotiations.

Workers in the printing industry won a 3.4 percent raise at the end of May. According to news reports union members threatened to disrupt newspaper production during the football World Cup.

Supporters gear up for last week of fund drive

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

Public meetings organized as part of the campaign to raise \$50,000 for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are giving a big boost to the fund drive and have provided a lively forum for discussing a range of developments and issues in the worldwide fight by working people against Washington and the other imperialist exploiters.

Topics have included the efforts to build revolutionary leadership in Haiti and the

United States, working-class struggles in the United States, and the bloody record of imperialist meddling on the Indian subcontinent.

Through these and other efforts, fund supporters have organized to be within striking distance of their local and international goals. Supporters in four areas are on target, at 80 percent or more on the way to their goal. Swedish partisans of the drive are among a bunch of others who are close to that point.

Overall, however, the amount raised so far stands at a little over half the goal, meaning that in this last week supporters need to step up efforts to gain final contributions, collect pledges, and get the money into the New York office. The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* staff will count all checks received by noon on Tuesday, June 19.

The \$50,000 is needed to help cover the costs of producing and distributing the English-language weekly and Spanish-language monthly. Unlike the big-business media, from the "respectable" dailies to the muckraking tabloids, the revolutionary press does not benefit from the backing of wealthy capitalists, any more than it dances to their political tune. The working people who write for, read, and distribute these periodicals are also the main source of the funds that are needed to make up the large gap between sales income and publication expenses.

Those costs have risen in the last year. Not only have printing fees gone up; postal charges will rise by 10 percent in July. The costs of mailing copies to subscribers and bundles to distributors—whether by the postal service or private courier companies—make up a substantial item on the debit side of the socialist periodicals' budget.

"Our public meeting was a real boost to our fund-raising effort," wrote Andrea Morell from Boston. "It capped off a successful weekend in the campaign to increase the readership of the *Militant* and *PM* that is running in step with the fund drive. We urged those who bought subscriptions and copies of *Cuba*

and the Coming American Revolution to attend the June 9 event.

"Sixteen people attended the meeting, at which Martin Koppel, the editor of *Perspectiva Mundial*, was a special guest," Morell reported. "He spoke on the theme, 'From Palestine and Cuba to the U.S. Coalfields: Workers and Farmers Fight the Imperialist Assault.' We raised close to \$500 toward our goal of \$1,850."

The event organized by San Francisco fund supporters brought in more than \$1,500. Thirty-plus people heard a presentation by *Militant* correspondent Patrick O'Neill, who addressed a number of issues, including the conflict between India and Pakistan. O'Neill's comments about the role of London and Washington in forging and then aiding Pakistan as a spearhead aimed at the national liberation struggle of the Indian working people sparked a number of questions and comments.

Fund supporters in Miami and Washington, D.C., held meetings entitled, "From Haiti to the United States and Canada: Prospects for Building an International Socialist Movement of Working People and Youth." These were the latest in a series of meetings featuring members of a Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists delegation at a May 17-18 meeting of university students and young socialists in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince. Jack Willey spoke in Miami and Arrin Hawkins in D.C.

"Eighteen people attended the event in Miami," wrote Argiris Malapanis on June 11. "Those in attendance included a Haitian man who works in an airline kitchen at the Miami airport, and a young woman, also from Haiti, who works as a waitress."

"People contributed a total of nearly \$900," reported Malapanis. "This put the total pledges by supporters of the fund in Miami over the goal of \$1,000."

Partisans of the fund also organized public events in Allentown—where the meeting doubled as a celebration of the opening of a new Pathfinder bookstore in Hazleton, Pennsylvania—and Charlotte, North Carolina, where Tom Leonard, a veteran socialist worker and former seafarer, spoke.

The experiences of these meetings and the response to appeals to funds should give us confidence that a solid collective effort will see the goal exceeded and the task nailed home. Onward to \$50,000!

Militant/PM May 1—June 15 International Fund Drive			
	Goal	Paid	%
Washington DC	1,600	1,421	89%
Charlotte	2,700	2,395	89%
Cleveland	1,000	875	88%
Newark	2,000	1,605	80%
Brooklyn	1,800	1,335	74%
NY Garment District	4,000	2,907	73%
Los Angeles	5,000	3,356	67%
San Francisco	5,500	3,645	66%
Des Moines	1,000	620	62%
Birmingham	2,000	1,235	62%
Seattle	4,000	2,409	60%
Miami	1,000	585	59%
Twin Cities	3,500	1,990	57%
Upper Manhattan	2,500	1,275	51%
Chicago	3,000	1,450	48%
Philadelphia	2,000	955	48%
Western Colorado	2,000	590	30%
Atlanta	2,000	550	28%
Omaha	660	175	27%
Allentown	800	180	23%
Detroit	1,500	334	22%
Tampa	800	172	21%
Pittsburgh	2,000	400	20%
Houston	2,800	185	7%
Boston	1,850	0	0%
Other		250	
U.S. Total	57,010	30,893	54%
Sweden	400	280	70%
New Zealand	945	636	67%
United Kingdom	300	100	33%
Australia	875	250	29%
Canada	1,900	450	24%
Int'l Total	61,430	32,609	53%
Total Should be	50,000	40,000	80%

'Militant' well received by workers who struck Hershey for 44 days

BY JACK WILLEY

Heading into the final 10 days of our international subscription drive, the *Militant* congratulates the members of Chocolate Workers Local 464 who scored a victory in their strike against Hershey Foods Corporation. Their strike has been a feature of the paper during the circulation campaign, and we welcome new readers of the paper who waged an important working-class struggle, including the 17 strikers who subscribed to the *Militant*.

Militant supporters found wide interest among Hershey workers throughout their 44-day fight against company attempts to make workers pay more for medical coverage. On the day of the contract vote, unionists grabbed 63 copies of the paper and purchased three subscriptions.

During the target week, supporters began closing the gap on the subscription drive, but we remain behind. It will require a major daily effort in each area to reach 100 percent of the three goals by June 23. Supporters are urged to map out a plan for the remaining days of the drive, including looking at the possibility of taking a day or two off work to join regional or local sales teams.

The subscription drive is an important way socialist workers and young socialists respond to developments in world politics. Feature coverage in the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and in the pages of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* that explain the decade-long effort by the U.S. rulers to federalize the police, expand spying powers, erode constitutional rights, and undercut workers' rights, are of interest to growing numbers of workers and farmers who start to see just who the "war on terror" is really aimed at. Discussing these political perspectives while introducing the socialist press will help boost overall sales and win new subscribers and readers of Pathfinder books.

Supporters in Atlanta did well during the June 1-9 target week, selling 11 *Militant* and three *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, along with three copies of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*. They found particular interest among working farmers, supporters of the Palestinian struggle, and defenders of the Cuban Revolution. Textile workers in Dalton, Georgia, picked up a *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscription, and two Delta Airlines workers in Atlanta also bought subscriptions.

On a communist literature table at the University of Texas at Brownsville, a young woman who purchased *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara invited socialists to participate in Mujerfest, a women's conference in nearby McAllen.

A team of socialists from Des Moines, Iowa, and St. Paul, Minnesota, reached out to packinghouse workers in the Midwest on the last weekend of the target week, Joe Swanson reported. They sold two *Militant* and two *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions to packinghouse workers in front of

meatpacking plants and going door-to-door in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Worthington, Minnesota.

New Zealand on target

BY FELICITY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Supporters in Auckland, New Zealand, reached their *Militant* goal during the June 1-9 target week through stepped-up sales in the workers district near the Pathfinder bookstore, on two campuses, and at a busy flea market.

They traveled to Tokoroa where the Carter Holt Harvey timber company recently announced that it will lay off nearly half the workforce at the Kinleith pulp and paper mill. The mill, which currently employs 770 workers and is organized by the Engineers Union, is the largest forestry production facility in the country.

A boilermaker and unionist picked up a subscription. He told *Militant* supporters that the company is trying to break the union in a plant considered to be a strong center for the union in the country.

Earlier in the week, socialists took the paper to a meeting of high school teachers voting on a proposed contract settlement. Following a sustained period of strike and protest action, the nationwide contract recommended by their union leadership, was overwhelmingly rejected.

Team sells to meat packers in Omaha

BY JAY PARADISO

OMAHA, Nebraska—"We have been oppressed for hundreds of years, I need to read this paper," said one unemployed worker, pointing to a copy of the *Militant* newspaper. He bought a subscription and plans to receive the paper each week by hand delivery.

In an effort to expand the number of *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscribers among meat packers in Nebraska, socialists fielded a three-day team June 8-10 to several packing plants in the area. The team sold at the Con Agra plant, where workers recently won a union organizing drive, at the Hormel and Fremont Beef plants in Fremont and at Nebraska Beef in south Omaha. Four workers bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, and one bought a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*. Twenty *Militants*, seven copies of

pay it off.

Supporters of the project met a positive response in their first round of sales visits to bookstores in central Athens, reporting that 12 stores ordered 42 copies of the new title. Although the visits focused on the new book, orders were also submitted for three copies of *Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War*, six of *Yugoslavia: the Roots of the Conflict*, four copies of the pamphlet *NATO's Assault on the Working People of Yugoslavia*, ten of *The Second Declaration of Havana*, four of *Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government: 1848 to Today*, and one copy of *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*—all in Greek-language editions published by Diethnes Vima.

The manager of one of the largest commercial stores, with which Diethnes Vima has already established an account, commented that the publishing house has produced a number of good titles. He noted, however, that most are small books and can easily be lost in the shuffle. Upon seeing the political content of the new title, as well as its size, he put in an order for 12 copies.

With the rounds to bookstores in Athens complete, supporters are making plans for sales trips to Thessaloniki and other cities. During the summer they will also be organizing sales at a week-long Palestinian Film Festival and the annual Anti-Racist Festival.

AMIEU—Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union; MUA—Maritime Union of Australia; MWU—Meat Workers Union; NDU—National Distribution Union; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America; UNITE—Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textiles Employees



Militant Young Socialists member Stephanie Taylor introduces coal miner to the *Militant* at the Deserado mine portal in northwestern Colorado.

Perspectiva Mundial, and three copies of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* were also sold.

Several meat packers at the Farmland packing plant in Crete purchased the socialist literature. One worker, who also farms, whipped out \$10 and said "sign me up." He told *Militant* supporters that Farmland declared bankruptcy and many workers were unable to cash their checks the previous week.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Drive April 13-June 23 (week 8)

Country	Militant			PM		Book	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Sweden							
Gothenburg*	16	16	100%	3	2	9	7
Stockholm	10	10	100%	3	2	5	4
Sweden Total	26	26	100%	6	4	14	11
Canada							
Vancouver	30	29	97%	6	3	20	14
Toronto	30	21	70%	6	2	15	13
Montreal	15	7	47%	5	4	16	14
Other		2					
Canada total	75	59	79%	17	9	51	41
New Zealand							
Auckland	10	10	100%	1		5	3
Christchurch	8	5	63%	1		3	5
N.Z. total	18	15	83%	2		8	8
United Kingdom							
London	35	24	69%	12	5	20	12
Dundee		2					2
UK total	35	26	74%	12	5	20	14
United States							
Seattle*	38	37	97%	12	6	16	15
Los Angeles	35	29	83%	15	12	10	7
Washington	25	20	80%	12	11	15	13
Houston	30	23	77%	12	11	20	13
Miami	30	23	77%	15	4	15	9
Cleveland	25	19	76%	5	4	20	14
NY Garment Dist.	80	59	74%	40	26	50	30
Allentown*	25	18	72%	8	5	10	1
Charlotte	18	13	72%	7	4	10	4
Tampa	25	18	72%	6	4	12	7
Detroit	40	27	68%	13	10	20	15
Boston	30	20	67%	15	15	20	14
Twin Cities	50	33	66%	25	30	25	3
Brownsville	8	5	63%	3	1		3
Des Moines	40	25	63%	25	19	21	11
Brooklyn	45	28	62%	35	12	35	19
Birmingham	20	12	60%	8	11	10	3
Philadelphia	25	15	60%	10	8	15	1
Pittsburgh	45	26	58%	5		20	4
San Francisco	30	17	57%	18	4	15	8
Upper Manhattan	75	42	56%	50	26	40	25
Atlanta	40	21	53%	15	10	30	16
Newark	55	28	51%	25	22	35	18
Western Colorado	18	9	50%	8	6	12	8
Chicago	35	17	49%	20	13	25	8
Tucson	5	2	40%	1			
Omaha	9	3	33%	15	11	10	10
U.S. total	849	547	64%	395	268	485	254
Iceland	6	2	33%	1		4	1
Australia	20	8	40%	4	3	12	5
Int'l totals	1029	683	65%	437	289	594	334
Goal/Should be	1050	840	80%	460	368	625	500
	IN THE UNIONS						
	Militant			PM		Book	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
United States							
UMWA	15	11	73%	2	2	10	1
UNITE	50	9	18%	45	11	50	6
UFCW	50	14	28%	50	35	50	21
Total	115	34	30%	97	48	110	28
Australia							
AMIEU	3	1	33%			3	
MUA*	2		0%			3	
Total	5	1	20%			6	
Canada							
UFCW	7	2	29%	1		4	2
UNITE	3		0%	2	1	3	
Total	10	2	20%	3	1	7	2
New Zealand							
NDU	1		0%			1	
MWU	2		0%				
Total	3		0%			1	
raised goal*							

SUBSCRIBE TO

PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL

A Spanish-language socialist magazine

Special offer for new readers: \$6 for 4 months

Send your order to Perspectiva Mundial, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014



Puerto Rico's fight for independence: stakes for working people

The following statement was presented by Róger Calero on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, which held hearings June 10 in New York on the colonial status of Puerto Rico. Calero was among the 28 people from a range of organizations who testified at the hearings.

Distinguished Chairman and honored committee members:

I join with others here to demand the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. military from Vieques and the release of all those who have been jailed for protesting the U.S. Navy's use of that Puerto Rican island for bombing practice and war exercises. Washington's continued military activity there, in arrogant defiance of the will of the Puerto Rican people, puts a spotlight on the fact that Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony.

Independence is in the interests not only of the Puerto Rican people but of the vast majority of people in the United States. A successful struggle for the freedom of Puerto Rico will deal powerful blows to our common exploiters and oppressors—the tiny class of billionaire families that rules the United States. It will show that it is possible to stand up to the world's mightiest and most brutal imperialist power and break free of its domination. As long as Puerto Rico is under the U.S. colonial boot, Washington and Wall Street will be strengthened and the fighting capacity and solidarity of working people in the United States will be sapped.

For more than a century the U.S. rulers have maintained Puerto Rico as their colony, a reality they have unsuccessfully tried to cover up. Millions rightly view this Latin American nation as among the few remaining countries held in direct subjugation by one of the great imperialist powers.

Today, however, far from withdrawing from Vieques and relinquishing its hold on Puerto Rico, Washington is expanding the number of its military garrisons around the world, imposing them on countries where the government is virtually powerless and a foreign administration has the final word.

From Bosnia to Kosova, and from Afghanistan to the war they seek to unleash on Iraq, the U.S. rulers are more and more turning to use their military might to try to impose their interests and salvage the declining world imperialist order. The establishment of a U.S.-dominated protectorate in Afghanistan exposes the fact that Washington's "war on terrorism" is simply a cover for waging a war on other nations and peoples, as well as on working people in the United States—a course that began well before September 11.

Washington's actions in the world will only

drag larger numbers of workers and farmers in uniform into more military assaults against their class brothers and sisters around the globe and increasingly make the United States a death trap for all who live here as the imperialist rulers sink their hated tentacles into one country after another.

