

## Cuba marks revolution's opening act at Moncada

Castro speaks to thousands at 50th anniversary celebration in Santiago

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL  
AND PAUL PEDERSON

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Cuba—"It seems almost unreal to be here in the same spot 50 years after the events we are celebrating," said Cuban president Fidel Castro. He was addressing an enthusiastic crowd of 10,000 workers, farmers, students, and others at a rally here July 26 to mark the 50th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada barracks.

On that date in 1953, a group of some 160 men and women led by Fidel Castro—then 26 years old—carried out simultaneous armed attacks on the Moncada army garrison in Santiago de Cuba and the Carlos Manuel de Céspedes barracks in Bayamo, both in eastern Cuba. They aimed to spark a popular revolt against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

The attacks failed, and more than 50 captured revolutionaries were murdered, many of them after brutal torture. Castro and 27 other fighters were subsequently rounded up and put on trial. But the assaults had an electrifying political impact in Cuba, and marked the beginning of a growing revolutionary struggle.

Three years later, the July 26 Movement and Rebel Army launched the revolutionary war against the dictatorship that culminated in the overthrow of the Batista regime on Jan. 1, 1959. That victory laid the basis for the establishment of a workers and farmers government, and opened the door to the first socialist revolution in the Americas.



AP/Wide World Photos

**Cuban president Fidel Castro addresses 10,000 people at July 26 celebration of 50th anniversary of assault on Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba—the opening act of the Cuban Revolution. Rally took place inside garrison, now converted into a school.**

Fifty years later, working people throughout the island celebrated their revolutionary power and success in resisting Washington's unceasing attacks on their revolution.

At one of the midnight festivities held the night before the July 26 anniversary in working-class districts across this city, residents of one neighborhood told a group of visiting

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### Contribute to 'Militant' Travel Fund

Two *Militant* reporters are now in Cuba. Upcoming issues will feature their first-hand coverage on Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange. Please contribute to help cover expenses of close to \$4,000 (see address on page 2).

## London public workers strike to demand cost-of-living adjustments

BY ROSE KNIGHT  
AND JIM SPAUL

LONDON—Workers from 21 out of 32 London borough councils have launched a round of strikes to demand an increase in the allowance known as London weight-

ing—a payment to make up for the higher cost of living in this capital city.

Organized by Unison, a public sector workers union, the strikes began with week-long stoppages at the end of June by Heathrow Airport health workers and others, and became more extensive in the first weeks of July. In Southwark, south London, garbage collectors struck for a week and picketed as part of the London-wide action. In Waltham Forest the council rat-catchers walked out. The union has demanded that the annual payment increase from its current level of between £1,500 and £2,850 to £4,000 (£1=US\$1.62). So far the bosses have offered only a £200 increase for the lowest-paid workers.

Strikers told *Militant* reporters that their wages had been eroded by recent increases in national and local taxes and utility bills, as well as raises in the costs of car taxes, car insurance, and public transport.

Workers are also responding to other attacks, said George Jordan, a shop steward for Manor Place garbage collectors in Southwark, in a picket line interview. Council bosses chopped the Manor Place workforce from around 200 a few years ago to just over 70 today, he said. They have continued to add to the workload of the garbage crews, who work four 12-hour shifts a week.

Accidents on the job have been on the rise, Jordan said. So too has disciplinary action. "They have even been following crews around with cameras to try and catch people out," he added.

The shop steward reported that postal workers from a nearby sorting office joined the picket line and told strikers they would be balloting for industrial action soon.

The strikes coincided with July 16 talks between employers and Unison representatives. The bosses threatened to withdraw their £200 offer if the union rejected it at

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## Unemployment among U.S. Black workers rises steeply

### African-Americans won't stop looking for jobs

BY SAM MANUEL

Black workers in industrial jobs are being hit disproportionately hard as unemployment rises in the United States, according to data released by the Economic Policy Institute. These jobs, often unionized, have also been historically higher-paying for Blacks. The percentage of unionized workers in the United States has dropped to 13 percent of the work force, from 35 percent in the 1950s. Nearly 2.6 million jobs have been lost in the last two-and-a-half years, 90 percent of them in manufacturing.

The statistics also show that one of the reasons for the rise in joblessness among

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## Tokyo to send first troops to combat zone since Second World War

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

The Japanese parliament voted July 26 to send up to 1,000 troops to join the U.S. and British military occupation of Iraq. The 136-102 vote gives the green light for Japanese forces to enter a war zone for the first time since World War II. The decision came as Washington stepped up pressure on a range of governments to contribute troops to the occupation.

The legislation stipulates that the operations by Japanese troops be limited to "noncombat" areas. In the parliamentary debate, however, Naoto Kan, leader of the opposition Democratic Party, asked, "Are there currently such places as noncombat

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## Farm worker is lynched in Georgia

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

MOULTRIE, Georgia—A Latino man was found lynched here July 13. His badly decomposed body was hanging from a pine tree by an electrical cord. The police have initially identified the man as an immigrant agricultural worker.

The police here first ruled the hanging a suicide. The wife of the local resident

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## U.S. gov't sends 2,200 troops off Liberia's coast

BY SAM MANUEL

U.S. president George Bush ordered the Pentagon July 25 to position U.S. Marines off the coast of Liberia. Three ships with an estimated 2,200 troops on board were ordered there from the Mediterranean and should arrive in the waters of the West African nation in early August.

Speaking to reporters at the White House Rose Garden during a meeting with Palestinian prime minister Mahmoud Abbas, Bush cast the military deployment in humanitarian terms. "We're deeply concerned

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Militant/Jim Spaul

**Jas Mann, one of 250 strikers at Newham local service, takes part in July 16 rally outside union-employer negotiations.**

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**BY ANNETTE KOURI  
AND BEVERLY BERNARDO**

AGISSEZ, British Columbia—On May 13 three officers from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) drew their guns on Sidney Douglas Sr., the Head Councillor of the indigenous Cheam Nation, as he was informing them that they had no right to be on the Cheam Nation reserve here since they had not given prior notification and did not have a search warrant. The three DFO cops then proceeded to pepper spray, hit, handcuff and throw Douglas on the ground.

Several band members then blockaded the Canadian National (CN) rail line running through the reserve holding up several trains for a few hours to demand that the DFO stop its attacks on the Cheam people. This is the principal CN link between Vancouver, the major port on the west coast, and the rest of Canada.

In the summer of 2000, the Cheam blockaded provincial roads that cross their

The DFO has put the three officers who attacked Douglas on administrative leave with pay. "This is the first time that any DFO officers have ever been put on leave like this," Douglas said. The DFO has no procedures in place to investigate the misconduct of its officers, he added.

The *Vancouver Sun* immediately attacked the agreement for giving the Cheam too much power and undermining the DFO's authority. Front page headlines declared, "Threats from Indian band triggered controversial deal." The article went on to suggest that DFO officials' lives might be at stake.

A commission established by Ottawa in



Decades of struggle by the Cheam and other First Nations (indigenous peoples of Canada) for the right to fish, in particular the fight of the Mi'kmaq people on the Atlantic Coast, forced a 1999 Supreme Court ruling recognizing the right of indigenous peoples to sell fish caught outside the legal fishing season. The DFO in response instituted the Aboriginal Fishing Strategy, which states that a certain percentage of the catch can be allocated to Natives. In British Columbia that amounts to 5 percent.

The Vancouver Sun applauded Saunderson's ruling and headlined its editorial demanding "No more separate season for native salmon fishery."

BY SAM MANUEL

In a rare setback to government prosecutors, three of the men arrested earlier were ordered released on July 3 to the custody of relatives until their trials. Few of those the government has indicted on such charges have been released with or without bail since 9/11. Those who have been released are re-

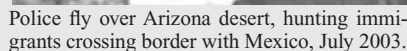
The three men, Caliph Basha Ibn Abdur-Raheem, Hammad Abdur-Raheem and Donald Surrat, have been charged along with eight others with conspiracy to commit acts of “terrorism.” All eight of those arrested earlier pleaded not guilty. The defendants are accused of working with Lashkar-i-Taiba, a group fighting for Kashmir’s independence from India, a region disputed by Pakistan and India. Washington has designated Lashkar-i-Taiba as a “terrorist” organization. They are also charged with violating the Neutrality Act, which bars U.S. citizens and residents from attacking countries with whom the United States is at peace.

This was the second time in a week the men had been ordered to be released by a federal judge. An earlier order for the discharge of these three and two other defendants by a lower court was appealed by the government. The release of a fourth defendant, Masoud Ahmad Khan, was reversed on appeal. The government argued he represents a “flight risk” because his family has property in Pakistan and he had traveled there shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The cops also claimed to have found a

Prosecutors say Khan downloaded photographs of FBI headquarters from the Internet and had an "arsenal" of weapons in his home.

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**Editor:** ARGIRIS MALAPANIS  
**Business Manager:** MICHAEL ITALIE  
**Washington Bureau Chief:** SAM MANUEL  
**Editorial Staff:** Róger Calero, Michael Italie,  
 Martin Koppel, Sam Manuel, and Paul Pederson.  
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# U.S. rulers prepare attack on Medicare

BY SETH GALINSKY

Media coverage of the Medicare “reform” bills currently being debated in Washington could easily give the impression that a big expansion of benefits, in the form of government-subsidized prescription drugs for the elderly, is about to be passed. For all the talk of expansion, however, both bills would undermine Medicare as a universal health-care entitlement for retired people.

The two versions of the law passed by the Senate and House have one principal feature in common, in spite of significant differences in detail: each would nudge people off Medicare and onto private health plans.

The July 23 *Washington Post* noted that the differences between the two versions are about degree, not direction. They “revolve around how far the government should go to tilt the 1960s-era system from a federal entitlement to a program built on market competition,” wrote Amy Goldstein.

Republican congressman Paul Ryan from Wisconsin, who is a supporter of the “reforms,” called the House bill, which goes further along these lines, “a huge rewrite of an entitlement program.” The congressman stated that the measure would “break up the government monopoly” on health care. Speaking on June 27, the day the House voted to pass its bill by 216-215, he added that it was a step that must be taken before “baby boomers” start retiring and strain Medicare to the breaking point.

The Senate bill passed by a wider margin. A committee of the two houses will now debate the two versions of the legislation and come up with a joint bill.

Working people won the Medicare and Medicaid programs—providing health benefits, respectively, to elderly people and very low-paid workers—as part of the expansion of Social Security achieved through the Black rights battles of the 1950s and early 1960s. Medicare provides government-subsidized health care to those 65 years and older. Most recipients have to reach into their own pockets to buy costly prescription drugs.

Last winter President George Bush floated a proposal to provide coverage of drugs costs only to those who got off Medicare and joined private health plans. The bills before the House and Senate, which have received bipartisan support, would allow Medicare recipients to buy the prescription plan separately from a private insurer.

The Bush administration has endorsed the course laid out in both versions. In a question and answer section on the White House web page, government officials rejected charges that drugs payments might become “a giant leap toward a European model of government-run care.”

## Socialist answers Fox News

The following is a letter by Martin Koppel, chairperson of the Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee, sent July 18 to Fox News. It responds to a dispatch reporting on the effort by Linda Averill, Freedom Socialist Party candidate for Seattle City Council, to win an exemption from disclosing the names of donors to her campaign.

The Fox News article stated, “Donor disclosure laws are intended to prevent big-money interests from unduly influencing an election. Political candidates that raise more than \$5,000 in a campaign must file a report with the Federal Elections Commission detailing their income and expenditures. The disclosure is a matter of public record.

“But in 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a 1979 FEC ruling that exempted the Socialist Workers Party from the disclosure laws, saying that the party’s ideas were so unpopular that its supporters could reasonably expect a backlash.

“The ruling was found to be constitutional because it protects unpopular party supporters’ rights of free speech and free association.

“On a 4-2 vote, the Federal Elections Commission renewed in April the Socialist Workers Party exemption from the donor disclosure law.”

The article ends with a quote by Steven

“Actually,” replied the administration’s spokespeople, “the leading Medicare bills in the House and Senate would move America away from the European model.... More than ever before, we would begin applying the best practices of the private health-care market to Medicare.”

The bills hold in common a number of concrete provisions:

- Three options for participants: to stay in traditional fee-for-service Medicare with no drug coverage; stay in Medicare while purchasing coverage through a private drugs-only plan; or switch from Medicare to private managed care under the name Medicare Advantage offering medical services and drug coverage. The drug benefits would not start until 2006.

- Higher deductibles and steeper co-payments than most employer-sponsored plans. Both plans would impose a \$35 monthly premium. The Senate bill starts with a \$275 deductible, the House \$250.

- Variability from state to state and plan to plan of costs, deductibles and co-payment levels—an aspect that would undermine uniformity and universality of Medicare coverage.

- Gaps in the coverage dubbed “doughnuts.” The Senate plan includes no benefits for drug costs that are above \$4,500 and below \$5,813 during the coverage year. The House plan provides no coverage between \$2,001 and \$4,900. Those who fall into the hole and don’t qualify for coverage would still have to pay premiums.

- Introduction of means testing. Under the House version, a patient’s income would determine the threshold at which catastrophic protection kicks in. Under the Senate plan those fully eligible for Medicaid—which provides medical services and some prescription drug benefits for those the government deems “categorically needy”—would not be eligible for the program.

In addition, the House plan continues a clause for “premium support”; under this, the government would contribute a fixed, per-patient amount for drugs, instead of guaranteeing a specific level of benefits.

# Black workers face growing layoffs

**Continued from front page**  
African-Americans—now at 11.8 percent, compared to the overall nationwide rate of 6.4 percent—is that many Blacks have refused to be driven out of the workforce and continue to look for jobs. If they had stopped trying, the government would have stopped including them in their calculations. At the end of the 1990s the percentage of Blacks who held jobs or were looking for work rose

Moore, to which Koppel responds.



To the editor of Fox News:

A July 16 Fox News dispatch, headlined “Socialists Seek Exemption from Campaign Finance Laws,” misrepresents the Socialist Workers Party’s long-standing opposition to government financial disclosure laws. Steven Moore, identified as president of the Club for Growth, is quoted as saying the Socialist Workers Party “has supported all these campaign financial laws.” But the SWP opposes “disclosure for themselves,” Moore adds, accusing us of “hypocrisy.”

