

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Palestinians pour into streets protesting murder by Tel Aviv
—PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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In response to Madrid and Washington

Fight for a 'new Europe' and a 'new America'

Spanish imperialism steps up 'antiterror' offensive aimed at rights of workers and oppressed peoples in Spain

The following statement was issued March 19 by Martín Koppel for the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.

The Socialist Workers Party calls on workers, farmers, and youth to condemn Spanish imperialism's offensive against the peoples of the Basque country and North Africa, an assault that is accelerating under the pretext of responding to the March 11 train bombings in Madrid.

Rationalizing their assault by demagogically naming opponents "ETA terrorists" and "Islamic extremists," the Spanish rulers are whipping up bourgeois public opinion to step up assaults on the national aspirations of the people of Euskadi (the Basque country), the rights of North African immigrants, and the broader rights of workers and farmers throughout Spain.

For more than a century, Spanish imperialism has oppressed and exploited the peoples of Morocco, Western Sahara, and other parts of North Africa. Within the Spanish state, the ruling families governing from Madrid have brutally repressed the struggles of the Basque people for their right to national self-determination. Hundreds of Basque independence advocates remain locked up in Spanish and French prisons, while Herri Batasuna, one of the major Basque political parties, remains banned. The long record of brutality by the Spanish rulers has earned them the

Continued on Page 10



AFP/Rafa Rivas

Tens of thousands march in Bilbao, the main city in Euskadi, the Basque country, in May 2003, to protest banning of Basque pro-independence party Herri Batasuna. The Spanish imperialist rulers have targeted Basques and immigrants from North Africa in their "antiterror" assaults on freedom of association and due process.

Madrid steps up assault on rights of Basques and North Africans

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

The Spanish government is stepping up its attacks on the rights of North African immigrants and supporters of Basque independence. Moroccan and other immigrants are among those rounded up as "suspects" in the bomb-

ings. The newly elected Socialist Party prime minister has vowed not to let up the government's "war on terror" at home and abroad, targeting the Basque nationality in the north of the country. "ETA is not going

Continued on Page 7

Women's rights backers build April 25 march on Washington

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

In cities and towns across the country, students, unionists, and others are building the April 25 march on Washington to defend a woman's right to choose. They are posting up leaflets, selling bus tickets, and holding meetings to publicize the action.

A public meeting to organize participation in the march on Washington was recently held in Atlanta.

At the meeting, which drew 50 people, one of the local co-directors for the April 25 mobilization, Loretta Ross, announced the formation of New Voices for Reproductive Freedom, which is concentrating on building the march in Black and Latino communities in Atlanta and other parts

Continued on Page 3

Pathfinder supersaver sale p. 3

U.S., French, Canadian forces widen occupation of Haiti

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Spearheaded by U.S. Marines, imperialist troops in Haiti have been widening their occupation beyond the capital since the February 29 rightist takeover of the country and the overthrow of the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was forcibly expelled from the country by Washington. U.S. Special Forces have set up camps in the center and south of the country, while French troops are deploying to the north.

A big part of the Canadian force, which at 450 troops is around the same size as its French counterpart, has concentrated on building a base at the Toussaint Louverture Airport outside Port-au-Prince, the capital. Others are patrolling inside the city itself. The occupation force also includes troops

Continued on Page 3

Tens of thousands protest Iraq occupation

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK—Thousands marched and rallied in cities across the United States March 20 to protest Washington's occupation of Iraq on the anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of that country. The largest U.S. demonstration was in New York City, with smaller actions in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Protests were also held that day in a number of cities around the world, including an estimated one million people in Rome and 25,000 in London.

The demonstration here drew several tens of thousands of protesters who marched through mid-town Manhattan in a colorful sea of banners and signs. Many of the marchers were longtime political activists who had taken part in earlier peace demonstrations. A significant number, however, were students and other youth attending their first political action who were angry at Washington's brutal actions around the world and were eager to discuss with fellow protesters what lies behind U.S. foreign policy and how best to oppose it.

Many came to express their views on a range of political questions—from a contingent of Haitian immigrants protesting the U.S.-backed ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from that country, to Palestinians condemning Israeli assaults in the West Bank and Gaza.

The main organizers of the demonstra-

Continued on Page 4

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Also Inside:

- Colombia: no letup in threatening moves by army near Venezuelan border 2
- 'Militant' and 'Perspectiva Mundial' subscription campaign starts with a bang 5
- Cuba 1958: a revolutionary call to youth, by Raúl Castro 6
- New Jersey demonstrators protest dismissal of charges against cops in 2002 killing of garment worker 11

Colombia: no letup in army's threatening moves near Venezuela

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Colombian government officials have announced the purchase of two artillery batteries and 40 AMX-30 tanks from Spain—enough to equip two squadrons of an army that is fighting a U.S.-backed war against guerrilla organizations and has assumed an increasingly provocative stance on its border with Venezuela.

Defense Minister Jorge Alberto Uribe Echavarría claimed the weapons would be “for essentially defensive use” to “combat drug trafficking, terrorism, and arms smuggling.” However, former Venezuelan defense minister Gen. Fernando Ochoa Antich said the purchase would give the government in Bogotá the military edge along the border.

This is happening at a time when the U.S. government is stepping up its efforts to overthrow the government of President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela. (See article on front page.)

Ochoa Antich noted that the military balance between the neighboring countries has shifted in favor of the Colombian army with the escalation in military aid from Washington, which includes helicopters and planes.

The official Colombian army is not the only source of tensions on the border. The Colombian daily *El Tiempo* reported that near the end of last December seven Venezuelan soldiers were killed by right-wing Colombian paramilitary forces who had crossed into the neighboring country.

Successive Colombian governments have been locked in a four-decades-long war with guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and a smaller group known as the National Liberation Army (ELN). Washington's intervention in this war and in the broader region has been increasing under the banner of Plan Colombia. Under the guise of fighting “narco-terrorism,” some \$2.5 billion in U.S. aid, most of it military, has gone to the Colombian government over the past four years.

In July 2002 the U.S. Congress broadened

the scope of its aid to allow the official use of U.S.-provided helicopters in a “counter-drug brigade” created under Plan Colombia to fight against the FARC and ELN. The plan allows for as many as 800 U.S. military personnel to train the Colombian army.

Last year the Pentagon dispatched 150 troops to Colombia, and U.S. “military contractors” have been engaged directly in the civil war. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters January 6 that 1,500 U.S. troops are in Central and South America.

Offensive against guerrilla forces

At the beginning of the year Bogotá stepped up military actions against the guerrilla forces. Dubbed Operation New Year, the military campaign began on January 4 with an assault on the village of San Isidro using U.S.-made Black Hawk helicopters and Brazilian armored personnel carriers. Brig. Gen. Guillermo Quiñones, commander of the 12th Brigade carrying out the operation, said his plan is based on U.S. counterinsurgency doctrine. Quiñones's background includes artillery training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma and a stint at the U.S. Southern Command.

In January the government also announced the capture of Ricardo Palmera, a member of the FARC's negotiating team in 1998, when the government turned over to it a 16,000-acre enclave in southern Colombia.

Palmera entered a plea of not guilty to charges of murder and kidnapping, and guilty to rebellion, through a two-way link from his maximum-security jail north of Bogotá to the courthouse in Valledupar, 430 miles away. The authorities claimed that to allow him to attend his own trial in person would pose too much of a risk. Despite their claims of success in their recent probes, ground commanders prefer to carry out operations with substantial air support. A January 25 *Washington Post* report said that advancing government troops face crude guerrilla defenses and roads lined with mines, replaced



Soldiers in antiguerrilla battalion march through military base in south of Colombia, May 2003. Under Plan Colombia, under which U.S. government is escalating its military intervention, Washington has poured massive aid to Colombian armed forces.

each night after army engineers spend hours meticulously clearing them.

Under cover of the campaign against the guerrilla groups, the Colombian government has deepened attacks on peasants, workers, and trade unions. On March 10 the UN High Commissioner on Refugees described the human rights situation in the country as “critical,” reported AP. The UN representative charged Bogotá with arbitrary roundups and the promulgation of “antiterror laws that give sweeping powers to the military.” The UN report expressed particular concern over the increase in news of “torture and mistreatment by government forces.”

On February 10 the general secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in Brussels condemned the attacks on Colombian trade unions. He cited a February 6 incident in which explosives were planted at the entrance of a municipal workers union hall for the second time in two weeks, and the gunning down of Ricardo Barragán, a member of the same union, on February 17.

The ICFTU statement pointed out that since 1990 more than 3,000 trade unionists have been killed in Colombia, with many of those responsible for their deaths having gone unpunished.

The Colombian armed forces have also carried out actions against factions of right-wing paramilitary groups that have not agreed to enter peace negotiations. The army claimed to have killed 22 members of the United Self-Defense Forces (AUC) in fighting 200 miles southeast of the capital. Government troops fought fierce battles with AUC forces in February for control of the oil-rich Casanare region. One month later the army said it had killed eight of its members and captured another 17.

In July last year the AUC's main force, consisting of some 11,000 of its 18,000 troops, signed a cease fire with the government and also agreed to demobilize by the end of 2005. Only 800 soldiers belonging to the paramilitary group turned in their weapons in a government-sponsored ceremony last November. The ceremony included a videotaped message from AUC leader Carlos Castaño, who reaffirmed that the groups would “not demobilize to give up space” to the FARC.

The government has offered an amnesty that would enable those who have committed atrocities against civilians to avoid punishment by paying “restitution” to their victims.

Right-wing armed groups formed with the direct involvement of sections of the country's wealthiest rulers have been active in Colombia for the best part of half a century, targeting leaders of workers' and peasants' struggles. In recent years they have operated in tandem with government forces against the FARC and ELN, often receiving logistical support from the Colombian military.

The AUC also serves as an extralegal instrument to defend and add to the holdings of Colombia's largest landowners by clearing entire populations from areas it controls, often gaining de facto rights or forcing the farmers to cede legal title to the land. According to a Jan. 7, 2002, BBC report, some 3.5 million hectares of agricultural land has been obtained by the AUC's financial backers.

During a visit to Colombia at the end of February, U.S. Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, applauded the government's effort to crush the FARC and ELN. He also charged that the guerrilla groups might launch a new offensive in face government actions “getting stronger and stronger in the war against terrorism.” At a March 4 ceremony attend by 400 soldiers and civilians at the U.S. Southern Command, Colombian president Alvaro Uribe thanked Washington for its support in fighting the FARC and ELN and “drug traffickers.” During his visit Uribe—accompanied by the Colombian defense minister and U.S. ambassador—also met with U.S. Southern Command head Gen. James T. Hill. The U.S. ambassador to Colombia, William Wood, was also present.

The next day Bogotá announced that with Washington's help it was reviving its “Search Bloc,” a special police unit ostensibly set up to combat drug cartels. It will consist of an “anti-narcotic command unit (with helicopter support), an intelligence group, and a group of detectives,” said Police Col. Oscar Naranjo. Intelligence support would be provided by Washington, Naranjo said.

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U.S., French troops extend Haiti occupation

Continued from front page from Chile.

The 1,700 U.S. Marines are mostly in Port-au-Prince. Their efforts to disarm the population are concentrated in poor, working-class districts like Cite Soleil, a stronghold of support for the ousted president.

During a brief visit to Haiti March 14, U.S. Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that violence would be "dealt with." Earlier, U.S. troops had notched up their fifth and sixth deaths, killing two men described by witnesses as bystanders.

Two days later 150 French troops were dispatched to the northern city of Cap Haitien. They immediately took control of the city's airport and the headquarters of the French battalion in the country will be moved there.

French military spokesman Maj. Xavier Pons said in Port-au-Prince that the number of French troops would build up to 400. Around 130 soldiers from the notorious French Legion will be sent to the northwestern city of Gonaives.

In spite of the imperialists' calls for disarmament and their raids in Port-au-Prince, the rightist forces walk the streets bearing arms in much of Haiti. Asked if French troops would disarm them in Cap Haitien and Gonaives, Pons said, "that is the role of the Haitian police."

"So far, the rebels have not been hostile," Lt. Col. Louis Acacio Acacio said. "We are observing them."

On the first full day in office of the U.S.-installed Prime Minister, Gerard Latortue, Haitian police used tear gas to break up a protest of Aristide supporters in the capital. About 1,000 people marched near the presidential palace chanting slogans against the U.S.-led occupation and the Latortue government inserted in place of the elected president, whose term of office would have ended next year.

In a ceremony at the National Palace, Latortue, who was flown in from Florida after living in the United States for decades, announced a 13-member "nonpartisan" cabinet that excludes any members of Aristide's Lavalas party.

On March 15 Aristide returned to the region from the Central African Republic where he had been placed in exile. In an



U.S. troops in the south and center of Haiti and French troops in the north have extended the occupation. Above, French soldiers patrol in Gonaives March 20.

interview with *Washington Post* reporters, he described how had been shanghaied by U.S. diplomatic and military officials and flown out of the country on February 29.

As rightist forces advanced on the capital, Aristide said, U.S. ambassador James Foley told him it was a matter of hours and that his departure was the only way to avoid widespread bloodshed.

The previous day, said Aristide, Foley had agreed to arrange a security escort so that he could appear on television to appeal for calm. The U.S. ambassador did not arrive at the Presidential Palace until the following day, however. When Aristide left in a motorcade with a U.S. "security" detail, he was taken not to a television studio but to the airport, and told to board an unmarked aircraft with a U.S. flag. He and his entourage were never told where they were being taken, under what conditions, and for how long.

