

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

More middle-class radicals
promote Jew-hatred

'Israel Lobby' conspiracy theory dangerous for working people
—PAGE 3

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 70/NO. 19

MAY 15, 2006

Immigrant workers revive May Day

Nearly 2 million march across U.S.: 'Legalize undocumented!' Work stoppage affects construction, agriculture, meatpacking

Up to 1 million in L.A.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—Cheers and chants rang through this city from morning until well into the evening May 1, as up to a million people marched to oppose anti-immigrant legislation and demand legal status for undocumented workers.

Police estimated a midday downtown march to City Hall at 250,000, and said more than 400,000 marched four miles down Wilshire Boulevard, west of the city center, later in the day. Organizers said both actions were larger, up to a million. Smaller demonstrations also took place throughout the metropolitan area.

Across the country, more than 1.8 million people protested for immigrant rights in more than 120 cities in 40 states (see list on page 6) and many skipped school or work to honor the boycott.

The downtown march and rally here was called by the March 25 Coalition against HR 4437, as part of a national one-day boycott of work, school, and shopping. HR 4437 was passed by the House of Representatives in December, igniting the immigrant rights mobilizations. This bill would make it a felony to be in the United States without proper documents. The coalition, which organized an earlier mass demonstration here March 25, includes the Mexican-American Political Association and Hermandad Mexicana.

The later march was called by the We Are America Coalition, which did not support the boycott and work stoppage. The Los Angeles County Federation of

Continued on page 7



Top: Stores closed for May Day boycott on Olvera Street in downtown Los Angeles, where half a million protested. Bottom: Contingent of UNITE HERE union at May 1 march of 400,000 in Chicago, where May Day started in 1886 with fight for eight-hour day.

400,000 in Chicago

BY ERNEST MAILHOT
AND ROLLANDE GIRARD

CHICAGO—A throng of protesters demanding legalization of immigrants poured into the downtown area here May 1. Whistles and chants of *Si se puede* (Yes we can) bounced off skyscrapers. They could be heard blocks away as the march proceeded to Grant Park. After the front of the march reached the rally site demonstrators kept coming for another five hours. Twenty-six workers at the IFCO pallet company, originally from Mexico, who were arrested in an immigration raid here April 19 and face deportation charges, were at the head of the march.

Police estimated the crowd at 400,000. Organizers put the figure at 750,000. Tens of thousands waved Mexican and U.S. flags, as well as flags from many

Continued on page 2

Boycott affects many businesses

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

NEW YORK—Shuttered stores in majority Latino neighborhoods, empty fruit and vegetable fields, closed factories, and quiet construction sites in a number of cities across the United States showed the impact of the "Day Without Immigrants." The effect of the boycott and work stoppage on May 1 was the greatest in landscaping, agriculture, meatpacking, and construction. The American Nursery and Landscape As

Continued on page 7

Miner who survived Sago disaster: 'Oxygen rescue masks didn't work'

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PITTSBURGH—When miners rushed to put on their self-rescuers providing oxygen following a deadly explosion January 2 at the Sago Mine in West Virginia, at least four of the units failed, says Randal McCloy, the sole survivor

of that disaster.

In an April 26 letter to the families of the 12 men who died at Sago, McCloy, 26, tells how the miners fought to stay alive until rescue teams could find them and how they shared their air supplies with each other to ward off deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

When the explosion at Sago happened, mine bosses waited two hours before informing the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). It wasn't until 11 hours later that the first rescue teams entered the mine. Meanwhile, the trapped workers inside were fighting with all the strength they had left to send signals of their location. "The explosion happened soon after the day shift arrived at the mine face on January 2, right after we got out of the man-trip," says McCloy in his letter. The "man-trip" is a vehicle that transports workers into and out of the mine. "I do not recall whether I had

Continued on page 4

1,450 subscribe to 'Militant' in 3 weeks

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Nearly 600 people subscribed to the *Militant* last week, bringing the total to 1,450 for the first three weeks of the spring circulation campaign. This calls for increasing the overall goal of 2,000, which at the current rate will be surpassed in a couple of weeks. Many of the new readers signed up at the immigrant rights rallies across the United States.

"On Saturday we sold five subs and a lot of people wanted to speak about the

Continued on page 4

U.S. gov't, imperialist allies prepare punitive measures against Iran

BY PAUL PEDERSON

May 2—Washington, London, and Paris are pressing the remaining two permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Beijing and Moscow, to back a resolution demanding Iran cease enriching uranium or face sanc-

tions and possible military action. U.S. officials also told the press they have other ways to proceed if they don't get what they are after at the UN body.

The council had set an April 28 deadline for Iran to suspend "all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities,"

Continued on page 9

Bolivia nationalizes natural gas and oil

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Coinciding with May Day workers' rallies throughout the country, Bolivian president Evo Morales announced nationalization of the country's natural gas and oil industry. "The state is recovering its property, [it takes] possession and total and absolute control of these resources," Morales said in a speech that day in southern Bolivia at San Alberto, the country's biggest natural gas

Continued on page 9

Also Inside:

- Women miners meet, discuss job discrimination 2
- Saharawi independence fighters in jail win pardon 3
- Thousands march in N.Y.: 'U.S. troops out of Iraq!' 4
- Florida: Framed Palestinian gets maximum sentence 9

400,000 rally in Chicago on May Day

Continued from front page
Latin American countries, Poland, the Philippines, and more. Mass produced placards saying “We are America” were prevalent. Thousands brought their own signs, including, “We are not criminals,” “Amnesty for all,” and “Stop the raids.”

Many of the protesters were young. Some high schools with large numbers of immigrant students had few in attendance. At Farragut High 85 percent of students were absent, and at Juarez High 83 percent didn’t show up. Elementary schools also reported high absenteeism.

All was quiet in Little Village and Pilsen, two areas with many Latinos. Most of the normally busy restaurants, grocery stores, and other businesses there closed in support of the May 1 boycott. Some factories, stores, and restaurants also shut down or cut hours so their employees could attend the march.

At Stampede Meat in Bridgeview, a suburb of Chicago, 300 workers signed a petition asking management for permission to take May 1 off. The bosses refused but felt enough pressure to put out a written notice saying no one would be fired for taking one day off. So many Stampede workers went to the march that management had to close many of the company’s production lines. Those that did run were very slow due to lack of personnel.

At the Hart Schaffner Marx (HSM) garment plant more than 100 signed a petition to get May 1 off. Dozens skipped work that day and others left early to join the march. Part of the plant shut down after five hours. Some of the workers, members of UNITE HERE, joined a contingent of their union. Wearing red shirts and caps and carrying large banners and signs, they walked from the union hall to the demonstration. Berenize Aguirre, a shop steward at HSM, said she was participating to support

undocumented workers in order “to get legalization for them and their families.” Joe Costigan, secretary-treasurer of the Chicago-Midwest Joint Board of UNITE HERE, said, “Our union has been a union of immigrants since its early days.” He opposes a “guest worker” program, like that promoted by President Bush and senators McCain and Kennedy, because it is “another way to exploit workers, to keep them on their knees.”

Many trade unions, however, have backed the McCain/Kennedy bill, being discussed in the Senate, promoting it as a “pro-immigrant” alternative to the Sensenbrenner bill adopted by the House of Representatives, which would criminalize all the undocumented.