Even a cursory fact check would show Moore’s statement to be false. The Socialist Workers Party has never supported campaign financial disclosure, which endangers the elementary right of association contained in the Bill of Rights. The SWP opposes all undemocratic laws aimed at blocking working-class candidates and independent parties from contesting the two capitalist parties in the elections—such as onerous petitioning requirements to get on the ballot and denial of equal media access.

*Martin Koppel  
Chairperson  
Socialist Workers  
National Campaign Committee*

## Dozens protest cop brutality in New Jersey



Protesters at Weehawken, New Jersey, municipal building July 25 demand justice for José Luis Ives, Jr., a 17-year-old killed the day before by off-duty cop Alejandro Jaramillo. The cop claims he was trying to stop youth who were setting off car alarms. Witnesses say Jaramillo beat Ives to death.

The bills are supported by leading members of both the Democratic and Republican parties. But they have prompted debate across the bourgeois political spectrum.

One of the most prominent backers of the Senate bill is Democratic senator Edward Kennedy. When asked by CNN if the plan would leave some senior citizens with less drug coverage than they need, Kennedy responded that it’s just a “down payment. We’re going to come back again and again and again to fight to make sure that we have a good program.”

Representative Charles Rangel of New York, another prominent liberal, disagreed. The bills would “mean the end of Medicare as we know it,” he said July 24.

Some conservatives, on the other hand, have expressed concern that the legislation is not sweeping enough, and might even lead to demands for greater government health-care coverage.

Bruce Bartlett, a columnist in the right-wing *National Review*, pointed to Kennedy’s comments as a warning sign. “For conservatives, Senator Edward Kennedy is like a canary [in a coal mine],” he said. “When he starts supporting their initiatives, they should

get out.” Any benefit, no matter how limited, complained Bartlett, is a “burden on future generations for giving today’s seniors—who will have paid nothing for it during their working lives—an extra medical benefit on top of those they already receive.”

In an “Analysis of the White House Position on Medicare Legislation,” the rightist Heritage Foundation argued that the reform would put pressure on the government to institute price controls and subsidies to keep the cost of drugs down. The result, claimed the authors, would be nothing less than a step toward a “European-style government-run health care system.” Feigning concern for working people, they cited a Congressional Budget office report that 37 percent of all retirees with employer-based drug coverage could lose it under the Medicare bill adopted by the Senate Finance Committee.

William Novelli, the head of the American Association of Retired Persons, which has so far backed the measures, expressed reservations about the legislation from another standpoint: those who need Medicare assistance to function and survive. “The more people hear about it, the less happy they are,” he said.

by two percentage points to 68 percent, the highest level on record. That high percentage has held in the current downturn.

Low-wage workers, including hundreds of thousands—mostly women—who were thrown off welfare and went to work in the 1990s as a result of “welfare reform” under the Clinton administration, have largely kept their jobs. Relatively better-paid factory workers have borne the brunt of the layoffs.

In this way, the bosses are also driving down the overall pay Blacks earn, as hundreds of thousands have been forced to take jobs at minimum wage.

Unemployment among Blacks is rising more rapidly than for other workers, and more sharply than in any downturn since the recession of the mid-1970s. In 2000 Blacks constituted 10.1 percent of the 20 million factory workers in the United States. During the recession that started in March 2001 an estimated 300,000, or 15 percent, of factory workers who are Black lost their jobs. This compares with 10 percent of factory workers who are white.

In a poll of 850 Blacks taken by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in 2000, some 45 percent of respondents said they were better off than the year before. Ten percent said they were worse off and 44 percent said their condition remained the same. A similar poll taken two years later showed a dramatic shift: only 19 percent said they were better off, 37 percent said they were worse off, and 43 percent felt their situation had not changed.

In Indianapolis, for example, some 350 workers—75 percent of them Black, mostly young—will be laid off when the Swedish seat belt manufacturer Autoliv closes. Many of these workers, hired right out of high school in the 1990s when the unemployment rate in the city was only two percent, are earning \$12 to \$13 per hour.

But it is not only the newly hired who are taking a hit. Tens of thousands of mostly

unionized textile workers in the southeast have been laid off with virtually no chance of returning to work. Some 3,500 workers lost their jobs as the textile bosses closed mills in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina; Columbus, Georgia; and Martinsville, Virginia, according to the president of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textiles Employees (UNITE). These workers, in their majority Black men and women with many years in the mills, earn as much as \$11 per hour along with benefits.

“This is not like the cyclical downturns in the old days,” noted Jared Bernstein of the Economic Policy Institute. “These jobs are gone.”

The unemployment rate among Blacks ages 20 and older has been driven up the sharpest. At the end of 1999, joblessness for these workers fell to less than five percent. It has since doubled to 10.5 percent today. For Blacks the figures in this age group rose 3.5 percent since the onset of the recession, as compared to 1.7 percent for whites.

The spike in Black unemployment comes in the context of an overall contraction in manufacturing. In the last 28 months the bosses have cut 2.6 million industrial jobs—56,000 of these in June, the 35th consecutive monthly decline, representing the longest string of layoffs in industry since World War II. “Most of these basic and low-skill factory jobs aren’t liable to come back when the economy recovers or when excess capacity around the world dissolves,” said Clare Ansberry in a July 21 *Wall Street Journal* article headlined, “Laid-Off Factory Workers Find Jobs Are Drying Up for Good.”

Driven by sharpening competition, large and profitable corporations are also taking tougher stances in demanding concessions from workers. “It’s the worst pricing pressures we’ve ever experienced,” stated Patrick Cleary, a senior executive at the National Association of Manufacturers.. “Our guys can’t push these costs along. That’s why they’re seeking to reduce labor costs.”



# N.Y. protest blasts anti-immigrant arson

BY STU SINGER

FARMINGVILLE, New York—Sizeable contingents of unionists joined a demonstration here July 19 to protest the firebombing of the home of a Mexican immigrant family.

Among the protesters were staffers wearing T-shirts of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 32BJ and members of the Laborers Union, as well as many immigrant workers from the area.

Sergio Pérez and María García and their one- and five-year-old children had been asleep when neighbors saw the flames of the fire at 1:00 am July 5, pounded on the door of the house, and got the family out in time. Their house and belongings were destroyed.

The organizers called the demonstration of about 120 people a “prayer for peace, tolerance and community harmony.” Most in the largely working-class protest demanded that the perpetrators of the crime be brought to justice, as they had done in response to a similar attack three years earlier.

The burned house is next door to the dwelling where two immigrant workers lived who were nearly beaten to death in September 2000. Day laborers Ismael Pérez Aruizú and Magdaleno Estruda Escamilla had been lured with an offer of work, taken to a deserted building, and beaten with a shovel, knife, and a crowbar. After numerous protests in the Farmingville area and in New York City, two neo-Nazis, Chris Slavin and Ryan Wagner, were charged, convicted, and jailed for that attack.

### Rightists target immigrants

An ultrarightist group called Sachem Quality of Life, which campaigns against immigrant workers and is tied to the California-based anti-immigrant American Patrol organization, has maintained a presence in Farmingville for a number of years.

It enjoys open support from some local politicians, cops, and the fire department, where it holds meetings. Its activity and backing declined somewhat after the protests in 2000 that finally won the convictions of the two attackers. But the rightists regularly hold street actions with signs targeting immigrants.

Workers *Militant* reporters interviewed at the July 19 protest said they are subject to yells and taunts every day from these racists.

Farmingville is in central Long Island, 55 miles east of New York City. Sachem is the name of the school district in that area of Long Island.

The firebombing marks a new escalation of the attacks.

People coming to the July 19 demonstration were confronted by the sight of three rightists with signs and a large banner reading “Pray for Mass Deportations” at the busy intersection near the site of the

bombing. A few cars driving by honked in support of the racists.

The July 19 vigil was the first organized street action against the firebombing. The immigrant workers who were attacked, however, had already received numerous messages of solidarity protesting the assault, especially after the police said they were investigating the attack as a “personal feud or a landlord-tenant dispute.”

New York *Newsday* reported July 16 that the Suffolk County police announced they had finally decided to investigate the bombing as a racist attack. The FBI and Justice Department are also reported to be involved in the investigation.

As people were leaving the scene of the July 19 action in front of the remains of the burned house, a carload of immigrant workers drove by and its occupants yelled, “*¡Sí, se puede!*” (Yes we can).



Photos by Carlos Samaniego

July 19 vigil in Farmingville, Long Island, (above) to protest July 5 firebombing of Mexican family’s home. A handful of rightists showed up (inset) calling ‘for mass deportation.’



## UK workers strike for cost-of-living adjustment

### Continued from front page

the meeting. Workers—three-quarters of them women—held a lively rally outside the venue, raising signs reading, “4K for decent pay,” and “Tired of the weighting game, 4K now.” Strikers then marched through the streets with union banners to a lunchtime rally at Potters Field near the London Assembly Building.

Julie Colman, Unison regional head of local government workers, told the crowd that the bosses had refused to go any higher, but said they would keep it open until September. “We have unanimously rejected their offer,” she said.

### An ‘insulting’ offer

Jas Mann, a customer service worker from Newham said the bosses’ offer of £200 is “insulting. We are not treated with respect and dignity by our managers.” She explained that local managers tried to intimidate workers who planned to go on strike. “They offered us £400 extra for the month of the strike on condition we trained up temporary staff to do our jobs.

“People who’d been on temporary contracts and been offered full-time contracts were told they would lose their jobs if they went on strike, and temps were offered pay increases if they were willing to cover our jobs during the strike,” Mann said. “This is a strike about equal pay and the cost of living. We want an increase across the board.” Mann reported that workers from Newham filled two coaches to travel to the action.

Alex Yap, secretary of the Unison branch at Kingston and a union negotiator, said there would be further strike action in the fall if the employers continued to refuse to negotiate. “The same employers have increased the firefighters’ allowance to

£4,300 a year, which they deserve, and head teachers got £6000,” he said.

“We’re ready to strike for as long as it takes to win our demands,” said Steve Nti-Dwamena, who works in the benefits section.

### Nursery nurses celebrate victory

Meanwhile, nursery nurses in Tower Hamlets, who are also Unison members, celebrated victory after a three-week strike called when the employers attempted to change full-time contracts to part-time. The 120 workers rebuffed this attack and won back their yearly contract as well as the right to be paid for a 35-hour week instead of the 32.5 hours demanded by the bosses.

“The dispute was never just about money,” said Unison branch secretary

## Troops to Liberia

### Continued from front page

that the condition of the Liberian people is getting worse and worse,” he said. “Aid can’t get to the people. We’re worried about the outbreak of disease.” These claims notwithstanding, the administration has in its sights newly discovered oil fields in the Gulf of Guinea off the West African coast, as well as other petroleum resources in the rest of the continent.

TV and press journals have been filled with graphic descriptions of the civilian carnage, including bodies stacked outside the U.S. embassy in Monrovia, the country’s capital, by Liberians pleading with Washington to intercede to halt the bloodshed. The U.S. rulers are taking advantage of the steady swell of prominent political figures and humanitarian organizations who have issued calls for the administration to send in troops “to stop the killing.”

“We do have an interest in making sure that West Africa doesn’t simply come apart,” said U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. “We do have some obligation as the most important, powerful nation on the face of the earth not to look away when a problem like this comes before us.”

Democratic Party politicians and other liberals have been most vociferous in calling for military intervention, including using race-baiting to push for troops to Liberia. “I’m glad they’ve decided to move closer to Liberia,” said Congressional Black Caucus leader and New Jersey Representative Donald Payne. But I’m disappointed it’s taken so long.” In earlier congressional hearings on Liberia, Payne had chided the administration’s apparent reluctance to send troops as “racist.”

“We expect him to do what is necessary...to stop the carnage,” California Democrat Maxine Waters said of Bush. “It is stalling at this point.”

Democratic presidential candidate Alfred Sharpton remarked, “It seems this administration’s foreign policy is indifferent, absolutely indifferent when it comes to people of color.”

The decision to deploy troops to the Liberian coast was announced the same

Continued on Page 10

Chris Connolly. “It was about the principle of treating nursery nurses as full-time professional staff.”

Connolly said the workers won almost all their demands. “The fact that we had an extremely well-organized, determined group of women on strike, backed strongly by parents and the public, meant the council had to take notice of us,” he said.

“We hope this deal will encourage others around the country who are currently negotiating on nursery nurse grades to step up their campaigns,” Connolly added. Some 4,500 nursery nurses in Scotland went on strike in May and June for a raise of £4000 per year, a 35-hour week, and a pay review. They are currently paid £10,000 as new hires, and half of them are on temporary or fixed-term contracts.

Aurora Shannon, Gerard Archer, and Tim Healy contributed to this article.

## Moultrie lynching

### Continued from front page

who discovered the body when he went to feed his cattle and goats, however, told the *Moultrie Observer* she was not convinced the man killed himself. A subsequent autopsy revealed the man had been shot through the throat and cheek with a small-caliber gun, and then hung from the tree, making it clear this is a case of brutal murder.

Moultrie is a large agricultural center, where cotton, peanuts, tobacco, fruit, and vegetables are grown. Thousands of immigrant workers labor on the land here. Some 25 percent of the town are recently arrived Latino immigrants.

Police here have tentatively identified the man as Adrian Pérez, a farm worker. A positive identification cannot be made because the victim’s face is unrecognizable due to decay. According to a police report, a man fitting Pérez’s description called the cops July 4 stating that someone was threatening to kill him. The police say they responded by picking up the man and transporting him to a homeless shelter.

The July 18 *Moultrie Observer* reported that Pérez was recently fired from his job at Guzman Harvesting by a crew leader due to a work dispute. Other co-workers fired along with Pérez have left the state. In a crude attempt to justify his violent death, the police told the local paper that Pérez was “said to be a troublemaker and an excessive drinker.”