A U.S. security guard told the *Post* that he thought the warning that the palace was about to be overrun by the rightist forces was a "subterfuge" to lure Aristide away.

With their typical arrogance, U.S. officials have never explained why, without his agreement, they sent Aristide to Africa in the first place, especially since other governments in Latin America had offered to

welcome him.

As Aristide's plane touched down in Jamaica, White House officials and Latortue said he would be to blame for any violence by his supporters. National Security advisor Condoleezza Rice called his return to the region a "bad idea." The Latortue government announced that it was freezing relations with Kingston.

Jamaica's prime minister, Percival Patterson, who is also chairman of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), replied that his government had granted Aristide temporary residence on "humanitarian" grounds, according to the Jamaican media.

Patterson said Aristide was in the country on the condition that Jamaica would not be used as a staging ground for an attempt to return to Haiti.

Along with Venezuela, Jamaica has refused to recognize the U.S.-backed Latortue government. Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez offered Aristide asylum and said, "We don't recognize Haiti's new government. The president of Haiti's name is Jean-Bertrand Aristide and he was elected by his people."

Washington has backed an attempted coup and other attempts by the big-business opposition in Venezuela to overthrow the elected Chávez government.

Both the Chávez and Aristide governments earned Washington's displeasure for their refusal to cut off normal relations with Cuba.

Cuban doctors continued working

According to an eyewitness report by Tracey Eaton in the *Dallas Morning News*, the 535 Cuban doctors working in Haiti stayed at their posts serving patients throughout the right-wing coup.

The only clinic or hospital operating in the country at that point, Eaton wrote, was a "makeshift emergency room operated entirely by Cuban doctors." They treated 22 gunshot victims on February 29 and March 1 alone and more than a hundred patients throughout that week.

"I don't know what I would have done without these Cuban doctors," a man treated for a skin infection told Eaton.

Cuban foreign minister Felipe Pérez Roque said Cuban doctors in Haiti provide health care to 75 percent of the nation's 8.3 million people. "To have an idea of how significant their work is," he said February 12, "one should be aware that Haiti has less than 2,000 doctors," all but 200 of whom are in Port-au-Prince.

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April 25 march

Continued from front page of Georgia.

In New York City, some 800 buses have already been reserved, march organizers report. Local chapters of the National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood, NARAL Pro-Choice America, and numerous campus groups have been holding regular planning meetings to involve new forces.

A group of young women at one of the weekly NOW-sponsored meetings volunteered to leaflet at the March 20 peace rally. They passed out hundreds of flyers and stickers there. Volunteers reported afterward that many of the demonstrators were students who said they were already involved in campus groups in the region planning to send buses to the march—from the University of Connecticut to New York University.

In Pittsburgh, La'Tasha Mayes, an organizer of the march, reported that local building efforts are getting a good response. Many women's rights supporters are angry at government measures that limit access to abortion and want to speak out for a woman's right to choose. Addressing a March 19 Militant Labor Forum, Mayes said that cuts in Medicare funding for abortion and the closure of clinics "impact women of color the most."

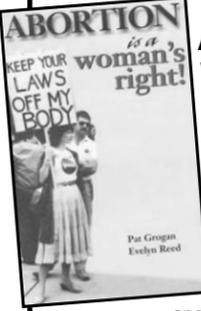
On March 16 a gathering to mobilize Black women for the march took place in East Liberty, a Black neighborhood in Pittsburgh. The featured speaker was Malika Redmond, of the National Center for Human Rights Education, who is traveling across the country to build the march among women of oppressed nationalities.

Arlene Rubinstein in Atlanta and Cindy Jaquith in Pittsburgh contributed to this article.

Build April 25 March on Washington

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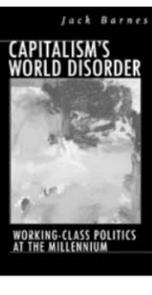
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Palestinians pour into streets in response to Israeli regime's killing of Hamas leader

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Across the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians poured into the streets March 22 to express their outrage at the Israeli regime's assassination of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin.

The wheelchair-bound 67-year-old was the target of a missile attack by Israeli Apache helicopters as he left a mosque in Gaza City after morning prayers. He and at least seven other individuals were killed. Two of his sons were among the 17 people injured.

As government officials in Washington and London expressed their sympathy for Tel Aviv and its fight against "terrorism," the Israeli military closed off West Bank cities and the checkpoints that divide the Gaza Strip into three sections. Israeli forces killed at least four more Palestinians in further actions.

Later, armored forces rolled into northern Gaza. Israeli military officers said that they had also launched air raids against the Palestinian organization Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, and exchanged artillery fire with Hezbollah units.

Reporters noted that the mood of Yassin's funeral march in Gaza City, joined by hundreds of thousands of people in a city of no more than half a million, was not mournful but combative. Schools and

shops in Gaza shut down in solidarity. In the West Bank city of Ramallah mosque loudspeakers called for a general strike, according to a *Reuters* dispatch.

Within hours of the assassination large protests also erupted in Lebanon, Yemen, and Egypt. Some 7,000 students protested at Cairo's Al-Azhar University. Another 5,000 rallied in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. In Lebanon thousands of Palestinians demonstrated near the southern city of Sidon and the northern city of Tripoli.

In Yemen 3,000 students demonstrated at the San'a University. They accused Washington of giving Tel Aviv the green light to assassinate Yassin, reported the *Washington Post*. Palestinian immigrants have taken the lead in organizing protests in New York and other cities outside the Mideast.

Yassin, who grew up in the refugee camps of Gaza, founded Hamas in 1987. In addition to providing some social services in the occupied territories, the organization has become a prominent opponent of Tel Aviv's occupation and a rival to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Hamas leaders have organized a number of military attacks on targets inside Israel and the occupied territories, including suicide bombings.

This was the second known assassination attempt on the Hamas founder. Authorities in Tel Aviv tried and failed to kill him in September 2003, when warplanes dropped

a 550-lb bomb on a building in which he was meeting with other Hamas leaders.

Citing the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, the *Guardian* reported that "the Israeli security cabinet took the decision to target [Yassin] once more following a double suicide bombing earlier this month in which 10 people were killed.

"Mr. Sharon oversaw the operation," continued the London-based paper, "receiving constant updates from military officials at his Negev ranch." Like other officials of the Israeli regime, Sharon crowded about the successful hit. Yassin, he said, was "the first and foremost leader of the Palestinian terrorist murderers."

"Anyone who is involved in terrorism in Gaza or the West Bank...knows after yesterday's assassination that no one is immune," said Police Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

Such "targeted killings" will continue,



Funeral march for Sheik Ahmed Yassin drew hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza City March 22.

said Shaul Mofaz, the defense minister. "Strikes against Hamas and other terror groups," he said, "will bring more security to Israeli citizens."

Policy of assassination

According to a March 22 AP report, Palestinian medical officials say that Israeli forces have "killed more than 150 militants in targeted raids since fighting broke out in September 2000."

The news organization reported the next day that army chief Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon "suggested that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the chief of the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, would eventually be assassinated. 'I think that their responses yesterday show that they understand that it is nearing them,'" he said—a reference to the statement by Palestinian Authority (PA) cabinet minister Saab Erekat that Palestinian officials were taking the threats of further such killings "very seriously."

Arafat called the killing "a barbaric crime." Palestinian prime minister Ahmed Qurie called it "one of the biggest crimes that the Israeli government has committed."

Last September the Israeli cabinet announced it had decided to act "to remove" Arafat. Israeli vice prime minister Ehud Olmert told Israel Radio that killing the PA president or forcing him into exile were among options being considered.

The confident tone of Israeli government officials was reinforced by the reaction in Washington and London to the assassination.

While a U.S. State Department spokesman said that the administration of President George Bush was "deeply troubled" by the killing and another official said that it was "not helpful," National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice urged people to "remember that Hamas is a terrorist organization and that Sheik Yassin has himself, personally, we believe, been involved in terrorist planning."

Britain's foreign minister, Jack Straw, said, "It is very difficult for all countries fighting terrorism to take a measured response in the face of the kind of outrageous terrorism that Israel has suffered. But a measure of restraint is required and I don't believe Israel will benefit" from the assassination.

The consolidation of the U.S. and British-led occupation of Iraq has reinforced Tel Aviv's military offensive against the Palestinians. Sharon presents the assaults on the Palestinians as part of the "global war on terror" championed by the U.S. rulers.

In recent statements, Sharon has said he is considering a unilateral "separation" from the Palestinians. The construction of a massive wall around and into the West Bank is one aspect of this policy of isolation and economic strangulation.

Sharon's ultimatums, which are depicted in the media as controversial within his government, include a so-called withdrawal from Gaza and, later, the West Bank. The *Wall Street Journal* reported March 23 that "Mr Sharon and other government leaders have made it clear, however, that Palestinians could wind up controlling as little as 40 percent of the land area most past negotiations have contemplated."

Tens of thousands protest Iraq occupation

Continued from front page

tions were two coalitions, International ANSWER and United for Peace and Justice, made up of various radical and liberal organizations. They focused the demonstration on President George Bush, blaming him and the Republican Party for the imperialist assault on Iraq and other actions at home and abroad, while supporting, explicitly or tacitly, presidential candidate John Kerry or other Democrats in the 2004 elections.

A large banner at the stage read, "Bush Lies! Who Dies?" Throughout the demonstration people carried banners, and placards and wore buttons with a similar emphasis. "Drop Bush, not bombs!" was a popular chant.

"Where are the weapons of mass destruction?" read some signs, referring to the fact that one of the pretexts used by the White House to justify the invasion of Iraq was the unsubstantiated charge that the Iraqi government had or was developing chemical, nuclear, or biological weapons.

Among the featured speakers were Ohio Congressman and Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich. "We are the campaign that we and all of you have been waiting for," Kucinich said. "I urge you to join us in this campaign for peace." He called for maintaining the military occupation of Iraq under United Nations sponsorship and for withdrawal of U.S. troops from that country.

Former British Labor Party parliamentarian Anthony Benn pointed to the electoral victory of the Socialist Party in Spain as a step forward and said he hoped U.S. voters would "follow the example of Spain's electorate."

Among the demonstrators was a large contingent of veterans and about a dozen families of U.S. soldiers. One of the speakers at the rally was Fernando Suárez del Solar, whose son Jesús was killed during the invasion of Iraq in March.

Over the course of the day participants exchanged views and opinions on the causes of the war and what could be done about it.

Richard Andersen, 57, from Vermont described himself as a veteran of protests against U.S. wars. He expressed exasperation about "how to stop these adventures" as he listed protests he has participated in against U.S. military intervention from "Vietnam to Grenada to Panama, and now Iraq." Andersen said he was encouraged by the electoral defeat of Spanish prime minister José María Aznar, whose government had supported the U.S.-led assault on Baghdad. Many placards in the demonstration read "I Love Spain."



New York protest March 20 was part of international day of action

Another theme expressed by demonstrators was opposition to the U.S.-backed Israeli occupation of Palestine and the frame-ups, arrests, and deportations of mostly Arab immigrants across the United States over the past two years. Speakers addressed the rally in support of Farouk Abdel-Muhti and Sami Al-Arian, Palestinian opponents of Israeli aggression living in the United States who were framed up and imprisoned in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

Rahyna Ali-Mustafa, 19, came with a busload from her mosque in Dearborn, Michigan. Palestinian flags waved throughout the contingent in the march and rally along with placards that read "Free Palestine" and "End the Occupation." Ali-Mustafa said she had participated in the rallies last year and that people need to keep protesting until the occupation is ended in Iraq and Palestine.

Helen Brandon, 20, a member of the Palestine Solidarity Committee at Yale University, said the Bush administration was trying to overturn the constitution and "if we don't wake up in November we could

all lose our rights." She added that it was also necessary to continue to protest.

Among the demonstrators were Young Socialists and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party who joined with those calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of U.S. and other foreign troops from Iraq and elsewhere. Many protesters stopped by literature tables they had set up along the march, seeking books and newspapers explaining the main political questions of the day. Hundreds took copies of a statement issued by Martin Koppel on behalf of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, titled "In response to Madrid and Washington: Fight for a 'new Europe' and a 'new America,' which condemned Spanish imperialism's stepped-up 'antiterror' offensive against workers and the peoples of the Basque country and North Africa.

Organizers of the rally in New York said there were more than 100,000 participants; New York City officials offered a figure of 30,000. Protests also took place in Britain, Japan, south Korea, the Philippines, Australia, and Egypt.

'Militant' and 'PM' subscription drive starts off with a bang

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The international campaign to win new readers to the *Militant* and its sister publication in Spanish, *Perspectiva Mundial*, burst out of the starting blocks March 20–21, with 209 *Militant* and 16 *PM* subscriptions sold. Among the highlights of the international effort were sales to coal miners in Alabama and New Mexico, and successful campaign tables in several cities at the large March 20 rallies against the U.S.- and British-led occupation of Iraq. (See front page for news report on protests.)

Supporters of the socialist publications are now charting a course to maintain that momentum throughout the eight-week campaign, which runs through May 17. The international goals are 2,000 *Militant* and 600 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions.

Eleven coal miners signed up for subscriptions to the *Militant* and one to *Perspectiva Mundial* over the March 20–21 weekend, reported Betsey Farley, a coal miner from northeastern Pennsylvania.

“Six subscriptions were sold to coal miners in Farmington, New Mexico,” she said, along with “four to coal miners in Alabama, and one to a surface miner in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. A miner in Utah signed up for a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*.”

Farley is helping put together teams in mining areas. The three-person New Mexico team hailed from Colorado and Utah, she said. They traveled to Farmington, New Mexico, to sell the socialist press to workers at two coal mines owned by BHP Billiton.