Speakers at the rally included Linda Chavez-Thompson, vice-president of the AFL-CIO; Sen. Barack Obama, a Democrat from Illinois; and representatives of UNITE HERE, Service Employees International Union, United Food and Commercial Workers, Teamsters, and the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Support for the May Day actions, including the boycott, forced a number of companies in the Midwest to shut down

Miami: 4,000 rally to back Haitian immigrants



Militant/Eric Simpson

MIAMI—More than 4,000 people rallied here April 22 in front of the U.S. regional immigration offices to demand temporary protected status (TPS) for Haitian immigrants. Congress first approved TPS in 1990, which has allowed immigrants from several countries—but never Haiti—to remain in the United States as legal residents. It’s applied to those fleeing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other conditions Washington deems to be extraordinary and temporary.

—DEBORAH LIATOS

plants. Tyson Foods Inc., the country’s largest meatpacking company, closed six of its nine beef processing plants and four of its six pork processing factories, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Cargill

and Swift also shut several plants each.

Ernest Mailhot is a meat packer at Stampede Meat. Rollande Girard is a garment worker and member of UNITE

Women miners meet, discuss how to fight job discrimination

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

FARMINGTON, New Mexico—“I was told flat out I didn’t belong here,” Verna John told the *Militant* at the Second Annual Changing Woman Conference held here April 24. “Arizona Power Service in this area never had a woman electrician. I was the first and it was 21 years before the second woman was hired. But I started reading books, and going to conferences, and with the union’s backing I got time off for this conference.”

Conference participants discussed how to fight discrimination on the job. Coal miners, power plant workers, health care

workers, and others from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and as far away as Alabama were among the 65 who attended. International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 953, the University of New Mexico (UNM) Law School, and the New Mexico Equal Employment Opportunity Commission were among the sponsors of the conference. Students from the UNM Gender & the Law class also helped put the meeting together.

Local 953 organizes coal miners at three surface mines and one underground mine located on the New Mexico side of the Four Corners area of the Navajo Nation. A big majority of the miners there are Navajo. The conference itself takes its name from a Navajo legend. Driving through the area at night, it is striking to see the number of homes that don’t have electricity. “How can you be an electrician, work in a power plant, and not have electricity,” exclaimed Verna John.

Lois Jenson, the lead plaintiff in the first class-action lawsuit in the United States against sexual harassment on the job, was the keynote speaker. The film *North Country* is a fictionalized version

of the years-long fight waged by Jenson and other female miners to defend their right to work free of intimidation and harassment in the taconite mines of northern Minnesota. Their fight ended in a legal victory in 1996.

Jenson described the union meeting where she explained her sexual harassment complaint. “Because there were rumors out that we were seeking super-seniority and retaliation against the men, I decided to go to the union meeting,” she said. “The men were quiet and listened respectfully. I said the complaint was filed because of the lack of response from the company and the union. When the meeting ended, several approached me and said I had guts. Some read the complaint. Some encouraged me. Others changed their minds. I have respect for the men who stood by us.”

Rosalina Tuyuc, of the National Coalition of Widows In Guatemala formed by women who lost husbands during the 36-year civil war there, and Margaret Montoya, a UNM law professor, also spoke.

Norman Dave Benally, a heavy equip-

Continued on page 9

THE MILITANT

‘An honest, clear presentation of facts’

‘I’ve relied on the ‘Militant’ for years to get the truth. Bombarded by the lies and confusion of the big-business press, I’ve found in it an honest and clear presentation of the facts for working people and their allies. I am embarrassed for every time I’ve let my subscription expire.’

—Kenneth Page
New York City



Kenneth Page is an attorney. He works in the legal department of Transport Workers Union Local 100 in New York, and is a member of the local.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

12 weeks of the Militant outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, A\$8 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$10 • Continental Europe, £12 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr500 • New Zealand, NZ\$7 • Sweden, Kr60 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

VOL. 70/NO. 19
Closing news date: May 3, 2006

Editor and circulation director:
Argiris Malapanis
Washington correspondent: Sam Manuel
Editorial volunteers: Arrin Hawkins,
Martin Koppel, Paul Pederson, and Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January and June.

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Telephone: (212) 244-4899; Fax (212) 244-4947.

E-mail: TheMilitant@verizon.net

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Subscriptions: United States: for one-year subscription send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first class (airmail), send \$80.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: Send \$65 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$50 for one-year subscription to the Militant, 2238 Dundas St. West, Suite 201, Toronto, ON. Postal Code: M6R 3A9.

United Kingdom: £25 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane), London, E2 6DG, England. Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 75 euros for one-year subscription to Diffusion du Militant, P.O. Box 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris.

Iceland: Send 4,000 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to the Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik.

Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: Send 400 Swedish kronor for one year to Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johannesov, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Zealand: Send NZ\$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Australia: Send A\$50 to P.O. Box 164 Campsie, NSW 2194, Australia.

Pacific Islands: Send NZ\$50 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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

More middle-class radicals promote Jew-hatred

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Editors of the *London Review of Books* are standing by their decision to publish a paper by Harvard academic dean Stephen Walt and University of Chicago professor John Mearsheimer, entitled *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*. The paper promotes the false and reactionary theory that U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East is manipulated by a Jewish lobby with support from a network of “neoconservative gentiles.”

A March 30 article by James Petras, a professor at the State University of New York at Binghamton, tries to provide an “analysis” of why this is the case, by claiming that Jews are disproportionately represented among finance capitalists resulting in an equally disproportionate Jewish influence over U.S. foreign policy. The article is posted on the antiwar website *AxisofLogic.com*. Petras is looked to by many on the left in the United States and Latin America as a socialist.

Others on the left have endorsed these views. In a column in the April 24 *Nation*, Perry Anderson, editor of the *New Left Review* and history professor at University of California, Los Angeles, praised the Walt/Mearsheimer paper. He called it a “genuinely critical reflection on American foreign policy, from thinkers who have earned the title ‘realist.’”

The conspiracy theories peddled in Petras’s article and the Harvard paper, and backed by others on the left, leave the U.S. capitalist class and the profit system off the hook as the root cause of the devastating conditions imposed on working people worldwide. At the same time these “theories” fan the flames of Jew-hatred and American nationalism. So far the U.S. left—from the Communist Party USA to the Workers World Party—has been silent on this issue.

The 83-page paper by Walt and Mearsheimer argues that the unmatched power of the “Israel Lobby” leads the U.S. government to subordinate “Ameri-

can national interests” to those of Israel. According to the document, this lobby has the backing of pro-Israel neoconservative politicians like former deputy defense secretary Paul Wolfowitz and former Pentagon adviser Richard Perle. Walt and Mearsheimer claim that the Israel Lobby also controls the editorial boards of the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and holds the leading position in several foreign policy research institutes, among them the Brookings Institution. The *Militant* already analyzed the implications of this tract in the article, “The myth of the ‘neoconservative’ and ‘Israel Lobby’ conspiracy: How U.S. foreign policy shifted after Cold War,” in its May 1 issue.

‘London Review of Books’

An edited version of the Harvard paper appeared in the March 23 *London Review of Books*. Despite receiving what they describe as “a great many letters” criticizing its publication, some of which they reproduced, the editors of the literary journal said in the April 20 issue they stand by their decision to publish it. They also announced they will run a reply by Walt and Mearsheimer to the letters in the magazine’s next issue.