This is the second lynching of an immigrant worker in the recent period in this area. Two years ago, a Black woman reported that her boyfriend, a Mexican immigrant, was found floating in a lake in Moultrie after he was said to have escaped from police custody. His hands were still handcuffed behind his back. The young woman and some of his family appealed to the People’s Tribunal, a civil rights organization in nearby Valdosta, for help in recovering the man’s body so that it could be sent to Mexico for burial.

## California governor recall election set

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

SAN FRANCISCO—California state officials set October 7 as the date for a vote on the recall of Democratic governor Gray Davis.

The recall ballot will have two parts, with voters first deciding whether or not to remove Davis from office and then choosing from a list of candidates to replace him. Those voting to keep Davis would still be able to cast a vote for a potential successor. Individuals wishing to enter the race have until August 9 to declare their candidacy. To qualify for the ballot, they will need 65 signatures of registered voters and a \$3,500 fee, or 10,000 signatures with no fee.

It will be the first gubernatorial recall election in the United States in 82 years. The last such vote was in 1921, when North Dakota governor Lynn Frazier became the only head of a U.S. state in the country’s history to be removed from office.

The only declared candidate so far from the two major capitalist parties is U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa, a Republican from Vista, California, who largely bankrolled the recall effort. Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and businessman William Simon, both Repub-

licans, are also considering running.

Republican Richard Riordan, the former mayor of Los Angeles is considering getting in the race as well.

The state’s Democratic officeholders have closed ranks behind Davis and say they will not run. The Democratic Party establishment is now trying to cast the contest as one between a “progressive governor” and a conservative Republican opponent.

Peter Camejo, the Green Party’s candidate for California governor last November, announced his intention to run. Republican party politicians started the campaign to recall Davis, which gained momentum from Issa, who pumped \$1.7 million of his car alarm fortune into the drive starting in May.

Davis presided over California’s “energy crisis” of 2000-2001, and is using the current state budget deficit of more than \$38 billion as an excuse to triple the state’s automobile tax. This is one of a number of austerity measures that fall heaviest on working people and that has contributed to a drop in Davis’s popularity in public opinion polls.



# Judge dismisses ‘terror’ charges on lawyer for representing client

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK—On July 23, a federal judge here dismissed the two most serious charges against a lawyer and a translator who were accused of aiding a terrorist organization by “conspiring” to help a client.

Lynne Stewart, lawyer for Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, and Mohammed Yousry, an Arabic translator, along with Ahmed Abdel Sattar and Yassir Al-Sirri, faced charges that Attorney General John Ashcroft personally announced in April 2002. Ashcroft claimed the two had violated the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, passed during the Clinton administration.

The two charges against Stewart and Yousry the court dismissed—“conspiracy to provide material support” and “providing material support” to Abdel-Rahman’s organization, the Islamic Group—carried a possible 15-year sentence. U.S. District Judge John Koeltl said the charges were unconstitutionally vague.

The indictment indicated that Stewart’s communications with Abdel-Rahman had been the subject of government wiretaps for more than two years. Since October 2001, the Justice Department has been allowed

to conduct surveillance of people in federal custody with their attorneys without judicial oversight, after an amendment in federal prison regulations that Ashcroft pushed through. The eavesdropping on Stewart and her client, however, started 18 months prior to this new regulation.

Stewart and her supporters had organized a public defense campaign, including speaking across the country and packing courtroom hearings.

Abdel-Rahman was convicted of frame-up charges of conspiracy to bomb the World Trade Center in 1993 and attack other city landmarks. In January 1996 he was sentenced to life in prison plus 65 years.

In a further attempt to dehumanize and break the blind cleric, the Bureau of Prisons imposed what they call Special Administrative Measures (SAMs) on him—including restrictions on his access to mail, telephone and visitors—and prohibited him from speaking with the media. He is now being held at the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, Minnesota.

To back up the charges against his lawyer, federal prosecutors claimed that Stewart provided the Islamic Group with commu-

nications equipment. According to Koeltl, “The Government subsequently changed course and stated that the mere use of one’s telephone constitutes criminal behavior.”

**Two charges remain**

The judge let stand two charges against Stewart: conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government and making false statements. Prosecutors claim she broke an agreement she signed with prison officials by allegedly distracting prison guards so that Abdel-Rahman could dictate to Yousry instructions to communicate to the Islamic Group, including breaking a cease-fire agreement with the Egyptian government.

Ahmed Abdel Sattar and Yassir Al-Sirri still face an additional charge of “soliciting” persons to engage in violence as part of the original indictment.

Koeltl agreed to an evidentiary hearing August 26 to determine if—as Stewart affirms—an oral agreement between Stewart’s former counsel and the government to forgo any SAM-related prosecution of her in exchange for some restrictions on her visits with Abdel-Rahman had been violated.

“It’s so broad you can sweep anybody un-



Lynne Stewart (above) won ruling against charges of ‘conspiring to provide material support’ to ‘terrorist’ organization.

## Calero takes ‘fight to win’ tour to N.Y., Newark

BY ANGEL LARISCY

NEWARK, New Jersey—“The Róger Calero Defense Committee was dogged and fierce in making sure this issue got before people. It set an example for us all,” said Ron Washington of the Black Telephone Workers for Justice to a meeting here July 7, held at the office of District 1199J of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees.

Calero, an editor of *Perspectiva Mundial* and staff writer for the *Militant* newspaper, is on an international speaking tour to tell his story and share the lessons of his struggle with working people worldwide.

Washington, who is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, urged participants to support the struggle of union members in their upcoming contract fight with Verizon. The current contract expires August 3. He noted that rallies are already planned for a number of areas to demand a fair contract.

Joe Franklin, president of 1199J, welcomed participants. “We are pleased that you have won,” said Franklin. “But the battle goes on; there are many Rógers out there so let’s all continue to be supportive of these fights.”

Patrick Ferry, brother of Ciarán Ferry, a former Irish political prisoner currently being held by immigration police and awaiting deportation in Denver, Colorado, said there were thousands of people in jails in the United States awaiting deportation. Ferry, a textile worker in Paterson, New Jersey, and a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, said his brother is confined to his cell 23 hours per day and permitted only two visits a week.

“Ciarán is in jail for his past life as an Irish Republican Army prisoner,” Ferry said. He urged the 35 people present to sign petitions and send letters on his brother’s behalf demanding his release. “We can’t let the government just step on people’s rights,” he said.

Calero said that for the last decade the immigration police have been stepping up their attacks on immigrants. Now, in the name of “fighting terrorism,” he stated, they have rounded up thousands in efforts supported by both the Democratic and Republican parties. “Attacks by the government on immigrants are serving as the spear point of antilabor efforts,” said Calero. “They seek to divide us and restrict our ability to fight back.”

Calero added that there is nothing you can tell the government or immigration officials to convince them to carry out anything other than their current course. “We must fight them on our turf because it is the only way to win—that was the axis of my defense effort.” His fight drew from the accumulated experience of his party, the Socialist Workers Party, and the broader struggles of the working class over decades, Calero said.

Ved Dookhun, chairperson of the Newark SWP, thanked those present on behalf of Calero’s party for their decision to stand up and be counted in the fight. “Róger’s case

shows that it is possible to fight and win,” said Dookhun.

Moisés Mory, a member of the Steelworkers union in West New York, New Jersey, heard about the meeting through the Spanish-language daily *Hoy*. Originally from Peru, Mory said he had been imprisoned in the immigration jail in Paterson, New Jersey, for a year facing deportation.

Stephen Giordano, president of the Bergen County Council of Churches, and Sharin Chiorazzo of the Committee to Free Farouk Abdel-Muhti also addressed the meeting. The chairperson announced that Parastou Hassouri, of the Immigrant Rights Project of the New Jersey chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, was present.

Calero was interviewed on WBGO radio while in Newark.

❖

**The article excerpted below appeared in the July 3, 2003, *Hoy*—a Spanish-language daily in New York City—under the headline “Hispanic triumphs over Immigration.” More than 50 people attended the New York meeting it publicized. Translation is by the *Militant*.**

**BY RODOLFO CASTILLO**

LONG ISLAND, New York—“We won!” exclaimed Pamela Vossenas on Monday, after Judge William Stasser signed an order May 22 that Nicaraguan journalist Róger Calero can remain in the United States.

## Subscription renewal campaign begins

BY SAM MANUEL

On July 26 supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* began an international effort to expand the long-term readership of the socialist press, especially among unionists and other workers. The subscription renewal campaign will last three weeks, ending August 17. It will include calls and visits to hundreds of current readers whose subscriptions are about to expire or have already run out, to encourage them to renew.

The overall target is to get 200 subscription renewals to the *Militant* and 75 to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

This campaign will build on the success of the last circulation drive, in which distributors reached the international goals for subscriptions to both socialist publications. Partisans of the *Militant* are also finding interest in continuing to receive the paper among participants in the “Fight to Win/Sí Se Puede” speaking tour of staff member Róger Calero, currently in progress.

Among the readers of the socialist press are hundreds of militant workers, as well as students and youth, who have become familiar with the newsweekly and monthly magazine and respect them as tribunes of their struggles and as sources of information about broader political questions. Many of these workers

Vossenas and a group of activists that includes union leaders, workers, and intellectuals will meet today Thursday at 6:00 pm at the offices of Local 1199 SEIU (310 W. 43rd St. in Manhattan), in order to make known the facts of the victory of Calero, who will be in New York July 3-5 as part of an international tour to explain the history of his successful fight against U.S. government forces that tried to deport him.

Calero was detained December 3, 2002 by immigration agents at Houston Intercontinental Airport upon his return from a reporting trip in Cuba and Mexico. He was jailed for 11 days until a public campaign won his freedom. The government said it was going to exclude him from the United States because in 1988 as a high school student he had accepted a plea bargain for possession of marijuana.

When he explained his case, he received broad support from unionists, defenders of immigrant rights, and journalists. The Department of Homeland Security, which now directs immigration police and prosecutors, decided April 29 to put an end to its efforts at deporting Calero. On May 22 Judge Stasser signed the final order. “If we learn from others how to fight more effectively, we can increase the number of struggles today that win,” Calero explained as he announced his tour. “I hope the lessons of my campaign will be a contribution to the strengthening of our capacity to fight,” he said.

from Wisconsin to Georgia, North Carolina, and Mississippi have been involved in picket lines, union-organizing campaigns, or support to other social struggles.

Edwin Fruit in Des Moines, Iowa, said he recently received a phone call from a worker in Cherokee who works for IBP/Tyson. The worker called to express appreciation for the article Fruit wrote on the Tyson strike in Jefferson, Wisconsin. The article was shown to him by a coworker who subscribes.

Arlene Rubinstein in Atlanta reported that a worker in Moultrie, Georgia, subscribed during a trip to report on a United Food and Commercial Workers organizing drive, which the workers narrowly lost.

A union organizer took the *Militant* reporters around to visit workers active in the drive and invited them to introduce the paper to these unionists.

A short campaign of this type will require careful planning to maximize the opportunities and follow up on leads. Weekly correspondence—both stories on the fruits of the week’s work in getting sub renewals and photos related to propaganda work—is needed from all distributors in order to put together an overall progress report. Please send subscription renewals and related reports to the *Militant* every week by Sunday night.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Renewal Drive July26—August 17		
	Militant Goal	PM Goal
<b>COUNTRY</b>		
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CANADA</b>		
Vancouver	7	1
Toronto	6	1
Montreal	4	3
CANADA total	17	5
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>		
Christchurch	4	0
Auckland	4	0
N.Z. total	8	0
<b>SWEDEN</b>		
Stockholm	4	1
Gothenburg	4	0
SWEDEN Total	8	1
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>		
London	10	2
Cent. Scotland	3	0
UK total	13	2
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		
Atlanta	8	2
Birmingham	5	2
Boston	4	3
Chicago	15	8
Cleveland	3	1
Des Moines	4	2
Detroit	8	2
Houston	6	1
Los Angeles	12	5
Miami	7	3
Newark	6	2
New York	12	6
N.E. Pennsylvania	7	0
Omaha	3	5
Philadelphia	5	2
Pittsburgh	8	0
San Francisco	8	4
Seattle	8	1
Tampa	5	1
Twin Cities	8	6
Utah	4	5
Washington, DC	8	4
Western Colorado	8	6
U.S. total	162	71
<b>Int'l totals</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Goal</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>IN THE UNIONS</b>		
	<b>Militant</b>	<b>PM</b>
	Goal	Goal
<b>UNITED STATES</b>		
UFCW	13	15
UMWA	11	4
UNITE	13	2
Total	36	17



# Korea: U.S. imperialism's first major defeat

## U.S.-led war 50 years ago sought to drive back gains of workers, peasants

July 27 this year marked the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War—the first major military defeat of U.S. imperialism. Washington sought to use the 1950-53 war to drive back the gains of the country's workers and peasants, who had overthrown landlord-capitalist rule in the north and were threatening the capitalist order across the peninsula. The U.S. rulers also aimed to attain a stronger position for aggression against both the Soviet Union and China, where a workers and farmers government had come to power in a struggle against the Chiang Kai-shek military dictatorship. Operating with the agreement of Stalin's government in Moscow, Washington had occupied the southern half of the Korean peninsula following the World War II defeat of Japanese imperialism—the colonial power in Korea for the first half of the century. U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who headed the occupation of Japan and Korea, proceeded to install the Syngman Rhee military dictatorship, backed by U.S. bayonets.

With the beginning of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, military forces from the north rapidly liberated more than 90 percent of Korean territory. Acting under the banner of the United Nations, Washington then sent in a massive military force. Troops from its imperialist allies of Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and South Africa were also involved, along with Turkish and Thai forces.

The imperialist armies succeeded in pushing the northern troops back to the Yalu River on the Chinese border. At that point, Beijing sent hundreds of thousands of troops into the war on the side of the north. U.S. forces were driven back, almost to where the demarcation line had been at the start of the conflict. The armistice established the Demilitarized Zone at the 38th Parallel, dividing the Korean peninsula nearly in half. No peace treaty has ever been signed.

In the course of the war, the U.S. air force dropped more than 428,000 bombs on the northern capital of Pyongyang, a city whose population stood at 400,000 before World War II. Millions of Koreans were killed, along with 54,000 U.S. soldiers—the same number as in the Vietnam War, but in a much shorter time period—along with many others who fought under the blue UN helmets.