The miners, the majority of whom are Navajo, are members of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 953. In a 12-day strike in January they won a wage increase, improvements in the retirement package, and increased health-care benefits. Six miners from the local signed up for introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*, reported Farley. A Navajo cattle rancher who drove past while the team was selling at the mine also bought one. In addition, 18 miners bought single issues of the paper.

One new subscriber told the team that a delegation of striking miners from the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, had addressed the local.

Dan Fein reported on sales at the New York antiwar demonstration, which drew tens of thousands of people. “There was non-stop activity around our table and a lot of interest in the books and the *Militant*,” he said.

“By the end of the day we had sold dozens of books and subscriptions and had sold out of a number of titles.” Socialists sold more than 300 single copies and 42 subscriptions to the *Militant*, along with five subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*

Mother of soldier killed in Iraq speaks at Atlanta protest against U.S. occupation



Militant photos by Maceo Dixon

Several hundred people attended March 20 demonstration in Atlanta (above) against the U.S.- and British-led occupation of Iraq as part of an international day of action. Among the speakers was Patricia Roberts (inset), seen at the microphone with her family. Roberts is the mother of Jamil Addison, a soldier killed in Iraq on March 23, 2003. She called on Washington to bring the troops home now.

and dozens of Pathfinder titles.

In Des Moines, Iowa, some 1,500 people turned out at Drake University for a march and indoor rally against the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

“The featured speaker was Thomas Hayden, an activist in the anti-Vietnam War movement and a Democratic Party politician,” reported Edwin Fruit. “He urged rally participants to support the Democratic presidential candidate and lauded the European imperialist governments that call for the occupation to be supervised by the United Nations, rather than Washington.

“Our socialist literature table was the site of lively discussions,” said Fruit. “While many agreed with Hayden, a number were open to hearing a revolutionary perspective. Five bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and we sold 12 books.”

Among the thousands rallying in San Francisco, reported Laura Anderson,

“there was a lot of interest in the April 25 march on Washington to defend a woman’s right to choose as well as in the socialist newspapers and books. Our table featured a sign reading, ‘Defend a woman’s right to choose, Build April 25th March in D.C.’ Two students from the University of California at Santa Cruz asked if we could help them set up a table on campus to build the march.”

Anderson reported that more than 150 single issues and 21 *Militant* subscriptions were sold at the event, as well as over \$300 worth of Pathfinder books.

Running concurrently with the circulation drive, an international campaign to raise \$85,000 to help cover the operating costs of the two publications also began March 20. (See chart below.) Special fund-raising meetings are planned in a number of cities to help make this goal. These events will be advertised in coming issues of the *Militant*.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Fall Subscription Drive March 20–May 17 Local Goals

| Country | Militant Goal | PM Goal |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|
| AUSTRALIA | 45 | 7 |
| CANADA | | |
| Montreal | 25 | 10 |
| Toronto | 50 | 7 |
| Vancouver | 60 | 9 |
| CANADA total | 135 | 26 |
| ICELAND | 18 | 1 |
| NEW ZEALAND | | |
| Auckland | 25 | 1 |
| Christchurch | 20 | 1 |
| N.Z. total | 45 | 2 |
| SWEDEN | | |
| Gothenburg | 14 | 4 |
| Stockholm | 15 | 8 |
| SWEDEN Total | 29 | 12 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | | |
| Cent. Scotland | 20 | |
| London | 40 | 10 |
| UK total | 60 | 10 |
| UNITED STATES | | |
| Atlanta | 50 | 20 |
| Birmingham | 30 | 8 |
| Boston | 85 | 50 |
| Chicago | 100 | 35 |
| Cleveland | 30 | 8 |
| Des Moines | 50 | 25 |
| Detroit | 50 | 8 |
| Houston | 55 | 15 |
| Los Angeles | 120 | 50 |
| Miami | 70 | 18 |
| NE Pennsylvania | 35 | 10 |
| New York | 175 | 60 |
| Newark | 110 | 35 |
| Omaha | 30 | 32 |
| Philadelphia | 60 | 10 |
| Pittsburgh | 50 | 3 |
| San Francisco | 120 | 40 |
| Seattle | 50 | 10 |
| Tampa | 30 | 10 |
| Twin Cities | 65 | 35 |
| Utah | 30 | 15 |
| Washington | 55 | 20 |
| Western Colorado | 30 | 15 |
| U.S. total | 1480 | 532 |
| Int'l totals | 1812 | 590 |
| International goals | 2000 | 600 |
| IN THE UNIONS | | |
| | Militant Goal | PM Goal |
| AUSTRALIA | | |
| AMIEU | 10 | |
| NEW ZEALAND | | |
| NDU | 2 | 1 |
| MWU | 2 | |
| SWEDEN | | |
| Livs | 2 | 1 |
| UNITED STATES | | |
| UFCW | 110 | 113 |
| UMWA | 50 | 12 |
| UNITE | 50 | 40 |
| Total | 210 | 165 |

AMIEU—Australasian Meat Industry Employees’ Union; NDU—National Distribution Union; MWU—Meat Workers Union; Livs—Food Workers Union; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA—United Mine Workers of America

Targets of racist cop frame-up in Texas win suit

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

HOUSTON—A victory was scored in a nearly five-year fight against the mass arrest of 46 people—almost all of them Black—on false drug charges in the western Texas farming town of Tulia. The \$5 million settlement for those framed up and convicted came in a civil rights lawsuit filed on their behalf.

“No matter how much money they bring, they aren’t going to bring back those years,” said Kizzie White, 27, who spent four years behind bars on the trumped-up charges, the *Houston Chronicle* reported March 12.

The agreement also calls for the disbanding of a federally financed 26-county narcotics task force, which was responsible for the arrests. The settlement was agreed to by the city of Amarillo, Texas, which had played a leading role in running the task force.

In July 1999 cops conducted pre-dawn raids on the homes of 46 individuals—39 of them Black—in Tulia, a town of 5,000. They were jailed on the basis of accusations by undercover cop Thomas Coleman that they had sold him cocaine over an 18-month

period. Coleman had been employed by the state to conduct a sting for the Panhandle Regional Narcotics Task Force.

No evidence was produced during any of the trials to corroborate Coleman’s testimony. After the first several of those convicted were given 60 to 90-year sentences, 27 others accepted plea agreements for lesser time. The defendants were given a total of 800 years in prison and 100 years on probation.

“The task force is ultimately culpable for what happened in Tulia,” said Vanita Gupta, an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, according to the *New York Times*. The civil rights organization is one of the prominent national groups that joined in pursuing this case.

“They hired, supervised, and sponsored Tom Coleman’s activity in the 18 months he was operating there,” she said. “It’s not that Tom Coleman was simply a rogue officer. The problem is that federally funded narcotics task forces operate nationwide as rogue task forces.”

Coleman, who was named “Texas Lawman of the Year” in 1999 for his work in

Tulia, is now facing perjury charges stemming from the drug sting operation. He goes on trial in May.

Last June the last 13 of the jailed defendants were released pending a ruling by the appeals court. In August, Texas governor Richard Perry granted pardons to 35 of the 46, who had spent a combined total of 80 years behind bars.

\$85,000 Militant/PM Fund March 20–May 17

| | Goal |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Atlanta | 5,000 |
| Birmingham | 2,000 |
| Boston | 3,000 |
| Chicago | 5,000 |
| Cleveland | 1,200 |
| Des Moines | 1,100 |
| Detroit | 3,000 |
| Houston | 3,500 |
| Los Angeles | 8,000 |
| Miami | 1,700 |
| New York | 11,000 |
| Newark | 3,500 |
| NE Pennsylvania | 2,000 |
| Omaha | 440 |
| Philadelphia | 3,200 |
| Pittsburgh | 3,800 |
| San Francisco | 8,500 |
| Seattle | 6,000 |
| Tampa | 0 |
| Twin Cities | 4,000 |
| Utah | 1,500 |
| Washington, D.C. | 2,800 |
| Western Colorado | 2,000 |
| Sweden | 500 |
| Canada | 5,000 |
| Total | 87,440 |
| Goal/Should be | 85,000 |

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Cuba 1958: a revolutionary call to youth

‘Through our independence, we fight for that of Latin America,’ said Raúl Castro

Printed below is a selection from *Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground, 1952-58*, by Armando Hart, published in January by Pathfinder Press in English and Spanish editions. Hart was a central organizer of the urban underground and is one of the historic leaders of the Cuban Revolution.

This account of the struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship led by the July 26 Movement and the Rebel Army, headed by Fidel Castro, recounts the events from the perspective of revolutionary cadres organized in the cities.

The *Militant* is publishing a series of excerpts from the book. This week's selection is, "To Cuban youth, To all Latin American youth, To the youth of the world." Drafted by Raúl Castro, then commander of the Rebel Army's Second Front in northern Oriente province, the document describes how young people in Cuba took the lead in resisting the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, who grabbed power in a 1952 coup.

Issued in June 1958, the call was circulated clandestinely. Among those it reached were members of the July 26 Movement imprisoned in the Príncipe Castle prison. Copyright © 2004 by Pathfinder Press and reprinted by permission.



A delegation of Cuba's Federation of University Students meets with President Carlos Prío (seated at center) on the day of Fulgencio Batista's 1952 military coup in a fruitless attempt to obtain arms to resist the reactionary takeover.

Bohemia

BY RAÚL CASTRO

Compañeros:

From the rebel mountains of this eastern province—Free Territory of Cuba—on behalf of youth who, sacrificing everything, have promised to win or die rather than live under such ignominious oppression at a decisive moment of our history, we issue this *urgent call to all young people in the world* to unite their efforts with ours, so as to help save the youth of a brother people from destruction and extermination. We call on them to help a defenseless people that is being cruelly subjugated by the worst gang of criminals and murderers that any nation has ever suffered. We will never abandon the fight, no matter how unequal it might be.

On March 10, 1952, eighty days before general elections in which the people were to freely choose their rulers, Mr. Fulgencio Batista assumed military control of the country through a coup d'état. With a stroke of the pen he swept away all democratic institutions, assumed control in an autocratic way, and imposed the darkest despotism on the people. The leaders of the traditional political parties betrayed the people and abandoned them to their fate, taking refuge in their comfortable positions to await better times, in order to reappear with the stupid ambitions that have always helped characterize them as vultures over a battlefield. In this situation, Batista prepared phony one-man elections, electing himself president together with a housebroken congress.

Meanwhile, a people who suffer want to fight. It was then that Cuban youth decided to take the reins of the resistance. Students, workers, peasants, and professionals prepared to fight. On July 26, 1953, a youth ready to conquer its own destiny waged a frontal attack on the second most impor-

tant fortress in the country. When the attack failed, a hundred young people paid with their lives for their brave act of rebellion after suffering horrendous tortures. The students, on a struggle footing from the very first moment, saw their ranks diminished with the fall of new martyrs, including José Antonio Echeverría, the leader of the Cuban students. The sugar workers shook the country with tremendous strikes for the conquest of their just demands and the defense of violated liberties, facing the regime's repressive apparatus and the gangster machinery of the officialdom imposed on the trade unions. New losses are being added to the already long list of combatants of the Cuban proletariat.

At the end of 1956, after several years of preparation, the insurrection broke out in the countryside and the cities under the leadership of Fidel Castro and Frank País, an insurrection that continues and grows today. In mid-1957 the murder of Frank País in the streets of Santiago de Cuba produced the most formidable explosion of popular indignation ever witnessed in our country, and the general strike caused by his premature death at twenty-three years of age was drowned in blood. . . .

José Martí, our mentor and guide, whose work and ideas we are firmly determined today to carry forward, was not only concerned with the future of Cuba but of Our America—as he called the Latin American republics. Martí proved to be one of the greatest statesmen of all time. He saw accurately, before anyone else, the threat that the newly born empire represented to our young republics. On the eve of his death, from the fields of Free Cuba, in a letter to his friend Manuel Mercado, he wrote, among other things: "I have lived inside the monster and know its entrails; my sling is the sling of David. . . . I am daily in danger of giving my life for my coun-

try and my duty—since I understand that duty and am prepared to carry it out—the duty of preventing the United States from spreading across the Antilles, as Cuba obtains its independence, and overpowering with that additional strength our lands of America."

Foreseeing his approaching death he opens his heart to his distant friend and adds: "All I have done up til now, and all I will do, has been with that aim. I have had to work quietly and somewhat indirectly, because there are things that must be kept under cover in order to be achieved. Because to proclaim them openly would raise such difficulties that the objectives could not be reached."

The events smashed to pieces Martí's dreams. The events that he tried, with the independence of Cuba and Puerto Rico, to prevent, unfortunately came to pass.

So much fighting, bleeding, suffering and dying just to have our island pass from one set of hands to another. . . .

With Batista in power accompanied by the worst den of thieves and murderers ever suffered by a people anywhere, open U.S. interference continues. Mr. Gardner, their ambassador to Cuba, publicly declares his government's unwavering support to the island's tyranny, going so far as to accuse Cuban revolutionaries of being gangsters.

Batista has handed over great wealth to U.S. interests, but the Yankees want more, and to obtain it they are employing the tactic of a diplomatic shift. Now they are naming as ambassador Mr. [Earl] Smith, who pretends to pester Batista and support the revolutionary opposition. The goal was clear, and within a few days bore fruit: Batista, fearful of losing Yankee support, delivered scandalous concessions: the Moa cobalt mines, located in the territory of this Second Front; new concessions to the Telephone Company, to the Electric Company, to the oil companies, to the King Ranch cattle farm, and so on. We are so sure of what we say that our denunciation is being confirmed as we write these lines. This very morning, June 26, we heard on the radio that Batista has signed a decree with new and more humiliating concessions of Cuban subsoil to U.S. companies, *in perpetuity* no less. We have never seen such great monstrosities done to the economy of a nation. Undoubtedly these latest concessions come in exchange for the military aid the U.S. government is giving Batista at this precise and terrible moment.