The magazine’s editors also noted that some of the letters congratulating the authors of the paper are of an “anti-Semitic nature.” One of them applauded Walt and Mearsheimer for having exposed a “secret Jewish conspiracy,” and its author felt the need to spell it “JEWISH conspiracy.” Nonetheless they asserted that what the letters supporting and opposing the article have in common is that they “come from people who appear not to have read the piece, and who seem incapable of distinguishing between criticism of Israeli or U.S. government policy and anti-Semitism.”

One of the letters was from Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz. Among other points, he took exception to two of the paper’s central argu-

ments—the United States has become a target of “terrorism” because of its support for Israel and that Washington and Tel Aviv have different, if not conflicting, interests in the Middle East.

“In fact bin Laden was primarily motivated by the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia,” Dershowitz writes. He is referring to al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden who along with the leader of other Islamic jihadist movements say their goal is to overthrow “apostate” regimes and establish Islamic states in majority Arab countries. For bin Laden and these groups, the rulers of Saudi Arabia are “infidels” controlling and profaning the holy sites of Islam.

Another letter came from Robert Pfaltzgraff of the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis. The institution was one of many “think tanks” at which Walt and Mearsheimer claim the Israel Lobby has a “commanding presence.”

ments—the United States has become a target of “terrorism” because of its support for Israel and that Washington and Tel Aviv have different, if not conflicting, interests in the Middle East.

Farmers rally against ongoing discrimination



Militant/Tim Mailhot

WASHINGTON—Some 175 Black farmers and supporters rallied and marched outside the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) April 26. The action was called by the National Black Farmers Association and the Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association to protest ongoing discrimination. A 1999 consent decree settled a historic lawsuit by the farmers against the USDA for discriminatory practices in loans, land and equipment purchases, and other services. Farmers at the rally said that the decree did not remove or punish a single individual responsible for discrimination nor bring any meaningful changes to USDA policies.

—SAM MANUEL

ments—the United States has become a target of “terrorism” because of its support for Israel and that Washington and Tel Aviv have different, if not conflicting, interests in the Middle East.

“In fact bin Laden was primarily motivated by the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia,” Dershowitz writes. He is referring to al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden who along with the leader of other Islamic jihadist movements say their goal is to overthrow “apostate” regimes and establish Islamic states in majority Arab countries. For bin Laden and these groups, the rulers of Saudi Arabia are “infidels” controlling and profaning the holy sites of Islam.

Another letter came from Robert Pfaltzgraff of the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis. The institution was one of many “think tanks” at which Walt and Mearsheimer claim the Israel Lobby has a “commanding presence.”

Pfaltzgraff wrote that “to the extent that such studies support Israel or any other states in the region, this is the result of an independent analysis of US needs and interests.”

‘Jewish bankers’

In his article Petras comes to the defense of Walt and Mearsheimer. He denounces the “virulent” campaign against the professors’ “well documented” paper as another example of the “growing tyranny of the pro-Israel minority over our civil liberties.”

He then goes on to assert that “a significant affluent minority of prominent Jewish banking and real estate millionaires are active in financing and promoting Israeli policy either directly or through pro-Israel lobbies.”

Petras even infers a connection between alleged Jewish prominence in the garment industry—as owners and union “bosses”—and the decline in wages and union membership for garment workers. “No doubt the ethnic-class differences between the six-figure salaried Jewish labor bosses and the low paid Asian and Latino workers and the common class-ethnic positions of the labor bosses and the manufacturers facilitated these failed policies,” he says.

No blood for Jews?

“The Jewish and Gentile critics of the war deliberately exclude the role of the minority of wealthy Jews and their political lobbies in shaping U.S. policy in the Middle East by focusing on the U.S. and overseas oil companies (‘No blood for oil!’),” Petras writes. “Jewish lobbies,” he adds, “were far more pro-war than the oil industry.”

The dangerous logic of such arguments peddling Jew hatred (to say “anti-Semitism” would be putting it mildly) should not be lost on working people. Such conspiracy theories have been the stock-in-trade of ultrarightists and fascists—mortal enemies of the working class and its allies. Petras’s arguments also point to the political evolution of many middle-class “socialists” like him. The banner of opponents of the imperialist war against Iraq in 1990–91 was “No blood for oil!” Now, Petras says, it should be changed to “No blood for Israel!” or, by implication, to “No blood for Jews.”

Morocco pardons Sahara independence fighters

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Responding to sustained protests for independence for the northwestern African nation of Western Sahara, Morocco’s king issued a pardon April 22, clearing his dungeons of 48 independence supporters arrested over the past year. Moroccan authorities used the amnesty announcement to press their proposal to grant formal “autonomy” to the former Spanish colony while preserving Moroccan rule.

“The pardon by his Majesty King Mohammed underlines that the situation in the territory and in Morocco in general was changing towards a better future of reconciliation, democracy and prosperity,” said Khali Henna Ould Errachid, chairman of the Royal Consultative Council for Sahara Affairs. According to Reuters, the 142-member council was named by Mohammed last month “as part of Rabat’s bid to win the hearts and minds of the Sahrawis ahead of an autonomy plan to be unveiled by Morocco later this year.”

The leadership of the independence movement has rejected this bid, demanding instead a referendum on independence. “The king of Morocco can

never decide in place of the Saharawi people,” Mohamed Abdelaziz, leader of the Polisario Front, the organization that has led the independence struggle for more than 30 years, said February 27. “The Saharawi people, for their part, categorically reject the idea of autonomy, simply because it intends to install a colonial solution.... The principle of self-determination of our people is sacred and unquestionable.”

Meanwhile, the secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, announced his plan to propose that the UN Security Council end the 15-year process of UN-brokered negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front.

In the April 19 report, Annan said the United Nations is “taking a step back.” The Security Council should recognize “the political reality that nobody was going to force Morocco to give up its claim of sovereignty over Western Sahara,” Annan said. Therefore, the two parties should begin direct talks “to work out a compromise between international legality and political reality.”

The Polisario Front won independence from Spain in 1975. However,

the Spanish government signed an accord with neighboring Morocco and Mauritania, dividing the territory. Morocco then sent hundreds of thousands of settlers along with military forces to seize most of the territory.

In the ensuing 15 years, the Polisario Front fought a war to regain control over the country. Tens of thousands of Saharawis fled Moroccan occupation and still live today in refugee camps in southern Algeria, where Polisario has its base. It controls about 20 percent of Western Sahara, while the Moroccan monarchy controls the rest.

In 1991, the Polisario Front and Rabat signed a truce and began the UN-brokered negotiations.

“The Saharawis regret the waste of 15 years of efforts,” Kamal Fadel, the Polisario representative to Australia, wrote in an April 26 opinion column, titled “Has the UN betrayed the Saharawis?” Fadel noted, “The writing on the wall is clear to the Saharawi people and their leadership that the UN is not able to resolve the conflict and basically that it is up to them to do whatever in their power to put pressure on Morocco to abide by international legality.”

Miner who survived Sago

Continued from front page
started work, nor do I have any memory of the blast. I do remember that the mine filled quickly with fumes and thick smoke, and that breathing conditions were nearly unbearable,” the miner continues.

“The first thing we did was activate our rescuers, as we had been trained. At least four of the rescuers did not function. I shared my rescuer with Jerry Groves, while Junior Toler, Jesse Jones, and Tom Anderson sought help from others. There were not enough rescuers to go around.

“We then tried to return to the man-trip, yelling to communicate through the thick smoke. The air was so bad that we had to abandon our escape attempt and return to the coal rib, where we hung a curtain to try to protect ourselves.