The war met with little enthusiasm among workers and farmers in the United States. The *Militant* campaigned against the U.S.-led imperialist intervention throughout the war. In its Aug. 17, 1953, issue, the paper published the article “Korea War—Its Costly Lesson” by staff writer Art Preis. The article is excerpted below. Subheading is by the *Militant*.



### BY ART PREIS

Giant armies have been pitted for three years in ferocious combat against each other; unsurpassed concentrations of firepower have been used; casualties have run into the millions and property destruction has been almost total.

The duration, scope and intensity of the Korean war are in themselves facts of tremendous significance. Added to them, moreover, are two absolutely unique developments which demonstrate that the Korean war has marked a vast change in the relationship of forces in the world today—a change that will have great, if not decisive, bearing on the future of mankind.

First and foremost is the gigantic fact that two backward Asian countries but newly emerged from foreign exploitation and colonialism, China and North Korea, have more than held their own against an

imperialist army that has had tremendous advantages from the military technical standpoint.

Second is the fact that the United States, foremost capitalist power and chief military spearhead of world imperialism, for the first time in its history has come out of a war without victory. On the contrary, it has just barely held its own and, in fact, on at least two occasions was on the brink of military defeat....

In an editorial July 24, 1950, [the *Militant* warned] against “the arrogant assumption that a war against any colonial people fighting for their national independence is just a pushover, a ‘little’ war....

### Revolutionary tide of colonial peoples

We explained further that “the colonial peoples are in revolt and their number is legion. American armies in Korea, or anywhere else in Asia, are confronting a revolutionary tide, millions upon millions of people who are fighting for a cause they believe in and for which they are ready to lay down their lives. The American boys being sent over to die in Korea are completely surrounded by hostile people. Their guns do not intimidate but only inflame the populace. They are learning in blood the difference between subduing a passive people and an armed people in revolt...”

Our estimation of the Korean struggle has been confirmed completely by the events themselves. The generals and propagandists have tried to blame the unfavorable military developments in Korea on the so-called “overwhelming hordes” thrown against the U.S. forces and allies. This fiction of the “overwhelming hordes” has been repeatedly exploited; today it is acknowledged that the U.S.-south Korean armies number 800,000 to the 1,000,000 of the Chinese-



Chinese troops advance in Oct. 25-Nov. 5, 1950, counteroffensive against imperialist armies at opening of Korean war. Two infantry regiments of U.S.-backed south Korean army were destroyed and more than half of their equipment captured.

North Korean forces. Moreover, the U.S. possesses an immeasurable superiority in bomber planes, tanks, heavy artillery and mobile equipment.

The explanation for the remarkable capacity of the Chinese-North Korean forces to successfully resist and even to wage hard-hitting offensives lies in their revolutionary spirit.

American soldiers who went to Korea to put down “gooks”—the epithet of racial inferiority applied to the people of Korea and China—learned to their astonishment that these backward people are first-class fighting men, resourceful and clever, with a driving purpose, a cause they believe in. That cause was their “secret weapon,” their

great advantage over the GIs and the South Korean conscripts, who never ceased to ask, “What are we fighting for?”...

More than two million U.S. personnel have gone through the Korean war theatre. At the moment of the truce more than a half million Americans from all the armed forces—including 300,000 front-line infantrymen—were engaged in combat duty.

The U.S. sustained over 141,000 so-called “battle” casualties and as many more “non-battle” casualties due to oriental diseases, frost-bite, accidents, etc.

Total casualties of the U.S. and its allies, according to the UN report of August 7, were 456,000; the losses of their foes were estimated three times as great.

## Japanese parliament approves troops to Iraq

### Continued from front page

areas in Iraq? If there are, please name at least one.”

“There is no way I should know,” replied Liberal Democratic Party prime minister Junichiro Koizumi, “but I do believe non-combat areas exist.”

Deputies from the Social Democratic Party and Communist Party opposed the law, reported Agence France-Presse, on the grounds that “the deployment would violate Japan’s pacifist constitution, put Japanese lives at risk and involve the country in the aftermath of an unjustifiable war.”

Koizumi announced that the troops will be sent as early as October. The legislation was “welcome,” U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters. “We think that Japan’s ability to play this positive role in Iraq is a reflection of the kind of role it can play in world affairs,” he said.

Tokyo had originally offered troops from the Self Defense Force (SDF)—the official name for the Japanese armed forces—to provide “clean water to U.S. troops stationed at Baghdad International Airport,” according to the *Japan Times*. “To the surprise of the Japanese government,” continued the report, “the U.S. has asked the SDF to provide logistic support in Balad, 100 kilometers north of Baghdad and considered a tough area due to ongoing attacks there on American soldiers.”

Tokyo is not the only government that Washington expects to shoulder some of the occupation. A Multinational Division of 9,000 troops is slated to arrive in Iraq September, headed by Polish officers and comprising troops from Poland, Spain, Ukraine, and 14 other nations, reported Pentagon officials in mid-July.

### Paris calls for UN decision

U.S. President George Bush called on other governments to join the effort in a July 23 speech at the White House. Three potential contributors—Berlin, Paris, and New Delhi—have refused to supply troops without a resolution from the UN Security Council.

Masking French imperial rivalry with

Washington under the UN umbrella, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told France-Inter Radio that “only the United Nations can bring the guarantees of reconstruction necessary for the full international community to take part.”

De Villepin made sure to congratulate Washington on the killing of Uday and Qusay Hussein, sons of former Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein. U.S. officials used the July 22 incident to demonstrate their tightening grip on the country, and to sow fear among those organizing daily attacks on the occupying forces of U.S. and British imperialism. The two men were slain in a firefight with U.S. soldiers in the northern city of Mosul. Acting on a tip from an Iraqi informant, troops of the 101st Airborne surrounded the villa where they were staying and fired heavy machine guns, helicopter-launched rockets, and 10 anti-tank missiles.

U.S. officials paraded both bodies before the media July 24, and then again the next day, after military medical personnel had touched them up, rendering them more recognizable. “This is a great day for the new Iraq,” crowed British prime minister Anthony Blair. Paul Bremer, Washington’s top civilian administrator in the country, said, “I hope this will encourage other Iraqis to come forward now.”

The *Wall Street Journal* praised the occupation regime’s use of informants to find the whereabouts of top figures in the former Baathist regime. The 101st Airborne had shifted from “standoff assault to classic counterinsurgency that seeks to win the support of the Iraqi public,” it stated in a July 23 editorial. “The coalition has more than enough firepower,” added the big-business daily. “What it needs to defeat the insurgency is good information.”

### New Iraqi militia

The *Journal* also supported recent moves by the occupying authorities to recruit and train an imperialist-dominated Iraqi militia as cannon fodder. “Many recent casualties have come because GIs are doing jobs that could be done by Iraqis themselves, such as guarding banks and key buildings,” it stated. “U.S. forces, the best in the world,

are better reserved for more vital military missions.”

State Department officials said they would pay the informant a \$30 million reward and provide him or her with asylum in the United States “if it’s appropriate.” Washington has slapped a reward of \$25 million on the head of Saddam Hussein.

On July 24 U.S. Vice-President Richard Cheney defended the administration’s conduct of the Iraqi occupation against Democratic Party and other politicians and pundits in the United States who offer many criticisms but no alternative course.


Cheney continued to insist that Saddam Hussein’s regime had been developing biological and nuclear weapons, in spite of the lack of evidence for that position turned up by the occupying forces. The vice-president placed strong emphasis on other justifications for the war, however.

Against those who say that the “war on terror” should prioritize other targets, he said, “The terrorists intend to strike America again. One by one, in every corner of the world, we will hunt the terrorists down and destroy them. In Iraq, we took another essential step in the war on terror.”

Feigning concern for the welfare of the Iraqi people, Cheney added, “If we had not acted, the torture chambers would still be in operation, the prison cells for children would still be filled, the mass graves would still be undiscovered.”

Acting Army chief of staff Gen. John Keane unveiled the Pentagon’s plans to rotate fresh U.S. troops into Iraq at a July 23 press conference. Iraq-assigned U.S. forces, which presently number 144,000 with 30,000 backup troops in Kuwait, will serve one year at a time, he said.

Among the units that will head to Iraq is the Stryker brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division based in Fort Lewis, Washington State. The brigade’s 3,600 members will operate 300 Stryker vehicles—a “new high-tech...eight-wheeled 20-ton troop carrier,” reported the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. “The Stryker is designed to fill the gap between the ‘heavy’ but cumbersome Cold War-era armored forces and the rapid but less lethal ‘light’ units, such as airborne brigades.”



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# U.S. youth off to Cuba for July 26 anniversary

## More than 100 at Los Angeles send-off event...

BY BETSEY STONE  
AND NAN BAILEY

LOS ANGELES—More than 80 young people from southern California left July 22 for Havana, on their way to the Third Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange. Prior to their departure, they were given an enthusiastic send-off at a July 18 meeting celebrating the 50th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba, the opening act of the revolutionary struggle in Cuba that brought down the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

More than 100 people turned out for the event, which featured presentations by more than a dozen members of the delegation on why they are going to Cuba as well as greetings by representatives of Cuba solidarity groups in Los Angeles and a talk by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and editor of many books of speeches, writings, and interviews with leaders of the Cuban Revolution. The gathering was co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba and the Los Angeles Youth Exchange delegation.

Delegation members had been meeting together, fund-raising, reading books on Cuba, and holding educational classes for months in preparation for the trip.

The one-minute presentations by members of the delegation were interspersed throughout the evening's program.

José Velasquez, a young construction worker who has been reading to prepare for the trip, said he is going to Cuba because "it's important to learn about a people who decide to take power into their own hands, like the workers and farmers of Cuba."

Another participant, Carlos Domínguez, who majored in music and political science at the University of Southern California (USC), said his interest in Cuba started with Cuban music. "There are a lot of different views on Cuba," he said. "The best way to sort that out is to go to the source."

Carlos Aguilar, who is active with the Central American Resource Center, where the meeting was held, co-chaired the event along with Leslie Simonds, a student at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts.

### Free the Cuban Five

Aguilar announced that the U.S. delegation to the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange will include some 250 people. He said the Los Angeles delegation includes young workers and students from 14 college campuses and two high schools. The overwhelming majority have grown up and gone to school in southern California, coming from families that have migrated there from around the world—including Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Vietnam. Sixty percent of the delegates are women.

Adrián García, representing the National Committee to Free the Five, was the first speaker, talking about the campaign to free five Cuban militants serving draconian sentences in U.S. jails.

The five men—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, René González, and Antonio Guerrero—were convicted in 2001 on frame-up charges brought by the U.S. government.

The Cuban Five, as they are known, were carrying out an internationalist mission to gather information on ultrarightist organizations with a record of violent attacks on Cuba carried out from U.S. soil with Washington's complicity. They were arrested by the FBI in 1998, charged with "conspiracy to commit espionage" and "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent." Hernández was also charged with "conspiracy to commit murder." They were given sentences ranging from 15 years in prison to a double-life term, and locked up in five federal prisons spread out across the country.

García asked those at the meeting to sign a petition requesting that the U.S. government grant visas to the wives of two of the five, who have been repeatedly denied the right to visit their husbands in prison.



Militant photos by Betsey Stone  
**Banner at July 18 send-off in Los Angeles for Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange. Carlos Aguilar (inset, left), one of the youth going on trip, co-chaired the event. Mary-Alice Waters (inset, right), president of Pathfinder Press, was keynote speaker.**

A large banner with painted portraits of the Cuban Five was brought to the front of the hall. Alicia Siu, a student at the University of California at Davis who had painted the banner, urged those present to sign it. The delegation will take the banner to present to the families of the five.

Other speakers at the event included José Estévez, a Cuban-American who works with Alianza Martiana, an anti-embargo organization in Miami. Estévez talked about the impact the assault on Moncada had on thousands of young people like himself at the time; Carole Frances Likens, of the Pastors for Peace Cuba Friendship Caravan, who reported on the progress of the current caravan; Laurence ShooBs, of the U.S.-Cuba Sister Cities Association; and Don White, of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

### Celebrate 50 years of road of Moncada

Mary-Alice Waters was the keynote speaker at the event. She began by saluting all those present for the "impressive job you've done to build the delegation from Los Angeles and to help coordinate the groups that will be travelling to Cuba from all over the United States."

A week from tomorrow, she noted, "all of us, wherever we happen to find ourselves, will join our Cuban compañeros in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the assault on Moncada. To some people in the world, this

will seem strange: to be celebrating an action 50 years ago that failed to achieve its primary objective. The goal was to seize the garrison of Moncada and spark an uprising throughout the territory of Cuba against the Batista dictatorship. In the end, the action cost the lives of some one-third of the combatants, almost all of them murdered in cold blood by the Batista dictatorship, many of them after being brutally tortured.

"But was this action a failure?" asked Waters. Placed in its broader historical context, the answer is a resounding "No," she stated. "Whatever the miscalculations, in experience or in maturity of program, that action in its conception, composition, and execution embodied the popular revolutionary course that led three years later to the beginning of the revolutionary war—the landing of the Granma expedition and the first actions of the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra—and the intensified underground struggle in the cities throughout Cuba. "Within five and a half years the Batista dictatorship had been overthrown, opening the door to a new state of struggle and the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

"Moncada embodied the strategy of a different class," Waters said, "the working class." What changed in the ensuing years of struggle was not the Batista dictatorship or Washington, she noted, "but the consciousness and the capacities of the women and men who were transformed themselves as

## ...N.Y. and D.C. delegations are also on their way

**Events to send off local delegations to the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange took place across the United States. Below are items from two of those meetings.**

### BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Just over 20 people met here July 20 to send off eight young people from Washington to the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange.

"We will return to be more effective defenders of the Cuban revolution," said Darryl Sheppard, a central organizer of the group here and a member of the Young Socialists, who chaired the event.

Sandy Waters, who has relatives in Cuba, said she is looking forward to her second trip there. Like others in the group, she used the last weeks to read and discuss documents on the Cuban Revolution, including *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara and *The Second Declaration of Havana*.