Assault on workers' rights

This war is an extension of the assault against workers and farmers in the United States. The U.S. government is taking steps to militarize the country, seeking to get us to accept the presence of troops at U.S. airports, train stations, bridges, tunnels, and elsewhere. The creation of a domestic military command structure in the United States, which began under the Clinton administration, is part of the preparations by the U.S. rulers for the broader working-class resistance that they know is coming.

The roundup and detention since September of hundreds of immigrants from the Middle East and Asia is part of the employ-



Militant/Brian Williams

Members of Communication Workers of America rallied outside Verizon's headquarters in New York May 29 to protest plans by company to lay off workers. "A successful struggle for the freedom of Puerto Rico will deal powerful blows to our common exploiters and oppressors, the tiny class of billionaires that rules the United States," said Calero.

use of informers, wiretapping, and disruption operations, will be used to target unions, Black rights organizations, farm protest groups, and others who resist the employers or oppose U.S. government policies.

ing-class protests, from the 20,000 teachers and students who rallied last week against city cutbacks, to the laundry workers in the Bronx who struck for five months and won the right to a union.

These working-class struggles in the United States draw inspiration from the workers, fishermen, and youth in Puerto Rico who are fighting to remove the U.S. Navy from Vieques, and who refuse to subordinate this struggle to the war drive that the imperialist rulers are carrying out under the banner of "fighting terrorism."

The 2.7 million Puerto Ricans who live in the United States represent a significant component of the working class in this country and are part of this resistance. They are subjected to systematic discrimination and second-class status, as are Blacks, Chicanos, and other oppressed nationalities here. The U.S. colonial rule of Puerto Rico reinforces racist prejudice and every reactionary force in the United States.

Mr. Chairman,

Since Washington invaded Puerto Rico more than a century ago, it has used that Caribbean nation—including Vieques—as a base to prepare and launch military aggression around the world, from Grenada to Cuba to the Mideast. Thousands of U.S. soldiers are currently stationed in military bases throughout Puerto Rico, which is the site for major components of the U.S. Southern Command. The militarization of Puerto Rico reinforces the U.S. government's moves to accelerate its military intervention and construction of bases in Colombia, Ecuador, and other South American countries.

Furthermore, Puerto Rican youth have been used as cannon fodder in every imperialist war, from World War I to Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Yugoslavia, and now Afghanistan.

For Puerto Rico, U.S. colonial rule has meant high levels of unemployment, low wages, and the plunder of its wealth and natural resources. That is the future that U.S. colonial rule offers the people of Puerto Rico.

At the same time, the U.S. rulers—who survive and prosper only by sucking wealth from the toil and resources of peoples around the globe—have the arrogance to tell the Puerto Rican people that they cannot survive on their own, that independence will only bring them ruin, that they are destined to remain subordinate to imperialism.

But the socialist road taken by the workers and farmers of Cuba shatters that myth. The Cuban Revolution proves that it is possible to fight and win genuine independence from U.S. domination. The U.S. rulers have never forgiven the Cuban people for having the audacity to make their nation the first free territory of the Americas four decades ago and to provide an example to working people everywhere. Cuba has consistently championed Puerto Rico's fight for independence. A free Puerto Rico would be able to count on the selfless, unconditional solidarity of revolutionary Cuba.

The condemnation by this committee of Washington's colonial rule of Puerto Rico will serve the interests of the overwhelming majority of the people of the United States and those fighting everywhere for the right to self-determination and the future of humanity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, for the opportunity to present these views before you today.



Militant/Martin Koppel

Federation of Pro-Independence University Students march for release of Puerto Rican political prisoners in San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 1999. There are still five Puerto Rican political prisoners locked up in Washington's dungeons.

ers' assault on workers' rights. So is the indefinite detention of more than 300 men kidnapped from various countries—with no charges against them and under barbaric conditions—in a concentration camp at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo, which is territory occupied against the will of the Cuban people.

Similarly, the probes to loosen the restrictions on the powers of the FBI and other political police agencies, and to expand their

Puerto Rican independence fighters, unionists, and others have waged their own battles against these repressive methods. For decades they too have been smeared as "terrorists" to justify U.S. government harassment and repression against them.

Today, there are still five Puerto Rican political prisoners locked up in Washington's dungeons—Oscar López, Haydée Beltrán, Juan Segarra Palmer, José Solís, and Carlos Alberto Torres. They are behind bars because of their ideas and actions on behalf of Puerto Rico's independence. Some have been jailed for more than 20 years, making them among the longest-held political prisoners in the world. We join in the demand for the immediate release of these Puerto Rican patriots. We also celebrate the recent victory won with the release of Antonio Camacho Negrón, an independentista who spent more than a decade in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges.

Washington has also framed up five Cuban revolutionaries, who are now serving sentences ranging from 15 years to life in jail. What was their "crime"? Obtaining information for Cuba on the counterrevolutionary groups that operate on U.S. territory—with the knowledge and complicity of the U.S. government—and have a record of violent attacks on Cuba.

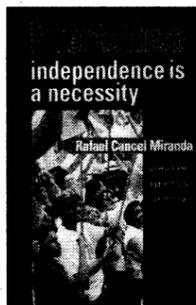
Rulers meet resistance

But the drive by the U.S. employers and their government against the wages, working conditions, and rights of workers and farmers is running into resistance. Meat packers in Omaha, Nebraska, scored an important victory just a few weeks ago when they voted decisively to be represented by a union at ConAgra. Coal miners in Pennsylvania, after a seven-year battle against a company antiunion drive, forced the coal bosses to sign a national contract. And here in New York there has been a series of work-

Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity

Rafael Cancel Miranda

In two interviews, Cancel Miranda — one of five Puerto Rican Nationalists imprisoned by Washington for more than 25 years until 1979 — speaks out on the brutal reality of U.S. colonial domination, the campaign needed to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners, the example of Cuba's socialist revolution, and the resurgence of the independence movement today. In English and Spanish. Booklet \$3



The Communist Manifesto

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels

Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Why communists act on the basis not of preconceived principles but of facts springing from the actual class struggle, and why communism, to the degree it is a theory, is the generalization of the historical line of march of the working class and political conditions for its liberation. Booklet \$3.95

PATHFINDER

Available from bookstores listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West Street, NY 10014. Fax: (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, please add \$3 for shipping and handling.

Speakers at UN condemn U.S. colonial rule

Continued from front page

international platform offered by the hearings of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization.

Several speakers thanked Cuba for its role in championing the cause of Puerto Rico's sovereignty. Cuba, a member of the UN committee, introduced and pressed for a resolution that "reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence." As in the past two years, the 24-member committee adopted the resolution by consensus.

"Despite 100 years of U.S. domination," Rodríguez said in introducing the resolution, "the Puerto Rican people have defied all attempts to impose the English language" and other efforts to crush their identity as a Latin American and Caribbean nation.

Demands U.S. Navy leave Vieques

He noted that for 60 years Puerto Ricans have opposed the use of the island of Vieques, two-thirds of which is occupied by the U.S. Navy, for bombing practice and



Protesters rally against U.S. Navy occupation of Vieques. Despite pressures of U.S.-led war drive and chauvinist propaganda campaign after September 11, pro-Vieques groups have kept up the fight against U.S. military presence.

other war exercises. He added that even after a July 2001 referendum organized by the Puerto Rican government in which Vieques residents voted overwhelmingly for the immediate pullout of the U.S. military from their land, Washington has ignored the will of the majority.

The Cuban representative also argued for points in the resolution that call on the U.S. government to cease immediately its military maneuvers on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques and return the occupied land to the people of that nation, halt the arrests and prosecution of all those protesting the Navy occupation of Vieques, and release all pro-independence political prisoners.

Virtually all the speakers pointed to the fact—recognized worldwide with the notorious exception of the U.S. government—that Puerto Rico is a colony. Most advocated independence. A handful of pro-colonialist speakers argued for making Puerto Rico the 51st U.S. state. And two others defended the existing colonial "commonwealth" setup, known in Spanish as the "Free Associated State," in which the colonial government of Puerto Rico has limited autonomous powers but all its decisions can be overturned by the U.S. Congress, with Washington deciding on all vital military, economic, and political questions.

"Since 1898, the U.S. has taken over Puerto Rico and maintained a colonial regime there," stated Jorge Farinacci, a leader of the Socialist Front of Puerto Rico. Colonial rule, he said, has meant "more than one century of abuse, spoliation, and exploitation of our people and our land" by U.S. corporations and military forces. He noted that in recent years there has been an increase in struggles in Puerto Rico against concrete expressions of imperialist rule, from the 1998 general strike by the union movement to the fight to remove the U.S. Navy from Vieques.

Father Luis Barrios, of the San Romero

Church in New York, described how the Puerto Rican independence movement has faced U.S. government repression, such as the use of the thought-control "Gag Act," which was used to jail hundreds of Nationalist Party militants on conspiracy charges in the 1950s. In subsequent decades "the FBI carried out the Cointelpro program and used spying, informers, frame-ups, smears, wire-tapping and mail interception, and innumerable other dirty tricks to try to stop the independence movement."

Hypocrisy of U.S. 'antiterrorist' drive

Today, Barrios said, "the U.S. government has very arbitrarily identified what others do to it as political terrorism, yet its imperialism, expansionism, and colonialism, which are expressions of political terrorism, is labeled 'national security' or 'defending democratic processes.'"

Edwin Pagán, speaking for New York-based ProLibertad, called on the U.S. government to release all Puerto Rican political prisoners. These include five long-term prisoners—Carlos Alberto Torres, José Solís, Juan Segarra Palmer, Oscar López, and Haydée Beltrán. He reported that another *independentista*, Antonio Camacho Negrón, had just been released and had returned to the island. However, he added, "university student and activist Pedro Colón Almenas was sentenced to a one-year term with three years' probation in the federal facility at Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, for allegedly striking an ROTC official at the University of Puerto Rico during an anti-military and pro-Vieques protest that took place in 2001."

Several speakers noted that more than 1,200 people have been prosecuted by U.S. courts for entering Navy-occupied land to protest Washington's military presence on Vieques.

Last year "I was jailed for stepping on the very land where I grew up as a child," said Ismael Guadalupe, a leader of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, which is spearheading the movement to get the U.S. Navy out of the island. Recently, he noted, another committee spokesperson, Robert Rabin, was sentenced to six months for "trespassing" on Navy-occupied land.

The devastation of this small Puerto Rican island, said Frank Velgara of the Vieques Support Campaign in New York, is a stark example of what colonial rule has meant: an official unemployment rate of 40 percent, as well as contamination of the land and water by the Navy and the accompanying health problems afflicting the local population.

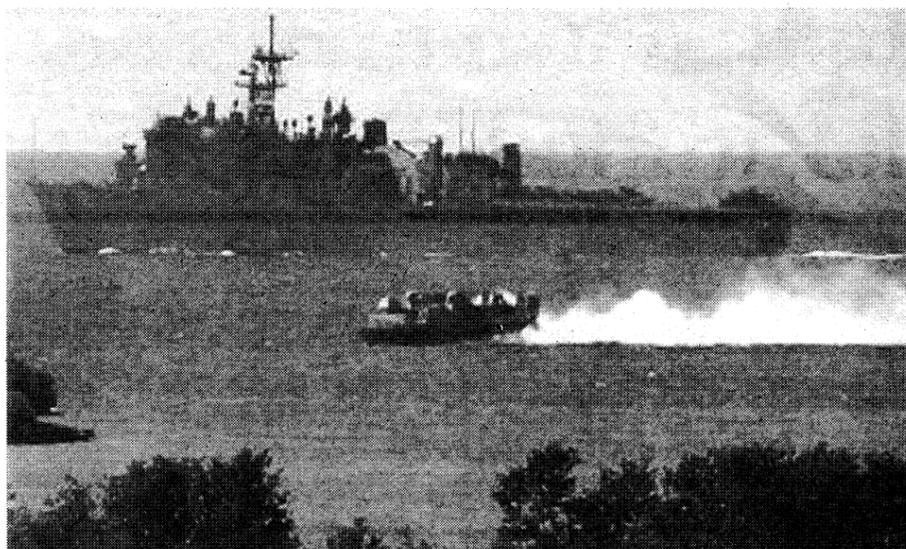
Róger Calero, speaking for the Socialist Workers Party, stated, "Independence is in the interests of the vast majority of people in the United States. A successful struggle for the freedom of Puerto Rico will deal powerful blows to our common exploiters and oppressors—the tiny class of billionaire families that rules the United States."

He hailed the "workers, fishermen, and youth in Puerto Rico who are fighting to remove the U.S. Navy from Vieques, and who refuse to subordinate this struggle to the war drive that the imperialist rulers are carrying out under the banner of 'fighting terrorism.'"

Calero pointed out that Washington today "is expanding the number of its military garrisons around the world," including in Afghanistan where it has imposed a virtual colonial regime on the people of that country. He added that the home front of this war on working people can be seen in the detention of hundreds of Middle Eastern and Asian immigrants as well as probes to expand the powers of the FBI, whose ultimate target is the unions, Black rights organizations, and others fighting the assault by the employers and their government. These same kind of methods have been used to harass the Puerto Rican independence movement.

Héctor Pesquera of the Hostos National Congress pointed out that one consequence of U.S. colonial rule is the efforts to impose the death penalty, which is prohibited by the Puerto Rican constitution. U.S. courts on the island have decreed the death sentence in 11 cases so far. Federal judges have acted on the basis that U.S. laws supersede the Puerto Rican constitution.

Julio Muriente of the New Independence



Ships from the USS *George Washington* battle group during military exercises in Vieques last April. Washington has ignored the demand of the overwhelming majority of the people of Vieques for the immediate pullout of the U.S. military from their land.

Movement (NMIP) referred to the debate on a move initiated by the ruling Popular Democratic Party (PPD) to call for a "constitutional assembly" that could lead to a popular vote and to eventual negotiations with the U.S. government on resolving Puerto Rico's colonial status. The move is supported by the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) but opposed by other independence groups who argue that Washington will never negotiate independence except as the result of a mass popular struggle.

Trial of 42 protesters in New York

The UN hearings on Puerto Rico were surrounded by a number of events sponsored by pro-independence forces in New York. The preceding week, picket lines were held daily outside a municipal court to support 42 people who were on trial for charges stemming from civil disobedience actions organized last year in front of the United Nations building to protest U.S. war exercises on Vieques. In the end the judge issued \$60 fines against 32 protesters and dismissed charges against the rest. Vieques activists considered the mild sentences a victory given the threat of jail terms.

The evening of June 10, ProLibertad and the Vieques Support Campaign sponsored a forum attended by about 70 people to evaluate the success of the pro-independence delegation at that day's UN hearing. The speakers panel was made up of all those attending who had testified at the UN. They included González, Guadalupe, Muriente, Farinacci, Velgara, Pagán, Calero, and Vanessa Ramos of the American Association of Jurists.

Ismael Guadalupe, a longtime fighter for independence and for the end of Washington's military presence on Vieques, explained that on the eve of the referendum on Vieques, pro-Navy forces had organized a red-baiting campaign that "went as far as claiming that a vote against [the Navy] would be a vote for Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. In spite of that, two-thirds of Vieques voted for the Navy leaving Vieques immediately." Guadalupe added that he replied publicly to the slanders by declaring, "We're proud of Cuba's support for our struggle. For years, when Vieques enjoyed no inter-

national solidarity, when we were being ignored, Cuba was with us."

Several of the speakers described the experiences of the independence movement in responding to the pressures of the U.S.-led war drive and chauvinist propaganda campaign after September 11. Guadalupe reported that the U.S. military became extremely aggressive with anti-Navy protesters. Soldiers pointed guns at protesters near the U.S. base and U.S. officials argued that now was not the time for Washington to give up its use of Vieques for military maneuvers. U.S. courts have also issued harsher prison sentences for protesters.