“We attempted to signal our location to the surface by beating on the mine bolts and plates. We found a sledgehammer, and for a long time, we took turns pounding away....

“We had to take off the rescuers in order to hammer as hard as we could. This effort caused us to breathe much harder. We never heard a responsive blast or shot from the surface.”

International Coal Group, the mine’s owner, issued a statement April 27 suggesting McCloy was lying and saying it was up to the miners themselves to check the condition of their self-rescuers.

MSHA spokesman Dirk Fillpot said testing on self-rescuers recovered after the Sago explosion found that those that were activated would have functioned properly. “MSHA is looking at whether the miners received adequate training” in the use of the rescuers, he said.

But some Sago miners disagreed. Alton Wamsley, a Sago miner who was able to get out of the mine, told the media, “We can relate to [McCloy’s] letter because we ran into the same thing then, and now we are going back into that mine every day using the same equipment.” Wamsley added, “You’re standing there looking at a guy in smoke and wondering whether to give him your mask and risk dying or keep it on.”

Phil Smith, communications director

of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), said miners should be able to activate a self-rescuer in a minute or less with proper training. “It looks like they’re trying to blame the miners here and that’s not the right way to go,” Smith said. “These guys were fighting for their lives and blaming them for not being able to operate the devices properly really compounds the tragedy.”

Most media did not initially publicize one important fact in McCloy’s letter—high levels of methane in the mine a few weeks before the blast. In the full text of his letter, McCloy states, “About three weeks before the explosion... Junior Toler and I found a gas pocket while drilling a bolt hole in the mine roof. Our detector confirmed the presence of methane. We immediately shut down the roof bolter, and the incident was reported up the line to our superiors.

“I noticed the following day that the gas leak had been plugged with glue normally used to secure the bolts.”

McCloy’s report of elevated gas levels in the mine was confirmed by at least two Sago bosses during their testimony at closed-door hearings by state and federal mine safety bodies following the disaster. The transcripts of those hearings were released to the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* after it filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get them. The newspaper has posted the transcripts at www.wvgazette.com/static/sago.

During those hearings, the bosses told investigators that methane levels rose to over 1 percent around a sealed-off area of the mine where the explosion eventually took place. Methane is explosive within a range of 5 to 15 percent. The company took no action despite the danger.

“Whatever’s behind the seals is behind the seals,” Sago foreman Carl Crumrine told investigators in his interview. “What’s in front of the seals is what I have to worry about.”

According to MSHA, 34 miners died on the job the first four months of this year, 26 in coal and eight in other mines.

Meanwhile, at MSHA-organized hearings in late April on emergency rules the federal agency imposed after Sago, company officials pushed for lifting even these minimal additional regulations. The new rules require notification of an accident within 15 minutes and impose more rigorous training standards.

“We recommend allowing flexibility for an operator” at the early stages of an accident, said Dale Byram, a manager at Jim Walter Resources Inc. in

New York: Thousands march against Iraq war



Militant/Paul Pederson

NEW YORK—Thousands of protesters converged in New York April 29 to participate in the “March for Peace, Justice and Democracy.” The protest, called by United for Peace and Justice, which opposes the U.S.-led war against Iraq, stretched for about eight blocks down Broadway. *Militant* reporters estimated attendance at between 10,000 and 15,000. Organizers claimed 350,000 were present. Most placards called for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq with many also protesting Washington’s threats against Iran. Many focused exclusively on U.S. president George Bush and members of his administration with slogans like “Bush lies” and “Impeach Bush.” A sign that was widely distributed and held by dozens of marchers called for the U.S. military to be moved “Out of Iraq, into Darfur.” The following day, thousands gathered in Washington to demand U.S. military intervention in the East African country of Sudan.

Brookwood, Alabama, at the hearing in Lakewood, Colorado, according to the April 24 *Lexington-Herald Leader*, a daily published in Kentucky. It can be difficult to find the appropriate MSHA official to notify, Byram argued.

UMWA official Jim Baker countered at the April 26 hearing in Lexington, Kentucky, that the new rules are needed, the April 27 *Herald-Leader* reported.

At a March 13 public meeting of the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington on underground rescue equipment and technology, held at the National Press Club, Dennis O’Dell, the UMWA’s administrator of occupational health and safety, described some of the related demands of the union. O’Dell said that portable radio transmitters to communicate with miners trapped underground were developed and tested as of 1995, “but now the system currently sits on a shelf somewhere collecting dust.”

This and even more technology has been approved by MSHA and “must be implemented and required by all mine operators immediately for protecting miner safety,” O’Dell said.

Very little work has been done by mine companies and the federal government to improve breathing apparatuses miners use underground in case of an

accident, the UMWA official said. “Reports of the recent coal mine disaster in Mexico indicate that miners had access to at least six hours of oxygen and there were additional units available on the ground to them,” O’Dell said. “Their oxygen resources far exceed what is provided to miners in this country.”

O’Dell said underground rescue chambers are needed, with enough oxygen, water, and food to shield workers.

“Just such a chamber was successfully used and saved the lives of miners at a potash mine in western Canada,” he said, referring to an incident at Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, last year where 72 miners survived after being trapped for over 24 hours. “If the agencies in the industry are serious about giving miners the best chance for survival when all other means of escape fail, the safety chambers would be in the mine today. If you are more concerned with the cost of this unit than the cost of the human life, the miners again will be denied a safety device that could save lives.”

Spring 2006 ‘Militant’ Sub Drive			
April 8–May 28			
Week 3 of 7			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Seattle	115	118	103%
San Francisco	60	60	100%
Tampa	10	8	80%
Twin Cities	145	115	79%
Albany, NY	12	9	75%
Los Angeles	135	101	75%
Houston	100	74	74%
Newark	140	103	74%
Miami*	130	93	72%
Des Moines	150	106	71%
Amherst, MA	6	4	67%
Atlanta	75	48	64%
Philadelphia	100	63	63%
New York	300	181	60%
Birmingham	85	50	59%
Washington, DC	75	44	59%
Chicago	85	49	58%
Price	65	34	52%
Boston	75	30	40%
Pittsburgh	60	18	30%
Detroit	20	5	25%
U.S. Total	1943	1308	67%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	50	33	66%
Edinburgh	25	13	52%
UK Total	75	46	61%
AUSTRALIA			
ICELAND	30	15	50%
NEW ZEALAND			
Christchurch	15	11	73%
Auckland	30	11	37%
N.Z. Total	45	22	49%
CANADA	110	38	35%
SWEDEN	35	12	34%
Int'l totals	2252	1448	72%
Should be	2000	857	43%
*increased quota			

1,450 subscribe to ‘Militant’ in 3 weeks

Continued from front page
immigrant rights actions,” wrote Carlos Sánchez from St. Paul, Minnesota. “On Monday, May Day, we sent out one table to a march organized by Isaiah, a church-based organization. Five people subscribed. At Powderhorn Park, where another rally was held under rain, 20 people subscribed.” Sánchez says supporters of the paper are planning a similar effort at the Cinco de Mayo celebrations next weekend.

“If this march makes people aware we have a voice, they’ll also see that we have power,” said new reader Alex Mendoza, a student at DePaul University in Chicago. He helped sell the *Militant* at the 400,000-strong demonstration there. Protesters also purchased 71 books and pamphlets on revolutionary working-class politics. Mendoza himself bought 10 of those.