As irrefutable proof of these charges, we point out the following facts: Colonel Tabernilla Palmero, chief of the dictatorship's air force and responsible for the merciless bombings of the cities of Cienfuegos and Sagua la Grande, was decorated by Major General Truman H. Landon, chief of staff

of the U.S. Air Command of the Caribbean, on the express orders and on behalf of President Eisenhower himself. This event was recorded in photographs by several newspapers of our country. At the end of May, officers of our Department of Rebel Intelligence informed us that throughout the month, the enemy air force had been supplied by bombs of all types at the Caimanera U.S. naval base [at Guantánamo Bay]. One of these reports reads: "On May 8 the dictatorship's army received 300 rocket bombs and 300 rocket-launch tubes with a weight of 9.6 tons. The Batista planes, after bombing the Sierra Maestra and this Second Front, often fill up their gasoline tanks at the base itself." These documents will be published in official organs of our Movement, and photographs and documents obtained inside the base itself will make their way around the world, presenting irrefutable proof of the charges we are making. . . .

An infinite number of shells for 60 and 80 mm. mortars have been captured in the different battle fronts of this Second Front, as well as bazooka shells, rifle grenades, and weapons of recent manufacture coming from U.S. arsenals. Unexploded bombs of the most varied types with the invariable inscription, "Made in USA," have been seized in the towns attacked by the dictator's planes. They are being kept as evidence of what we declare here. Our troops in combat have seized from the enemy light machine guns with the following inscription: "Fábrica San Cristóbal, República Dominicana."

In the battle zones, our combatants, armed only with land mines and Molotov cocktails, have had to face tanks obtained from the Nicaraguan dictatorship. In view of the popular reaction aroused in Latin America by a few demagogic statements that no more weapons would be delivered to Batista, as well as the existing pressure everywhere, it's easy to see why the U.S. government eliminated the direct and public supplying of military aid. Instead, they now do so indirectly through Dominican dictator Leónidas Trujillo and the Somoza dynasty, oppressors of the sister Nicaraguan republic. At the same time and behind the back of world public opinion, they continue their direct aid through the Caimanera U.S. naval base, as we detailed earlier.

As a consequence of these events, the Cuban people suffer the following evils:

In addition to the economic consequences already explained, the Cuban people suffer the most cruel and criminal oppression such as few nations in the world have had the misfortune of enduring. With the military aid that the U.S. government delivers to the murderers of Cubans, our people have and are continuing to suffer, on an ever greater scale, the most barbaric air raids ever seen in any republic of the American continent. With those same weapons, delivered by the U.S. government, thousands and thousands of Cuban youth, the flower of our generation, have been murdered. The beasts that are kept in power with the help of the U.S. government—many of whom were released from penal institutions by Batista—have turned our once happy cities into hell. They have tortured children of thirteen and fourteen and raped women of all ages. The most refined tortures, which make the worst Nazis look like children, have been put into practice with the diabolic cruelty of Batista's henchmen and the criminal knowledge and consent of the U.S. government. . . .

We may fall in the struggle, but we will have done our duty by holding aloft til the end the principles of José Martí. We are the historic link between past generations and future generations—of those children now five, eight, and ten years old who look at us with admiration and who tomorrow will pick up the banner of the struggle, a banner not just for today or tomorrow, but for the future.

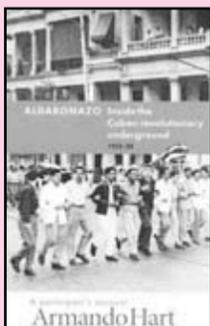
Cuban youth have taken a step forward. They have mounted an untamed beast in a high-speed race, and it is no longer possible

Continued on next page

New from
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Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground, 1952-58

by Armando Hart



In this firsthand account by one of the historic leaders of the Cuban Revolution, we meet many of the men and women who in the 1950s led the urban underground in the fight against the brutal U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship. Together with their comrades-in-arms of the Rebel Army, they not only brought down the tyranny, their revolutionary actions and example worldwide changed the history of the 20th century—and the century to come. \$25.00

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Madrid targets Basques, N. Africans

Continued from front page

to get a minute's rest," he said, referring to the armed independence group Basque Homeland and Freedom (ETA).

Governments of other imperialist powers, including France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have also seized on the bomb attacks to rally support for the use of their armed forces abroad and for attacks on workers rights at home, such as increasing the presence of cops and troops on trains and at transport hubs.

By March 18, police in Spain had jailed 11 men they claimed were connected to the attacks. They identified three as Moroccans, four as "Arabs," two as Indian, and one each as Algerian and Spanish. Five of the men "gave testimony" behind closed doors at Madrid's High Court on March 18, Spanish authorities said. Using undemocratic measures put in place in the name of the "war on ETA," those imprisoned in the case can be held for up to four years without a formal indictment.

In the election, the Spanish Socialist Workers Party (PSOE) won 164 seats in the country's 350-seat parliament and PSOE leader José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero became prime minister. The Popular Party (PP) of Prime Minister José María Aznar won 147 seats. Rodríguez Zapatero has said he will form a government with the support of smaller bourgeois parties.

The vote came only three days after bombs exploded in three Madrid train stations, killing more than 200 people and wounding at least 1,500 others. Without presenting a shred of evidence, government leaders and other capitalist politicians, including PSOE leaders, immediately laid the blame on ETA.

"The election campaign is over. This is a day of mourning for Spanish democracy," said PP candidate Mariano Rajoy. PSOE candidate Rodríguez Zapatero also called off his scheduled campaign stops, and said, "The terrorists should know that any government will pursue them until they are answerable for this atrocious crime."

The London *Financial Times* noted that "the only political leader to question ETA's responsibility for the massacre in Madrid was Arnaldo Otegi, leader of the outlawed [Herri] Batasuna," which government officials have claimed is ETA's political wing. Madrid had declared the pro-Basque independence party illegal in 2002.

After a videotape was released in which a man claiming to speak for al Qaeda attributed the bombing to that group, Aznar began hedging his bets, saying no "line of investigation would be ruled out."

Declaring that "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy," Aznar headed up a demonstration of two and a half million people in Madrid on March 12 to condemn "terrorism." Joining him at the rally were Jean-Pierre Raffarin and Silvio Berlusconi, the prime ministers of France and Italy, respectively, and the president of the European Commission. According to the

Financial Times, more than 7 million people joined such events across the country.

In the wake of the bombings, the social-democratic PSOE stepped up its pro-Spanish imperialist anti-Americanism and won the elections. Social-democratic and other "left" forces argued that Aznar was to blame for aligning the Spanish government with the "U.S." war and occupation of Iraq, pretending up the role of Spanish imperialism in the Mideast, central Asia, Morocco, and other parts of the world.

During his election campaign and since his electoral victory, Rodríguez Zapatero has stated that the 1,400 Spanish troops that are part of the occupation of Iraq may be withdrawn unless the imperialist forces there come under the formal aegis of the United Nations.

It was under a UN mandate that Washington, Paris, Madrid, Berlin, London, and other imperialist powers imposed brutal economic sanctions against the people of Iraq—preparations for last year's U.S.-British invasion of the country.

Bipartisan 'antiterror' drive

Immediately after his victory, Rodríguez Zapatero made it clear that his government will step up the Spanish rulers' offensive waged under the banner of the "war on terror." He said he would "cooperate with the outgoing government to ensure the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism" and went out of his way to express "full support for, and faith in our police and state security forces."

During the campaign Rodríguez Zapatero reminded PSOE members in the Basque country that he had co-signed with Aznar the Pact for Liberties and Against Terrorism, drawn up in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

On March 17 Rodríguez Zapatero told reporters that his government's goal was "to finish off terrorism, and ETA is not going to get a minute's rest."

ETA has repeatedly issued statements denying that it was involved in the train bombing. After the elections, the ETA leadership offered to enter talks with the incoming Socialist Party government. Rodríguez Zapatero dismissed the offer out of hand.

The stance of the social-democratic prime minister-elect is consistent with the previous PSOE government of Prime Minister Felipe González, which waged a brutal military-police campaign against the national aspirations of the Basque people.

In the 1980s, the PSOE government waged a "dirty war" against the independence movement. Revelations about the killings of at least 27 independence fighters by Madrid-backed death squads were a factor in the defeat of the government of Felipe González in 1996 elections.

The Basque people, an oppressed nationality in Spain, faced decades of brutal repression under the fascist dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco, which was responsible for the deaths of 200,000 Basques, and the jailing and exiling of tens of thousands more from the 1930s through the mid-1970s.

Following the end of the Franco regime, the Basque people fought for and won a measure of autonomy, but continue to be denied full self-determination. Nearly 600 Basque political prisoners are still in French or Spanish jails, while Madrid still refuses to recognize the Basque tongue as an official language.

With the mass political organizations of the labor movement, including the Socialist and Communist parties, playing a key role in mobilizing anti-Basque sentiment, successive Spanish governments have branded ETA—the principal armed formation—as "terrorist," stripping those arrested as ETA members of their rights in "national tribunals" and



AFP/Thomas Coex

Spanish soldiers on patrol in the Iraqi town of Diwaniya last September. The newly elected Spanish government has called for maintaining the imperialist occupation force in Iraq, which includes 1,300 Spanish troops, under the UN banner.

whipping up massive, reactionary public demonstrations to condemn its military actions and win backing for the dirty wars of Madrid.

Madrid targets N. African immigrants

Alongside the Basques, who number several 3 million among a total population of 40 million in Spain, immigrants from Morocco and other North African countries are being targeted by the police in the aftermath of the bombings.

Millions of workers have made their way to Spain from Morocco to work in the country's large agricultural concerns and other industries. Most are concentrated in Catalonia, Andalusia, and Madrid.

In February 2000, Moroccan and Algerian farm workers in El Ejido, a small Andalusian town, led a week-long strike—the first action of its kind in Spanish history—in response to racist terror attacks. The authorities had looked the other way during two days of assaults on shops, houses, and mosques, which were segregated from the town itself and located near the fields.

The 15,000 immigrants in the town demanded new housing for those who had lost their homes, compensation for damage, the legalization of workers without permits, and compliance with their labor agreements.

Secretary of State Colin Powell was among the U.S. officials who declared support for Madrid's actions in its "investigation" of the bombings. "ETA is still a candidate for responsibility," he said in a March 14 interview with Fox News, adding, "but now with these new developments of the arrests of the Moroccans and the Indians and the [alleged al Qaeda] tape, I know that the Spanish authorities have to consider that."

The U.S. government immediately offered help with the Spanish "investigation." In New York extra surveillance was mounted in the subway system. The New Jersey *Star Ledger* reported March 18 that state police mobilized the previous day for the extra traffic going into New York for the St. Patrick's Day parade by deploying "helicopter patrols, bomb-dog units and dozens of uniformed and plainclothes troopers."

"Riders might as well get used to the sight" of cops patrolling the corridors of trains and stations, commented the *Star Ledger*.

Cuba 1958: revolutionary call to youth

Continued from Page 6

to stop it or turn it around. There is thus only one outcome possible: either the beast is tamed, or it throws us off and tramples us. That depends on you, Cuban youth, Latin American youth, youth from anywhere in the world. If you maintain an indifferent silence, you will become accomplices of those who today murder us and tomorrow will murder you. It does not matter if you are North American, Soviet, Chinese, or Venezuelan; we are all brothers. Across borders, languages, political or religious beliefs, we all belong to the great family of the world's youth. We confront the same problems, suffer the same consequences, and live under the same threats. In face of that, arm in arm, with a firm footing and our heads held high, let us all sing the same hymn of hope. Let us aspire to and fight for peace and future happiness. And

U.S. officials told their counterparts in European Union (EU) governments that "security" at U.S. airports would likely soon include requirements for all visitors to have their fingerprints and photographs taken. To date, visitors from EU-member countries, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia have been exempt from such requirements, imposed in January on citizens of most countries.

The European imperialist powers also moved to take advantage of the Madrid bombings in their continuing attempts to curtail basic rights. The French government announced that it was investigating an organization called "The servants of Allah the Powerful and Wise," which had allegedly sent a threatening letter to Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin. To justify their ongoing crackdown on Muslims, French officials said they expected to be targets of Islamic attacks following the government's reactionary banning of Muslim head scarves in French schools.

The *Financial Times* reported that the German government "could launch a shake-up of its domestic intelligence activities under proposals by government and opposition politicians following the bombing of commuter trains in Spain last week."

Zapatero on Spanish troops in Iraq

The Spanish prime minister-elect gained most publicity for his criticism of the U.S. and British-led occupation of Iraq. Rodríguez Zapatero said March 17 that he would "stick by his decision to pull 1,300 Spanish troops out of Iraq unless the United Nations takes control of peacekeeping."

Rodríguez Zapatero set June 30 as a deadline for the unspecified increase in UN involvement, taking a position that leaves considerable room for keeping Spanish troops in Iraq.

He argued that "combating terrorism with bombs, with operations of shock and awe, with Tomahawk missiles, is not the way to beat terrorism."

Rodríguez Zapatero added, "We're aligning ourselves with [John] Kerry," the Democratic Party challenger to incumbent George Bush in the November contest for the U.S. presidency. Kerry, however, said March 16, "In my judgment the new prime minister should not have said he was going to pull out of Iraq."