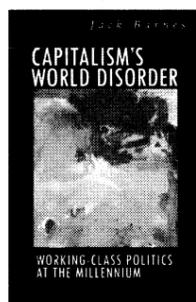
The war drive did have a dampening effect on protests at first, Guadalupe remarked. In face of Navy provocations, he said, the pro-Vieques organizations decided to call a several-week moratorium on civil disobedience actions on Navy-held land for security reasons. "But we found different ways to keep fighting. We organized a successful work stoppage on Vieques, for example."

Jorge Farinacci of the Socialist Front stated, "The ruling party [PPD] panicked and backed away from their demand" for the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. Navy from Vieques. He added that for the independence movement, "Yes, it was difficult in the first few weeks. But protests did continue. And today we have more volunteers who have signed up for protest actions on Navy-occupied territory than we had before."

A member of the New Independence Movement, speaking from the audience, reported on a number of social struggles that have taken place recently on the island. Three Teamster strikes are currently under way. Protests have also erupted over water service, a perpetual problem in Puerto Rico, where on occasion the main cities have been left without water for days or weeks.

In a continuation of this discussion, a forum was held the following day on U.S. foreign policy and Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Palestine. The three speakers were Puerto Rican Nationalist Party leader Cristina Meneses; Luis Miranda, director of Casa de las Américas; and Gilma Camargo, a supporter of the fight for Palestinian self-determination and attorney for a Palestinian activist currently imprisoned in New Jersey because of his political activities.

FROM PATHFINDER



Capitalism's World Disorder

WORKING-CLASS POLITICS AT THE MILLENNIUM

Jack Barnes

The social devastation, financial panics, political turmoil, police brutality, and military assaults accelerating all around us are the inevitable forces unleashed by capitalism. But the future capitalism has in store for us can be changed by the timely solidarity, courageous action, and united struggle of workers and farmers conscious of their power to transform the world. Also available in French and Spanish. \$23.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Please include \$3 for shipping and handling.

Cuban gov't acts to hold down prices on basic food items

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In the face of mounting economic pressures, the Cuban government has taken steps to hold down the price of basic goods, and in the case of some key food and personal hygiene items it has actually lowered them.

At the beginning of June the Cuban government announced price increases on a range of goods available for purchase at the dollar stores within the country. In a statement published in the May 31 Cuban newspaper *Granma*, the Ministry of the Economy said that at the same time prices would be lowered "on a range of vital products broadly consumed, in particular food." The increases are on "items, which though they are also necessary, are not the same."

In 1993 the Cuban government decriminalized possession and use of the U.S. dollar in an effort by the government to counter the exorbitant prices being charged for some goods on the black market and increase the flow of dollars instead into the state treasury. The move helped curb the impact of inflation and led to a revaluation of the Cuban peso, which in 1994 had sunk to a low point in relation to the dollar of 150 to 1. The measure took the edge off shortages of basic necessities like soap, shampoo, and cooking oil, which were unavailable for pesos.

Since their inception, the prices set in the dollar stores had been maintained without any important changes, noted the Ministry of the Economy statement, despite the effects of the international capitalist economic crisis in which the prices received for major exported goods like sugar have plummeted while the cost of imported goods like oil have tripled, making worse the country's deficit and balance of payments.

The unequal terms of trade that negatively affect semicolonial countries in relation to the imperialist powers hits Cuba as well. The country is forced to compete in capitalist markets and is buffeted by declining prices for agricultural exports and high prices charged for finished and processed goods. Under the impact of deflationary conditions, the world price for sugar, for example, which is one of Cuba's main export products, has sunk to the rock-bottom price of about 5 cents a pound. This situation is made worse by the U.S. imperialists' trade embargo, which Washington seeks to pressure other countries to join.

The price changes, which took effect June 3, are the first such hike in the prices of goods available in dollar stores. Nearly 37 percent of the goods sold in these stores are food products and 14 percent are items of personal hygiene. The amount of increase depends on the type of product, with the most necessary items slated for the smallest increase, noted the Ministry statement.

Among the changes announced by the government are an increase in the cost of domestic cigarettes to 34 cents from 26 cents per pack; imported cigarettes rise to \$2.50 from \$1.50 per pack; and beer rises from 85 cents to \$1. Products such as mayonnaise, crackers, and hair dye have increased by 5 to 10 cents. Mild price reductions are planned for more essential goods, including food such as powdered milk and chicken, and basic personal care products such as soap, toothpaste, and disposable diapers.

Fight to increase output

After a sharp decline in industrial and agricultural output in the first half of the 1990s, working people in Cuba, led by the Cuban Communist Party, began to fight their way out of what they call the Special Period and register increases in production, alleviate food shortages, and increase the reliability of transportation and electrical power.

Prior to 1989, 85 percent of Cuba's trade was with the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, often at preferential prices. With the collapse of the regimes in those countries at the opening of the 1990s, Cuba's gross domestic product contracted by an estimated 35 percent.

In order to begin to get production of food and industrial goods moving again, and to begin finding sources of foreign currency needed to purchase imports such as oil, the revolutionary government in Cuba has had to organize a retreat, which included the decriminalization of U.S. dollars and granting concessions to attract foreign capitalists in joint ventures.

This course, along with a political campaign to defend the revolution and its social conquests, helped turn the situation around. But the measures have also inevitably led to growing social stratification in Cuba and the strengthening of middle-class layers in the country. Differentiation has grown between the cities and countryside, and layers of working people that do not have access to hard currency bear a greater share of the burden of the economic crisis.

In response, the Cuban government has refused to retreat on maintaining a health care system that is free of charge and has sought ways to broaden access and involvement in the education system for all generations. Other conquests of the Cuban Revolution, such as the fact that most families either own their own homes or pay low rents, and that farmers and peasants cannot be evicted from their land, help mitigate the harsh impact of the economic crisis on working people.

Several blows to Cuban economy

In the context of these relative improvements, four factors have weighed in against the Cuban economy over the past year.



Granma

Millions mobilized in Havana June 12 in a massive display of support for the revolution and its leadership. Marchers across the country supported a constitutional amendment that declares, "The socialist revolution rescued Cuba from a humiliating imperialist domination." Cuba's "political, economic, and social regime" it states, is "untouchable."

One was the devastating Hurricane Michelle in 2001, after which Cuba was allowed to buy food from the United States for the first time since 1959. Another is the rock-bottom price of sugar, which is also affecting countries such as Mexico that rely on sugar exports.

Recent articles, such as a June 11 Reuters news release based on interviews with unnamed government officials and sugar-mill employees, report that in the coming months Havana is preparing to close 71 sugar mills—about half of the 156 mills in the country—as part of restructuring the industry. Most news articles point out the plants slated to be closed are at least 50 years old and are inefficient relative to modern plants in the United States and elsewhere. The industry in Cuba employs some 400,000 workers.

A third area is tourism, where the Cuban government has reported a 14 percent drop in visitors to the island during the first quarter of this year.

To entice more travelers from Europe, Havana recently announced that tourists can now use euros as an alternative to U.S. dollars to pay for meals, hotel rooms, and other expenses on the island. More than half of the estimated 1.7 million tourists who visited Cuba in 2001 were from Europe, according to official government figures.

A fourth setback is that since the April 11 failed coup against Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez, Cuba has not been receiving any oil from Venezuela, which had been supplying Havana with more than 50,000 barrels a day. This represents about a third of the country's needs and it is supplied at reduced prices in exchange for the service of Cuban doctors, teachers, and other technicians who volunteered to participate in internationalist missions. Much of the oil was

financed over 15 years at 2 percent interest.

The call to halt oil deliveries to Cuba was promoted by the military coup plotters and wealthy businessman Pedro Carmona, who very briefly seized control of Venezuela's government. During their stint in power, they did halt the oil deliveries to Cuba, which almost two months later have not resumed.

The suspension of the petroleum shipments has "caused gave damage to our country," stated a recent *Granma* article, forcing the Cuban government to spend "dozens of millions of dollars more than planned" on the spot market to make up for it and dipping into the country's own petroleum reserves.

Increase domestic production

Cuba has been taking steps to increase its domestic production of oil, helping to stabilize the generation of electricity in the country. The minister of basic industry, Marcos Portal, stated in early June that "in 1991 the island produced half a million tons of oil, and in 2002, we are going to reach 3.5 million tons, a sevenfold increase." He added, "In 1999, 50 percent of the country's electricity was generated with national oil; in 2000, it reached 70 percent and in 2001, 90 percent."

Cuba consumes about 160,000 barrels of oil per day, a third of which is imported. In addition, the country imports about \$600 million annually in food and food products. Since November, in the aftermath of Hurricane Michelle, Havana, for the first time since 1959, purchased about \$90 million worth of agricultural products from U.S. companies, with an additional \$48 million projected to be bought this year. Under strict U.S. regulations, these sales are required to be on a cash-only basis.

Hundreds of thousands in Uruguay rally in support of Cuban revolution

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The decision in April by Uruguayan president Jorge Batlle to break off diplomatic relations with Cuba was not very well received by the working people of that South American country.

Batlle took this step after Cuban president Fidel Castro publicly condemned the Uruguayan president for sponsoring an imperialist-backed resolution that was approved by a United Nations commission meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. The resolution is an annual exercise organized by Washington that condemns Cuba for supposed human rights abuses. Upon breaking consular relations he declared the Cuban ambassador to the country, José Alvarez Portela, to be "persona non grata."

As Alvarez Portela made his way to the airport in Montevideo to exit the country on May 4, noted an article in the May 12 *Granma International*, "an impassioned crowd shouting 'Viva Cuba!'" accompanied him on his journey. "The people declare him 'persona grata,'" was the apt title of the *Granma* article.

"A heterogeneous human throng in the hundreds of thousands, composed of mem-

bers of various organizations—social, solidarity with Cuba, the Uruguayan trade union federation (PIT-CNT), the Broad Front and other progressive political groups—created a whole amalgam of banners and voices on that Saturday morning, May 4, in a lively demonstration of support for the Cuban people," stated the *Granma* article. "The same scene was repeated for over two hours."

In his departing remarks, Alvarez Portela took note that "the bulk of the Uruguayan population is opposed to the position taken by their government in relation to the resolution condemning Cuba in Geneva, and that should come as no surprise. The Uruguayans have always been very much in solidarity with our population, and despite the economic problems they are confronting today, they once again expressed their friendship and support for the Cuban people."

In response to this outpouring of support, Cuban foreign minister Felipe Perez Roque, in comments greeting Alvarez Portela at the Havana airport, emphasized that the action taken by Uruguay's president "will not diminish Cuba's solidarity with that Latin American country."

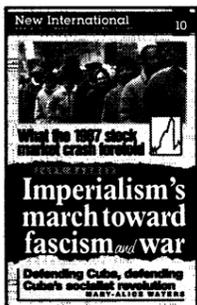
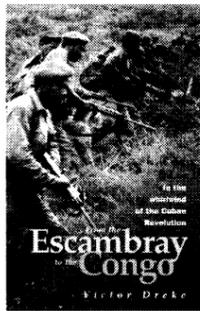
for further reading from Pathfinder...

From the Escambray to the Congo

In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution

Interview with Victor Dreke

At the heart of this book lies the willingness, determination, and creative joy with which Cuba's working people have, for more than forty years, defended their revolutionary course against the imperialist bastion to the north. In English and Spanish, \$17.00.



in *New International* no. 10

- **Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War** by Jack Barnes
 - **What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold**
 - **Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba's Socialist Revolution** by Mary-Alice Waters
 - **The Curve of Capitalist Development** by Leon Trotsky
- \$14.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12; write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690; or visit www.pathfinderpress.com. Please include \$3 for shipping and handling.

'We are heirs of the world's revolutions'

New pamphlet of speeches by Thomas Sankara on revolution in Burkina Faso

Printed below is the preface and an excerpt from the newly published *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions*, a collection of speeches by Thomas Sankara, a leader of the Burkina Faso revolution in the 1980s. The pamphlet, also available in French, contains five talks. Copyright © 2002 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Sub-headings are by the *Militant*.

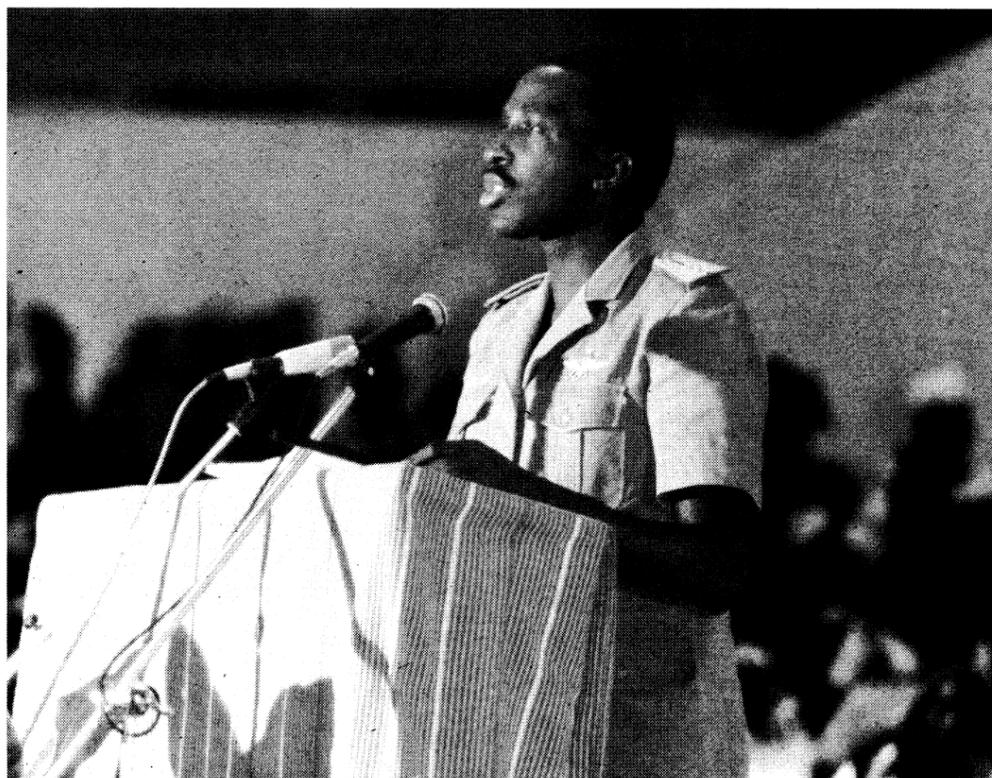
On August 4, 1983, a popular uprising in Upper Volta in West Africa, one of the world's poorest countries—initiated one of the deepest revolutions in Africa's history. Its leader was Thomas Sankara, who became president of the new government at the age of 33. The country was renamed Burkina Faso a year later.

Over the course of the next four years, the Burkinabè revolution carried out an ambitious program of land reform, of struggle against corruption, of reforestation to stop the advance of the desert and counter famine, of giving priority to education and health care, and of women's emancipation. To apply these measures, the government gave encouragement to the organization, mobilization, and political education of the country's peasants, workers, women, and youth. Great importance was placed on Burkina Faso's solidarity with struggles against imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation unfolding around the world—from the battle against apartheid in South Africa to the revolutionary movements of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Palestine.

On October 15, 1987, Thomas Sankara was assassinated during a military coup that destroyed the revolutionary government.

A week before his death, he spoke about Ernesto Che Guevara, the murdered leader of the Cuban Revolution, on the 20th anniversary of his death in combat. In a speech that is reproduced in this pamphlet, he said that revolutionaries as individuals can be killed, but "you cannot kill ideas." That statement has proved to be true in his own case. Thomas Sankara has become a symbol for millions of workers, peasants, and youth throughout Africa, who saw in the Burkinabè revolution—and in its continuing political heritage—a source of inspiration for the battles for genuine liberation on the continent.