“More than 800 people attended a May

Day rally here in the Town Commons,” said Ross Hogan, a Young Socialist in Amherst, Massachusetts. “About 300 students who staged a walkout at the university joined the rally together with more than 100 students from local high schools and middle schools.” Three subscribed to the paper, Hogan said.

Young Socialists from Albany, New York, participated in a May Day rally in Montreal, a peace rally in Manhattan, and helped to build a May 1 action on the Albany state university campus. They sold two *Militant* subscriptions in the process, said Ben O’Shaughnessy.

The sub drive’s success can be parlayed into progress on the Militant Fund—now a week behind pace. Last week, \$10,000 came in. More than \$18,000 is needed each of the next four weeks to meet the \$90,000 goal. Please send donations to the *Militant* at the address on page 2.

\$90,000 ‘Militant’ Fund Drive			
April 15–May 28 * Week 2 of 6			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
SWEDEN			
640	155	24%	
UNITED STATES			
Tampa	300	200	67%
Atlanta*	4,000	2,595	65%
Miami*	2,400	840	35%
Seattle	8,000	2,700	34%
New York	12,000	3,789	32%
Albany	100	25	25%
Chicago	5,500	1,110	20%
Philadelphia	3,200	620	19%
Los Angeles	8,500	1,390	16%
San Francisco	8,500	1,150	14%
Boston*	3,300	425	13%
Houston*	3,500	440	13%
Birmingham*	2,000	230	12%
Des Moines	2,000	225	11%
Newark	3,500	225	6%
Washington, DC	2,500	83	3%
Pittsburgh	4,000	0	0%
Price	3,000	0	0%
Twin Cities	4,800	350	7%
Other		80	
U.S. Total	81,100	16,477	20%
AUSTRALIA			
1,000	125	13%	
NEW ZEALAND			
Christchurch	700	240	34%
Auckland	1,500	30	2%
N.Z. Total	2,200	270	12%
CANADA			
2,000	0	0%	
ICELAND			
200	0	0%	
UK			
1,800	0	0%	
Int'l totals	88,940	17,027	19%
Goal/Should be	90,000	30,000	33%
*raised goal			

Freedom rings—The federal Ninth District appeals court has ruled that it's cruel and unusual for Los Angeles to



Harry Ring

deny homeless people the right to sleep on the sidewalk. The ruling was won by the American Civil Liberties Union. The decision is expected to have an impact in other cities. The massive number of homeless in the

L.A. downtown skid row will now be able to sleep with immunity on the sidewalk from 9:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. They will also have the right to sleep on or in cardboard boxes.

How great can capitalism get—“HOMER, Alaska—Alaska natives in Nanwalek want to add their dying language to the high school curriculum. The village's last fluent speakers are asking the school to make Sugt'stun eligible for academic credit. But the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District points to budget cuts, federal education

standards, and Nanwalek's low test scores, saying the 200-person community must concentrate on English and math.”—*USA Today*

Don't start sputtering—If you're a wild-eyed rational thinker you may pose the question: Why don't they build more shelters? Why *don't* they provide decent low-cost housing? Why don't they give the homeless social rehabilitation and living-wage jobs? What are you, a socialist?

'Care'? They don't know how to spell it—“LONDON:

Thousands of elderly people at English nursing homes are being given the wrong dose of medicine or the wrong drugs...almost half of England's nursing and care homes fail to meet standards on medication.”—*The Times*, London.

Heretoday—“Study doubles estimate of smog deaths—University of Southern California researchers amass measurements of lethal particulate in the Los Angeles basin.”—*Los Angeles Times* headline and sub headline.

Great hunting—“Ohio:

Dayton—A site that for decades produced fuel for nuclear bombs is being transformed into a home for rabbits, geese, turkeys, crayfish and other wildlife. By year's end the former uranium processing site 30 miles southwest of Dayton, will be a U.S. Department of Energy-run park of woodlots, prairie, wetlands and savanna.”—News item.

Help wanted—Our stack of clippings diminished quicker than we thought. Please send items to Great Society, Pathfinder Books, 4229 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90011.

Communist League in United Kingdom holds congress

BY PETER CLIFFORD

LONDON—At a two-day congress of the Communist League in the United Kingdom ending April 9, delegates decided to build on recent achievements to strengthen their party. Leading up to the congress, League members had discussed a resolution submitted for vote by the outgoing Central Committee, “The struggle for a proletarian party in the UK today,” and “Their Transformation and Ours,” published in issue 12 of the Marxist magazine *New International*. The latter is a resolution adopted by the 2005 convention of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. Delegates adopted both of these documents and elected a new Central Committee.

“The League is different than a year ago,” reported Central Committee member Tony Hunt. He described how last autumn League members and others supporters of the *Militant* newspaper sold 159 subscriptions to the paper, more than double the 66 sold in the previous circulation drive. “What is important though is the degree to which the bedrock of this campaign was sales at factory gates, to union fighters, and in plants where members of the League work,” Hunt said.

As part of the “long war” Washington projects to “fight terrorism,” Hunt said, the UK rulers are both struggling to maintain their position in the world and deepen their assaults at home on the social wage—pensions, free health care, and welfare benefits. London continues to “box above its weight” through its alliance with U.S. imperialism, Hunt said, paraphrasing a former government minister. But without deepening their attacks on working people at home, this place in the world for British imperialism can weaken.

The congress decided on two moves to advance on the communist movement's progress in the UK. One is to build on the success of sustaining a bookshop in London, open several hours per day, to expand the distribution of books.

Jonathan Silberman reported that after the move of the shop from its previous premises, where it had been located for over 30 years, to the Brick Lane area of east London, it had proved possible to maintain the sales effort.

“Some £40,000 of books and pamphlets were sold and distributed from the shop throughout the UK, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia,” he said. “This included some 1,000 copies of the two recently published editions of *New International*.” Sustaining this effort is necessary, he said, “as fighting workers need more and more to learn the history and experiences of the working

class movement.”

Second, delegates decided to strengthen the leadership resources and nationwide spread of the League in organizing union fractions of its members in the meat and clothing and textile industries, and to regularize contact with coal miners. “This is vital to ensure the League can gain a broader experience and integrate its work more into struggles by working people and their unions,” Hunt said.

Several delegates pointed to recent experiences in workplaces that show openings to build a proletarian party today. Joyce Fairchild, a sewing machine operator in London, said many *Militant* readers, including former Heathrow airport workers who struck the Gate Gourmet company last August, eagerly renewed their subscriptions to the paper when League members visited them and exchanged experiences.

Caroline Bellamy, a meat worker in Edinburgh, Scotland, described how newly hired Polish workers were starting to get involved in the union at her plant, and several recently bought the *Militant* for the first time.

Silberman said a weekly factory gate team he is part of sold 11 books and pamphlets one time at the end of last year. “Organizing such regular sales at factories and mines is at the heart of circulating

communist propaganda today,” he said.

During the congress, the Young Socialists held a meeting. Reporting back from this gathering to the CL congress, Alex Xezonakis from Leeds said the young socialists discussed how “Marxist education and political activity go hand in hand.” As well as joining with League members in factory gate sales and other propaganda and mass work, they will also be joining classes on *Teamster Rebellion*, which describes the class-struggle leadership of the 1934 strikes in Minnesota that were at the heart of building the industrial unions in the United States. YS leader Xerardo Arias urged everyone to attend the June 15–17 SWP convention in the United States.