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How Sacco and Vanzetti fought frame-up

Below is an excerpt of a speech by James P. Cannon in defense of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti that appears in *Notebook of an Agitator*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March. Given at a mass meeting in Chicago on May 13, 1927, it was first printed in the June 1927 issue of the *Labor Defender*, the magazine of the International Labor Defense (ILD). Sacco and Vanzetti were Italian-born anarchist workers who were framed in 1920 on robbery and murder charges and sentenced to the electric chair; they were executed seven years later. Their cause became known and supported by workers around the world as an example of courageous struggle against U.S. class injustice.

This selection is taken from the chapter

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

titled, "A speech for Sacco and Vanzetti."

Notebook of an Agitator contains articles by Cannon spanning four decades of working-class battles—defending Industrial Workers of the World frame-up victims, the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters strikes, battles on the San Francisco waterfront, and labor's fight against the McCarthyite witch-hunt in the 1950s.

Cannon, a founding leader of the Communist Party in the United States, served from 1925 to 1928 as executive secretary of the ILD. The ILD defended working-class militants from various political tendencies who were victimized by the capitalists' courts and cops. It raised money for their defense,



Twenty thousand workers rally in New York's Union Square for Sacco and Vanzetti. They adopted a resolution demanding life and freedom for the working-class militants.

organized speaking tours, and published the monthly magazine *Labor Defender*.

In 1938 Cannon was a founding leader of the Socialist Workers Party. He served as the party's national secretary from its founding until 1953. Copyright © 1958 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.



BY JAMES P. CANNON

Everyone today knows why the Bourbons of Massachusetts arrested, imprisoned and tried Sacco and Vanzetti. Had they not been scrupulously loyal to the cause of the working class, they would not now be faced with the grim march to the death chair. Had they remained silent while their brothers and comrades around them suffered persecution and oppression, had they not made the ideal of the liberation of the working class their own ideal, there would not today be a Sacco-Vanzetti case. Had they, in court, begged for mercy and renounced their cause and their past, they would have been freed to achieve obloquy.

But they did none of this. Despite the hundreds of interminable nights and days of imprisonment, with the ghastly thought of execution constantly in their minds, they have remained as simply true to the work-

ers' cause as they were before this infamous frame-up was conceived in the minds of the Massachusetts reaction. Yes, their persecution has even steeled their convictions, and has already bound them inseparably with the history of the American labor movement.

After seven years they came to court for sentence. I wish every worker in America could read the speech that Vanzetti made there. After seven years of torture, with the death sentence hanging over him, this man stood up in court, not as one guilty, not as one afraid. He turned to the judge on the bench and said to him:

"You are the one that is afraid. You are the one that is shrinking with fear, because you are the one that is guilty of attempt to murder."

Vanzetti called his witnesses there, and not merely legal witnesses. He marshaled before Judge Thayer's attention the thousands who have decided to hold mass meetings such as ours; and public men of our period like Anatole France, Maxim Gorki, Bernard Shaw, Henri Barbusse, Albert Einstein. He pointed to the many millions who have protested against the frame-up.

He turned to Eugene Victor Debs and other men in America. Let us not forget that we should measure guilt and innocence not by formal evidence in court

alone, but by higher values than that. Let us not forget that the last thing that Eugene Debs wrote publicly was an appeal to the workers of America for Sacco and Vanzetti, an appeal whose stirring language aroused with renewed vigor the protest of hundreds of thousands in this country, and brought again the million-voiced demand for life and freedom for these two valiant fighters, and condemnation of their persecutors.

It is hard to speak with restraint. I, like Comrade Chaplin, also had the honor of talking with Vanzetti. Everyone that has seen and talked with him comes away with the feeling that he has stood in the presence of one of the greatest spirits of our time.

It is hard to speak with restraint when one is pressed by the thought that the vengeful executioners of Massachusetts are consummating their hideous plan to press the switch that will forever remove from our ranks the persons of these two men who we feel are so much a part of labor and its cause. Our impassioned determination to mobilize all of our strength and power to rescue Sacco and Vanzetti from their blood-lusting jailers must be communicated throughout the land, if we are to save them from the fate that has been prepared for them.

While I agree with the statements of Fitzpatrick that our meeting should dissociate itself from irresponsible people, let us not forget the year 1915 when Joe Hill was killed in Utah. We must remember that when the wave of working-class protest began to rise in protection of Joe Hill, gangs of detectives began to fake threatening letters. After the heart of Joe Hill had been pierced by the bullets of the death squad, it was exposed that frame-up letters had been used. This must be a lesson for us and for those who are the friends of Sacco and Vanzetti.

There is no need to threaten the governor or anyone else because the protection of Sacco and Vanzetti is far stronger than any personal act. The protection of Sacco and Vanzetti is the job of the working class of the world, which is knocking on the door, not with the hands of irresponsible individuals, but with the titanic fist of the workers of the wide world, because they believe in the innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti. We say to you, our friends and our chairman, before they turn on the switch, that the real aim is not only to burn Sacco and Vanzetti in the electric chair but to burn the labor movement in America.

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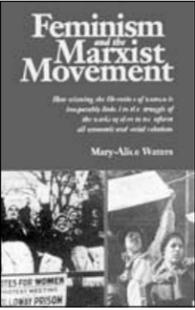
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Working people in prison seek out Pathfinder books

BY MACEO DIXON AND FRED WHITE

ATLANTA— Among the 2 million workers and farmers incarcerated in federal, state, and local prisons throughout the United States, there are many who question the capitalist “justice” system that put them behind bars. Repelled by the class inequalities, instability, racism, women’s oppression, cop violence, and wars endemic to capitalism, they seek answers, including in revolutionary books.

During the last year volunteers in Pathfinder’s book warehouse here have processed several hundred prisoner requests from every corner of the country for the New York-based publisher’s annual print catalog. Workers and farmers behind bars are using the catalog to order an increasing number of Pathfinder titles.

In letters accompanying their orders and requests, the prisoners contacting Pathfinder have indicated a deep interest in socialist ideas. The writings of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, the founders of the modern communist movement, are among the heaviest in demand, along with those by Vladimir Lenin, the central leader of the Russian Revolution. Also popular are books that tell the truth about the revolution in Cuba, including the speeches and writings of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. The speeches of Malcolm X are also in demand.

An increasing number of prisoners also express interest in books and pamphlets about the U.S. labor movement and broader working-class politics in this country, including the fight for women’s liberation. Some have ordered issues of *New Internationalist*, the magazine of Marxist politics and theory that Pathfinder distributes.

In at least one prison volunteers know of, inmates have organized a study group centered on Pathfinder titles.

An e-mail message arrived from another prison ordering a catalog, and explaining with regret that a lack of funds prevented the prison library from ordering any books.

These are some of the comments Pathfinder has received:

An inmate writes from a prison in Texas, “I have started submitting requests to the prison library that they supply us with your books.” He includes his “most sincere revolutionary greetings to Pathfinder Press and all the comrades who have made it possible for inmates like myself to be armed with the truth.” On three occasions during the last year this prisoner has ordered a total of \$200 worth of books and pamphlets from Pathfinder.

A Florida inmate told us, “I’m writing from inside the gates. I’m on a quest for knowledge and was told your Book Palace was a good place to start.”

A number of prisoners have contacted Pathfinder after hearing about its stock of titles from fellow working people in prison. “I’ve been hearing about the books that you sell and I would very much like to order some of them,” wrote one man from Illinois. A prisoner in Virginia reported, “I learned of your company through an individual I was conversing with.”

From California, one man wrote, “I acquired your address from a friend. From what he told me...I am very interested in the types of books you offer.” Similarly, a North Carolina prisoner said, “A comrade of mine let me view your catalog...and I’m very interested in purchasing some books.”

To help these fellow working people get “armed with the truth,” as the reader in Texas put it, Pathfinder offers prisoners a 50 percent discount on the cover price for all books and pamphlets. There is a flat fee of \$2.50 for shipping and handling each order of one or more titles. Prisoners who request a catalog receive it free of charge.

The mailing address for all catalog requests, correspondence, and book orders is: Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 162767, Atlanta, GA 30321. Correspondents are asked to include any necessary forms and let us know of any restrictions or guidelines that have to be observed in getting a shipment to a prisoner at each particular prison.

Maceo Dixon and Fred White are volunteers at the Pathfinder distribution warehouse in Atlanta.

Constant struggle to get ‘quality books’ into prisons of apartheid South Africa

Throughout the history of working-class and anti-imperialist struggles, workers and farmers have made use of time behind bars to study the lessons of history and to gain a deeper understanding of science and culture.

Such experiences are recorded in several Pathfinder books. One example is *The Struggle is My Life* by Nelson Mandela, the central leader of the struggle against the brutal apartheid system in South Africa. In one section, an interview with S.R. “Mac” Maharaj, his fellow prisoner and leader of the African National Congress, provides details of Mandela’s 27-year imprisonment for his revolutionary activities.

In the 1978 interview, Maharaj noted that the quality of the books available to prisoners was “a major problem. They are subject to censorship and the result is that you have the peculiar situation where, though [the authorities] say they would like to censor books which deal with sex and crime, these are

in fact the books that are available on a wide scale. But serious books, ones that we are interested in—history, economics, the geography of the world, social questions, social developments—these are very scarce.”

Maharaj adds, “Good novels are very scarce.”



African National Congress of South Africa leaders Nelson Mandela (left) and Walter Sisulu in prison yard, 1966.

Mandela and other leaders of the ANC organized classes for members in prison to read, study, and gather information about the outside world to further arm themselves for participation in the ongoing anti-apartheid struggle. This entailed a constant struggle to get reading materials into the jails.

—M.D., FW

Pittsburgh janitors protest firings after union-organizing victory



Militant/Marty Ressler

PITTSBURGH—“Who are we? Local 3!” chanted 250 members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 3 and their supporters as they rallied March 12 outside the Centre City Tower. The unionists demanded the reinstatement of 19 janitors who lost their jobs after joining the union when their employer, Building Services, was dumped by Independence Management Company. Some 750 janitors scored a victory over the bosses last year, forcing them to recognize the SEIU and sign a contract in October. The unionists at the rally explained that they are demanding more affordable health care. They ended the action by symbolically placing garbage bags in front of the building.

—MARTY RESSLER

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April 6, 1979

CHICAGO—Andrew Pulley, Black steelworker and socialist candidate, versus Patrick Buchanan, right-wing Washington columnist and former Nixon speechwriter.

That’s what millions of viewers saw March 28 on the ABC national network news and talk show, “Good Morning America.”

The two debated the *Weber* case and affirmative action. To Buchanan’s claim that quotas violate civil rights laws by “favoring” one race over another, Pulley replied with the facts of discrimination at Kaiser Aluminum, where Brian Weber is trying to overturn an affirmative action job training program.

“We need these quotas to force corporations to hire Blacks, *latinos*, and women,” Pulley explained. “With Black unemployment twice that for whites, with three or four times the unemployment rate for Black youth, Blacks are still suffering from discrimination, from the vestiges of slavery and segregation.”

Pointing out how affirmative action strengthens and unifies the labor movement, Pulley said that “a victory for Weber will set the whole union movement back and hurt all working people.”

On March 24 Pulley spoke to 120 members of the American Postal Workers Union about the need for the unions to build a labor party.

The postal workers were attending a three-day conference sponsored by the O’Hare Midway APWU local on the topic, “From Fraternity to Fighter: Seeking Allies.”

Joining Pulley on the platform at the Saturday evening session were Lorenzo Stephens, APWU director for human relations, and Moe Biller, a leader of the 1970 postal strike in the New York area.

Pulley pointed to workers’ growing resistance to the attacks on their rights and

living standards: from the shipyard workers’ strike in Newport News, Virginia, to last year’s heroic 110-day coal strike.

April 5, 1954

NEW YORK—Civil strife has gripped and paralyzed this major port. Some 20,000 dock strikers face an unholy combination of shipowners, Republican and Democratic political machines, and a segment of the AFL led by Paul Hall and David Beck, heads of the Seaman’s and Teamster unions.

The strikers’ union leaders are under indictment for defying an anti-labor injunction. Their strike is called a “criminal conspiracy” by Governor Dewey who, with Washington’s approval, promises that the government will “use every weapon at its command to break the strike.” Strikebreakers are herded onto the docks by the AFL leaders and the police are mobilized to intimidate and smash the strikers’ resistance. Mayor Wagner, elected last fall as “labor’s friend,” has left town for a vacation in Bermuda.

The 27-day-old strike was initiated by the ranks of the independent International Longshoremen’s Association, but has now received ILA Council sanction. At issue in this waterfront war is the right of the dockers to a union of their own choice free from coercion and regimentation organized by the State in collusion with the AFL leaders.

The present waterfront crisis was precipitated by the intervention of the AFL leaders, who are seeking to supplant the ILA. The AFL expelled the ILA with the pious declaration that the ILA had failed to “clean its house.” The potentially greatly lucrative prize was then turned over to an AFL committee dominated by Hall and Beck, well-known as aggressive expansionists interested primarily in increasing their own power and prestige.

In response to Spanish and U.S. imperialist 'antiterror' offensive

Continued from front page

well-deserved hatred of millions around the world.

Today, seeking to advance the interests of Spanish finance capital, Madrid has deployed "peacekeeping" troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosova, Bosnia, and Djibouti as part of the imperialist occupation forces in those countries—under the banner of the United Nations, NATO, "the coalition of the willing," or any combination of the above. This is on top of the longstanding Spanish colonial enclaves in Morocco, Ceuta and Melilla.