This pamphlet contains five speeches by Sankara: his report to the Burkinabè people broadcast on radio and television throughout the country; his speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York; his presentation at an international conference in Paris on the preservation of trees; his statement at the first summit meeting of the French speaking world in Paris; his remarks at the opening of an exposition on the life of Che Guevara held in the Burkinabè capi-



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Burkina Faso president Thomas Sankara delivers speech commemorating International Women's Day, May 8, 1987. "The revolution has been moving forward to build a society free from injustice and imperialism's century-long domination and exploitation," he stated.

tal of Ouagadougou.

These speeches offer a striking insight into the uncompromising political course put forward and defended in practice by Thomas Sankara to advance the interests of working people both inside and outside the country over the course of the four years of the Burkinabè revolution.

"The revolution needs a convinced people and not a conquered people, a submissive people that accepts its destiny," Thomas Sankara often explained. He deeply believed that the peasants and workers of Burkina Faso and the rest of Africa are not primarily victims of imperialist pillage and brutal domination. On the contrary, he believed they were the only social force capable of initiating a revolutionary course to confront and reverse all the oppressive conditions inherited from previous class society and adopted by the national and foreign capitalists and landowners in order to preserve their domination.

He was convinced that armed with a revolutionary leadership and a political consciousness, the workers and small farmers of Africa, like those the world over, have the power to build a "new society free from social injustice" and "imperialist domination and exploitation" and to transform themselves in the process. This message forms the thread running through all the speeches that follow.

Fourteen years after the death of Thomas Sankara and the reversal of the Burkinabè revolution, this proletarian internationalist perspective retains all of its relevance. The speeches published here remain a guide for hundreds of millions of peasants and workers of Africa and the rest of the colonial and semicolonial world where economic, social, and political conditions are worsening under the impact of the world capitalist crisis.

But even more, they constitute an essential component of politically arming workers and farmers in the imperialist countries in North America, Europe, and Asia who are confronted with the horrors the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression increasingly engenders throughout the world.

"We wish to be the heirs of all the revolutions of the world, of all the liberation struggles of the peoples of the Third World," Sankara declared to the workers of the world when he addressed them from the tribune of the United Nations in 1984—the heirs of heroic class battles beginning with the American and French revolutions at the end

of the eighteenth century through to the October 1917 revolution led by the Bolsheviks that "transformed the world, brought victory to the proletariat [and] shook the foundations of capitalism."

This pamphlet gives voice to one of the great revolutionary leaders of the modern international workers movement.

Michel Prairie
July 2001

BY THOMAS SANKARA

People of Upper Volta!

Comrades, cadres of the revolution!

In the course of this year, 1983, our country has gone through some particularly intense moments, whose impact still remains indelibly stamped on the minds of many citizens. During this period, the struggle of the Voltaic people has gone through ebbs and flows.

Our people have borne the test of heroic struggles and finally triumphed on the now historic night of August 4, 1983. The revolution here has been moving forward irreversibly for nearly two months now—two months in which the fighting people of Upper Volta have mobilized as one behind the National Council of the Revolution (CNR) in order to build a new, free, independent, and prosperous Voltaic society; a new society free from social injustice and international imperialism's century-long domination and exploitation.

As we complete this brief stage of our journey, I invite you to look back with me to draw the lessons necessary for correctly determining our immediate and medium-term revolutionary tasks. By gaining a clear view of the unfolding events, we will strengthen our struggle against imperialism and reactionary social forces all the more.

To sum up, where have we come from and where are we going? Those are the key questions that we must answer clearly, resolutely, and unequivocally, if we wish to go forward with confidence to greater and more resounding victories.

August revolution

The triumph of the August revolution is due not only to the revolutionary blow struck against the sacrosanct reactionary alliance of May 17, 1983.¹ It is also the product of the Voltaic people's struggle against their long-standing enemies. It represents a vic-

Continued on Page 10

'Reading James P. Cannon will open new horizons'

Below is the note of acknowledgments to *La historia del trotskismo americano*, the Spanish translation of *The History of American Trotskyism* by James P. Cannon. The book will be available in July in French and Spanish, as well as a new English edition. The 2002 edition marks the 60th anniversary of the book's first publication in English. Martín Koppel is the editor of the Spanish translation.

The publication of this first edition in Spanish of *La historia del trotskismo americano* was made possible by the work of many volunteers, in cities across the United States, who devoted hundreds of hours to translate, copy edit, proofread, and format the book you have in your hands. The translators, copy editors, and proofreaders include Janne Abullarade, Mauricio Araniva, Hilda Cuzco, Manuel González, Jorge Lertora, Blanca Machado, Ruth Nebbia, Andrés Pérez, Alejandra Rincón, Aaron Ruby, Juan Villagómez, and Jacque Villagómez. Luis Madrid organized these volunteers and did the initial editing of the

translations. Eric Simpson designed the cover and Eva Braiman designed the photo signature. The volunteers of the Pathfinder Reprint Project formatted and proofread the text, designed the ad pages, and prepared the index concordance. The press operators of Pathfinder's print shop skillfully finished the job.

These efforts have for the first time in six decades made available in Spanish one of the classics of Marxism that deepen our understanding of the continuity and truly international character of the communist movement. This sixtieth anniversary edition is dedicated to the generations of Spanish-speaking workers, farmers, and youth in the United States and around the world for whom reading James P. Cannon in their own language will open new horizons as it arms them with an urgency to press toward effective communist organization with like-minded militants at home and fellow proletarian revolutionists around the globe.

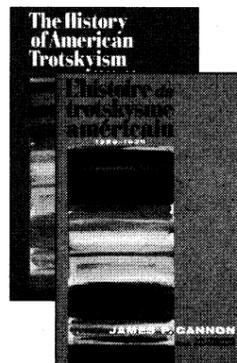
Martín Koppel
June 2002

Available in July in English, French, and Spanish

History of American Trotskyism Report of a Participant by James P. Cannon

"Trotskyism is not a new movement, a new doctrine, but the restoration, the revival of genuine Marxism as it was expounded and practiced in the Russian Revolution and in the early days of the Communist International."

James P. Cannon, 1942



This is the story—told by a leading participant—of the formative years of the communist movement in the United States.

In twelve talks given in 1942, James P. Cannon recalls the efforts from 1919 to 1938 by communists in the United States to emulate the Bolsheviks and build a new kind of proletarian party. In this fast-moving account, Cannon carries the story from the first steps forward by vanguard workers politically responding to the victory of the October 1917 Russian Revolution, up to the eve of World War II, when the communist organization in the United States takes the name Socialist Workers Party.

Having joined the Socialist Party in 1908 when he was 18, Jim Cannon became a traveling organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World before and during World War I. A supporter of the SP's working-class left wing, he was a founding leader of the communist movement in the

United States and member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International in 1922. He served as Socialist Workers Party national secretary until 1953 and national chairman until 1972. (From the back cover of the 2002 edition.) \$22

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12; or visit www.pathfinderpress.com; or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

'We are heirs of the world's revolutions'

Continued from Page 9

tory over international imperialism and its national allies; a victory over backward, obscurantist, and sinister forces; and a victory over all the enemies of the people who have plotted and schemed against them....

The August revolution thus came as the solution to social contradictions that could no longer be stifled by compromise.

The enthusiastic loyalty of the broad popular masses to the August revolution is the concrete expression of the immense hopes that the Voltaic people place in the establishment of the National Council of the Revolution. They hope that their deep-going aspirations can finally be achieved— aspirations for democracy, liberty, and independence, for genuine progress, for a restoration of the dignity and grandeur of our homeland, aspirations that have been particularly flouted during twenty-three years of neocolonial rule.

Legacy of 23 years of neocolonialism

The establishment of the CNR on August 4, 1983, and the subsequent installation of a revolutionary government in Upper Volta has opened a glorious page in the annals of the history of our people and country. However, the legacy bequeathed to us by twenty-three years of imperialist exploitation and domination is a heavy one. The task of constructing a new society cleansed of all the ills that keep our country in a state of poverty and economic and cultural backwardness will be long and hard.

In the 1960s, French colonialism—harried on all sides, defeated at Dien Bien Phu, and in tremendous difficulty in Algeria—drew the lessons of those defeats and was forced to grant our country its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. This was greeted positively by our people, who had not been indifferent to this question but had instead developed appropriate resistance struggles. The decision by French colonial imperialism to cut its losses was a victory for our people over the forces of foreign oppression and exploitation. From the

masses' point of view, it was a democratic reform, while from that of imperialism it was a change in the forms of domination and exploitation of our people.

This change nevertheless resulted in a realignment of classes and social layers and the formation of new classes. In alliance with the backward forces of traditional society, and in total contempt of the masses, whom they had used as a springboard to power, the petty-bourgeois intelligentsia of that time set about laying the political and economic foundations for new forms of imperialist domination and exploitation. Fear that the struggle of the popular masses would become more radical and lead to a genuine revolutionary solution was the basis for the choice made by imperialism. Henceforth, it would maintain its stranglehold over our country and perpetuate the exploitation of our people through national intermediaries.

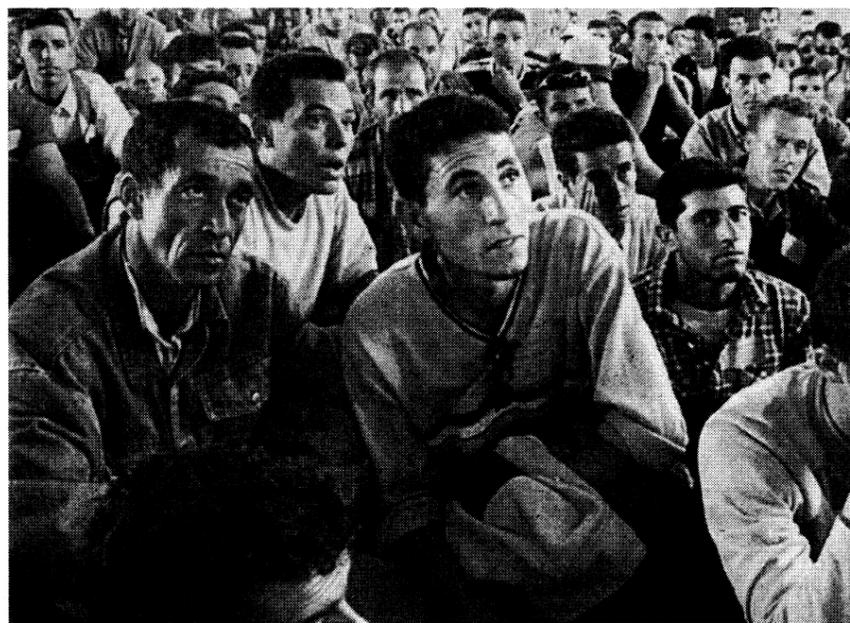
Voltaic nationals were to take over as agents for foreign domination and exploitation. The entire process of organizing neocolonial society would be nothing more than a simple operation of substituting one form for another.

In essence, neocolonial society and colonial society differed not at all. The colonial administration was replaced by a neocolonial administration identical to it in every respect. The colonial army was replaced by a neocolonial army with the same characteristics, the same functions, and the same role of safeguarding the interests of imperialism and its national allies.

The colonial school system was replaced by neocolonial schools, which pursued the same goals of alienating our children from our country and reproducing a society that would primarily serve the interests of imperialism and secondarily those of its local lackeys and allies.

With the support and blessing of imperialism, Voltaic nationals set about organizing the systematic plunder of our country. With the crumbs of this pillage that fell to them, they were transformed, little by little,

North Africans in Spain stage sit-in for farm jobs



Some 350 workers from North Africa occupied university buildings in Seville, Spain, June 10 to demand jobs picking strawberries that they have regularly done in the past. Farm bosses are trying to pit the workers against toilers from Eastern Europe who were brought in to do the work in the fields this year.

into a truly parasitic bourgeoisie that could no longer control its voracious appetite. Driven solely by personal interest, they no longer hesitated at even the most dishonest means, engaging in massive corruption, embezzlement of public funds and properties, influence-peddling and real estate speculation, and practicing favoritism and nepotism.

This is what accounts for all the material and financial wealth they accumulated from the sweat of the toilers. Not content to live off the fabulous incomes derived from the shameless exploitation of their ill-gotten wealth, they fought tooth and nail to capture political posts that would allow them to use the state apparatus to further their exploitation and underhanded dealings.

Hardly a year passed without them treat-

ing themselves to extravagant vacations abroad. Their children deserted the country's schools for prestigious educations in other countries. All the resources of the state were mobilized to guarantee them, at the slightest illness, expensive care in luxury hospitals in foreign countries.

All this has unfolded in full view of the honest, courageous, and hardworking Voltaic people, a people mired nonetheless in the most squalid misery. While Upper Volta is a paradise for the wealthy minority, it is a barely tolerable hell for the majority, the people.

As part of this big majority, the wage earners, despite the fact that they are assured a regular income, suffer the constraints and pitfalls of capitalist consumer society. Their income is completely consumed before they have even touched it. This vicious cycle goes on and on with no perspective of being broken.

1. On May 17, 1983, proimperialist forces in the government of Upper Volta staged a coup and arrested Prime Minister Thomas Sankara. Thousands took to the streets to demand his release, sparking resistance that was to culminate in the August 4 revolution.

Montreal rally demands rights for Algerians

BY JOANNE PRITCHARD

OTTAWA, Ontario—Seventy people traveled here from Montreal May 30 to demonstrate at the Parliament buildings to demand that legal status be granted to Algerians who came here as refugees. Until April 5 a moratorium on deportations to Algeria meant that they have been able to live and work in this country. On that date the Minister of Immigration, Denis Coderre, suspended the moratorium.

Banners at the demonstration announced that the civil war in Algeria continues and that there have been 150,000 deaths and 8,000 disappeared. Participants chanted, "Algeria is still at war! Stop the deportations," and, "Our country is here."

Menouar Llarara, a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, took the day off work to participate. He has lived in Canada for five years but has no status. Samia, who has been in the country eight years without status and whose two children were born here, also participated.

Although they have been permitted to stay in Canada, Algerian and other refugees are denied the right to a health insurance card and are unable to attend school if they have a work permit. The yearly renewal of the work permit costs \$150. The immigrants don't have the right to family allowance payments, even for children who were born here.

The refugees' Action Committee organizes picket lines every Monday at a federal government building in Montreal. They are demanding that those who don't have status be recognized and that the moratorium on deportations to Algeria be reinstated.

"For us, Minister Coderre's decision is

purely political and is aimed at promoting the economic interests of those who want to do business with Algeria," states a leaflet issued by the group. As Mohamed Cherfi, one of the organizers of the action, explained, "nothing has changed in Algeria

and the decision [to revoke the moratorium] was taken immediately after a business visit by Prime Minister Jean Chretien."

Joanne Pritchard is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 500.

Trotsky's 1928 defense of Bolsheviks' course

Continued from Page 15

international communist program is in no case the sum total of national programs or an amalgam of their common features. The international program must proceed directly from an analysis of the conditions and tendencies of world economy and of the world political system taken as a whole in all its connections and contradictions, that is, with the mutually antagonistic interdependence of its separate parts. In the present epoch, to a much larger extent than in the past, the national orientation of the proletariat must and can flow only from a world orientation and not vice versa. Herein lies the basic and primary difference between communist internationalism and all varieties of national socialism.