A high point of the weekend was a Militant Labour Forum on April 8 to discuss and promote the new Pathfinder book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

Silvia Blanca, first secretary of the Cuban embassy in the UK; Bobby Chan of the Chinese rights organization Min Quan; Ana Nazario of the Youth of the Fifth Republic of Venezuela (JVR); and Jonathan Silberman spoke at the forum.

Referring to images peddled by the media here of Chinese gangs as representative of the Chinese community, and

recent deaths of undocumented Chinese immigrants, Chan said that what he learned from the book on how the Cuban Revolution ended discrimination against the Chinese shows that “the Cuban experience serves as a positive image for Chinese communities.”

“We are carrying out a strategic, political, ideological, and social process we call the Battle of Ideas to improve our system and defend what the Cuban people have achieved,” said Blanca. “While the United States is escalating its blockade, we are extending solidarity, including treatment for eye disease, sponsored by Cuba and Venezuela,” she said.

Our History is a book “that helps explain the collaboration between Cuba and our struggle against imperialism in Venezuela,” said Nazario of the JVR.

Pointing out that in April, “we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the defeat of the U.S.-organized mercenary invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs,” Silberman said that a key lesson from the book is that a social revolution was necessary in Cuba to end discrimination against not only Chinese, but Afro-Cubans and others, and that kind of revolution is what's needed in the UK to end racist oppression and class exploitation.

Celia Pugh contributed to this article.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



May 15, 1981

Bobby Sands died May 5 in H-Block at Maze Prison in the sixty-sixth day of his hunger strike. He was twenty-seven.

Sands was demanding the rights associated with political prisoner status for Irish nationalists held in British jails. But the Conservative government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher remained ruthless and implacable, dismissing Sands as a criminal and even presenting his death as proof of her firmness.

Sands, a member of the Irish Republican Army, was elected to parliament from his cell in April. He was the thirteenth Irish nationalist allowed to die in British jails as a result of a hunger strike.

The world responded with outrage. In Northern Ireland, families poured into the streets in the Catholic neighborhoods. Garbage can lids were pounded to spread the word through the working-class ghettos.



May 14, 1956

The second anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision against school segregation will be celebrated this week at meetings throughout the country. It is fitting that opponents of Jim Crow commemorate that momentous victory of May 17, 1954. It is also appropriate to recall how it was won and to compute its results up to now and in the coming years.

For 60 years the Supreme Court cheated the Negro people of their rights under the Fourteenth Amendment by its “separate but equal” doctrine. The overthrow of this vicious doctrine was a great victory in the struggle for equal rights. It was the culmination of 20 years of effort by American Negroes.

Out of the struggle for survival in the Great Depression the Negro people had emerged with new militancy and with a new ally—the white industrial workers organized in the CIO.



May 15, 1931

Over 300 unemployed clothing cutters, members of the most powerful local union of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Local 4 of New York, have come together and decided to launch a struggle against their miserable conditions. For a long time, these oppressed, starving workers have been suffering patiently and hoping for a change in their conditions. Day in and day out, they have been waiting for their officials to do something for the redress of their miserable situation. Some of them have been unemployed for years and their families have been starving. At the same time they have been witnessing acts of the rankest corruption and have suffered abuse and discrimination at the hands of their officials. Their patience has finally broken down and they came out in an open revolt against the rotten methods of their officials who are responsible for their misery and destitution.

U.S. gov’t interned Japanese from Latin America in WWII

(Fourth in a series)

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

One little known chapter in the history of U.S. immigration policy was the U.S. rulers’ abduction and incarceration of Japanese living in Latin America during World War II. In the United States, Washington imprisoned 112,000 people of Japanese descent in concentration camps during the war. In Canada, 23,000 Japanese living in British Columbia, three-fourths of whom were Canadian citizens, were also rounded up.

Governments friendly to Washington throughout Latin America joined in. Nearly 2,300 people from 13 of these countries were seized and imprisoned in U.S. Justice Department internment camps. Many of them were held in Crystal City, Texas. About 1,800, or 80 percent of these detainees, were citizens and legal residents of Peru of Japanese descent. The governments of Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Cuba carried out Washington’s orders by setting up their own internment camps for Japanese living in these countries.

Washington’s restrictive immigration laws led more Japanese migrating to the Western Hemisphere to settle in Latin American countries. In 1908 U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt signed a “Gentleman’s Agreement” with Tokyo halting Japanese immigration into the United States. Eleven years later Congress passed the Asiatic Barred Zone Act, giving this restriction legislative approval. It remained in effect until 1952.

(The previous three articles in this series have traced the evolution of U.S. government restrictions on immigration from the 1800s to today.)

Japanese immigrants began arriving in Latin America in the 1800s. Most of those going to Cuba arrived between 1910 and 1930 in search of jobs. More than 300 of these men were imprisoned for the duration of World War II in Presidio Modelo in the Isle of Pines, renamed the Isle of Youth after the revolution in 1959 when workers and peasants overthrew the hated U.S.-backed dictatorship and went on to open up the first socialist revolution in the Americas. In Cuba today there are about 1,300 citizens of Japanese descent. A yearly festival is now held in August at the Isle of Youth to mark the internment of Japanese-Cubans by the regime during the war.

Shortly before the start of World War II, Japanese in Peru owned a number of businesses and ran cultural institutions. In Lima, the capital, there were six Japanese schools. As Peruvian police seized these individuals and deported them to the United States, Washington covered the transportation costs. As they were whisked out of the country, local authorities confiscated their passports and visas.

The U.S. rulers not only held these Japanese from Latin America in wretched conditions in concentration camps. Their plan all along was to exchange many of them for U.S. prisoners of war. Almost 900 Japanese internees from Latin America were shipped to Japan as part of this deal. Many had never been to Japan, and some only spoke Spanish.

Hundreds more were forced to go to Japan after the war when the Peruvian government refused to let them return and Washington deported them as “illegal aliens.” In December 1947, two years after the end of the war, Interior Secretary Harold Ickes admitted that Washington was still detaining 293 Japanese-Peruvians. Some were detained through the next year.

Germán Yaki was 12 years old when his father was forced out of Peru in January 1943 and imprisoned in the Crystal City camp. His dad had been a leader of the Japanese Peruvian Society in Lima. Six months later he and his mother joined him. “I would always think, ‘I didn’t do anything wrong. My father didn’t do anything wrong. Why should we be paying for something we weren’t responsible for?’” he told *Time Asia* in a June 2000 interview.

In January 1944, Seabrook Farms began recruiting Japanese-Americans and those from Latin America imprisoned in the U.S. concentration camps to work in its southern New Jersey food plant. The company supplied frozen foods to the U.S. military during the war. It produced and packaged frozen vegetables, including the Birdseye brand. Within a year, nearly 1,000 workers had been relocated to Seabrook, New Jersey. The company employed about 3,000 Japanese as farm and factory workers. By



Getty Images

Seabrook Farms plant in Seabrook, New Jersey, 1954. During World War II the company “recruited” Japanese who had been imprisoned in U.S. concentration camps.

1955 *Life* magazine called Seabrook the largest vegetable factory in the world.

A number of those then working at Seabrook Farms came from the Crystal City internment camp. Seichi Higashide in his book *Adios to Tears: Memoirs of a Japanese-Peruvian Internee in U.S. Concentration Camps* described this experience. Higashide emigrated from Japan to Peru in 1931. When World War II began he was deported to the Crystal City internment camp. He and his family were then recruited to work at Seabrook Farms, which he described as a “company town.”