"I'm going in order to see the truth for myself," said Eric Biesecker. "Cuba has shown a tremendous effort to create a more just reality."

"There were lots of books about Che, Fidel, and Cuba in my house as I grew up," said Lily O'Brien. "I didn't really pay much attention to them until this year." O'Brien reported on the various activities of the group to raise funds for the trip. She said that enough funds had been raised to get all eight participants to Cuba.

Other speakers included Olga Fernán-

dez, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section here, and Philip Brenner, chair of the Interdisciplinary Council on the Americas at American University.



### BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK—More than 30 people took part in a July 20 send-off here for eight young people going on the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange. The event, held at the Brecht Forum, raised \$350 toward the group's travel.

Graciano Matos, one of the youth on the delegation, chaired the program. Luis Miranda, director of Casa de las Americas, was the featured speaker. Casa is the oldest organization of Cuban-Americans in the U.S. who support the Cuban Revolution. Miranda said that as a young student in New York he became involved in actively supporting the revolutionary movement in Cuba in the 1950s, and reviewed the rich history of efforts of Cubans in New York to weigh in on a victorious outcome for the revolution. To this day, he said, many Cuban-Americans continue to dedicate their lives to defense of the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

Miranda told the audience that on the eve of the attack on the Moncada barracks, he and others received a young Fidel Castro in New York. They worked tirelessly to organize speaking engagements and press interviews for Castro to get out the truth about the struggle against the U.S.-backed

they lived that struggle, and as they forged a program and a revolutionary leadership that was truly worthy of the workers and farmers in Cuba and of the world vanguard they were heading."

### Consistency of U.S. policy

For 45 years there's been nothing more consistent in U.S. foreign relations than the policy towards Cuba, said Waters. Washington has, and will continue to hold, one single aim: to crush the revolutionary example of the Cuban people, to make them pay for the path they have blazed.

"What all of you will find in Cuba as you have the opportunity and privilege of traveling to Cuba is the reality of the Cuban Revolution today. You'll be able to make up your own minds whether Cuba, as you have heard year after year, is a brutal dictatorship devoid of popular support, or whether it is genuinely a popular revolution that enjoys not just the support, but the active participation of a large majority of 11 million Cuban people.

"You will be able to see for yourselves that the Cuban Revolution is not the work of angels or devils but is genuinely made of human clay," Waters said. "You will see a living, breathing, fighting revolution, with all its contradictions, complexities, weaknesses and strengths, and be able to place that social reality in the world today—a world in which capitalism is dominant, where that revolution comes face to face with the colossal force of Cuba's mortal enemy: American imperialism. A world in which the Cuban people have been defending themselves, fighting against that stream for 50 years."

The revolution's future will be decided not only in Cuba—and not even primarily in Cuba—but by the struggles taking place worldwide, Waters noted, including in the United States. "What we do here, what you do here when you return from your trip to Cuba, is one of the decisive factors in the future of the Cuban Revolution—not to mention our own future.

"Cuba represents the most advanced outpost of a new world order that is fighting to be born," Waters said. "You will have a chance to judge that for yourself, and then to return here to be part of that same battle inside the United States. That's why the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Moncada is not about the past. It's about the present and the future."

"We look forward to reporting back to you," Carlos Aguilar said in closing the celebration. He announced a meeting August 15 to hear from the youth upon their return. "And we urge you to organize other meetings for us, so we can spread what we have learned."

dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

Casa de las Americas, he added, was initiated by those Cuban-Americans who supported the program of the July 26 Movement—the organization Castro led, which took its name from the date of the assault on Moncada—and saw as their principal contribution that of getting out the truth about and garnering solidarity for the revolution. They did this despite violence and thuggery by counterrevolutionaries, including bombings of Casa's headquarters carried out by Batista's henchmen in the mid-1950s, and later by groups like Alpha 66 and Omega 7, as well as constant harassment by the FBI and other federal cop agencies.

Miranda urged the youth going to Cuba to learn how the Cuban people advanced the revolution, while standing firm against U.S. imperialism.

### From Pathfinder Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

"There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before there will be a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba." That statement by Fidel Castro in 1961, remains as accurate today as when it was spoken. This book, about the class struggle in the imperialist heartland, explains why. \$13.00

Order from [www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com) or at bookstores, including those listed on page 8



# SWP supporters assume new responsibilities

## Supporters of communist movement worldwide take on all book printing, distribution tasks

BY SAM MANUEL

OBERLIN, Ohio—"When Pathfinder closed its print shop in early spring the supporters were ready," Laurel Kelly told the 355 participants at the International Socialist Workers Conference held here July 10-12. They had already begun work to find commercial printers to produce the books at "Pathfinder's high quality standards and at the best competitive rates," she said.

Kelly was one of a panel of speakers at a conference session on the work of supporters of the communist movement July 11, introduced by Socialist Workers Party (SWP) National Committee member Norton Sandler (for full conference coverage see last week's *Militant*). The supporters' accomplishments have enabled them to take on growing responsibilities, Kelly said, helping to free up SWP cadres to respond to political opportunities as they take part in struggles by workers and farmers.

As a member of the San Francisco-based steering committee of the Printing Project, Kelly spoke with enthusiasm of the growth of this volunteer enterprise born five years ago as the Pathfinder Reprint Project. With its new name reflecting its expanding responsibilities, the Printing Project today involves more than 250 volunteers in eight countries (Australia, Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States). They have taken on the responsibilities for all post-editorial book production, Kelly said, including formatting text, checking indexes, and organizing various diagnostic tests on the files. They then compile the books and



Militant/Dave Wulp

**Panel of supporters of communist movement presents range of tasks they have assumed for printing and distribution of Pathfinder books, as well as fund raising. From left are Maceo Dixon, Sara Gates, chairperson Bill Schmidt, Laurel Kelly, SWP leader Norton Sandler (obscured), Tom Tomasko, and Sue Bellman.**

prepare them for CD-ROM.

The closure of the print shop posed a new set of tasks. "Previously we produced files for a single printer with specifications with which we were familiar," she stated. "Now we work with different printers with varying specifications." She held up one of the fruits of this work, a copy of Frederick Engels's *Origins of the Family, Private Property, and the State* printed in Canada.

Maceo Dixon, the next speaker, reported on the work of volunteers at the Pathfinder Business and Distribution Center in Atlanta. "Volunteers handle all of Pathfinder's Web-

based business operations," Dixon said. He reviewed a typical week at the center, from the online receipt of orders at a volunteer's home to the pick-and-pack operation at the center itself, followed by the billing of customers. Orders are placed through [www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com), the publisher's website, Dixon said.

In addition, the volunteers use a Web-based system to establish and track credit limits for customers and to monitor their accounts. "By sticking to our policies and working with customers to show them the advantages of ordering online, we have be-

gun to make progress," he said. Building on this success, Dixon stated, the volunteers' goal is to increase sales of Pathfinder books by 10 percent by January 1.

Sara Gates heads the Seattle committee that organizes the collection of supporters' monthly financial contributions to the SWP. "With a few weeks to go we are on schedule to make our 12-month goal of \$300,000," she said. In the coming year the supporters will shoot for \$315,000 by expanding the number of contributors, including from individuals who are not members of the supporters movement. She explained how the Seattle steering committee now collects, records, and deposits all the checks supporters send from around the country. Communication between this committee and supporter financial directors in each city have also improved, she stated. Soon they will be using a new database accessible over the Internet that a supporter in Seattle had put together just before the conference.

Taking a leaf from the book of the Atlanta supporters, volunteers in Toronto are adjusting the way they fulfill book orders in Canada, reported Sue Bellman. She reported that they, too, will be taking greater advantage of the [pathfinderpress.com](http://pathfinderpress.com) website in sales and fulfilling orders in Canada in the coming months. Bellman noted the interest in Pathfinder books from libraries, including a British Columbia high school library that recently ordered 40 titles.

The final speaker, Tom Tomasko, a member of the Printing Project steering committee, reported the volunteers' work in taking charge of the Internet-based resources used by the communist movement. "Supporters will administer the party websites and maintain the computer servers with material the movement uses for book publishing and other political work," he said.

The servers now being set up will hold another priceless resource, Tomasko reported. "Pathfinder's thousands of photos, including rare pictures from the Cuban Revolution, and the *Militant's* photo archive, will now become available over the Internet for publishing efforts and for other projects," he said. In addition, "All of the Pathfinder books that have been digitized can be stored in this way and be made available for sending to any printer anywhere in the world."

## FBI frames up 11 in Virginia on 'terrorism'

Continued from Page 2

Maryland home. An order to release a fifth defendant, Randall Royer, was overturned July 11. Royer was stopped less than two weeks after September 11 in possession of an AK-47 rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition. He said he was headed to sell the weapon when cops pulled him over.

Prosecutors also allege that Royer traveled to Pakistan in April 2000 to serve with Lashkar-i-Taiba, and is one of two of the defendants who allegedly fired on Indian positions in Kashmir.

In ordering the release of the three men U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema told prosecutors, "The fact that people are arming themselves is not the same as planning acts of terrorism."

Nine of the 11 defendants are U.S. citizens. Government prosecutors also allege that one of those arrested in Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Abu-Ali, may have connections to the May 12 bombings in Riyadh. Three others are charged with instructing the group in combat tactics based on their experiences in the U.S. military. Young Ki Kwon, a 27-year-old south Korean living in Virginia, is charged with conspiracy to commit passport fraud. Ibrahim al-Hamdi, a Yemeni national and son of a former Yemeni diplomat, has pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a semiautomatic rifle.

Three of the accused were arrested the day of their press conference to denounce FBI harassment. Hammad Abdur-Raheem's father appeared with his son's attorney instead, and told reporters that his son had fought in the 1991 Gulf War and "is a loyal citizen." Abdur-Raheem and two other defendants are accused of instructing the group in combat tactics. The indictment even alleges that part of the training took place on the nearby Quantico Marine base.

No evidence is presented in the 42-count indictment that the men had planned any attacks in the United States. Prosecutors allege that the accused trained and fought for Lashkar-i-Taiba and conspired with "an intent to serve in armed hostility against the United States." Calling the arrest and indictment a matter of "preemption," FBI acting director in the Washington area, Michael Rolicc, said, "It is just no longer sound judgment to have people that you believe have engaged in illegal activity and let them conduct an attack before you do something."

On July 3 Magistrate Judge Rawles Jones ordered four of the men to be released from custody until their trials, but also placed them under electronic surveillance. Prosecutors announced they would immediately

appeal the decision.

One of the counts against the men is practicing "small-unit" military tactics. The government claims that a game played by the men known as paint ball was a subterfuge to enable the group to simulate actual combat conditions. Paint ball is a popular game played in many of the area's woods. The players shoot each other with quarter-size balls filled with a colored liquid.

They are also charged with attending a

meeting at the Dar el Arkum Mosque "to hear lectures on the righteousness of violent jihad in Kashmir, Chechnya and other parts of the world and to watch videotapes of mujahideen engaged in jihad," according to the indictment. The FBI searched the home of Ali al-Timimi who has lectured there. The mosque is located in a building that also houses the Saudi-based International Islamic Relief Organization, one of the largest Muslim charities in the world.

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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**PENNSYLVANIA: Hazleton:** 69 North Wyoming St. Zip: 18201. Tel: (570) 454-8320. Email: [swpnepa@intergrafix.net](mailto:swpnepa@intergrafix.net)  
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### AUSTRALIA

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### ICELAND

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### NEW ZEALAND

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

### SWEDEN

**Gothenburg:** Ryttaregatan 9, S-415 03 Gothenburg. Tel: (031) 21 56 90. E-mail: [bokhandelnpathfindergbg@telia.com](mailto:bokhandelnpathfindergbg@telia.com)

**Stockholm:** Domargränd 16, S-129 47 Hägersten. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: [patfkbkh@algonet.se](mailto:patfkbkh@algonet.se)



A class definition?—“Recession ended in November 2001,” even though “more than a million private sector jobs have been lost



Harry Ring

since then.”—The National Bureau

of Economic Research, via the *Los Angeles Times*.

**Some took a hit**—In 2002, millionaires world-wide were \$1.9 trillion poorer, according the Boston Consulting Group. Standard & Poor and Europe’s Dow Jones suggested this year might be more stable.

**P.S.**—In the second quarter of this year, Ford Motor Company said its profit fell 27 percent.

**Meanwhile the gap grows**—“PARIS—Almost half the world’s population of three billion people live on about \$2.00 a day. The gap between the world’s poorest 20 percent and the richest 2 percent more than doubled since 1960, the International Labour Organization said.” —*Times* of London.

**So far, an way**—It’s reported that the United Kingdom cabinet is opposed to the Home Secretary’s proposal to issue ID cards to all residents, with a fee of \$60.

**Free pun included (Yipe)**—OPI Products, a global peddler of nail polish, is now marketing “Pawlish,” a nail polish for pets. A half fluid oz.: \$14.95.

**See, not to worry**—“Several signs hint at coming recovery in job market”—Headline, *USA Today*.

**Drop dead against ageism**—The UK government is crafting a measure to end discrimination against workers. Also, aging

workers will be required to stay in the workforce till 70 to qualify for their retirement pensions—up from the present 65.

**Go, sister**—In Topeka, Kansas, Bonnie Cuevas, a librarian and gay rights activist, is the mother of a gay man. She was reprimanded by her boss for discussing the Supreme Court decision scrapping anti-sodomy laws. County library officials have prohibited her from discussing gay rights at work. She’s moved to a public challenge.

# Pathfinder draws interest at librarians’ meeting

BY ELLEN BERMAN

TORONTO—Pathfinder Press was one of almost 6,000 exhibitors at the American Library Association (ALA)/Canadian Library Association (CLA) joint annual conference in Toronto June 19–25, the world’s largest and most comprehensive library conference and exhibition. It was the first time in 40 years that CLA and ALA convened together in Canada. Seven volunteers from Toronto, Montreal, and Detroit staffed the Pathfinder Press distribution table over three and a half days in the “small press” area.