The call by the new social-democratic prime minister of Spain to put the thousands of foreign troops in Iraq under United Nations control instead of direct U.S. administration would change nothing about the character of the occupation. The Iraqi people already have abundant experience with the corruption and brutality of the UN in maintaining murderous economic sanctions against them for a decade, systematically laying the basis for the U.S.-led invasion last year. And working people from Korea to the Congo and beyond can testify to the true face of imperialist occupation carried out under the "command" of the blue helmets.

The pro-Spanish imperialist anti-Americanism promoted by the new social-democratic government, far from being "antiwar," is a deadly prowar poison for working people. It is being used to politically hitch workers, farmers, and youth in Spain to the interests of their exploiters.

The notion that support to one or another of the world's imperialist ruling classes, or to any wing of them, will somehow improve the position of working people—that it will provide immunity from the deepening and inescapable class battles that are accelerating—is an illusion. It is an illusion that damages the cause of the labor movement, national liberation struggles, defense of the Cuban Revolution, and all other battles for social justice.

Whether aligned with the wolves in Washington or the hyenas in Berlin, Paris, Rome, and Madrid, every imperialist power will continue to be driven toward wars of plunder and intensified exploitation by the desperate need to increase profit rates and edge out competitors—driven, that is, by the very workings of the capitalist system itself.

All the conflicts generated by imperialism's march toward depression and war are sharpening today. From NATO's escalating intervention in Kosova, to the U.S. and Pakistani offensive on the border with Afghanistan, to the U.S. military preparations for action against Venezuela—the pattern is evident.

At the same time, the capitalist rulers in the United States, Canada, France, Spain, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere are using the "global war on terrorism" as a pretext to step up their assault on the livelihoods and political rights of workers and farmers. In targeting the Basque struggle for self-determination and North African immigrants, the Spanish state has denied defendants the right to due process, curtailed freedom of assembly, and trampled on other basic rights.

Regardless of who organized the train bombings

that killed more than 200 defenseless men, women, and children in Madrid—an action no class-conscious worker can support—one thing is certain: there will be no peace so long as the economic, social, and political world created by imperialism continues to exist. From the March 11 attacks in Madrid, to the U.S.-led invasion and occupation of Iraq, it is working people who will go to the wall every time.

On Sept. 11, 2001, in a statement I issued as the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York, our campaign explained, "By its systematic superexploitation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by its never-ending insults to their national and cultural dignity; by its ceaseless murderous violence in countless forms—U.S. imperialism is turning North America into a death trap for working people and all who live here."

That statement remains true today. It remains true for every imperialist state. Through the horrors it has inflicted on working people and the oppressed around the world, imperialism has sowed the wind and it will reap the whirlwind. And the toilers will be the ones to suffer horribly.

Wars of conquest, economic dislocation and ruin, and assaults on human dignity will continue—until working people take power out of the hands of the capitalist ruling classes and establish their own rule, workers and farmers governments, everywhere. Among the first measures such a government in Spain would take today would be to grant the Basques and other oppressed peoples the right to self-determination. It would bring all the troops home immediately and withdraw from imperialist alliances such as NATO and the European Union.

There is much talk in bourgeois circles about "old Europe" and "new Europe," referring to tactical rifts and growing economic and financial conflicts among the rival imperialist powers.

There *is* a "new Europe" being born, but it is not among the capitalist rulers of the continent. "New Europe" is being prepared by our class cousins—the working people of Europe and their allies. Those standing up and fighting the offensive of the bosses and their governments: from North African farm workers protesting racist attacks in Spain, to dairy farmers in Scotland demanding a living income, to Irish republicans fighting for an end to British rule, to workers and students resisting the assault on government health benefits, pensions, education, and other facets of the social wage they have won through past class battles.

Working people in the United States must demand that all imperialist troops be withdrawn *now* from Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Haiti, Guantánamo, the Balkans, and wherever else they may be. We must protest moves—from Washington to Madrid—to curb the political rights of working people and oppressed nationalities.

And we must stand alongside our class brothers and sisters and their allies in Europe and the world over. Because a new America is also being born—the America of workers and farmers who are in the front ranks of resistance to the employers' assaults here at home.

1957 Miami Pact was bourgeois, not reformist

BY SAM MANUEL

An excerpt from the new Pathfinder book *Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground 1952-58* in the March 15 issue of the *Militant* carried the headline: "Cuba 1957: Castro defends revolutionary course, rejects reformist 'Miami pact.'" The headline is incorrect. It should have read, "rejects bourgeois 'Miami Pact.'"

In the communist movement "reformist" refers to forces within the workers movement that follow a course of class collaboration with the capitalist class. They advocate a strategy of political and economic reforms to modify capitalism—counterposed to a course of deepening the political education, mobilization, and independent organization of working people and their allies to take political power into their own hands and overturn capitalist rule. The forces in Cuba that issued the Miami Pact were not part of the workers movement—they were bourgeois.

Aldabonazo, by Armando Hart, one of the historic leaders of the Cuban Revolution, is an account of the struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship led by the July 26 Movement and the Rebel Army, headed by Fidel Castro. It recounts the events from the perspective of revolutionary cadres organizing in the cities. Hart was a central organizer of the urban underground.

The excerpt of the book reprinted in the March 15 *Militant* was taken from a document entitled, "Manifesto to the nation: Response to the Miami Pact," which appears in chapter seven. It is a repudiation, drafted by Fidel Castro, of the 1957 Miami Pact and of the political course of the forces that issued it, the so-called Cuban Liberation Council. Presented as a call for unity among the anticommunist forces, it was drafted without the knowledge or

participation of the July 26 Movement in Cuba.

The Cuban Liberation Council was dominated by bourgeois opponents of Batista living in the United States. One of the main capitalist parties that signed the pact was the Authentic Party, which had held the presidency in Cuba from 1944 until the government of President Carlos Prío was overthrown by Batista in a military coup in March 1952.

Showing that the class it represented feared a popular armed mobilization more than a military dictatorship, Prío's government had vacated office without a fight, refusing to distribute weapons to students and others who were demanding them in order to resist the coup.

Under the guise of unity, the Miami Pact sought to reestablish the old political order in Cuba based on the Authentic Party and other bourgeois forces. In his reply Castro exposed, point by point, the political cowardice and subservience of the document's authors toward the dictatorship's backers in Washington. Among other things, they failed to explicitly reject all foreign intervention in Cuba's internal affairs. "Are we such cowards that we won't even demand no intervention on the side of Batista?" Castro asked. The bourgeois leaders also did not explicitly reject replacement of the dictatorship with a military junta as a "provisional government"—an action Batista would gladly concede, as Castro explained, "as the best way to guarantee a transition that does the least damage to his interests and those of his cronies."

"What is important for the revolution," Castro emphasized, "is not unity in itself, but the principles on which it is based, how it is achieved, and the patriotic intentions motivating it."

Resisting the military boot of Israeli regime

Continued from Page 12

cept this repression wall confiscating 58 percent of our lands?

"This Berlin wall is destroying all of our best agricultural land and our water aquifers," said Arafat. "They have taken 82 percent of our water and are now selling us back 18 percent of it. The second-biggest water aquifer in the region runs under Qalqilya and now they are cut off from it by the wall and we have to buy water and deliver it there in trucks."

Arafat spoke of the agreements that the Israeli government has broken over the last decade, beginning with the 1993 Oslo Accords. He encouraged the delegation to visit the city of Nablus, where the Israeli army has destroyed and damaged some of the oldest structures in the region.

"When the Afghan government destroyed the Buddhist temples, do you remember the reaction, the horror the Americans expressed?" he asked. "Here they have destroyed the old city of Nablus, the St. Mary's Temple in Bethlehem, and not one voice."

The only entrance to Nablus is a heavily fortified army checkpoint. Arriving there March 9, the delegates were told to stand aside and wait until the commander approved our entry.

A line of Palestinians waited to get through. A soldier resting a U.S.-made M-16 on a cement block motioned for the next in line to show their ID. He trained his weapon on everyone who approached until they were standing inches away from the barrel. With the gun still pointed at their chest he asked each a series of questions. We watched as several were turned away after the soldier declared that their identification didn't pass muster. A few minutes later, an officer arrived and informed the delegation that they could not enter the city.

The delegation had visited the Jenin refugee camp the previous day. A three-block-wide area, once home to more than 2,000 people, was reduced to rubble by Israeli army bulldozers during a raid there in April 2002. The destruction was Tel Aviv's response to the camp residents' resistance in the face of the Israeli incursion. Fighters in Jenin had held the Israeli army at bay for 15 days and 23 Israeli soldiers died taking the camp. The army killed 59 Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, in the assault.

The camp is now being rebuilt. A resident of the camp told us that most of those left homeless from the destruction refused a PA offer to be relocated in homes on the West Bank. They refused to give up their refugee status, determined to return to the land that was taken in 1948.

According to United Nations statistics, some 1.5 million Palestinians live in the refugee camps in the occupied territories, and 2.5 million more live in camps in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon. The right of return to their historic land is a central demand in the Palestinian struggle. Because of this, the camps remain a special target of the Israeli occupiers.

Returning to Ramallah, the delegates spent much of the last full day visiting the Jalazon refugee camp and meeting with students at Bir Zeit University. The following day, after a wrap-up discussion of the trip with GUPS president Ibrahim Khraishi, we crossed through the military checkpoint and headed for Tel Aviv.



Militant/Paul Pederson

Solidarity mission sponsored by World Federation of Democratic Youth visits Palestinian Authority offices in Ramallah where Yasir Arafat has been confined for nearly three years. Every building in the compound except one has been totally destroyed by Israeli army.

National oppression and Spanish Civil War

Reprinted below is an excerpt from *Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain* by Felix Morrow. It tells the story of the Spanish revolution of the 1930s: the fall of the monarchy and rise of a republic in 1931, the revolutionary upsurge by workers and farmers that challenged the rule of the wealthy landlord and capitalist classes in Spain, the role of the Popular Front coalition government—made up of the Socialist and Communist parties and bourgeois parties—and the civil war, which ended with the defeat of the republican forces and the establishment of a fascist regime under Francisco Franco in 1939.

Two key political issues facing the Spanish revolution were the colonial question and the national question. Spain was the colonial oppressor in what is now Morocco and the Western Sahara in North Africa. Inside Spain, the Basque and Catalán peoples aspired to the right to national self-determination—struggles that continue today.

These two struggles for national liberation remain central to the class struggle in Spain, as can be seen in the current step-up of the Spanish government's offensive against the Basque and North African peoples. While Morocco won its independence and the Western Sahara is now occupied by the Moroccan regime, Spain remains an imperialist power, with colonial enclaves along Morocco's coast. Growing numbers of workers from Morocco and other North African countries have immigrated to Spain, becoming part of the working class there.

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BY FELIX MORROW

The “feudal” monarchy had not only been modern enough to foster the rise, development and decline of bourgeois industry and finance. It was ultra-modern enough to embark on seizure and exploitation of colonies in the most contemporary manner of finance capitalism. The “national renaissance” included the conquest and subjugation of Morocco (1912–1926). In the disaster of Anual (1921) alone,¹ ten thousand workers and peasants, serving under two-year compulsory military service, were destroyed. Seven hundred million pesetas a year was the cost of the Moroccan campaign after the World War. Riots when recruits and reserves were called up and mutinies at embarkation preceded [Gen. Miguel Primo de] Rivera's coup [in 1923]. An alliance with French imperialism (1925) led to a decisive victory over the Moroccan people the next year. A murderously cruel colonial administration proceeded to exploit the Moroccan peasants and tribesmen for the benefit of government and a few capitalists.

The republican-socialist coalition took over the Spanish colonies in Morocco and ruled them, as had the monarchy, through the Foreign Legion and native mercenaries. The socialists argued that when conditions justified they would extend democracy to Morocco and would permit it to participate in the benefits of a progressive regime.

[Russian communist leader Leon] Trotsky and his adherents termed the so-

cialist position an act of treachery against an oppressed people. But for the safety of the Spanish masses, too, Morocco must be set free. The peculiarly vicious legionnaires and mercenaries bred there would be the first force to be used by a reactionary coup, and Morocco itself as a military base for the reaction. Withdrawal of all troops and independence for Morocco were immediate demands for which the workers themselves must fight, and incite the Moroccan people to achieve. The liberty of the Spanish masses would be imperiled unless the colonies were freed.

Similar to the colonial question was the issue of *national liberation* of the Catalan and Basque peoples. The strong petty-bourgeois Catalan *Esquerra* (Left) Party derived its chief following from among the militant sharecroppers who should be the allies of the revolutionary workers, but who succumb to the nationalist program of the petty-bourgeoisie, the latter thereby finding a support in the peasantry against the de-nationalizing role of big capital and the Spanish state bureaucracy. In the Basque provinces the national question in 1931 led to even more serious consequences; the nationalist movement there was clerical-conservative in control and returned a bloc of the most reactionary deputies in the Constituent Cortes. Since the Basque and Catalan provinces are also the chief industrial regions, this was a decisive question to the future of the labor movement: how free these workers and peasants from the control of alien classes?

The model for the solution was given by the Russian Bolsheviks, who inscribed in their program the slogan of national liberation and carried it out after the October revolution. The broadest autonomy for the national regions is perfectly compatible with economic unity; the masses have nothing to fear from such a measure, which in a workers' republic will enable economy and culture to flourish freely.

Any other position than support of national liberation becomes, directly or indirectly, support for the maximum bureaucratic centralisation of Spain demanded by the ruling class, and will be recognized as such by the oppressed nationalities.