Basing ourselves upon these considerations, we wrote in January of this year: "We must begin work to draft a program of the Comintern (Bukharin's program is a bad program of a national section of the Comintern and not a program of a world communist party)." (*Pravda*, January 15, 1928.)*

We have kept insisting upon these considerations since 1923-24 when the question of the United States of America arose in its full scope as a problem of world and, in the most direct sense of the term, of European politics.

In recommending the new draft, *Pravda* wrote that a communist program "differs radically from the program of the international social democracy not only in the substance of its central postulates but also in the characteristic internationalism of its

structure." (*Pravda*, May 29, 1928.)

In this somewhat cloudy formulation is obviously expressed the idea which we stated above and which was formerly stubbornly rejected. One can only welcome the break with the first draft program presented by Bukharin, which did not even provoke a serious exchange of opinion; nor, for that matter, did it offer any grounds for one. Whereas the first draft gave a bald schematic description of the development of one abstract country towards socialism, the new draft seeks, unfortunately, and, as we shall see, without consistency or success, to take world economy as a whole as the basis for determining the fate of its individual parts.

Linking up countries and continents that stand on different levels of development into a system of mutual dependence and antagonism, leveling out the various stages of their development and at the same time immediately enhancing the differences between them, and ruthlessly counterposing one country to another, world economy has become a mighty reality which holds sway over the economic life of individual countries and continents. This basic fact alone invests the idea of a world communist party with a supreme reality. Bringing world economy as a whole to the highest phase of development generally attainable on the basis of private property, imperialism, as the draft states quite correctly in its introduction, "aggravates to an extreme tension the contradiction between the growth of the productive forces of world economy and the national state barriers."

Without grasping the meaning of this

proposition, which was vividly revealed to mankind for the first time during the last imperialist war, we cannot take a single step towards the solution of the major problems of world politics and revolutionary struggle.

We could only welcome the radical shift of the very axis of the program in the new draft were it not for the fact that the effort to reconcile this, the only correct position, with tendencies of a directly contrary character has resulted in turning the draft into an arena of the cruelest contradictions, which entirely nullify the principled significance of the new manner of approaching the question in its fundamental aspects.

*Problems of the International Opposition," in Trotsky, *The Challenge of the Left Opposition (1928-29)* (New York: Pathfinder, 1981), p. 45.

August 14, 1914, is generally considered in revolutionary circles to mark the date of the collapse of the Second International. On that date the social democratic fraction in the German Reichstag voted the war credits demanded by the kaiser and the chancellor, signifying by this action not only support of the capitalist fatherland in the war but also the establishment of *Burgfrieden* (civil peace). The same day witnessed the identical action of the socialist group in the French Chamber of Deputies, who established the *Union Sacrée* (holy union) with their ruling class. The Belgian, Austro-Hungarian, British, and in part, the Italian, Bulgarian, and Russian social democratic parties followed the same course. The International Socialist Bureau, unable, of course, to adjudicate the dispute which was being decided on the battlefields, ceased to exist, to all intents and purposes, during the war.

THE MILITANT

online

www.themilitant.com

Bush and Sharon whitewash Israeli assaults

Continued from front page

arrest anyone suspected of planning attacks. They hold Arafat and the Palestinian Authority responsible for any assaults that take place against Israelis. Nearly 70 Israelis have been killed in eight such attacks since the Israeli armed forces launched a sweeping offensive throughout the West Bank at the end of March.

Islamic Jihad, an opposition organization backed by the Iranian and Syrian governments, claimed responsibility for the bombing of the bus. Like the larger Hamas organization, Islamic Jihad opposes the Palestinian Authority and the leadership of Yasir Arafat, and frequently times its attacks to undermine U.S.-sponsored attempts to restart talks between Palestinian Authority and Israeli representatives. The leaders of both Hamas and Islamic Jihad refused an offer by Arafat to join his cabinet.

Islamic Jihad's leaders have increased their following by speaking against the Palestinian Authority's attempts to clamp down on military activities outside of its control. "Every Palestinian is wanted by Israel," said Sheik Abdallah al-Shami, on June 5. "Does it make any sense that the Palestinian Authority would go out and arrest Palestinians on behalf of our enemy?"

PA officials told Sharon they will arrest anyone from Islamic Jihad responsible for the attack, but point out that their security apparatus has been severely crippled by the Israeli onslaught.

"The Israelis have practically destroyed every police building in the West Bank," said Arafat spokesperson Samir Rantisi. "We need to see some move toward real results" in the negotiations before any progress can be made, he noted.

Turns down request by Egyptian leader

The meeting between Bush and Sharon came a few days after Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak met with the U.S. president at the White House. Mubarak reportedly asked Washington to set a date for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian leadership on a settlement of the conflict and to endorse an early declaration of a Palestinian state. Bush declined specific support for either request.

Despite Bush's refusal to distance his administration from the latest Israeli military action, and his comment that "no one has confidence in the emerging Palestinian government," differences continue to emerge between the two enemies of the Palestinian struggle.

As he pushes ahead with renewed military aggression, Sharon has publicly rejected any talks with Arafat, and brushed aside diplomatic initiatives by the governments of Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The White House on the other hand has collaborated with governments in the Middle East to bring pressure to bear on the Palestinians.

U.S. representatives have continued to press for negotiations between Israeli and

Palestinian representatives that could cement a deal to help quell the Palestinian struggle.

Speaking on June 11, U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell said that a visit by Saudi Arabian foreign minister Prince Saud al-Faisal on June 14 will "complete this round of consultations." Powell insisted that the Israeli military's foray into Ramallah "to look for terrorists" would be brief. "The president not only understands Israel's right to defend itself, he also understands the need for us to find a political way to move forward," he said.

In a related development, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld renewed the U.S. propaganda war against Iraq during a June 10 visit to Bahrain. "If you want to know a world-class liar, it's Saddam Hussein," he told sailors and marines assigned to the U.S. fifth fleet in the capital city of Manama. He accused Baghdad of having "an active program to develop nuclear weapons," biological agents, and other "weapons of mass destruction."

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict—above all, the refusal of the Palestinian people to be blackmailed or brutalized into submission—has complicated Washington's drive to war against Iraq and its attempts to gain support for such a war among the pro-imperialist governments of the Middle East.

Sealing off areas of Palestinian resistance

The Israeli government has approved a plan to build a security barrier along the Green Line that divides Israel from the West Bank. Like the checkpoints and fences that Israeli forces continue to erect around Palestinian cities and towns inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the 130-foot wide barrier is designed to fence in areas where Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation has been particularly strong during the last 21 months of heightened conflict.

Construction has already begun less than 100 yards from Qalqilya, a town near the border that is home to 25,000 Palestinians. The structure includes separate roads for border police and army patrols, surveillance cameras, an electric fence, a six-to-eight-foot-deep ditch, sandy paths designed to preserve the footprints of anyone who tries to pass, and inner and outer fences made of six-foot pyramids of coiled barbed wire. For two miles alongside Qualquilya and in at least one other spot the barrier will incorporate a concrete wall.

Israeli authorities say the first phase of the project, covering 75 miles from Qualquilya to north of Jenin, will be completed within a year. Phase two will see the barrier extend along the rest of the 164-mile Green Line.

Fortified borders also divide Israel from the Gaza Strip and from Jordan. According to the construction plans, the barrier will extend through Jerusalem, and will cut into the West Bank to protect some Israeli settlements, leaving some Palestinian towns within Israel. At one point, the planned path

Protesters in Washington oppose Israeli leader's visit to White House



Militant/Sam Manuel
Fifty people demonstrated outside the White House, June 10, to oppose the talks between Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. president George Bush, which were conducted as Israeli army occupied a number of Palestinian towns.

of the barrier will force Palestinian farmers to cross a checkpoint as they go to and from their fields.

There are presently some 150 such checkpoints in the West Bank. They form part of the heavy Israeli presence throughout the territory, and of the tightening encirclement of eight West Bank cities and towns, including Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, Jericho, and Hebron. Israeli forces are also digging ditches, and erecting barbed-wire fences aimed at restricting the movement of Palestinian working people and youth in these areas.

Israeli closures defended

In a June 8 interview, Israeli defense minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer expressed some concern with the course of events and his government's inability to defeat the Palestinian resistance. With "military means you cannot solve this problem" of suicide attacks, he said. "We can fight airplanes; we can fight tanks. But you cannot fight a young man or girl who might look like one of your own children. One minute they are smiling, they are talking, they are with you. And suddenly, they push a button."

"The only thing I can do now is the closures—putting more isolation on the cities," the defense minister said. "But people cannot work. They cannot feed their families.

The closures create frustration and hatred, and this hatred and frustration might mean the birth of another five to 10 suicide bombers."

Meanwhile, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are bracing themselves for an expected onslaught by the Israeli military.

Gaza assault 'would be complicated'

Since April the Israeli incursions and occupations have targeted the West Bank, the larger of the two occupied territories. By contrast, noted the May 29 *Wall Street Journal*, "Israel's strategy has been to keep Gaza under virtual lock and key, using an extensive network of barbed-wire fences, guard posts and army patrols."

Washington's opposition to further military escalation is one factor restraining the Israeli war makers. In addition, the military officers who have drawn up blueprints for an offensive that would include tanks, helicopters, air force jets, and naval gunboats, anticipate stiff resistance by Palestinian defenders. "Any assault on the refugee camps," home to 150,000 people, "would be far more complicated than that in Jenin," wrote the *Journal*, referring to the April battles in the West Bank refugee camp.

"Booby traps and ambushes are a major problem," said one Israeli officer. "We know that there will be surprises if we go in."

Demonstrators in Des Moines demand, 'free, free Palestine'

BY INEZ MARSH

DES MOINES, Iowa—Chanting "Free, free Palestine" and "No justice; no peace!" some 100 people rallied here June 1 to call for an end to Israeli government violence against the Palestinian people. The rally was held on the steps of the state capitol building and was called by local organizations, including Creative Visions and the Islamic Center of Des Moines.

Among those participating in the rally were high school and college students, Palestinians, activists from the Des Moines Black community, and workers, including a teacher and a Des Moines phone company worker.

Joanne Hughes gave greetings to the rally. Her son, Charles Lovelady, was killed in a racist attack by a security guard at a nightclub in Des Moines two years ago. She told the rally participants that she continues to press for justice in the case of her son's killing and came to the rally in solidarity with the fight for justice for Palestinian people.

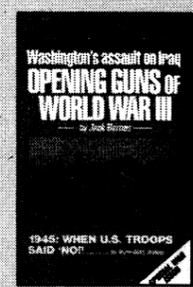
Other speakers included representatives of the Islamic Center, the American Friends Service Committee, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Opening Guns of World War III

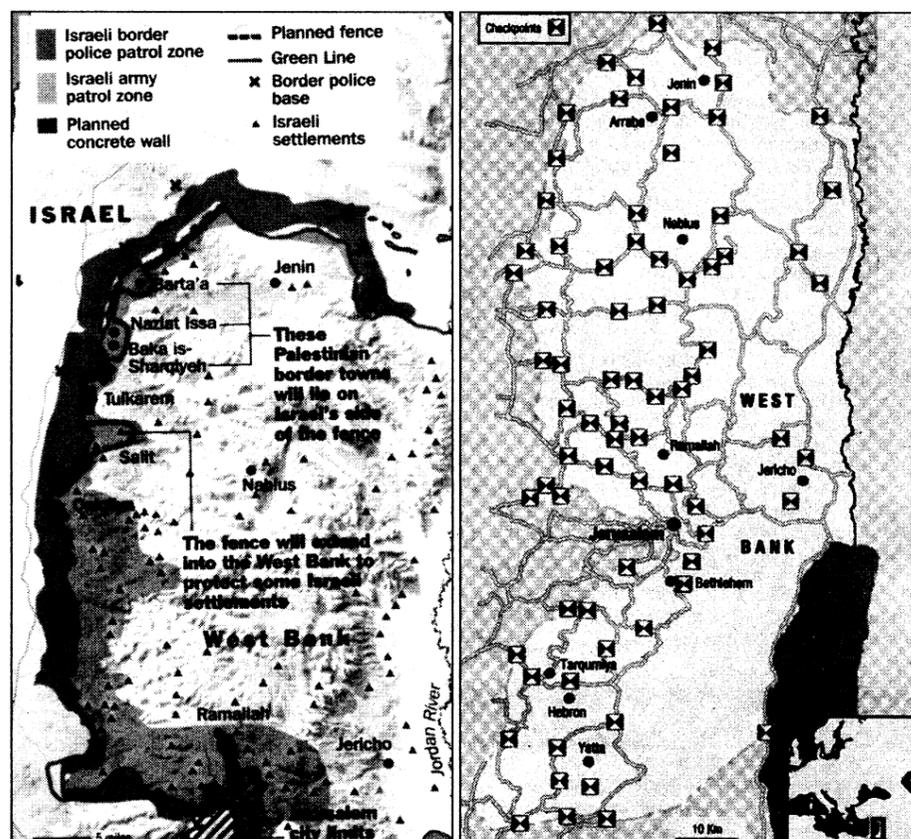
Washington's Assault on Iraq

Jack Barnes

Washington's murderous assault on Iraq heralded increasing conflicts among imperialist powers, the rise of rightist and fascist forces, growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars. In *New Internationalist* no. 7. \$12.00



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



Two views of Israeli barriers in and around the West Bank. Left: dotted line shows first phase of plan for security barrier between Israel and the West Bank, running from Qalqilyah north. Right: crosses show some of 150 Israeli checkpoints.

U.S. gov't begins jailings without charges

Continued from front page

Virginia federal public defenders' office to have a lawyer meet with him. Hamdi is a prisoner from Afghanistan who was put in a cage at the illegally-occupied U.S. base in Guantánamo, Cuba, along with 300 other men. He repeatedly explained he was a U.S. citizen because he was born in the United States, and was finally transferred to a military base in Norfolk, Virginia. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asserted April 15 that the government "has every right" to hold Hamdi without charges.

The jailing without charges of U.S. citizens is the first fruit of a policy speech presented by U.S. president George Bush June 1 at the West Point military academy graduation exercise.

Bush said that "homeland defense and missile defense are part of stronger security, and they're essential priorities for America.

Yet the war on terror will not be won on the defensive. We must take the battle to the enemy, disrupt his plans, and confront the worst threats before they emerge."

Blurring the line between actions abroad and at home, Bush said, "Our security will require the best intelligence to reveal threats hidden in caves and growing in laboratories. Our security will require modernizing domestic agencies such as the FBI, so they're prepared to act, and act quickly, against danger...to be ready for preemptive action when necessary to defend our liberty and to defend our lives."

Six days later the president announced a proposal to reorganize sections of the federal government in order to create a Department of Homeland Security. The department would have under its command the police forces and armed federal units of the Customs Service, the Coast Guard, the Immi-

gration and Naturalization Service, and the Secret Service. Bush proposed creating a division to analyze information collected by the FBI, CIA, and other government spy agencies.

"This new department will review intelligence and law enforcement information from all agencies of the government," Bush said. "Analysts will be responsible for imagining the worst and planning to counter it."

The Bush administration announcement won wide bipartisan support. Similar plans were well underway in Congress, such as a decision a month ago by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Democratic senator Joseph Lieberman, to create a Homeland Security Department. Sen. Robert Byrd from West Virginia, a prominent Democrat, said in response to the proposal, "It is about time, and I hope that it is not too late."

Some Congressional leaders urged approval of deeper connections between the proposed department and the CIA and FBI. "We may have to pull those agencies more fully into the structure than was proposed," House majority leader Richard Arney said.

The new department is to be cabinet level, and is slated to have a budget of \$37 billion and employ nearly 170,000 people.