The conference was attended by more than 17,500 librarians, exhibitors, educators, writers, publishers, and special guests from the United States and Canada, and other countries such the United Arab Emirates, Cuba, Slovenia, Lebanon, Argentina, Brazil, and the United Kingdom as well as Puerto Rico.

To encourage use of Pathfinder’s online

(CIPA), requiring libraries to install filters on every terminal with internet access in order to receive federal funds. Librarians cannot maintain adults-only terminals or rely on librarians monitoring children’s use of “inappropriate” websites.

On June 23 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld CIPA, ruling against a challenge to the law filed by the ALA. In a press release issued the day of the Supreme Court decision, the ALA stated that filtering companies are not following legal definitions of “harmful to minors” and “obscenity.” In a statement issued at the conference, they argued that “The public library is the number one access point for online information for those who do not have Internet access at home or work. We believe they must have equal access to the Information Superhighway.”

## Libraries and librarians in Cuba

Part of Washington’s four-decade-long policy aimed at overthrowing the Cuban Revolution includes a campaign that charges the Cuban government with censorship and repression of so-called independent libraries. The U.S. government launched “Friends of Cuban Libraries” in 1999 under the guise of being a private initiative independent of Washington. Its main public spokesperson in the United States is Robert Kent, a reference librarian at the New York Public Library with a long history of activity against the Cuban Revolution.

There has been ongoing discussion in the ALA over the past several years about this issue. At its annual conference in 2001, the ALA refused to endorse the so-called independent libraries in Cuba and instead adopted a resolution opposing Washington’s efforts to “limit access to informational materials by Cuba’s libraries.” In addition, the ALA international relations committee established a “protocol of cooperation” with the Library Association of Cuba (ASCUBI).

At a workshop on “Libraries and Librarians in Cuba” five Cuban librarians gave presentations about their work in Cuba. Marta Terra, president of ASCUBI, and Eliades Acosta Matos, director of the José Martí National Library, addressed the issue of the so-called independent Cuban libraries. Several of those attending the workshop, including Robert Kent and Ramon Humberto Colás, a founder of the Independent Libraries of Cuba Project and an opponent of the revolution who left Cuba in 2002, attempted to dominate the discussion period. Colás pointedly asked Acosta, “What I want to know is, when could we have a discussion like this in Havana?” Acosta answered “We can have this discussion as soon as you decide to return to Cuba.” The 64,000-member ALA was asked to pass a formal resolution denouncing censorship in Cuba and demanding the release of the 14 jailed “librarians,” which was tabled until its next meeting in January. Organizers argued that ALA members needed more information.

Mark Rosenzweig, the director of the Reference Center for Marxist Studies, a research center in New York City, contends that Cuba has one of the finest library systems in the developing world and that no books are officially banned by the government. He said he believed that the so-called independent librarians had no connection to professional librarians and were supported by U.S.-based anti-Castro groups. “These are a ragtag bunch of people who have been involved on the fringes of the dissident movement,” Rosenzweig said, referring to the “independent librarians.”

About 50 conference participants at-



Militant/Susan Berman

Pathfinder display at joint American Library Association/Canadian Library Association conference in Toronto, Ontario, June 19–25.

tended a party for the librarians from Cuba sponsored by the ALA’s Round Table for Social Responsibility. Acosta, who was recently interviewed by the *Militant* (see April 28, 2003, issue), said he was glad to find out that Pathfinder Press had a display at the conference. He visited the booth the following day, as did several of the other librarians from Cuba who had not been previously familiar with Pathfinder.

On the last day of the conference, Path-

finder joined other exhibitors in selling off some of their display stock. A librarian from Gwinnett, Georgia, was delighted to see the Pathfinder display, explaining that she met Pathfinder volunteers in Guadalajara where she bought *Thomas Sankara Speaks* and a book by Che Guevara. This time she purchased *Che Guevara Speaks* and *Marianas in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mariana Grajales Women’s Platoon in Cuba’s Revolutionary War, 1956–58*.

## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD



catalog and ordering system, a laptop displaying the website was part of the exhibit. This was the first experience in Canada with using *pathfinderpress.com* with potential customers. Those staffing the display were prepared to guide clients through the process of setting up new accounts online, but since most librarians don’t actually process their own orders, the internet hookup was used more to browse through the catalog. Around 350 flyers advertising a selection of Pathfinder titles that included the website address and Toronto distribution information were handed out.

Between 80 and 100 visitors to the booth left their business cards or signed the guest book indicating they would like Pathfinder representatives in their area to contact them. The list of contacts collected there was evenly divided between visitors from Canada and from the United States.

Pathfinder representatives in Toronto have been conducting follow-up visits and calls since the Ontario Library Association conference in January and have continued to receive orders from this work. Several librarians came by the Pathfinder display as a result of phone calls received during the weeks before the conference. A representative of Library Bound, an Ontario wholesaler who has been dealing with Pathfinder for some time, told one of the staffers, “I don’t know what you guys have been doing but we’ve been getting more orders for Pathfinder.”

A woman from one of the major school library wholesalers expressed interest in featuring both *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* and Pathfinder’s version of the *Communist Manifesto* in its fall promotion catalog. Three reviewers indicated they would like to include reviews of Pathfinder titles in publications that cater mostly to librarians.

The right to privacy and the importance of intellectual freedom were widely addressed at the conference by keynote speakers Bernard Sanders, Gloria Steinem, and Ralph Nader, as well as in several workshops. Discussion centered around the 2001 U.S.A. Patriot Act provision that allows law enforcement agencies to gather data on what library patrons are reading and the 2000 Children’s Internet Protection Act

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

August 11, 1978

MIAMI—The number of Haitians arriving in south Florida has increased sharply in the past several months, as the government of the Bahamas forces some 40,000 Haitian refugees there to leave or face deportation back to Haiti.

The influx has sparked a racist, anti-Haitian campaign orchestrated by U.S. immigration officials and the big-business media. The Haitians are blamed for “taking American jobs” and “spreading disease.”

In recent months, hundreds of Haitians have been arrested by the government of the Bahamas, which is also using them as scapegoats for unemployment. As a result, more than 500 Haitians braved the dangerous trip to Florida in June alone. Since last October, U.S. immigration officials have picked up more than 4,500 Haitians.

Haitians have fled their homeland by the thousands to escape the brutal Duvalier dictatorship there. Rather than face imprisonment and death if forced to return by the Bahamian government, thousands of Haitians are seeking refuge in the United States.

The trip can be fatal. In mid-July a boat full of refugees capsized off the Bahamas, and twenty-three Haitians—including nine children younger than ten years old—drowned.

The victimization of Haitian refugees in this country is consistent with Washington’s political support to the Duvalier regime. The U.S. government pours out millions of dollars of aid each year to prop up the right-wing tyrant.

Contrast the attitude toward Haitian refugees, for example, to the U.S. rulers’ eagerness to welcome refugees from Vietnam, Cuba, and other countries whose governments they oppose.

### THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

August 10, 1953

OAKLAND, Calif., Aug. 1—Some 25,000 members of the Cannery Workers Union, an affiliate of the AFL Teamsters, went on strike July 28 against the California Processors and Growers, Inc., shutting down 68 canneries in Northern California that process 95% of the food canned in the state.

The union demand for a 10-cent across-the-board increase plus five cents for a health and welfare fund was rejected by the association after five months of negotiations. Their counter-offer was a 6-to-10 cents wages increase plus the welfare plan—a difference of three cents on the package deal.

Conditions for unskilled cannery workers are among the worst in the state. Base pay ranges from \$1.24 an hour to \$1.96. Employed only at the height of the fruit-canning season, the majority of workers are women.

Many workers on the picket lines have expressed disappointment at the low demands made by the union in face of the needs of the membership, yet the ranks are solidly behind the union in this struggle.

So justified is the strike action that even the boss’s press finds it embarrassing to attack it.



# Let Korean people alone!

On July 27, we join the Korean people in marking the 50th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War—the war in which Korean workers and farmers dealt U.S. imperialism its first military defeat.

For half a century since then, the U.S. invaders have rejected the DPRK’s repeated proposals to negotiate a peace treaty. This fact alone testifies to Washington’s unceasing military, economic, and political efforts to maintain the unjust division of Korea and to roll back the gains of its socialist revolution.

Most recently, the U.S. government has announced plans to redeploy its 2nd Infantry Division from the Demilitarized Zone separating the two halves of Korea to bases 75 miles to the south. The purpose of this action is ominously clear: in the event of an imperialist assault on the DPRK, the U.S. rulers want their troops out of range of its army’s defensive artillery.

Washington has also enlisted other imperialist governments, as well as the UN International Atomic Energy Agency, in its propaganda campaign to deny the DPRK its sovereign right of defense against military attack. The atomic butchers of the Japanese and Korean people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki—the imperial power that leveled north Korea and slaughtered literally millions of Koreans during the 1950–53 war—now has the insolence to accuse the DPRK of being a nuclear threat! Meanwhile, the U.S. Congress has given its blessing to research on nuclear “bunker-buster” bombs aimed at destroying the defenses of the DPRK, Iran, and other sovereign governments and peoples.

Orchestrated by Washington, the imperialist governments are also drafting a pact granting them free reign to engage in high seas piracy by interdicting north Korean and Iranian ships suspected of carrying “banned” weapons technology.

The U.S. rulers, however, will not embark lightly on a military attack on Korea. They have not forgotten their military defeat of 50 years ago, and know the defensive capacities of the DPRK’s armed forces and militias. U.S. military action would also spark explosions of protest among workers, farmers, and youth in south Korea. Millions

across the peninsula oppose the presence of the 37,000 U.S. troops, support national reunification, and desire peaceful conditions of life and work.

Meanwhile, an increasingly crises-ridden world capitalist system is sharpening Washington’s conflicts with its imperialist rivals and impelling its aggressive military and foreign policy in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and elsewhere. These policies are a naked extension of the U.S. rulers’ war against workers and farmers on the home front.

But the capitalists’ imposition of speedup and cuts in wages and social entitlements—along with the lynchings and other brutalities carried out by their cops and rightist forces—continue to spark resistance among working people and youth. A decade of ruling-class attacks on workers rights and democratic liberties is running up against some limits, as shown by recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions on affirmative action, the right to privacy, and the rights of the accused. These court rulings register the concern among some in ruling circles that going too far too fast in their assaults could engender dangerous social and political resistance at a time when U.S. capitalism is sailing in rougher and rougher uncharted waters.

Union fighters and youth repelled by the inhuman face of capitalism’s present and future will be open to learning the truth about its past, including working-class battles and anti-imperialist struggles around the world. Like earlier generations, they will be inspired by the example of determination and struggle set by Korea’s workers and peasants for a century and more.

On this historic anniversary, we pledge to continue getting out the truth about the Korean people’s ongoing fight for national reunification and social justice, as well as about Washington’s unending threats and pressures against the DPRK. The demands raised by James P. Cannon—Socialist Workers Party national secretary at the time of the Korean War—in a July 1950 open letter to President Harry Truman and the U.S. Congress remain pressing today:

“Withdraw the American troops and let the Korean people alone!”

## U.S. troops off Liberia’s coast

**Continued from Page 4**

day a front-page article appeared in the *New York Times* headlined, “Pentagon Leaders Warn of Dangers for U.S. in Liberia.” Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers warned of a possible lengthy military involvement. Alluding to the ongoing civil war Myers said, “It’s not going to give way to any instant fix. Whatever the fix is going to be is going to have to be a long-term fix.”

Citing the loss of 18 U.S. troops in a 1993 firefight in Mogadishu, Somalia, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Peter Pace cautioned, “It is potentially a very dangerous situation. If we’re asked to do something militarily, we need to make sure we do it with the proper numbers of troops and that we be prepared for the eventualities of having to take military action.” Pace was sent to Somalia in 1993 as the second-ranking officer of the U.S. military task force that was forced to withdraw from the East African nation. Washington continues to stress that the U.S. military role will be limited to providing logistical, intelligence, and communications support. But the Marines being positioned off Liberia’s coast are equipped with artillery, armored vehicles, and attack helicopters.

An administration official told the *New York Times* the U.S. troop deployment was made in order to speed up getting troops provided by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the ground in Liberia.

United Nations officials announced July 24 that the first of two Nigerian battalions could be on the ground by August 2. Nigerian military leaders involved in negotiations with U.S. and UN officials on the deployment of troops said they needed aircraft to transport soldiers, assurances of funding to sustain three battalions of West African forces, and a plan to extract them if they are overwhelmed by Liberian rebel or government troops. The

Nigerian Charge D’Affaires at the UN added that his government was prepared to deploy troops on condition that “there must be logistical support, and we expect other nations of the world to also contribute.” Jacques Klein, UN special envoy to Liberia, told reporters that Washington had signed a \$10 million contract with a California company to provide “logistical support” for the Nigerian troops.

The main rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy, is a loose coalition of forces opposed to Liberian president Charles Taylor. LURD draws upon a variety of militia factions that receive increasing indirect support from Sierra Leone, the United States, and Britain. Bush has repeatedly demanded that Taylor step down and leave the country as a condition for the deployment of U.S. troops to the country.

Heavy fighting in Monrovia raised the civilian death toll to more than 600 by July 23. The UN refugee agency in the capital described the situation as “horrific.” The heaviest fighting has taken place at bridgeheads leading to the center of the city as rebel forces have pressed their advance.

The fighting flared up as talks between the Liberian regime and LURD hosted by the government of Ghana have stalled. Fighting continued despite orders for a ceasefire by LURD negotiators in Accra. Kabineh Jan’eh, leader of LURD’s delegation to the talks, told reporters, “Our forces are to cease all hostilities immediately.” He called on President Taylor to do the same. Jan’eh said, “LURD is prepared to release the Freeport Harbor to ECOWAS for the deployment of the peacekeeping force as well as for the influx of humanitarian aid.”

But shortly after Jan’eh’s remarks LURD political advisor Charles Bennie called a separate press conference in Accra to announce that Jan’eh had been removed as leader of the delegation.

## July 26 celebration in Cuba

**Continued from front page**

youth from the United States who are part of the Third Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange about the experiences that they or their parents lived through during the revolutionary struggle in Santiago, Cuba’s second-largest city. “My father took part in the November 30 uprising and he knew Frank País. Then he was in the Sierra Maestra mountains” with the Rebel Army, said Marta Jiménez, referring to the mass revolt organized in Santiago by the July 26 Movement on Nov. 30, 1956. País was the central leader of that uprising, which was crushed.