In an article originally published October 1995 in *Rafu Shimpo*, Jenni Kuida, whose family was also recruited by Seabrook Farms from Crystal City, commented on working conditions there.

“During the peak season, the employee worked 12-hour shifts for as little as 30 to 50 cents per hour,” she wrote. “Living conditions were worse than they had been in Crystal City. Although the barbed wire was gone, they were still living in barracks, behind chain-link fences.”

Of the 1,800 interned Japanese-Peruvians, 300 fought a legal battle in the courts, allowing them to settle permanently in the Seabrook area. Not until 1952 could they begin the process of becoming permanent residents. Some eventually became U.S. citizens. It wasn’t until June 1998 that the Justice Department apologized to the Japanese from Latin America for bringing them to the United States by force and holding them in internment camps. It gave about 600 of them a token \$5,000 settlement.

May Day Actions for Immigrant Rights by State and City

ALABAMA		CONNECTICUT		MARYLAND		Trenton	1,500	York	1,000
Huntsville	1,500	New Haven	3,000	Gaithersburg	400			Kennett Square	500
Russellville	300	Danbury	400	Baltimore	400	NEW MEXICO		RHODE ISLAND	
ARIZONA		DELAWARE		MASSACHUSETTS		Albuquerque	1,200	Providence	15,000
Tucson	3,000	New Castle	200	Boston	300	Las Cruces	200	NEW YORK	
Phoenix	1,000	FLORIDA		New Bedford	600	Manhattan	100,000	Memphis	300
ARKANSAS		Quincy	300	Springfield	100	Queens	4,000	Knoxville	300
De Queen	500	Homestead	5,000	Lowell	150	Brooklyn	3,000	Chattanooga	500
Little Rock	700	Miami	20,000	Worcester	1,000	Ossining	450	TEXAS	
Fort Smith	1,000	Immokalee	2,800	Amherst	800	Poughkeepsie	2,000	Amarillo	3,000
Springdale	6,000	Tampa	7,000	Lawrence	1,500	Albany	300	Austin	8,500
CALIFORNIA		Orlando	20,000	MICHIGAN		Hempstead	4,000	Brownsville	2,000
Bakersfield	5,000	Sarasota	1,000	Kalamazoo	400	Buffalo	200	Corpus Christi	3,000
San Diego	15,000	DeLand	1,000	Detroit	300	Newburgh	5,000	Dallas	1,000
Stockton	6,000	Pensacola	1,000	Grand Rapids	200	NORTH CAROLINA		El Paso	2,000
Vista	2,500	Viera	300	MINNESOTA		Chapel Hill	300	Houston	30,000
Fresno	15,000	Fort Pierce	3,000	Minneapolis	400	Charlotte	3,500	San Antonio	3,000
Oakland	17,000	GEORGIA		MISSISSIPPI		Greensboro	1,500	Tyler	2,000
Chico	3,000	Atlanta	4,500	Laurel	200	Smithfield	1,000	Longview	300
Palm Springs	2,000	ILLINOIS		MISSOURI		Raleigh	1,000	Lufkin	2,000
Watsonville	10,000	Bloomington	200	Kansas City	4,000	Lumberton	1,000	Lubbock	3,000
Sacramento	30,000	Chicago	400,000	NEBRASKA		Asheville	1,000	WASHINGTON	
Santa Ana	10,000	Champaign	200	Omaha	3,000	NORTH DAKOTA		Tacoma	200
Santa Barbara	15,000	Peoria	200	Grand Island	3,000	Fargo	100	Seattle	30,000
San Jose	100,000	IOWA		Hastings	200	OHIO		Yakima	15,000
San Francisco	30,000	Iowa City	500	Norfolk	200	Cincinnati	300	Othello	3,000
Los Angeles	600,000+	Washington	400	NEVADA		OKLAHOMA		Wenatchee	5,000
Salinas	13,000	Burlington	200	Las Vegas	2,000	Oklahoma City	3,000	Pasco	5,000
Escondido	2,000	KANSAS		Reno	8,500	OREGON		WISCONSIN	
Santa Rosa	15,000	Emporia	1,500	NEW JERSEY		Portland	7,000	Madison	3,000
San Ysidro	1,000	Dodge City	1,000	Morristown	400	Salem	8,000	Milwaukee	15,000
Huntington Park	16,000	Topeka	1,000	Camden	1,000	PENNSYLVANIA		Beloit	1,200
Merced	1,500	KENTUCKY		New Brunswick	1,400	Philadelphia	800	VIRGINIA	
COLORADO		Louisville	1,000	Freehold	200	Pittsburgh	150	Virginia Beach	1,000
Colorado Springs	3,000	LOUISIANA		Lakewood	250	Allentown	500	UTAH	
Denver	75,000	New Orleans	1,000	Passaic	300	Reading	200	Salt Lake City	8,000
Pueblo	500					WASHINGTON, DC			
Greeley	1,000								
Glenwood Spr.	300								

TOTAL = 1,817, 000+ (OVER 140 CITIES)

The figures are taken from press accounts, police estimates, and our own reporters’ count on the scene. Where conflicting figures were reported, the Militant used the lower estimate or a median figure. The list is partial, including only actions where we were able to verify attendance. —The Editor

Boycott affects business

Continued from front page

sociation, for example, estimated that 90 percent of the half million workers in the industry took the day off.

Leading up to May Day, many of the organizers of earlier immigrant rights actions spoke out against walkouts. They planned events for later in the day, encouraging people to join them after work or school. Whatever effect this may have had on those considering whether to take the day off, it didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm to turn out for the protests.

More than 100,000 workers and others, overwhelmingly Latinos and many of them young, marched from Union Square to Foley Square in Manhattan, filling Broadway for 30 blocks. Often protesters would sing and dance along the way, sometimes chanting, *Aquí estamos y no nos vamos, y si nos echan regresamos!* (We're here to stay, and if they throw us out we will come back). Around 7:00 p.m., two hours after the march had started, rally organizers ended the program and police began to clear the area. But then thousands more buoyantly arrived, filling Foley Square a second time! The procession had gained steam as people got off work and made their way to the march with co-workers, neighbors, and family.

José Guzmán, a construction worker born in Ecuador, said his work site had been closed for the day because no one showed up. "There should be amnesty so I can travel back to my country," and not fear being prevented from getting back into the United States, he said.

Mercedes Cortes, a high school student from Long Island, was one of the many marchers in their teens or early 20s. "This is a subject that hits home," she said. "I understand the stakes. There should be a road for legalization. Political power is involved—they want to cut off immigrants' access to power."

Roger Toussaint, president of Transport Workers Union Local 100, was one of the speakers at the kick-off rally at Union Square. He told protesters to "not allow yourself to be intimidated. You are not a criminal, they are criminals." Toussaint had been released April 28 after five days in jail for his role in leading 34,000 city bus and subway workers in a three-day strike last December. "I call on union leaders to redouble our commitment to organize the immigrant workforce," he said.

Earlier in the day protesters formed human chains in several parts of the city at lunchtime. Some 3,000 turned out in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, and thousands more in Jackson Heights, Queens. In the Garment District the UNITE HERE union organized a protest of about 125. "Everyone should have papers," Amparo Arenas, a sewing machine operator, told the *Militant*, "so they don't have to be scared of the police or of a knock on the door from immigration." Turnouts at May Day rallies across New York State included 2,000 in Poughkeepsie, 450 in Ossining, and 4,000 in Hempstead, Long Island, where most day laborers reportedly stayed off the job.