The Bush administration's bipartisan course of waging more wars abroad, further steps toward militarization of the United States, and establishing repressive measures initially targeting immigrants and ultimately all workers is being built on the groundwork prepared by the Clinton administration. During the years the liberal was in office he

Continued on Page 14

Strikers push back hikes in medical costs

Continued from front page

ing faces of most workers coming out of the Milton Hershey School's Founders Hall giving the thumbs-up after casting their votes June 8.

Strikers received solidarity

During the strike, workers kept up their picket lines around the clock at 23 locations, including the last day until an hour before the meeting to review the new company offer began. A week before, the chocolate workers on strike held the largest membership meeting ever, with an attendance of more than 1,500 workers.

"The community was behind us," said Ken Ginder, a mechanic with 12 years seniority. "No striker crossed the picket line," he added. The support was visible at the

picket line when passing motorists sounded their horns, and from other union or non-union workers who stopped to talk to strikers. Other unionists filled dozens of pages with their names in a sign-up book at the union hall. They received financial support and food donations from workers at the non-union Reese's plant, also owned by Hershey. Workers at Reese's have expressed increased interest in unionizing during the course of the walkout.

In addition, the unionists discussed their strike through a web site created by one of the strikers with photographs, and a space for opinions and ideas.

Company brought in strikebreakers

According to the Harrisburg *Patriot News*, Hershey Foods had brought tempo-

rary replacement workers into the plant at East Chocolate Avenue. The daily reported that within days a new 11-hour negotiating meeting took place between the company and the union, which led to a tentative contract and the membership vote at Founders Hall.

The victory of the Chocolate Workers union deals a blow to the antiunion drive by company head Richard Lenny, hired in March 2001 as chief executive officer. Lenny had worked at Kraft Foods, owned by the Philip Morris Company, and was known for his antiworker cost-cutting drive, which he wanted to repeat at Hershey Foods.

Calling the results of the vote a victory for the union, Bruce Hummel, business agent for the Local 464, said to the cheers of the unionists, "This ain't 1980, and this ain't no nickel," in reference to the previous strike in 1980 when they won a five cent increase. To conclude the strike and acknowledge the solidarity they received, workers celebrated with a candlelight vigil outside Founders Hall.

Hilda Cuzco and Marty Ressler are garment workers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh respectively.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

What Are the Roots of the Conflict on the Indian Subcontinent? Speaker: Deborah Liatos, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Food and Commercial Workers. Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 3926 Mission St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (415) 584-2135.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Free Leonard Peltier. Speaker: Shep Gurwitz, Boston Area Leonard Peltier Support Group. Fri., June 21, 7:00 p.m. 12 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Tel: (617) 569-9169.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Behind the Attempt to Expand the FBI's Powers. Speaker: Mike Taber, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 14, 7:30 p.m. 168 Bloomfield., 2nd Floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (973) 481-0077.

NEW YORK

Garment District

Behind the India-Pakistan Conflict. Speaker: Patrick O'Neill, *Militant* correspondent. Fri., June 14, 7:30 p.m. 545 8th Avenue, 14th Floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

OHIO

CLEVELAND

The Jewish Question: Why It's Wrong to Scapegoat Jews for the Problems of Capitalism. Speaker: Ellen Berman, Socialist Workers Party, member, United Auto Workers. Sun., June 23, 1:00 p.m. 11018 Lorain Ave. Tel: (216) 688-1190.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

What's Behind the Confrontation between India and Pakistan? Bob Stanton, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 5237 N. 5th Street. Donation: \$5. Tel: (215) 324-7020.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Industrial Waste as Fertilizer: How Capitalism Poisons the Soil. Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League, member, Maritime Union. Sun., June 23, 4:00 p.m. 1st floor, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9718-9698.

CANADA

Toronto

What's Behind the Conflict between India and Pakistan? Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 2761 Dundas St. W. Tel: (416) 767-3705.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, *Nueva Internacional* and *Ny International*.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Road. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: bhmSWP@bigfoot.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: 74642.326@compuserve.com
San Francisco: 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: sfswp@hotmail.com

COLORADO: Craig: 6 West Victory Way. Zip: 81625. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1539. Zip: 81626. Tel: (970) 826-0289. E-mail: westerncoloradoswp@yahoo.com

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206 Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 751-7076. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net; **Tampa:** 1441 E. Fletcher, Suite 421. Zip: 33612. Tel: (813) 910-8507. E-mail: TOC1004@aol.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515. Zip 30321. Tel: (404) 763-2900. E-mail: atlpathfinder@cs.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1212 N. Ashland Suite 201. Zip: 60622. Tel: (773) 342-1780. E-mail: ChicagoPathfinder@compuserve.com

IOWA: Des Moines: 3720 6th Ave. Zip: 50313. Tel: (515) 288-2970. E-mail: swpdesmoines@cs.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 12 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Mailing address: P.O. Box 261. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: 103426.3430@compuserve.com

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 4208 W. Vernor St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 441580 Zip: 48244. Tel: (313) 554-0504. E-mail: DetroitMISWP@netscape.net

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St., West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: TC6446325@cs.com

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Avenue, 2nd Floor. Mailing address: Riverfront Plaza, P.O. Box 200117. Zip: 07102-0302. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com

NEW YORK: Brooklyn: 372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) Mailing address: PMB 106. 4814 4th Ave. Zip: 11220. Tel: (718) 567-8014. E-mail: swpbrooklyn@earthlink.net
Garment District, 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Mailing address: P.O. Box 30. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 695-7358. E-mail: swpnygd@attglobal.net;
Upper Manhattan: 599 W. 187 St. #1A Zip: 10033. Tel: (212) 740-4611. E-mail: swpuptown@usa.net

NORTH CAROLINA: Charlotte Area: 2001A N. Cannon Blvd. Kannapolis Mailing address: P.O. Box 5624, Concord. Zip: 28087. Tel: (704) 932-0821. E-mail: CharlotteSWP@aol.com

OHIO: Cleveland: 11018 Lorain Ave. Zip: 44111. Tel: (216) 688-1190. E-mail: 103253.1111@compuserve.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 5237 N. 5th St. Zip: 19120. Tel: (215) 324-7020. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@yahoo.com
Pittsburgh: 5907 Penn Ave. Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: 103122.720@compuserve.com

TEXAS: Houston: 619 West 8th St. Zip: 77007. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@evl.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3437 14th St. NW Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 387-1590. E-mail: dc-swp@starpower.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Avenue South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@qwest.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St.,

Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 1240. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@bigpond.com

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 020-7928-7993. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.net.uk

CANADA

Montreal: 1237 Jean Talon E. Montréal, QC. Postal code: H2R 1W1. Tel: (514) 284-7369. E-mail: Librpath@sympatico.ca

Toronto: 2761 Dundas St. West, Postal code: M6P 1Y4. Tel: (416) 767-3705. E-mail: milpathtoronto@sympatico.ca

Vancouver: 2645 E. Hastings, Room 203. Postal code: V5V 1Z5. Tel: (604) 872-8343. E-mail: clvancouver@cs.com

FRANCE

Paris: Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 47-26-58-21. E-mail: 73504.442@compuserve.com

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. E-mail: milpth@mmedia.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: milpath.auckland@actrix.gen.nz

Christchurch: Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Postal address: P.O. Box 13-969. Tel: (3) 365-6055. E-mail: pathfinder.militant@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Domargränd 16, S-129 47, Hägersten. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: pathfbkh@algonet.se

Soon, waterproof cell phones—
“Ventura, California—Budget deficits are prompting county officials to consider trimming lifeguard pa-



Harry Ring

trols.... Harbor Director Lyn Krieger is recommending that lifeguards be posted at the beaches Friday through Mondays. Midweek beach visitors who need help would have to call 911.”—News item.

Neat—A released Enron memo written during California’s “energy

crisis” explains the company drove up prices by creating phantom congestion in energy transmission lines and then “clearing” them. A company lawyer explained: “Enron gets paid for moving energy to relieve congestion without actually moving any energy or relieving any congestion.”

You can bank on it—“Washington—Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said that more honest business accounting was likely to be a lasting benefit from the Enron collapse.”—Associated Press.

Landlord Liberation Front—With 22 consecutive years of war, reported the *New York Times*, 40 percent of Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, is bombed out. Now with

World Bank, UN, and others pouring in, rents at all levels have soared through the proverbial ceiling. A day laborer told the *Times* reporter that for the shack he lives in the rent is leaping from \$6.25 to \$90 a month. “I will have to take my children and sleep in the streets,” he said.

Enough!—Nonwhite women journalists at BBC’s World Service told a government employment tribunal of the discrimination meted out to them by a group of entrenched white male journalists who are able to impose longer work hours on them, block promotions, and generally demean them, leading to stress and depression. Sharan Sandhu told the tribunal: “There was a senior layer of white male journalists who were very power-

ful.... They had a colonial mentality.”

How wonderful—Hans Rausing, a retired Swedish billionaire resident in England, threw a party for 600 (intimate?) friends. The guests were flown to Cannes where they boarded a cruise ship for a week of fun. Gourmet food, quality champagne, swimming pools, saunas, etc. Entertainment by Elton John and other stars, plus the entire cast of a London hit musical. The claimed tab, \$18 million. No particular reason for the occasion was reported. Perhaps Mr. Rausing, 76, calculates his good deed will get him through the pearly gates.

Blood lovers—In the first quarter of this year, the gain in workers’ productivity was reported the

“best” in 10 years. Gloated one economist: “Companies managed to squeeze every last ounce of production out of their workers and it showed.”

The can-do system—Hundreds of thousands of passengers in England’s national airports were stranded up to six hours when the nationwide flight control computer system crashed—for the third time in three months. The breakdown followed installation of a routine upgrade in the \$1 billion service system.

No comment—“One-third of tires may fail stricter standards—Regulators say new rules will save lives, but tire makers contend that tests are too severe and will cost too much”—News headline.

U.S. occupation forces in Afghanistan kill civilians

BY RÓGER CALERO

A 1:00 a.m. helicopter raid on the Afghan village of Bandi Temur, in which U.S. forces killed several people and arrested nearly 50 others May 24, led to a protest action by working people at the regional governor’s office. The demonstrators blamed Afghan officials for inviting the foreign troops into the area.

The incident is one of several where imperialist military forces have attacked and killed workers, farmers, or “friendly” militia, claiming they were al Qaeda or Taliban fighters. The military operations by Canadian, British, U.S., and allied troops across the country more and more mark the permanent character of the imperialist occupation necessary to prop up a weak and unstable government that has little power outside the capital city of Kabul.

Washington Post reporter Beth Sheridan reported that the former Soviet air base at Bagram north of Kabul, now the center of U.S. military operations in the country, “is rapidly taking on the look of a military installation built to last.” The U.S. military command shifted the allied headquarters for operations in Afghanistan to Bagram from Kuwait this week, bringing a staff of hundreds and a three-star general. The command will direct combat operations, coordinate training of a new Afghan army, and oversee the operations of international organizations in Afghanistan.

As many as 500 officers will be moved from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to the base in Bagram, to be part of the Combined Joint Task Force Afghanistan, with officers from the other imperialist forces occupying the country.

Sheridan reports the base now houses 5,000 U.S. and allied troops and “the air is filled with the drone of construction machinery.” With the assignment of Lt. Gen. Daniel McNeill to head operations, soldiers have been ordered to start saluting their officers, a practice usually not carried out in combat zones to protect the identities of officers from the enemy.

Washington has pressed for the formation of an Afghan national army and police. It has also refused to endorse the request by Afghan interim president Hamid Karzai and United Nations officials to extend the operations of a 4,650-strong International Security Assistance Force based in Kabul to other regions in the country. In areas where the interim government has little control over rival ruling factions, Karzai has requested that the troops be deployed to provide security to delegates involved in the upcoming mid-June elections of a national council.

“We are not against an international peacekeeping force expanding, if that’s what people want to do,” said U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld in May. “It might be a good thing. The problem is there’s no one stepping up and wanting to do it.”

There are currently 12,000 troops deployed throughout Afghanistan made up of special units from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom. The Canadian government said at the end of May it was pulling out its 850 troops from the country, claiming its forces are stretched too thin to justify the deployment. London is ending its role as head of the UN-sanctioned occupation force, turning the mantle over to the

government of Turkey, which says its mandate is a limited one.

U.S. military forces are expected to expand their mission by giving protection to regional councils leading up to a meeting scheduled to begin June 10 of various local and regional leaders across the country that is supposed to decide on the character of the new government.

Attacks on villages and friendly troops

The nighttime raid in the early morning hours of May 24 on Bandi Temur involved the use of six helicopters and U.S. Special Forces troops. Soldiers surrounded the village and “blew holes into the walls of the largest compounds,” according to one report. The operation lasted until 9:00 a.m.

U.S. forces killed one person, wounded two, and arrested 50, who they took away in the helicopters. Some of the villagers were beaten, their hands tied, and blindfolded. The commandos said they were acting on intelligence reports indicating that senior Taliban and al Qaeda leaders were hiding in the village “compound.”

The people at the village were particularly outraged by the death of a 100-year-old tribal leader, who was killed with a blow from a rifle butt while in custody, and of a three-year-old girl who fell into a well as she tried to hide during the assault.

Two days after the raid, local villagers marched to Kandahar to protest the attack. The protesters met with U.S. Special Forces troops stationed there and warned the local government that they will bring thousands of people from their tribes to stone the police station and the governor’s house. They blamed the governor “for inviting in the American troops who were now killing people,” said an Afghan general to the *New York Times*.

On May 12 U.S. Special Forces raided another farming village, killing five. Villagers and even local leaders said that many of the people killed have been farmers and workers traveling in the area following the harvest. The raids against suspected Taliban and al Qaeda hideouts have failed to capture any senior leaders.

News reports also highlighted the killing of three people by U.S. special forces at the end of May in the southeastern town of Gardez. In the first reports after the assault, U.S. military spokesman Col. Roger King proudly said a combined force of U.S. Special Forces and Afghan allies were “moving towards an objective” and opened fire without warning on a group of armed men “displaying hostile intent.” During a brief engagement three men were killed and two wounded, with the rest dropping their weapons and surrendering. King said the forces “gave the impression that engagement was imminent. It was almost ready to evolve into a firefight so the U.S. forces engaged first.”

But the next day it was revealed that the “hostile” forces were actually a group of friendly Afghan soldiers who support the interim government.

Brushing off responsibility for the deaths, King said the engagement “would probably fall within the realm of what you would consider friendly fire. A review is underway,” he said, “not an investigation.”

Military spokesman have noted how battles against large concentrations of al

Continued on Page 12



U.S. Special Forces soldier instructs Afghans on firing range. Washington has pressed for the formation of an Afghan national army and police as 200 U.S. GIs began training the first 500 men in what they hope will be a new 80,000-troop Afghan army. The U.S. military is expanding its presence to prop up a weak and unstable regime.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

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

June 24, 1977

SALT LAKE CITY—A meeting of ninety people here June 4 voted to back the call for a fall national Chicano conference to respond to stepped-up attacks by the Carter administration on Chicanos and undocumented workers.

Dr. Armando Gutiérrez, vice-chairperson of the Texas Raza Unida party, was the featured speaker.

“For decades,” Gutiérrez told participants, “immigrants to the United States have been branded ‘inferior.’ Their entry is speeded up or slowed down according to the economic needs of the U.S. Whenever the U.S. has gone through economic difficulties, it has always been blamed on the immigrants.”

Gutiérrez refuted the myth that undocumented workers “use up” services like welfare and food stamps.

Gutiérrez said the government crackdown is based on fear: “They are afraid of a new mass movement in a few years created by the children of undocumented workers. So they want to shut the door against the millions of Mexicans who come to this country to try to find jobs.”

Gutiérrez pointed out that the bosses have always welcomed the Mexican workers because they could get away with paying them near-starvation wages.