At the celebration itself, Juana Alcira, a restaurant worker, said she joined the underground movement in the nearby town of Palma Soriano just before she turned 14. “I would sell bonds to raise money, and sell the newspaper” for the July 26 Movement, she said. Alcira is now a member of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution.

Participants included large contingents of construction, telecommunications, restaurant, and other workers. International delegations came from Brazil, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and other Latin American countries. Besides the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange, delegates from the United States included members of the Venceremos Brigade.

Several of the speakers at the rally called for the release of five Cuban revolutionaries serving long terms in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges of conspiracy to commit espionage. Antonio Guerrero, one of the five, sent greetings to the rally from his jail cell in Florence, Colorado.

Castro pointed to the famous courtroom speech he gave on Oct. 16, 1953, known by the title “History Will Absolve Me.” In it he presented a revolutionary-democratic program for Cuba, calling for a thoroughgoing land reform, the uprooting of racist discrimination, and other democratic rights. That speech was later written down by Castro and smuggled out of prison. It was printed and distributed in tens of thousands of copies, becoming the program of the revolutionary movement to overthrow the dictatorship. After an international campaign demanding their release, Castro and other veterans of Moncada were freed as part of a general amnesty and went into exile in Mexico. There, they regrouped their forces and returned to Cuba aboard the yacht Granma in December 1956. Those who survived an ambush by Batista’s forces a few days after their landing began the revolutionary war in the Sierra Maestra.

**Moncada program was fulfilled**

After the January 1959 victory, “we carried through the Moncada program to completion within the first few years,” Castro noted in his speech. One element of that was turning all of the former dictatorship’s army barracks into educational institutions—including Moncada, which now serves as an elementary school. This year’s celebration was held at the school.

The Cuban president quoted and paraphrased from his 1953 speech detailing the conditions that workers and farmers faced at that time. “In 1953, more than 600,000 workers were jobless. More than 500,000 workers in the countryside would work for four months a year and face unemployment and hunger the remaining eight months of the year,” he said.

“About 85 percent of small farmers paid rent on the land they worked and faced the constant threat of eviction,” Castro recalled. Two hundred thousand peasant families were landless and the best lands were in the hands of U.S. capitalists. Some 2.8 million rural working people had no access to electricity. Urban workers paid up to one-third of their wages in rent to landlords. Disease was rampant, while working people often could be admitted to a hospital only with a recommendation from a political boss—in exchange for their vote.

“These words and ideas described our underlying thinking about the capitalist economic and social system, which simply had to be eliminated,” Castro pointed out.

Comparing conditions then with those today, the Cuban leader noted that in 1953 some 22.3 percent of the population was illiterate, while the figure today stands at a bare 0.5 percent. Unemployment, previously the scourge of the working class, is currently 3.1 percent. The percentage of high school or university-level students has risen from 3.2 percent of those 10 years and older to nearly 59 percent today. Some 85 percent of people now own their house or apartment and do not pay rent. Electrification of homes has risen from 55.5 percent to 95.5 percent. And Cuba has more doctors per capita serving abroad than any other country in the world.

Life expectancy in Cuba now exceeds 76 years, and infant mortality is down to 6.5 per 1,000 live births—indices comparable to the most advanced capitalist countries.

Castro said that Cuba was now in the middle of a transformation of its educational system. One such step is the effort to “municipalize the university,” that is, to establish university extensions in every municipality in the country—a move aimed at expanding access to higher education among working people.

Turning to the other main subject of his remarks, Castro responded to recent statements by the imperialist governments making up the European Union, reiterating their condemnation of Cuba for supposed human rights violations and threatening to cut off or sharply reduce their “humanitarian aid” to the Caribbean nation.

**‘Our sovereignty is not negotiable’**

EU officials have condemned Cuba as repressive, denouncing the prosecution and execution of three ringleaders of an armed hijacking of a passenger ferry in Havana’s harbor in April. They have also denounced the arrest and conviction of 75 individuals, who belong to small counterrevolutionary groups funded by Washington, on charges of collaborating with U.S. Interests Section officials in aiding the U.S. government to carry out its economic war against Cuba.

Castro dismissed “the so-called humanitarian aid” from capitalist governments in the European Union, noting it had amounted to an average of \$4.2 million a year. At the same time, Cuba pays EU governments \$1.5 billion annually to purchase imported goods, he noted. “Who is really aiding whom?” he asked.

Revolutionary Cuba will only accept aid without strings attached, he said.

“The government of Cuba, out of an elementary sense of dignity, rejects any ‘humanitarian aid’ from the EU countries,” Castro stated. The Cuban government also rejects the EU statement that “the political dialogue” must continue, he said. “Our sovereignty and dignity are not negotiable with anyone.”

Castro pointed to Cuba’s internationalist aid to semicolonial countries and national liberation movements around the world, including the more than 300,000 volunteer soldiers who served in Angola in the 1970s and ’80s, defeating the repeated invasions of that country by the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. “While Cuban combatants were spilling their blood fighting against the apartheid troops,” he said, the European Union governments “were conducting trade worth billions of dollars every year with the South African racists, and, through their investments, they were profiting from the semi-slave and cheap labor of native South Africans.”

Describing the imperialist powers’ plunder of the semicolonial world, he stated, “Neither Europe nor the United States will have the last word on the future of humanity.” The crowd erupted into chants of “Fidel, hold firm, Cuba will be respected!”

Following the rally, several workers attending the event reiterated the stance taken by the Cuban president. “Any aid we receive must be without conditions,” said Jorge Pérez, a construction worker.

“We don’t need the EU’s aid,” said Bárbara Castelnau Torres, an engineer at the telephone company. “The internationalist aid Cuba offers other countries is unconditional, based on the fact that in doing so Cuba pays back its debt to humanity.”

“We will not negotiate our principles,” she added.



# NAACP backs Democrats to ‘defeat Bush’

## Convention hails ruling on affirmative action, calls for U.S. troops to Liberia

BY SAM MANUEL

MIAMI—Getting out the vote to back Democrats and prevent the reelection of President George Bush and celebrating the recent Supreme Court ruling upholding affirmative action were the central themes of the convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It took place here July 12-17.

In their opening addresses to the meeting NAACP chairman Julian Bond and the association’s president, Kweisi Mfume, underscored the significance of holding the convention in Florida. In the 2000 presidential election, Democrat Albert Gore lost by a narrow margin in Florida to Republican George Bush. Many in the Democratic party and liberal organizations like the NAACP have charged that Florida’s governor, who is the brother of the president, stole the election. George Bush was declared president when the disputed vote count in his favor was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

“It is of course a pleasure to be in Florida—the state whose motto is, ‘It ain’t over until your brother counts the votes,’” Bond said to cheers from the audience.

Alluding to the widespread voting rights violations against Blacks in the 2000 election, Mfume said, “There is no greater imperative than the need to protect the right of all Americans to be able to cast a free and unfettered vote.... And there is no better place to make that point than right here in the state of Florida.”

“That’s why voter registration and voter turnout must be a top priority for every branch,” Bond stated. “The countdown starts now. If a branch isn’t registering voters and isn’t preparing now for a grassroots turnout program next year, it isn’t doing its job.”

Mfume and Bond rebuked President Bush’s refusal to meet with the NAACP during his administration or to address its conventions since he took office. Mfume noted that during his election campaign Bush did address the association’s 2000 convention.

In a nonelection year, a number of Democratic candidates also hesitated to participate in a scheduled presidential debate at the convention. Six candidates did join the debate, including Senators John Kerry and John Edwards, who decided to attend at the last moment. Senators Joseph Lieberman and Reps. Richard Gephardt and Dennis Kucinich did not show up. Mfume scorned the three saying they have “become persona non-grata” and that their “political capital is now equivalent to confederate dollars.” The three candidates

did attend the convention on its final day, and were allowed to explain their absence from the debate.

### Will use high court ruling

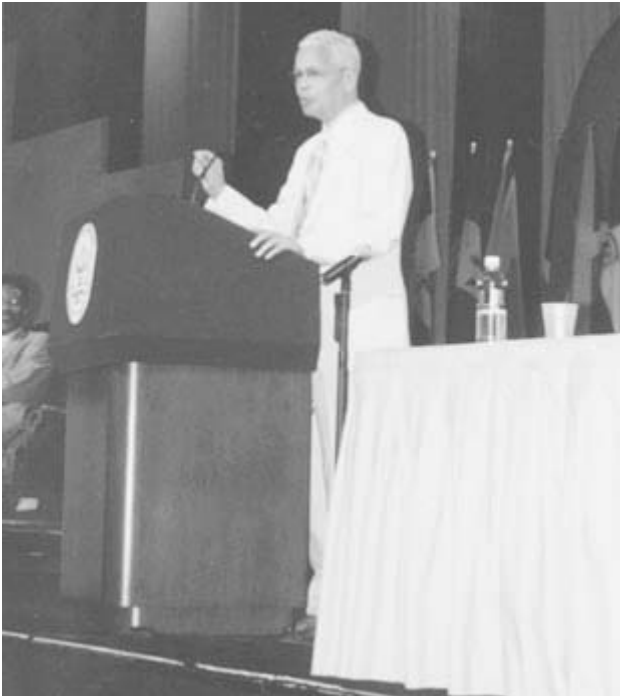
Bond allotted a substantial portion of his remarks to the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the use of race in affirmative action programs. “The Court struck down the points but upheld the principle,” he stated. “The Court gave legal sanction to what we knew to be morally, socially, and educationally correct.” Bond said that the other important reason the convention was being held in Miami was to underscore the association’s plans to use the Supreme Court’s *Michigan* decision to challenge state legislative and gubernatorial executive orders that have abolished affirmative action programs. Among these is the One Florida Initiative, an executive order Florida governor John Ellis Bush signed in 2000, which abolished affirmative action programs in state education.

Noting the steady trends of re-segregation of Florida’s public schools, Bond denounced the governor’s “Talented 20 Program.” This “race neutral” alternative to affirmative action supposedly guarantees admission to Florida’s university system of the top 20 students from each high-school graduating class. These programs “depend for any success on continued racial segregation in high school,” Bond said, “and do nothing to increase minority enrollments in private colleges or graduate and professional schools.”

Directly addressing the governor, Bond said the NAACP will “monitor commitment to the Supreme Court’s endorsement of race as a tool in achieving diversity.”

“Just as the ultra-right-wing conservatives brought litigation against... affirmative action programs,” Mfume stated in his remarks, “the NAACP is preparing to bring law suit after law suit against every college and university that refuses to comply with and abide by the new law of the land.”

The convention proceedings featured a rally in support of affirmative action that was attended by 700 mostly young people who are members of the NAACP Youth and



Militant/Sam Manuel  
**NAACP chairman Julian Bond addressing group’s national convention in Miami on July 16.**

Colleges Division.

The NAACP leaders also castigated the U.S. administration’s policy toward Africa and labeled President Bush’s five-day trip to Africa as an “exotic photo-op presidential visit.”

“We find it peculiar, and we are perplexed, that the president can travel across the great oceans to meet with legitimate black leaders but refuses to meet with legitimate black leaders in America,” Mfume said. Bond called for cancellation of Africa’s “unsustainable and largely illegitimate debt,” and added that “Africa deserves her fair share of trade and aid.”

### Push for U.S. intervention in Liberia

An unscheduled plenary session featured Democratic Party politician Jesse Jackson, who was introduced as “Special Envoy to Africa” during William Clinton’s administration. “We have an obligation to help Liberia,” Jackson said. “We turned our back on the legitimate government in Liberia when it was overthrown by Sgt. Samuel Doe. He was then fêted at the White House by Ronald Reagan. And the tragedy in Liberia today is the result of that policy.”

At the end of Jackson’s talk the convention passed a special resolution calling on the

White House to deploy U.S. troops to lead a “peacekeeping” force in Liberia.

Mfume and Bond also reiterated the group’s opposition to the disparate treatment of Haitian and Cuban immigrants. The convention passed a resolution entitled, “Justice for Detained Haitian Asylum Seekers.” Hundreds of Haitian immigrants have been held at immigration facilities here since last fall.

During the discussion a delegate from Miami likened the treatment of Haitians to that of African slaves. “Husbands and wives are separated, even the children are held in separate facilities,” she said.

Diplomats from seven Caribbean nations participated in a plenary on the region. Introducing them, Mfume said, “The Free Trade Agreement is not a Fair Trade Agreement. It has devastated the fruit and sugar industries throughout much of the Caribbean.”

Colin Granderson, Assistant Secretary General of the Caribbean Economic Community (CARICOM), outlined the group’s deteriorating relations with Washington. “The implementation of FTAA will result in loss of tariffs income which can amount to as much as 55 percent of revenues to pay basic government operating expenses,” Granderson said. “In addition, we opposed Washington’s unilateral war against Iraq, and the unfair treatment of Haitian immigrants.” He reported that Washington has discontinued military assistance to CARICOM member states because of their refusal to sign bilateral agreements with the United States exempting U.S. citizens from being charged and tried in the International Court in The Hague.

A number of delegates applauded as Granderson expressed opposition to Washington’s economic war against Cuba. “We are against a policy of isolation of Cuba,” said the CARICOM official. Representatives from Cuba had been invited to participate in the panel but no explanation was given for their absence. Since April, Cuban diplomats in the United States have not been allowed to travel outside the Interstate 495 beltway that surrounds Washington, D.C. The only exception is strictly consular business, as determined by the U.S. State Department.

Two people identifying themselves as Cubans wandered through the convention corridors distributing a flyer that said: “Black Cubans Welcome NAACP. Join us for a solemn vigil to honor human rights activists in Cuba.” Neither of them were Black. They did not get a friendly reception—most delegates refused to take the flyers or discarded them.

## LETTERS

### Affirmative action

The article “Top U.S. officers back affirmative action” by Martin Koppel (vol. 67, no. 25) was informative. It was useful in addressing some questions I had, raised by a statement in the editorial “Celebrate high court rulings” (vol. 67, no. 24), which said, “The majority of the U.S. rulers now support basic rights for women, affirmative action, and civil rights.”