New Jersey protesters condemn dismissal of charges against cops in Villanueva killing

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEWARK, New Jersey—“An outrage, that is what I have to say in response to the judge's ruling,” said Nina Paulino from the Justice Committee for Santiago Villanueva at a March 13 protest in downtown Newark against the dismissal of charges against four Bloomfield, New Jersey, cops in the killing of Santiago Villanueva. “Once again, it has been proven how racist the system is,” she added.

On March 5 Newark Superior Court Judge Paul Vichness threw out the indictments against the four cops who had been charged in April 2003 with reckless manslaughter in the death of the garment worker.

Villanueva, who was born in the Dominican Republic, was attacked by cops April 16, 2002, after suffering an epileptic seizure while working at the Quick Cut factory in Bloomfield. According to co-workers and the factory owner, the four cops, insisting that Villanueva was on drugs, threw him face down to the floor, handcuffed him, and jammed their knees into his head, neck and back.

The cops kept Villanueva in handcuffs as they put him in the ambulance. Within half an hour of the incident, he was pronounced dead at Newark's nearby Columbus Hospital. The regional medical examiner's office reported bruising on his neck and shoulder and determined that mechanical asphyxia—physical pressure stopping breathing—was the cause of death. The death was termed a homicide.

Judge Vichness dismissed



Inset, Abd-el-Krim, leader of Rif rebellion (1919–26), a war for independence from Spanish colonial rule over Melilla, a section of northern Morocco that remains in Spanish hands today. 250,000 French and Spanish troops eventually put down rebel army of 15,000 Berbers, pictured above. Over 31,000 French and Spanish soldiers died in the process.



Catalonian nationalism had grown under the oppression of the Rivera dictatorship. Hence, a day before the republic was proclaimed in Madrid, the Catalans had already seized the government buildings and declared an independent Catalanian republic. A deputation of republican and socialist leaders rushed to Barcelona, and combined promises of an autonomy statute with dire threats of suppression; the final settlement provided a much-restricted autonomy which left the Catalan politicians with grievances they could display with profitable results in the way of maintaining their following among the workers and peasants. On the pretext that the Basque nationalist movement was reactionary, the republican-socialist coalition delayed a settlement of the question and thereby gave the Basque clericals, threatened by the proletarianization of the region, a new hold on the masses. In the name of getting away from regional prejudices, the socialists

identified themselves with the outlook of Spanish bourgeois-imperialism.

Thus, in all fields, the bourgeois republic proved absolutely incapable of undertaking the “bourgeois-democratic” tasks of the Spanish revolution. That meant that the republic could have no stability; it could be only a transition stage, and a short one. Its place would be taken either by military, fascist, or monarchical reaction—or by a real social revolution which would give the workers power to build a socialist society. The struggle against reaction and for socialism was a single task, and on the order of the day.

¹In the 1921 battle at Anual, during the Rif rebellion (see photo caption), a Spanish army of 20,000 led by Gen. Fernández Silvestre was defeated by forces led by Abd-el-Krim fighting for independence from Spanish colonial rule in northern Morocco. Some 12,000 Spanish soldiers died in the battle.

the indictments on the grounds that no one had been able to say which cop had his knee on Villanueva's neck. “It would be improper for me to require them to stand trial when there is no evidence of what they did,” he said.

“It is highly unusual that a judge would dismiss an indictment, that a judge would usurp 26 people [the grand jury] who found probable cause for an indictment,” said Susan Karten, an attorney represent-

ing Villanueva's family.

Villanueva, 35, was known by many in his New York neighborhood of Washington Heights as a musician and volunteer teacher of Dominican folk dancing. A number of protests have been organized since his death. Like the most recent protest, many have involved families of other victims of police brutality, including Iris Baez, whose son Anthony was murdered by New York City cops in the mid-1990s.

LETTERS

Aristide's removal

Your coverage on Haiti in the March 22 issue takes an off-base stand downplaying the nature of Aristide's removal from power and even provides some gratuitous and unwarranted credibility to the “lying with truth” of a U.S. embassy stooge, Luis Moreno.

Contrary to your editorial, Aristide's abduction to the Central African Republic by the U.S. government is emphatically the issue—the ultimate evidence that this was a U.S.-controlled coup, and who, U.S. or Guy Philippe, began the revolt is not the issue.

Your editorial expends its energy (at great length) pointing out that Aristide was just a capitalist figurehead and squanders an opportunity to come down four-square on the side of democratic rights and rule of law.

In “Socialism and Democracy” [a 1957 speech], James P. Cannon says, “We socialists... have all the more reason to value every democratic provision for the protection of human rights and human dignity; to fight for more democracy, not less.... The Marxists... have always valued and defended bourgeois democratic rights, restricted as they were; and have utilized them for the education and organization of the workers.”

Aristide, pathetic figure that he is, is still the figurehead of democracy in Haiti, and his and Haiti's democratic rights deserve defending. When Aristide says he was abducted, one can reasonably take him at his word. The actual facts of his removal and supposed resignation are out there, and you should report them and support them. Save your distance-taking from Aristide for another article.

Russell Dupree
Freeport, Maine

[Editor's note: The March 22 *Militant* editorial incorrectly downplayed the importance of the fact that the elected president of Haiti was forced out of the country and sent to the Central African Republic by U.S. armed forces. The reader is right in pointing that out. The coverage in the last two issues of the *Militant* has corrected that error (see front-page article).]

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

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Further Reading on the Spanish Revolution

Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Spain

by Felix Morrow A contemporary account of the revolution and civil war in Spain in the 1930s in which the proletariat, betrayed by its Stalinist, social democratic, and anarchist leaderships, went down to defeat under the blows of an armed fascist movement. **\$19.95**



The Spanish Revolution (1931–39)

Leon Trotsky analyzes the revolutionary upsurge on the land and in the factories leading to the Spanish Civil War and how the Stalinists' course ensured a fascist victory. **\$30.95**

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Resisting Israeli regime's military boot

Palestinians speak to int'l youth delegation about Tel Aviv's assaults, massive wall

BY PAUL PEDERSON

RAMALLAH, West Bank—"Mortal danger—Military zone, any person who passes or damages the fence ENDANGERS HIS LIFE," reads a bright red metal sign posted in the middle of Aziz al-Kilani's field. Four of his sons are playing next to the sign, a few feet away from the coils of barbed wire that mark the route of Israel's new so-called security fence. The 80-foot wide rows of razor wire and electrified fences extend behind them, winding through the rolling hills in the distance.

This was the scene that greeted a 12-member international delegation during a March 8 visit to al-Kilani's small farm near the West Bank village of Tura. The farmer welcomed us there as part of our weeklong visit to Palestinian areas of Israel and the West Bank.

The massive concrete and steel structure that cuts al-Kilani's land in two is the most recent initiative by Israel's rulers aimed at deepening the economic strangulation of the Palestinian population on the West Bank and crushing the resistance of this oppressed nationality. The unbroken resistance by tens of thousands of Palestinians who, like al-Kilani, refuse to be cowed and driven off the land, remains the main obstacle in the path of Tel Aviv and its imperialist backers in Washington.

In order to reach the land that has been cut off by the fence, al-Kilani must apply for several permits from the Israeli army, walk a half mile to a checkpoint, and hope that it doesn't close and leave him trapped on one side of the barrier. Under these conditions, he does not know how he will plant and harvest his crops or transport them to market. The barrier itself has swallowed up several acres of his best land—a landgrab described by authorities as a "military necessity." Al-Kilani has received no compensation.

The separation wall is slated to extend for more than 450 miles across the West Bank, enclosing the Palestinian population into 42 percent of the territory and annexing the largest Jewish settlement blocs, some of the best land, and most of the water resources on the West Bank. More than 110 miles have been completed.

Army vehicles regularly patrol along roads running inside the fenced-in perimeter surrounding the wall. Two military watchtowers are visible from the farmer's front door.

"We are sorry but you cannot stay here too long, the Israeli soldiers will come," al-Kilani told the delegation, organized in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. "They don't like it when people come to see this."

The visit came to an abrupt end with the arrival of an Israeli army Humvee. The soldiers watched and waited for the international visitors to clear out.

International delegation of youth

From March 5–11 a delegation sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)—which will hold its 16th International Festival of Youth and Students in Venezuela in 2005—traveled to the occupied territories as well as to cities inside Israel. The 12 participants came from political organizations in seven countries. They were the United Democratic Youth Organization of Cyprus, Communist Youth of Portugal, Movement of French Communist Youth, Comac (Communist Active) of Belgium, Young Socialists of the United States, Casa de la Juventud of Paraguay, Left Alliance Youth of Finland, and the Young Socialists of Iceland. The Israeli government refused to grant visas to youth representatives of the Fifth Republic of Venezuela and the Communist Party of Turkey.

The trip was part of a "Freedom and Justice for Palestine" campaign launched



Militant/Paul Pederson

International youth delegation visits Palestinian refugee camp in West Bank town of Jenin on March 8 to see destruction from April 2002 Israeli assault. Inset, sign posted in front of "security fence" cutting through Aziz al-Kilani's land in village of Tura.



by WFDY in September.

It began with a two-day visit to cities inside Israel. This part of the visit was hosted by the Young Communist League of Israel, the youth organization affiliated with the Communist Party of Israel (CPI). The CPI is part of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, or Hadash, an electoral alliance with nine local mayors and three members of the Israeli Parliament, or Knesset. All these elected officials are from the Palestinian minority inside Israel.

Palestinians inside Israel "still live

under discrimination in all fields," said Shauki Habib, a Hadash leader who is the mayor of the Palestinian town of Yaffa. "Although we make up 20 percent of the population, an Arab has never been part of the government or staff of a government. Members of the Knesset, yes, but never the government."

"The Arab towns have no industrial areas," Habib said. Visible from Yaffa, across a highway built a few years ago on Palestinian-owned land, is a high-tech industrial park in the Jewish municipality of Migdal Hae'emek. Although not a

single Arab is employed there, the mayor said, waste from the factories pollutes Yaffa.

In Tel Aviv the youth delegation was invited to a meeting with Israeli draft resisters. Military service is compulsory for Jews in Israel. Since the start of stepped-up Israeli military assaults in 2000, dozens of youth have refused to carry out their military service, while hundreds of soldiers have refused to be part of the offensive in the occupied territories.

Eli Gozanski of the group Yesh Gvol (There Is a Border) told us he had been imprisoned for refusing to serve in Lebanon during the Israeli invasion in the 1980s. At the time, he said, there were far fewer youth refusing than there are today.

From March 7 to 11 the solidarity mission traveled to the West Bank, where it was hosted by the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS), an international Palestinian student organization.

Destruction in Ramallah

A towering pile of rubble at the center of Ramallah is what remains of much of the Mukata, the building which houses the Palestinian Authority. Piles of flattened cars are evidence of the tanks that until recently encircled the government building.

PA president Yasir Arafat has been confined there for more than two years by the occupation army. "Now all of our cities and towns have become cantons and ghettos," the Palestinian leader told the youth group March 7. "Who can ac-

Continued on page 10

London steps up deportation, takes steps to reinforce second-class status of immigrants

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON—Boasting of "a record 23 per cent increase in the number of removals [of asylum seekers] in 2003," Prime Minister Anthony Blair's Labour government has been projecting a "get tough" policy with immigrants.

Hand-in-hand with this drive to entrench the second-class status of immigrant workers, the government is moving to encourage a greater inflow of workers from Eastern European countries that are due to join the European Union (EU) in the next couple of months.

The "23 percent" boast appeared on the web site of the Home Office, the government department that enforces London's anti-immigrant policies. The figure equals around 17,000 asylum seekers and their families. The web site also announced the opening in August of a new prison—dubbed a "removal centre"—near London's Heathrow Airport, and reported that Home Office "enforcement activities" against immigrant workers are in an "ongoing process of improvement."

According to the BBC, such "enforcement activities" include raids by immigration cops that led to the deportation of 14,000 people in 2003.

Such moves have been accompanied by a step-up in anti-immigrant hysteria in the media. A January *Daily Express* headline warned of "the Great Invasion 2004." The paper claimed 1.6 million Roma people (Gypsies) from Eastern Europe were "ready to flood" into Britain "to leech on us"—that is, to claim welfare benefits.

Other right-wing newspapers joined the anti-immigrant chorus. Andrew Green, a former British ambassador and chairman

of MigrationwatchUK, condemned the government's "failed immigration policy" in the January 24 *Daily Mail*. In another article, Green said Home Secretary David Blunkett "has failed to wake up to the immigration nightmare." The right-winger claimed, "there is a strong feeling here that we are losing our culture."

The raids continue. Two workers from Guatemala and Brazil were arrested and deported after one such cop action on a motorway services station March 8.

A day later immigration police raided the homes of five meat processing workers from Eastern Europe employed at the Jeffrey Davies and Davies plant in Kent. The cops imprisoned the workers for two days and then deported them.

The deportations were carried out even though in less than eight weeks these workers would be allowed to live and work here, after their countries of origin become EU members. That fact illustrates how the real purpose of such persecution is to intimidate rather than drive out immigrant workers from Eastern Europe and other parts of the world.

Under EU immigration rules, citizens of existing EU countries, and those of Cyprus and Malta, which are among the 10 countries joining May 1, are supposed to be able to travel, settle, and work in any other member state. However, the accession or entry treaty into the imperialist-run alliance allows for special restrictions to be placed on immigrants from the other eight new EU members from Eastern Europe for up to seven years. Propaganda aside, Britain's ruling rich have indicated that they regard the numerical growth of the EU as an opportunity. Having gone further

than their French, German, and other rivals in assaults on workers' wages and living standards, they are licking their lips at the profits they anticipate making from the labor of workers from the east.