A minimum wage of \$3.50 per hour for all workers—including domestic and farm workers—Gutiérrez said, “would take the pressure off the individual workers and put it where it belongs—on the bosses.”

“Officials should not be allowed to go around to the employers asking, ‘Do you have any illegals working for you?’ Instead, they should be asked, ‘Are you paying all of your workers \$3.50 per hour?’”

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

June 23, 1952

While Republicans and Democrats maneuver for political advantage in the handling of the strike of 650,000 steel workers, the picket lines have held firm, refusing to back down an inch on union demands since the strike began over two weeks ago.

But the steelworkers’ struggle is entering a crucial stage. What CIO president Phillip Murray correctly branded as “making a political football” of the steel dispute can only result in either a Democratic-Truman or a Republican-Taft blow against the union’s right to strike.

This strike illustrates the fact, evident especially since the end of the war, that the powerful labor movement will not be allowed to use its economic power unfettered by government intervention. And the aim of government intervention has always been to rob the workers of their chance to beat down the corporations in direct struggle.

Preparations for the 1952 elections further complicate the problem for the strikers. On the one hand Truman, seeking to win labor support, refuses to invoke the Taft-Hartley injunction law. But he stands ready to use a plant seizure bill which he has asked Congress to give him, which in effect would also deprive the workers of their strike weapon, unless they are prepared to strike under conditions of government seizure.

On the other hand the Republicans, also seeking political advantage, want to stall any Congressional action, in order to force Truman to use the Taft-Hartley Act and thus confess it is “necessary” legislation. It is useless for the steel workers to look to either side in this cynical political maneuvering for a “friend.”

Washington's preemptive actions

Each week brings new and often sharper examples of what life under the last empire holds in store for working people. Such experiences highlight the real meaning for humanity of what the imperialists will attempt to impose on the world to salvage their outmoded and crisis-ridden system. Soberly facing the implications of the course of the imperialist rulers will help workers and farmers organize to resist the assaults by the employers and their government, and to fight to win the unions and other organization of the oppressed and exploited to take a stand against Washington's anti-worker drive.

In his speech at the West Point military academy June 1, U.S. president George Bush intentionally blurred the distinction between carrying out "preemptive strikes" at home and abroad. Earlier in his administration the president said the U.S. rulers are carrying out a "two-front war" at home and in other countries.

With one person, agreed by everyone to be a U.S. citizen, locked up and shackled in a U.S. military prison, and another who by all rights *should* be a U.S. citizen also incarcerated by the Pentagon, the U.S. government is probing how far it can go in eroding basic constitutional rights. Neither man has been charged with a crime. The government is fighting to ensure that Yasser Esam Hamdi never receives legal representation and to keep Abdullah al-Muhajir from ever gaining a hearing in a court of law.

These moves are aimed at undercutting the right to be presumed innocent. In addition to those individuals thrown behind prison walls under the broad sweep of Washington's "anti-terror" campaign, five Cuban revolutionaries framed-up in the U.S. courts were also victims of lynchings in the media and public statements by government

officials.

The proposal to bring under a Department of Homeland Security the cops, agents, and troops of the INS, Coast Guard, Customs Service, and Secret Service, and to give them domestic policing responsibilities, is another step in the federalization of policing. Hand in hand with the Homeland Security setup go moves to organize local and state cops to take on what have largely been INS functions of harassing and arresting people on immigration charges. Federal, state, and local databases on individuals are being beefed up, hooked up, and made more accessible to cops and secret police at every level of government.

In assessing the need for working people to chart our own independent political course as the only road possible to take on these assaults and the system that breeds them, it is imperative to recognize that the offense at home and abroad is a bipartisan one. Bush has been able to accelerate a course well prepared by his predecessor William Clinton.

Bush's insistence that the U.S. rulers will launch strikes against countries he deems to be part of the "axis of evil" also needs to be taken seriously. These countries are "evil" both because they are often at odds with the imperialist master and because they have the capability now, or the potential down the road, to build and deploy weapons that can threaten U.S. territory. This is something Washington cannot allow. The U.S. rulers' course is toward finding some kind of justification to launch preemptive strikes against Iraq and elsewhere, just as at home they are locking people up without filing charges against them in a court of law.

A victory in Hershey strike

The victory by chocolate workers at Hershey Foods has struck a blow at employer efforts to place more of the cost of health coverage on the backs of working people. The antiunion drive led by chief executive officer Richard Lenny backfired as workers faced down threats from the bosses and the company's decision to hire replacement workers to run the plants.

Lenny is known for his anti-worker cost-cutting measures at Kraft Foods before becoming head of Hershey last year. We're sure workers at Kraft are giving a big thumbs-up to the chocolate workers right now. The strikers showed what a union can do.

Working people identified with the strike because nearly all of them have had to confront bosses that try to cut back medical coverage or deny it outright. Some workers at nonunion plants, like those at the Hershey-owned Reese's factory who offered solidarity to the strikers, are more interested in fighting for a union under the impact of the victory.

In order to prop up its declining rate of profit, big business is forced to take on the conquests won by the trade unions following the labor upsurges in the 1930s and 1940s. The bosses need to convince unionists that health care, seniority rights, pensions, and other gains are "perks" and privileges that are okay in times of prosperity, but that have to be curtailed in times of economic uncertainty. The employers' broader assault on labor dovetails with their cuts in public programs that provide unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and health care insur-

ance, such as Medicare and Medicaid. They cover up the fact that labor's transformation of nature is the source of all wealth. The real problem for the capitalists is that they are forced to give back a tiny portion of the surplus value they extract from workers who produce for them.

A growing number of strikes, organizing drives, and other labor fights revolve around social questions like health care, the lengthening of the workweek, and the increasing use of temporary labor. Millions face the same cuts confronted by the Hershey workers. That is why the strike received such broad support. Working people sensed that a setback to the Hershey workers' rights to medical benefits would embolden other employers to try to make similar inroads.

Far from being isolated and pushed aside, the Hershey strikers stayed 100 percent strong and won support from union and nonunion workers alike. The strike victory demonstrates the problem that bosses confront today. Workers will not simply accept being trampled on. They are more and more standing up to company assaults. In some cases, they are holding off new concessions the bosses try to impose. Unionists can draw on this recent victory in the next rounds of attacks by big business that will inevitably come.

A feature of many struggles today is that they continue after a strike is over because the bosses continue their efforts to turn back the clock. Workers at Hershey go back stronger to take on the next assaults by Lenny and to respond to the struggles of other working people.

U.S. gov't begins jailings without charges

Continued from Page 12

engineered an increase of 100,000 more cops on the streets, while the U.S. prison population doubled to 2 million inmates.

During those years the U.S. ruling class escalated its assaults on immigrant workers, with the INS, now the largest federal cop agency, deploying some 15,000 armed agents, and stepping up factory raids and deportations to record numbers.

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act and the Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, both of which Clinton signed into law in 1996, expanded the powers of the INS to seize and deport undocumented immigrants without the right to judicial review or appeal. The laws authorized the INS to jail noncitizens based on "secret evidence" without bail in detention centers.

In early 1999 Clinton called for spending \$2.8 billion to establish a domestic military command.

Federal officials say they arrested Abdullah al-Muhajir as he arrived at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on a flight from Zurich. Thirty-one years old, his former name was José Padilla, a Puerto Rican who lived in Chicago. He has been held under a sealed material witness warrant, a favorite tactic used by the government since September 11 to keep people indefinitely in prison.

Federal officials took the man to New York and locked him up in a high-security prison in Manhattan, where he was shackled on trips back and forth to court and not allowed to see his family.

Al-Muhajir was transferred to another high-security facility, this time on a military base in South Carolina, after a federal judge ruled in New York in a separate case that the material witness law cannot be used to hold people indefinitely in criminal investigations.

Press reports say that Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, speaking from Doha, Qatar, said the administration is "not interested in trying him at this moment," adding they wanted to continue questioning him instead.

The *New York Times* had the following to add: "Justice Department officials concluded they could not bring a winnable court prosecution, largely because evidence against him was derived from intelligence sources and other witnesses the government cannot or does not want to produce in court."

"One law enforcement official cautioned that no specific target city or mode of carrying out the bombing had been determined. The official said it was not clear whether Al Qaeda leaders had fully embraced Mr. Padilla or the plan, which he had proposed to them. There is no indication he had the means to do it or was given the authority to do it."

Other cases of illegal detention by U.S. gov't

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

As the imprisonment of Abdullah al-Muhajir, held as an "enemy combatant" but not charged with committing a crime, gained prominence in the big business media, reports of other cases involving denial of constitutional rights have also appeared.

One case involves 35-year-old Nabil Almarabh. The June 12 *Washington Post* reported that one week after the attacks on the World Trade Center Almarabh was arrested at gunpoint by FBI agents at the store in Illinois where he was working. The Syrian citizen was among the more than 1,200 immigrants who were rounded up and jailed allegedly in connection with the investigation of the September 11 events.

Following his arrest, Almarabh was kept in solitary confinement for more than eight months without seeing a judge or being assigned a lawyer. It was not until May 22, two weeks after he was interviewed by the Justice Department's Office of Inspector General, that he was brought before a federal magistrate to face charges.

Almarabh's case "has provoked outrage among civil liberties advocates and criminal defense attorneys, who argue that it is one of the more extreme examples of how the government has violated the due process rights of hundreds of people swept in the nationwide terrorism investigation," reported the *Post*. His incarceration "represents possibly the longest period of time that any person detained after the Sept. 11 attacks has been denied access to a judicial proceeding," added the paper.

"If you read about something like this happening to a United States citizen in China, or in Cuba—that they had held an American citizen for eight months without bringing him before a judge—the State Department would go crazy," said Mark Kriger, a defense attorney in Detroit.

During his term in solitary, Almarabh was allowed out of his cell for only 30 minutes a day. He was moved in leg irons and handcuffs attached to heavy waist chains. More than once he went on hunger strike to protest his treatment by prison officials.

Trying to lay out a legal basis for Almarabh's detention, government officials have said that he is being held as a material witness. They have also claimed a right to hold him flowing from his alleged attempt some time ago to illegally cross the U.S.-Canadian border. The authorities have reinstated a deportation order issued at that time—something the attorney general is entitled to do under the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act, which also exempts such a decision from review by an immigration judge.

Under the bipartisan USA Patriot Act signed into law by Bush last October, an immigrant whose deportation is unlikely to occur in the "reasonably foreseeable future" can be detained for additional periods of up to six months if his or her release is deemed by authorities to "threaten national security" or the "safety of the community or any person."

The Justice Department also claims that Almarabh's alleged infringements of immigration law mean that he has forfeited his right to see an immigration judge.

U.S. citizen jailed and denied counsel

Another inmate, Yasser Esam Hamdi, is being held in a prison in Norfolk, Virginia. Hamdi was originally captured during the U.S. war on Afghanistan and was sent to the prison camp at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay. He was later transferred to U.S. soil after government officials learned that he is a U.S. citizen. Although Hamdi has not been charged with committing a crime, the Justice Department has argued in court that he should not be allowed to talk to a lawyer, and has appealed a ruling by a Federal District Court in Norfolk that he be allowed to meet with the public defender.

"It appears that Hamdi has a Sixth Amendment right to be represented by counsel," noted the editors of the *New York Times* on June 11.

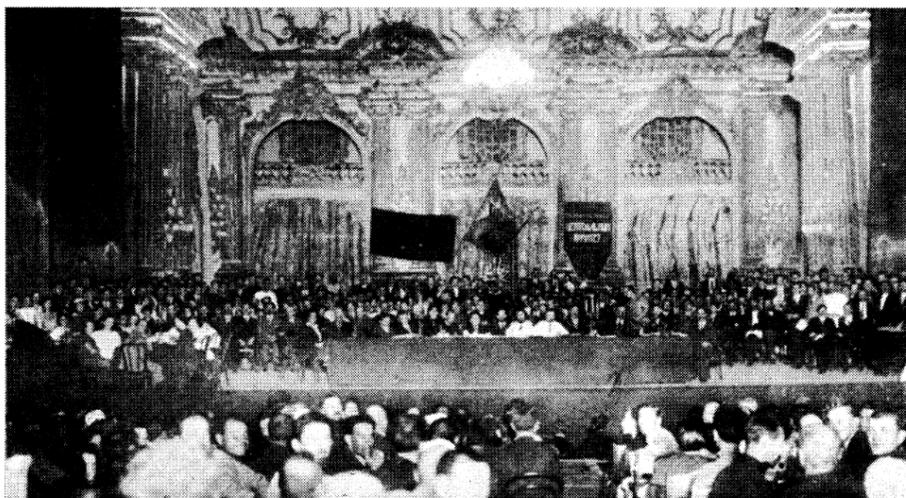
Meanwhile, the Justice Department has ordered immigration and customs agents at U.S. border crossings to maintain a special scrutiny of all Yemeni citizens traveling to and from the United States. The Immigration and Naturalization Service has sent a memorandum to agents at all airports, ports, and border crossings to screen and search all baggage in the possession of Yemenis.

In another move undermining constitutional rights, a state appeals court in New Jersey announced June 12 that it does not have the authority to compel federal officials to disclose the names of those detained and jailed within state boundaries after the September 11 attacks. The Justice Department has refused to release the names and locations of detainees, and under the pretext of protecting "national security" has barred the press and public from hearings on detainees' immigration status.

The June 12 decision overrules one in March by a Hudson County Superior Court Judge, who ruled in favor of the New Jersey chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The civil liberties body sought information about the detainees with a view to offering them legal counsel.

Trotsky's 1928 defense of Bolsheviks' course

Printed below is an excerpt from *The Third International after Lenin*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for June. The book contains Leon Trotsky's 1928 article defending the Marxist course that had guided the Communist International in its early years. It was written as a criticism of the draft program of the Communist International presented by Nikolai Bukharin and Joseph Stalin to the international's Sixth World Congress, held that year in Moscow. The first draft of a program for the Comintern was submitted to the Fourth Con-



Third Congress of Communist International, 1921. "The international communist program," wrote Trotsky, "must proceed directly from an analysis of the conditions and tendencies of world economy and of the world political system taken as a whole."

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

gress in 1922 and the delegates voted to submit all drafts and documents to a Program Commission for further study. The Fifth Congress in 1924 called for further discussion of the program drafts within the Comintern's affiliated parties. At the Sixth Congress, held July-September 1928, all the old drafts disappeared and a new one, written principally by Bukharin, was submitted in his and Stalin's names.

In response to this development, Trotsky rapidly drafted this document and sent it to the Sixth Congress. Although Trotsky's work was suppressed in the Soviet Union, excerpts were translated and distributed to a small number of delegates attending the gathering. Among these were two members of the congress's Program Commission, James P. Cannon from the United States, and Maurice Spector from Canada. These two communist leaders subsequently smuggled the document out of the Soviet Union. Passing it hand to hand, they were able to win over a nucleus of supporters in North America. These working-class cadres were soon expelled from the Communist Party and formed the Communist League of America, forerunner of the Socialist Workers Party. The story of these events is recounted in Cannon's *History of American Trotskyism*, published by Pathfinder. The document was serialized in the *Militant* be-

ginning with its first issue in November 1928. Copyright © 1957, 1970, 1996 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY LEON TROTSKY

The most important question on the agenda of the Sixth Congress is the adoption of a

program. The nature of the latter may for a long time determine and fix the physiognomy of the International. The importance of a program does not lie so much in the manner in which it formulates general theoretical conceptions (in the last analysis, this boils down to a question of "codification," i.e., a concise exposition of the truths and generalizations

which have been firmly and decisively acquired); it is to a much greater degree a question of drawing up the balance of the world economic and political experiences of the last period, particularly of the revolutionary struggles of the last five years—so rich in events and mistakes. For the next few years, the fate of the Communist International—in the literal sense of the word—depends upon the manner in which these events, mistakes, and controversies are interpreted and judged in the program.