This is a stunning conclusion that, for me, needed some fleshing out. Koppel’s article was a welcome contribution. The court’s decision upholding affirmative action is a reflection of the long-term trends strengthening the working class and its allies that the rulers have been forced to reckon with.

Thank you and keep up the good work.

Theresa Kendrick  
West Palm Beach, Florida

### Disagree on Scotland

Pete Williamson’s piece on the Scottish election (July 28 Militant) clearly indicates the dangers inherent in taking a political line applicable in one country and mechanically applying it to the situation in another.

Let’s look at the situation of farmers during the recent Scottish elections. Here in Fife I am surrounded by “working” farmers—many of whom although facing poor conditions still appear to be able to sup-

port very affluent life styles with many driving £30,000 4X4 vehicles and live in fine houses.

More interestingly they were, certainly here, uniformly filling their fields with posters supporting the detested Tory party.

The origins of Farmers for Action lies in the fuel blockades of 2000 and was, at the time, universally condemned by the Labour and Trade union movement including the Transport and General Workers Union, TUC, and Scottish TUC. Its politics are more Pujadist than Marxist.

I am familiar with the line of the U.S. SWP on building a farmer/workers alliance but suggest that a few economic demos on prices in Scotland leave a very long road before the Perthshire farmers will be in alliance with nursery nurses or fire-fighters.

Not all victims of monopoly capitalism are able to take their struggle to the stage of consciously aligning with the working class movement, which Marxists know will be the key driver in their defeat of capitalism.

I suggest most Scottish farmers are some way from this point.

Turning to the politics resulting from the election, of course the Greens contain middle-class elements. They are not consciously seeking a socialist solution, but the logic of their position challenges capitalist solutions and means they

are potential allies for the Left—at least as reliable as dairy farmers.

Pete’s position on the SSP [Scottish Socialist Party] is simply sectarian. Of course Scotland is not Cuba but the SSP is a major supporter of the gains of the Cuban revolution with this position confirmed by the SSP conference.

On the wider political question of course any serious party has to discuss the types of society in existence but this does not imply that the SSP is not in favour of breaking with capitalism—it clearly is and its growth indicates that this aspiration is shared by the voters.

Pete’s sectarian approach is the more puzzling when the fact that many people from his own segment of the Trotskyist movement are now participating in the SSP’s project and he should consider joining them.

Finally on Ireland it is not surprising that it did not feature in the SSP manifesto for the Scottish Elections since the Scottish Parliament has no powers to deal with the issue. However, it is underhand and verging on falsification to imply that the SSP is ignoring the issue—it has been widely debated with speakers from all traditions at several party events in the recent past.

His claim that the Irish struggle fuelled Scots demand for Independence has limited validity—otherwise how do we explain the fact that when the

Irish were in arms as in 1916 Scots were helping to suppress them—for example one infantry regiment, the Kings Own Scottish Borderers, were known as the Kings Own Scottish Murderers.

Ken Ferguson  
Convenor SSP Tay Coast  
Fife, Scotland

### How did capitalism arise?

Today by pure chance I have in my hands an example of your *Perspectiva Mundial* and I would like to know how I can receive it. At this time I am in federal detention in prison in Beaumont, Texas. I like it for the information and even more because it is socialist. I hope to soon be free together with my family to begin a new life.

I would appreciate it very much if you could send me information on how I can go about becoming a member of your magazine.

I also would be grateful if you could help me with a little information. The information I’m talking about is how and when did capitalism arise as a social system. I understand that it was in Spain in 1492, during the reign of King Fernando and Queen Isabel, the Catholics. They succeeded in accomplishing two events of great social and political importance, which were the discovery, or better to say, the conquest of America and the expulsion of the Arabs from Castilla or from Spain.

If you send me something in writing about this subject I would appreciate it. Also If you were to publish something about this in your magazine it would be very interesting and instructive. (To be a socialist means to be social and to be social means to be human).

A prisoner  
Beaumont, Texas

**The Militant receives many requests from readers behind bars. The Prisoners Fund makes it possible to send them reduced rate subscriptions. A prisoner can buy a six-month subscription for \$6 and a one-year subscription for \$12.**

**The Spanish-language monthly magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* offers a six-month subscription for \$3 and a one-year subscription for \$6. Please send a check or money order, earmarked “Prisoners Fund,” to the Militant, 152 W. 36th St., #401, New York, NY 10018.**

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief and indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name. Where necessary letters will be abridged.**



# Cyprus partition starts to crumble

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS  
AND MARIA PLESSA

NICOSIA, Cyprus—On April 23, the regime in northern Cyprus began allowing travel across the “Green Line”—the cease-fire line that has divided the island since 1974. The Turkish-Cypriot government took this step to diffuse massive demonstrations in the Ankara-occupied sector demanding the island’s reunification. Since then hundreds of thousands—Turkish-Cypriots from the north and Greek-Cypriots from the south—have paid visits to the other side, out of a total population of nearly 770,000.

## REPORTERS’ NOTEBOOK

The government of the Republic of Cyprus in the south, controlled by Greek-Cypriots, initially attempted to put a damper on travel, saying it would legitimize the occupation of the northern part of the island. But the trickle quickly turned into a flood. What is now taking place is a massive rapprochement, one-on-one, by ordinary people.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974 when Turkish troops invaded this eastern Mediterranean island and occupied the northern 37 percent. The invasion took place on the heels of a military coup against the government of Archbishop Makarios, a bourgeois-nationalist regime which was seen by Washington and London, the country’s former colonial master, as a thorn in the side of imperialism. The coup was carried out by Athens—itsself under a military regime at the time, which took power in 1967 through a U.S.-backed coup. Annexation of Cyprus has been a historic goal of many in the ruling class in Greece.

At the time, Washington looked favorably on the coup against Makarios, as well as the invasion. British forces on the island stood by. These events took place as the Makarios government was beginning to take a stance independent of NATO, after a wave of radicalization among working people. In the aftermath of the invasion, 200,000 Greek-Cypriots and 30,000 Turkish-Cypriots became refugees, and the two communities were separated by the Green Line through massive population moves that created for the first time in the country’s history a partition along national lines. The demarcation line runs through the capital Nicosia—causing all north-south streets to dead end in boarded up buildings, sandbags, barbed wire, and guard posts.

Today it is estimated that 85 percent of the population is Greek-Cypriot and 12 percent Turkish-Cypriot.

### An emotional welcome

“The Greek-Cypriots in whose house we have been living came to see it,” says Turkish-Cypriot journalist Faize Ozdemirciler. “My father took out the keys and gave it to them. ‘This house is yours,’ he said, ‘ours is in [the southern town of] Larnaca.’”

When Mohammed fled his home in

Larnaca, he left his possessions with his friend Vassilis for safekeeping. Mohammed died, but his son is now able to travel to the south so Vassilis can give him his father’s belongings and an emotional welcome. Such stories fill the newspapers and television screens every day.

Many Turkish-Cypriot refugees were kicked out of their homes in the 1960s. The pogroms against them were organized by Greek-Cypriot paramilitary organizations from 1963-64 under the banner of uniting the island with Greece, with the collusion of Athens and of the Makarios government. Such actions helped Ankara justify military aggression and the island’s division along ethnic lines.

To go into the north now, we show our passports and get a visa at the Ledra Palace checkpoint of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus—the state set up by the occupying Turkish army and recognized solely by Ankara. Turkish-Cypriots entering the south must show Cypriot ID cards.

We cross into the north in the company of Petros Evdokas, a 45-year-old Nicosia native, who has been unable to visit the north side of the city since he was 16. Unfamiliar with the city, 24-year-old Huseyin Gurcinar, our second guide, born and raised in a different town in the north, is glad Evdokas can guide us around. Evdokas and Gurcinar, who have both participated in rapprochement efforts in their respective communities, are now able to meet face-to-face and figure out—like thousands of others, especially youth—what brought the island to division and how to achieve one sovereign country.

On the Turkish side of the checkpoint, buildings are much more run down, a result of economic isolation and depression. Average income in the north is one-seventh of the south. Unemployment is double.

When you enter the old walled town of Nicosia from the northern gate, you feel you have entered another world. Many settlers and immigrants—among the most oppressed in Turkey—some in the characteristic dress of Anatolian peasants, have occupied abandoned buildings unrepaired since the 1974 war and lacking modern facilities. This is in contrast to the south side, where many old neighborhoods have been renovated to serve the tourist trade.

In the years of isolation and embargo since the invasion, the economy of the north has been tied to that of Turkey, long in the stranglehold of runaway inflation and economic depression. Farmers, especially hard hit, can only sell their products in the Turkish market. The currency is the Turkish lira (1 Cypriot pound = 2.7 million Turkish lira). The telephone code, postal code, and car license plates are that of southern Turkey.

This devastation has reinforced the oppression of Turkish-Cypriot workers and farmers that existed even before the island’s independence from Britain in 1960. Greek-Cypriot landowners and merchants enjoyed a privileged status under the colonial setup, doubly exploiting Turkish-Cypriots as cheap labor.

### Seeking out joint activity

With the ability to travel, working people are seeking out joint activity. This year the May Day celebrations held by the trade unions were combined. Joint actions took place against the British bases during the war against Iraq. Music and folk-dance groups are appearing together. But nothing is as massive as this constant visiting back and forth. A struggle to open up space has only just begun.

The Turkish-Cypriot government of Rauf Denkash has said it will allow Greek-Cypriots to stay in the north up to three nights, according to Evdokas. The government of the Republic of Cyprus, however, has declared that those staying in confiscated property may be prosecuted. Most of the hotels in the occupied areas are either former Greek-Cypriot property



Tens of thousands at protest in northern Cyprus January 14 in support of reunification of the island, which is partitioned into Greek and Turkish sectors.

or built on it, he explains, effectively limiting visits.

Revelations in the media and high-profile court cases have spread in the south concerning mishandling of Turkish-Cypriot property and demands for homes and land to be restored to their rightful owners.

Evdokas explains that if a family of displaced Turkish-Cypriots were to try to return home to the south today “they would not be able to move in, even if they found their house still standing.” This is the result of restrictions imposed by the Greek-Cypriot government in the south, which claims to be the legitimate representative of all Cypriots. The government “should have already taken every step possible to welcome and to encourage the permanent return home of our displaced Turkish-Cypriot neighbors and coworkers,” Evdokas says.

In an article for the Greek-Cypriot daily Politis, Sener Levent, editor of Afrika newspaper in the north, urges Turkish-Cypriots to exercise their rights as citizens of the Republic of Cyprus. “If an unemployed Turkish-Cypriot goes to the Cyprus Republic’s authorities...and demands unemployment benefits, with what legal argument can his claim be rejected?” he asks. The response of the Labour Ministry in the south was that Turkish-Cypriots were not eligible because they do not pay taxes to the Republic of Cyprus.

In the first such move since 1960, a group of Turkish-Cypriot wheat growers from Louroudjina visited the Agriculture Ministry in June to ask the Grain Commission to buy their produce. Government officials are stalling on the request, citing European Union regulations.

Not everyone in the south favors this open give and take. “I will never go as long as I have to show my passport to visit my own country,” says one Greek-Cypriot shopkeeper in Nicosia. “People seem to think that all Turks are wonderful and the problem is solved because they go there and they are well received.”

Continuing our walk in north Nicosia, we approach a small café. An old man gets up to greet us with “Kopiaste!” meaning in Greek a combination of “welcome” and “have a seat.” We heard this often. Many seek us out when they hear us, struggling to remember their Greek from before the 1974 separation. “We don’t have any differences,” the old man says. “The higher-ups should sign whatever it is and we should live together again.”

### UN plan continues divisions

He is referring to the various plans that are on the negotiating table, sponsored by the UN and the EU, whose stated aim is to “reunify” the island before the Republic of Cyprus formally joins the EU in May 2004. Most people we meet in the north say that

the plan proposed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan last November is the last chance to become one country. This is the position of the union federation Dev-Is and of all the opposition parties in the north.

The Annan plan would set up a complex federal system of government, including separation along ethnic lines at every level. It strictly limits the number of refugees allowed to return and further institutionalizes the role of British and Greek imperialism, as well as Turkish capitalist interests, as the presence of their respective armies shows. Athens, London and Ankara would remain constitutional “guarantor powers,” as they have been since 1960. The position of the EU “is very clear,” states the head of the European Commission Delegation to Cyprus, Adrian Van der Meer. “There can be only one way forward, and that is the Annan plan because it tackles all the comprehensive elements.” Athens in particular has been pushing for adoption of this plan, with a view to better use the island as an export platform for the Middle East.

On July 14, the Cypriot parliament in the south voted unanimously to ratify the treaty of accession into the EU, amidst renewed calls for the adoption of the Annan plan. House Chairman Demetris Christofias of the Communist Party of Cyprus (AKEL), hailed the vote as “historic.” AKEL is the largest parliamentary party, which helped elect the current President of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos, a representative of the Greek-Cypriot bourgeoisie.

AKEL is a mass party that has built its reputation in recent years as pushing for rapprochement between the two communities. It backs entry into the EU and the Annan plan, a shift from earlier positions. The party’s policies on the national question have taken many zigzags, including support for unification with Greece in the 1940s and 50s.

The Denkash regime denounced the vote in the Cypriot parliament in the south. The purpose, he stated, “is to take over the whole island and make the Turkish-Cypriots a minority.” Denkash faces staunch opposition for not signing on to the Annan plan. Discontent is even emerging among the tens of thousands of settlers from Turkey in the north, generally considered as Denkash’s base. Groups of settlers are threatening to boycott the upcoming commemorations of the Turkish invasion.

As working people take advantage of the opportunity to cross the 29-year-old barricades, they are giving lie to the idea that the two communities are gripped by “age-old hatreds” and need to be kept apart.

A small minority, like Ozdemirciler, disagree that the UN plan is the last chance for unification. “The Annan plan legitimizes the status quo,” she says. “It is partition. I want one country with all the armies out: Turkish, British and Greek.”

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