"We need to ensure that we can meet those big areas for unskilled employment," said Blunkett in the February 9 *Guardian*. "This will be partly met by a sensible approach to the accession countries from May onward."

The BBC reported March 3 that a big-business "economic forecasting group"—the Ernst & Young Item Club—said that immigration from Eastern Europe was needed to meet "growing labour shortages." It also pointed out that immigration from the East has been declining in recent years.

David Frost, the director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, commented that "there has been too much scaremongering. Business should welcome workers from the accession countries..." On February 23 Blunkett announced measures to control the entry of the expected immigrants. Rather than sign on to the existing work permit schemes, these workers will be required to register their place of work with the authorities, and will not be entitled to state unemployment benefits for a year.

"If they can't support themselves they will be put out of the country," Blair told the BBC the same day. The article was titled, "Blair tells migrants 'work or leave.'"

Blunkett pointed to the planned introduction of a national identity card in Britain from 2007 as further proof of the Blair government's determination to control immigrant workers.

Paul Davies contributed to this article.

Build April 25 march on Washington to defend a woman's right to choose!

Printed below is an editorial that appeared in the March 29, 2004, issue of the *Militant* newspaper.

We urge you to join with other supporters of a woman's right to choose in building a massive turnout for the April 25 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C.

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The purpose of the demonstration, its sponsors state, is "to ensure that all women have the right to choose to have or not to have children, with reproductive health options that are safe, affordable, and accessible." Tens of thousands of people from around the country will be converging on Washington to defend the fundamental rights women have gained over the last decades.

The march is sponsored by major women's rights organizations across the country. Dozens of other groups, from student organizations on university campuses to labor unions, have endorsed it, among them the United Food and Commercial Workers union, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Members of these organizations and other supporters of a woman's right to choose are building the demonstration in cities and towns around the country. The door is wide open to get involved in the coalitions organizing participation. We urge you to participate in planning meetings in your area and to bring co-workers, fellow unionists, students, and others to them. Take stacks of leaflets to post up and distribute. Wear buttons and T-shirts publicizing the action. Take sign-up sheets to wherever others can be enlisted to build it. These materials are available from sponsoring organizations and from www.MarchforWomen.org. In many areas, builders of the action are seeking scholarships from the sponsors for those needing financial assistance to get to Washington.

A woman's right to choose abortion is a question of vital importance to working people. The key is the right of *women* to *choose*



More than 50,000 people marched in Washington, D.C., in April 1995 action defending a woman's right to choose. Today, supporters of women's rights around the country are working to ensure a massive turnout for the April 25 march on Washington.

whether or not they will bear children—the state, church, husband, father, judge, or social worker. Only with the right to control their own bodies can women exercise effective control over their lives and reassert their full human identity as productive, not only reproductive, beings. This is a precondition for full equality, affecting a woman's ability to get a job, and thereby gain the economic independence necessary for participation in union, political, and other aspects of social life. The increasing integration of women into the work force over the past decades has strengthened the working class, allowing millions to break out of the stultifying isolation of the home. And the 1973 Supreme Court decision decriminalizing abortion was an important stride along this road for women's rights and for all working people. These advances have made it harder for

employers to limit women to certain jobs, pay them lower wages than men, or convince them that they should stay in the kitchen and the hearth rather than enter the political and union arena.

That is why a woman's right to choose has come under sustained attack by federal and state administrations of both the Democratic and Republican parties ever since the 1973 ruling. Because of deep-going progressive changes in attitudes held by millions toward women's place in society, however, the ruling class has not been able to roll the clock back to the days before *Roe v. Wade*, when hundreds of women died every year in illegal or self-induced abortions. Instead, opponents of women's rights have probed to curtail that right and whittle away access to abortion. The most recent example is the federal law passed in November—still

facing a legal challenge—that, under the deliberately misleading name "Partial-Birth Abortion Act," will outlaw a specific medical procedure used to terminate late-term pregnancies. These restrictions are class-biased, limiting abortion access for working women in particular—from the ban on federal funding for abortion, to waiting periods and laws forcing young women to get parental consent before obtaining an abortion.

These attacks on the right to choose are part of a broader offensive by the U.S. rulers against gains won by working people over the decades. They go hand in hand with the elimination of Aid to Families with Dependent Children in 1996, current moves to undermine Medicare and Social Security, and other efforts to further shift the burden for the capitalist economic crisis onto the backs of working people.

The attacks on women's rights have met resistance. Planned Parenthood in Pittsburgh and five other cities successfully rejected an outrageous order by the U.S. Justice Department to turn over confidential medical records as part of enforcing the new antichoice law. Last December, 2,500 city workers in Cincinnati who are members of AFSCME beat back a city council attempt to eliminate their medical coverage for abortion procedures, which they had won in their union contract. And over the past decade, repeated mobilizations by women's rights supporters have pushed back violent efforts by rightists to shut down abortion clinics.

The April 25 march on Washington will draw thousands of working people, youth, and other partisans of women's rights who are determined to defend their hard-won gains. Many are seeking answers to questions on how to chart a road forward in this struggle. The Pathfinder titles featured in the centerspread ad inside—with prices reduced to \$1 or \$2 for all pamphlets and \$5 or \$10 for all books—are invaluable in providing the working-class perspective that is needed to address these questions. Campaigning to get these books into the hands of other workers, students, and farmers is an important part of building the April 25 demonstration and advancing longer-term struggles by working people.

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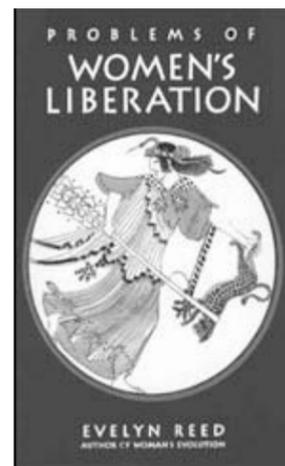
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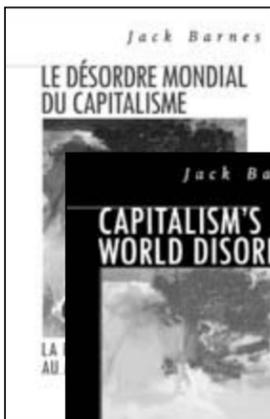
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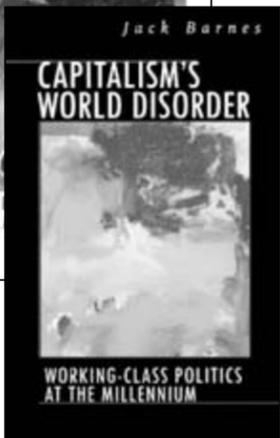
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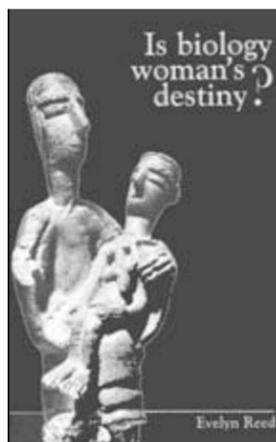
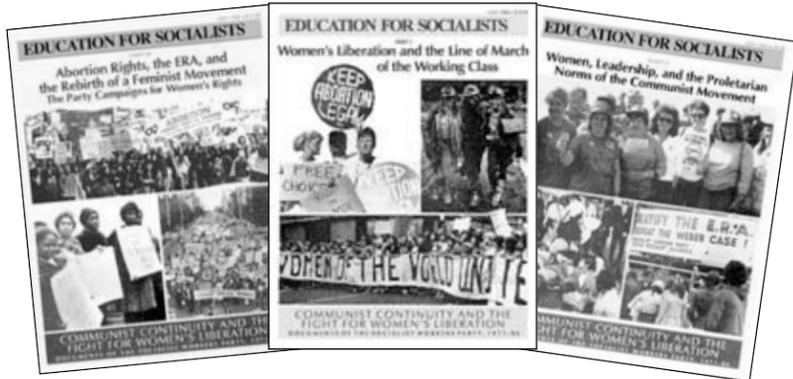
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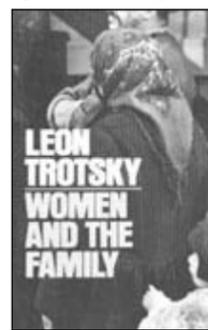
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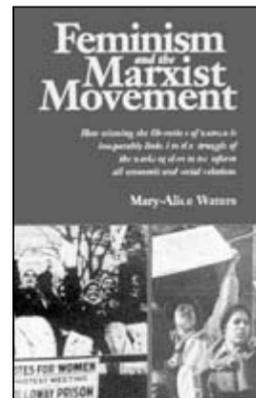
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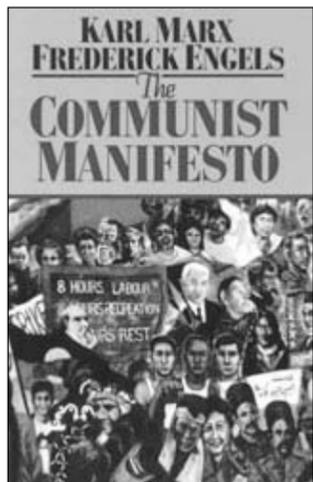
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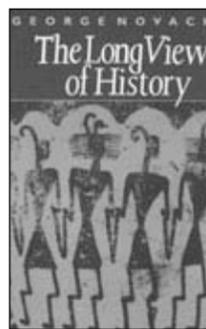
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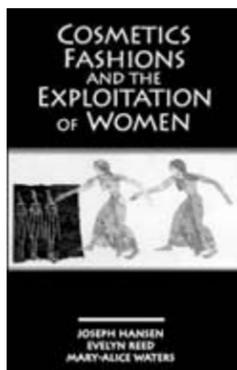
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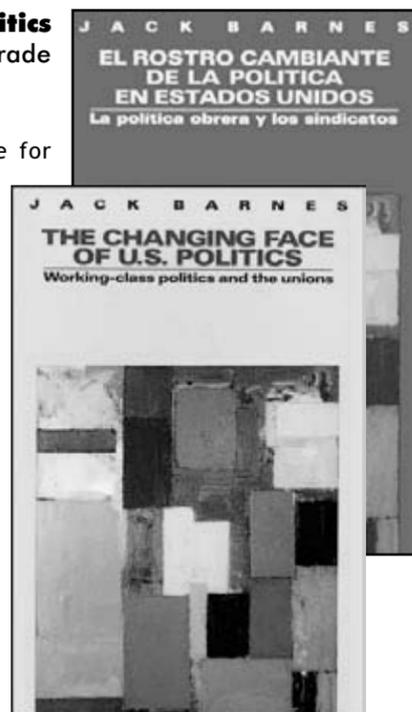
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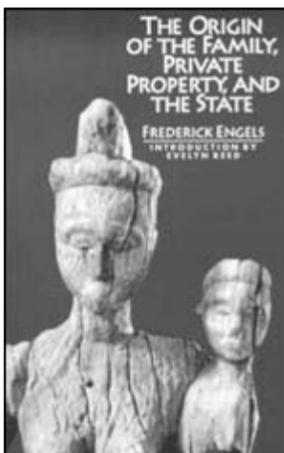


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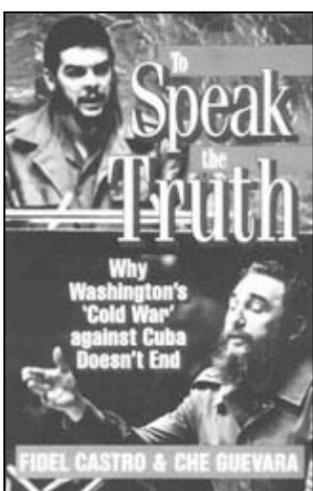
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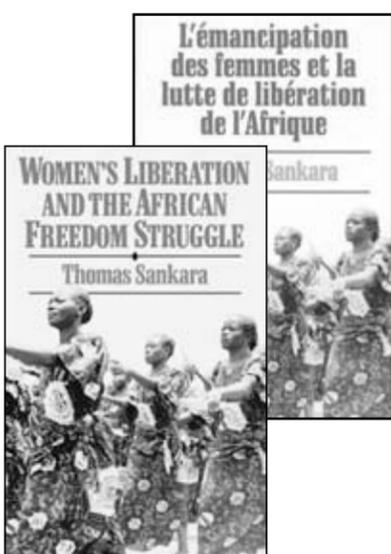


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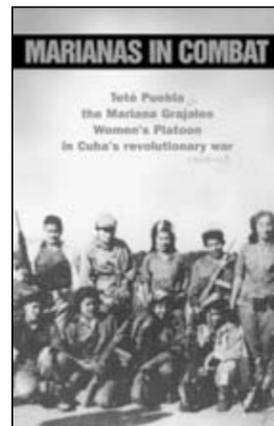
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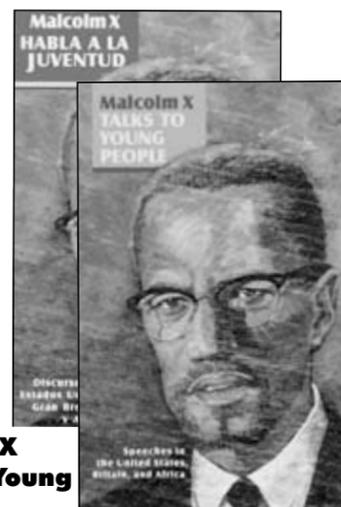


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