1. General structure of the program

In our epoch, which is the epoch of imperialism, i.e., of world economy and world politics under the hegemony of finance capital, not a single communist party can establish its program by proceeding solely or mainly from conditions and tendencies of developments in its own country. This also holds entirely for the party that wields the state power within the boundaries of the USSR. On August 4, 1914, the death knell sounded for national programs for all time. The revolutionary party of the proletariat can base itself only upon an international program corresponding to the character of the present epoch, the epoch of the highest development and collapse of capitalism. An

Continued on Page 10

LETTERS

'Conflicting Missions'

I just finished reading *Conflicting Missions* by Piero Gleijeses, which was reviewed by Mary-Alice Waters in your April 15 issue. I found the book devastating in blowing away the three U.S. government lies about its intervention in Angola in the 1970s and later. They were: 1) The U.S. government "responded" to Cuban internationalist volunteers in Angola; 2) there was no collaboration between U.S. imperialism and apartheid South Africa; and 3) Cuba's support to the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government was used as a cat's-paw for the Soviet Union.

However, Gleijeses is mistaken when he asserts that African Americans weren't interested in what was happening on the Continent and that Congressman Charles Diggs and Malcolm X were the only ones inter-

ested. But it was precisely the constant hammering by Malcolm of the central role of Africa in the fight for Black liberation in the U.S. that led to African liberation becoming a bedrock of the Black movement.

If memory serves me correctly, there were many demonstrations in the early and mid-1970s demanding "Portuguese out of Africa," and "Black majority rule in southern Africa." These protests were organized by different coalitions, e.g. the African Liberation Support Committee, African Liberation Day Committee, and others. Thousands participated in these demonstrations, including one of 20,000 in Washington, D.C.

As a matter of fact, African Liberation Day (the last Saturday of May) was celebrated every year in many cities in the early and mid-1970s. Many of us who actively supported Cuba's role in Angola had many a hard debate with others who considered themselves Maoists who opposed Cuba's aid.

While it is true the NAACP and other liberal middle class organizations did little to organize this anti-imperialist sentiment, especially among Black youth and students, it is not historically correct that African Americans "had little time for African issues."

Omari Musa
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Events in the Netherlands

As a longtime resident of the Netherlands I was very interested to get a Trotskyist perspective on the circumstances surrounding Pim Fortuyn's assassination in your May 27 article on that subject. However, I would like to note a few inaccuracies: Although it can be argued that the assassination was followed by "an outpouring of Dutch nationalism," this was not "orchestrated by the capitalist rulers." Actually the latter—if the reference is to the leaders of the national government and large business organizations—were, from all the evidence, profoundly shocked and dismayed by the assassination, which further shook a status quo already upset by the Srebrenica affair also alluded to in the article.

The emotional atmosphere in which Fortuyn's funeral ceremony took place actually arose spontaneously from, for the most part, the "working people and middle-class layers" which the article says were "sucked into" the spectacle: those whose incomes and social status might be regarded as to a greater or lesser extent allying them with the "capitalist rulers" tended to regard the entire episode as unedifying and an embarrassment to the country, while lower-income groups mostly just stayed away.

Finally, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba are not "direct colonies," though they have a colonial past. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* describes their present situation as follows: "Since 1954 the Netherlands Antilles have been an integral part of The Netherlands, with full autonomy in internal affairs. The island of Aruba was formerly a

part of the Netherlands Antilles, but in 1986 it seceded from the federation to become a separate...self-governing part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands."

Willem Daniels
The Netherlands

About Alejo Carpentier

The article in the June 10 issue on the new printing plant in Cuba was very inspiring. I just wanted to point out that the final paragraph that refers to Cuban author Alejo Carpentier could be confusing in that it leaves the impression that he is still alive. In fact he died in Paris in 1980, where he was the Cuban cultural attaché. He received the "Miguel de Cervantes" literary prize in 1977. Colombian author Gabriel García Márquez once stated that he considered Carpentier his greatest influence.

Aaron Ruby
Houston, Texas

Pakistan and Afghanistan

You criticize Pakistan's involvement in Afghanistan and give a wrong reason for that. The reason was simple. Pakistan did not want the Soviets at their border with all that it implied. The Russians have wanted and needed an exit to the sea via a southern route for their gas and oil pipelines in Central Asia. The northern route is frozen so they had their eye on a southern route for a long time. Pakistan had no desire to become a Soviet satellite.

The CIA aided and abetted Pakistan in helping the Taliban for their own reasons. Why should Pakistan take the brunt of the terrorist fallout now when so many Pakistanis have suffered already due to the Taliban regime set up in Afghanistan since the Soviet invasion?

Tamzin Jans
Paris, France

AFSCME resolutions

AFSCME locals in Seattle and Los Angeles have submitted resolutions to the national AFSCME convention schedule for this June. These resolutions oppose the Bush administration's war on "terrorism" and its attacks on civil liberties. The resolutions also demand that the Bush administration fund social services instead of the war on "terrorism."

The local in Seattle also passed a resolution that supports the Palestinian labor movement's call to end United States aid to Israel. It calls on the Israeli government to end the occupation of Palestine and recognize the Palestinian unions.

Steve Hoffman
Seattle, Washington

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.

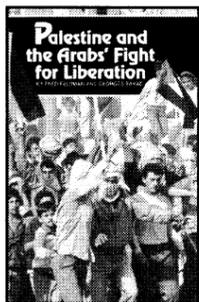
June BOOKS OF THE MONTH

★★★ Pathfinder Readers Club SPECIALS

25% DISCOUNT

Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation

FRED FELDMAN AND GEORGES SAYAD
An overview of the Palestinian struggle from World War I to the beginning of the *intifada* in 1987. \$6.00, special price: \$4.50

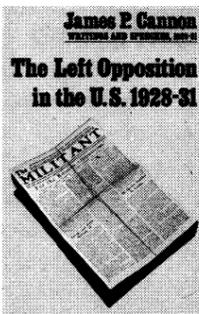


The Third International after Lenin

LEON TROTSKY
Trotsky's 1928 defense of the Marxist course that had guided the Communist International in its early years. Writing in the heat of political battle, the Bolshevik leader addresses the key challenge facing working people today: building communist parties throughout the world capable of and willing to lead the workers and farmers to take power. \$25.95, special price: \$19.50

The Left Opposition in the U.S. 1928-31

Writings and Speeches
JAMES P. CANNON
Supporters of the fight to continue Lenin's revolutionary course begin to rebuild the Marxist movement in the United States. \$24.95, special price: \$19.00



El rostro cambiante de la política en Estados Unidos (Changing Face of U.S. Politics)

JACK BARNES
A handbook for the new generation coming into the factories, mines, and mills as they react to the uncertain life, ceaseless turmoil, and brutality of capitalism today. It shows how millions of working people, as political resistance grows, will revolutionize themselves, their unions and other organizations, and all of society. \$21.95, special price: \$16.50

Available from bookstores, including those listed in page 12.

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

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

March backs struggle of Welsh strikers

BY PAUL DAVIES

CAERNARFON, North Wales—Some 1,500 workers and their families rallied in this small North Wales town June 8 to mark the first anniversary of the sacking (firing) of 87 workers by auto parts manufacturer Friction Dynamics.

Since that time the workers, who had gone on strike in defense of their union, have organized a fight that has won solidarity from unionists throughout Britain. For a year now they have maintained a 24-hour picket line and joined other workers involved in struggle as part of their fight against the company's union-busting drive.

"This dispute started because Craig Smith tried to smash the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) at Friction Dynamics," strike leader Gerald Parry told the rally. Smith is the owner of Friction Dynamics. "But the union is not ours to throw away. It is there to use and to protect for the generations to come. Trade unions are the only defense working people have to protect themselves, their families, and their communities," he said.

Parry's speech, which he gave in both English and Welsh, was greeted with tumultuous applause. A significant number of marchers sported T-shirts displaying the Welsh dragon, the country's national symbol.

Workers began the strike over a year ago to protest the company's drive to extend the workweek, cut pay, and weaken the union at the plant. After the strike the bosses locked out the workers, put them on an unpaid eight-week "holiday," and then sacked the 87. The company recruited strikebreakers to continue production, albeit on a signifi-



Workers at auto parts manufacturer Friction Dynamics led June 8 action to mark one-year anniversary of their strike. "The union is not ours to throw away. It is there to use and protect for the generations to come," said strike leader at the rally.

cantly reduced level.

The measures the company was intending to impose on the union members before the dispute have been implemented against the replacement workers. One consequence has been a sharp rise in accidents. On June 17 the company faces legal hearings in the case of a worker who suffered a serious injury in a workplace accident.

"Something is very wrong in this country if people like Craig Smith can win. We

reject what he stands for: greed and exploitation," Parry told the union members and their supporters at the rally held in the town center.

As the workers and their supporters marched through the town, shoppers, tourists, and shop workers came out to applaud the different banners carried by those who joined the action from around the United Kingdom. "I joined the march because the Friction Dynamics workers' fight needs sup-

port. They are fighting for us all" said John, a stonemason from nearby Anglesey, one of the thousands of local workers who have visited the picket line over the past year. Among those visiting the strikers have been farmers with donations of food, trade unionists who have raised money to contribute to the strike fund, and students attracted to the sustained and dignified struggle of the locked-out workers.

"The support we've received has continued throughout the dispute," Parry told the *Militant*. "It's marvelous."

TGWU members who work at the car plants Rover Solihull and Cowley Oxford in the Midlands were present with their union banners. Union members traveled from Scotland to join the action, including a couple of workers from the First bus company plants. The biggest contingent on the march from outside the local area was from Region 2 of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which covers the southwest of England. There were also banners from the public services union UNISON and from different districts of the TGWU.

The march and rally brought the town center to a standstill. "We've had crucial and unwavering support from the union and we are proud of it," explained Parry.

The rally was opened by singer and actor Bryn Fon who led the crowd in singing Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau (Land of my Fathers), the Welsh national anthem. Speakers included a number of union officials and politicians from the Labour Party. Hywel Williams, the president of the Welsh nationalist party Plaid Cymru, spoke, along with other officials of the organization.

"The 87 workers deserve your support because they stand up for dignity and they fight," Bill Morris, the general secretary of the TGWU, told the crowd. "It has been said that we will support them until the bitter end. We won't, because the end won't be bitter. It will end in justice."

Morris also condemned the governing Labour Party for failing to change legislation that allows employers to fire workers when they've been on strike for eight weeks. The Friction Dynamics workers have filed suit against their sackings. A hearing is currently scheduled in the Industrial Tribunal in October, nearly 18 months after they were fired.

John Davies, one of the locked-out workers, told the press that the march was "a tremendous morale boost...and shows Craig Smith that we are still here and not going away." He added the action helps let the government know "that the 1999 Employment Act needs to be changed to protect all lawful disputes in the future."

Davies's wife and two sons joined the march as did the families of other locked-out workers. He told the *Militant* that the march and rally demonstrated that the support from the local area "is as strong as ever."

Loggers in Canada back Native fight

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Loggers employed by Weyerhaeuser on the Queen Charlotte Islands—or Haida Gwaii as the Native Haida people call the area—walked off the job June 3, announcing that they were joining with the Haida in their fight for aboriginal control over the island's resources.

"This is a step to tell Weyerhaeuser that we are sick and tired of what they are doing on the islands, what they are doing to people and to communities," said logger Bernie Lepage, one of the organizers of the protest. "We are making this statement to the provincial government as much as to Weyerhaeuser. We are backing the Haida."

Dale Lore, also a logger, said that current harvesting levels are compromising the sustainability of forest-dependent communities who live on the islands.

As many as 400 Haida and loggers, members of the newly-formed Association of Forestry Workers, participated in a day of celebration at the Native village of Skidegate. Of 155 resident forestry workers, 135 have announced their support for aboriginal title to forest lands.

"There's no work at Weyerhaeuser today," said Council of Haida Nations president Guujaaw, who uses his single Haida name. He welcomed the loggers and their families as allies in a battle, which he said "is now a political issue" aimed more at the provincial government than at Weyerhaeuser.

"This is pretty major. These are actual workers for Weyerhaeuser," Guujaaw said of the important shift in the position of the loggers. Earlier this year, the British Columbia Court of Appeals had ruled that the Haida should have been consulted by the province and Weyerhaeuser Canada about logging activities on the land claimed by the Haida.

The Court of Appeals decision held that aboriginal title would be an encumbrance on the government interest in the Queen Charlottes' land, trees, and waters and called the likelihood of the Haida succeeding in establishing aboriginal title "inescapable." There are approximately 7,000 members of

the Haida Nation.

On the heels of that victory, the Haida filed a suit March 6 in the Supreme Court of British Columbia laying claim to all 1,884 islands that make up the Queen Charlottes, and the waters surrounding them. Like the vast majority of Natives in British Columbia, the Haida never signed a treaty with the government, meaning they never gave up their rights to the land. Between 2,000 and 3,000 Haida remain on the Queen Charlottes, mostly in or around the villages of Massett and Skidegate. An estimated 3,800 non-Natives live on the islands.

Aboriginal title would not convey outright ownership of the Queen Charlottes to the Haida, but it would grant them a role in almost every aspect of land use there. "It would mean we would hold a tenure within the laws of Canada. Anything that would happen would require our approval," Guujaaw said.

Louise Mandell, the band's lawyer, called the claim "groundbreaking," saying she believes it's the first time an aboriginal band has laid title to surrounding waters and offshore resources. The claim includes the Hecate Strait between British Columbia's northern mainland and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The area is believed to contain some 9.8 billion barrels of oil and about 25.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The federal government imposed a moratorium on offshore oil and gas activity in 1972. The British Columbia government brought in its own ban, which was extended indefinitely by the previous New Democratic Party government. But the British Columbia Liberal government is considering lifting the moratorium.

The Haida people are opposed to any offshore oil or gas development, fearing environmental disaster and devastation if it proceeds. Their community is concerned about the high risk of oil spills due to violent storms in the region. "What if a spill happens?" asked a 17-year-old Haida woman, Celeste Mitchell. "Everyone on this island lives off the fish and the ocean."

The action by the loggers in support of the Haida claim is another reflection of the growing support by working people for the rights of Native people. The First Nations, a coalition of Native groups, was in the lead contingent of the massive May 25 march in Vancouver against the provincial cutbacks and other attacks on working people.

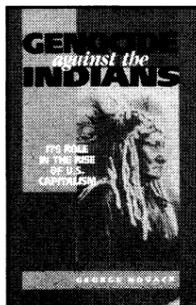
Only 760,000 people sent in their ballots to the provincial government in the anti-Native referendum on treaty negotiations. The First Nations Summit, one of the groups that organized a boycott of the anti-Native referendum, has issued a "thank you" letter to all the groups and individuals who supported the boycott.

Ballots were dropped off in bulk at the offices of Native, trade union, church, and other organizations. On June 14 at a meeting in North Vancouver, the First Nations Summit will announce the results of gathering together these protest votes.

Beverly Bernardo is a meat packer.

PATHFINDER

GENOCIDE AGAINST THE INDIANS



George Novack

Why did the leaders of the Europeans who settled in North America try to exterminate the peoples already living there? How was the campaign of genocide against the Indians linked to the expansion of capitalism in the United States? Noted Marxist George Novack answers these questions. \$4.50

COAL MINERS ON STRIKE

Articles on: the 111-day 1977-78 strike, the 1981 strike and the contract rejection vote, the United Mine Workers of America and the fight against nuclear power, the fight for health benefits and compensation to black lung victims, and more. \$5

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.