El Diario, one of the main Spanish-language dailies here, reported there were immigrant rights actions in more than 20 cities in New Jersey. About 300 people, mostly day laborers, marched in Passaic, while many businesses closed for the day in North Bergen and Union City.

The immigrant workers' boycott did

affect many employers. More than 500 mushroom workers marched in Kennett Square, the center of U.S. mushroom production, south of Philadelphia. Output was down in the area. A company official at Pietro Industries told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* only eight of 120 workers came to work May 1. None of the 175 workers at one Vidalia onion farm in southeastern Georgia showed up. Industry officials in Florida told the media that more than one-half of workers at construction sites in Miami-Dade County weren't on the job that day. Large rallies took place in Orlando, Miami, and Homestead, Florida.

Many employers opted against playing hardball. "Law firms have been advising their clients that the immigrant labor boycott is protected by the National Labor Relations Act, even though it isn't specifically a union action," said the May 2 *Wall Street Journal*.

Highly publicized raids by immigration cops in the two weeks ahead of May Day gave added urgency to the protesters' demands for legal status.

Also sparking anger among supporters

Up to 1 million join rallies in Los Angeles

Continued from front page

Labor, several trade unions, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles are among the prominent members of this coalition.

Thousands of workers, students, and others who marched downtown then headed over to the afternoon action.

The response to the call to skip work was substantial here, and in other parts of California and up the West Coast.

Many of the hundreds of garment factories in downtown Los Angeles were empty. Leading up to May 1, the Korean American Apparel Wholesaler Association asked its 1,000 members not to fire anyone for taking the day off.

Other workers, including at hotels and airports, were threatened with firings or other disciplinary measures if they missed work without permission. The evening rally swelled as many joined it after working all day.

Thousands of farm workers, from Oxnard to Salinas, California, stayed out of the fields. About 200,000 protested in the northern part of the state. The United Farm Workers helped coordinate actions from its offices in Salinas, Fresno, Santa Rosa, and other farm areas. TV coverage showed deserted fields of strawberries, grapes, and other farm products.

Along the central coast, many growers, packers, and shippers gave workers the day off. Many of these firms support "guest worker" programs to employ immigrants as temporaries while tying their status to the bosses in order to keep wages low. But at the May Day rallies in Santa Rosa and other rural areas thousands of farm workers and others demanded amnesty and immediate legalization.

In Yakima Valley, Washington, thousands of farm laborers and their supporters marched with similar demands. According to the U.S. Labor Department, some 53 percent of farm workers in the country are undocumented.

Poultry workers who are fighting for a union contract at the giant Foster Farms plant in Livingston, California, said that supervisors threatened them with disciplinary action if they missed work.



Militant/Warren Simons

The May Day rally at Union Square in Manhattan drew more than 100,000 people.

of immigrant rights was the blunt opposition by President Bush and other politicians, like Sen. Hillary Clinton, both to the May 1 boycott and to a Spanish-language version of the "Star-Spangled Banner." "I think people who want to be a citizen of this country ought to learn English, and they ought to learn to sing the national anthem in English," Bush said at an April 28 news conference.

The *New York Times* editors warned two days before the May Day action that a massive walkout by immigrants would damage "their worthy cause."

Judging by the smiling faces and surprise at the size and vigor of the May 1 march here, many of the onlookers along Broadway welcomed the show of strength by immigrant workers and their supporters.

But so many took the day off the company was forced to virtually shut down production in the afternoon. Employees who did show up for work sported white T-shirts in solidarity.

Truck traffic at the massive ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach was down 90 percent. The more than 10,000 port truck drivers here have fought battles over the years to unionize and win better conditions. About 150 of these *troqueros* rallied in Wilmington, near the port. Salvador Abrica, a driver and organizer for the Port Drivers Association, reported, "In the last month, port drivers and their vehicles have been detained and some have been deported. Ninety percent are Latinos, immigrants."

At the Los Angeles City Hall rally, truck driver Victor Alonso said his employer, Fiesta Mexicana, closed its chain of stores and warehouses for the day, as it became clear many workers were planning to take the day off. "It's important we're not working today," he said. "We're not sleeping in; we're sending a message."

Maria Martínez said the small tortilla factory where she works was operating, but she and many co-workers did not go in after the boss agreed they could skip work. "We're not losing with this boycott, we gain," she said, by fighting for permanent residency. "Our pay is so low one day isn't that much anyway!"

Despite pleas by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Cardinal Roger Mahony to stay in school, 27 percent of middle and high school students in the Los Angeles Unified School District didn't show up. Stephanie Lopez, a senior at Belmont High School, spent the day marching with her friends in downtown Los Angeles. School officials said, "If we don't come in we won't be able to graduate on stage or go to the prom," she pointed out. "But it doesn't matter. We want equal rights for everyone."

Many stores and other small businesses in South Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, and other majority Latino areas remained shuttered for the day.

While the big majority of marchers here were Latino or Chicano, at both

demonstrations there was a noticeable increase in participation by Blacks and other non-immigrants, compared to the mobilization of comparable size on March 25. On April 28, several leaders in the Black community, including Rev. Lewis Logan of the Bethel AME Church and Tony Muhammad of the Nation of Islam, announced their support for the May 1 actions at a press conference with immigrant rights organizations. James Lawson, a leader in the civil rights movement, was among the speakers at the evening rally.

"Every person of color should be here," said Gwen Maddox at the City Hall rally, where she came with several relatives. The wealthy "have been suppressing people of color all over the world. We had to come here and march for this to change."

"A day without immigrants" and "Today we march, tomorrow we vote" were among the prominent official slogans of the day. Many marchers carried signs calling for amnesty for undocumented workers. "We want to legalize everyone," said José Zayed, who works in the shipping department of the giant American Apparel clothing factory. The proposals under debate in the Senate that would allow some workers to get permanent residency after paying fines and meeting other requirements "are only half-way measures."

Near Zayed, Julio Cesar Montoya got a warm response from the crowd as he chanted, "*Queremos una verde!*" (We want a green card!) Montoya took the day off from Woodland Farms, a duck slaughterhouse where last year workers won representation by the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

The mood in many factories the next day was upbeat. "It was good because they're going to hear us in Congress," said Margarita Fernandez, a sewer at Hollander Home Fashions. "Seeing all those people was beautiful."

Arlene Rubinstein in Los Angeles, Lea Sherman and Betsey Stone in San Francisco, and Scott Breen in Seattle contributed to this article.

Lessons in fight against gov't and cop frame-ups

Below is an excerpt from FBI on Trial, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month in May. The book is about a historic victory for democratic rights. It contains the federal court decision that codifies the accomplishments of the successful 15-year legal battle waged by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance against decades of spying, harassment, and disruption by the FBI. Copyright © 1988 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BY LARRY SEIGLE

This case has a long history, much longer than we usually think of. Like so much of what we in the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance are involved in today, our

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

fight against the FBI has its roots in the period around 1848, when the modern communist movement began in Europe. That was when the industrial working class first entered the political arena as a class, with a vanguard consciously charting a course in its historic interests. And the ruling classes responded with, among other things, the unleashing of police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups.



New York, November 1919. During the infamous "Palmer raids," organized by U.S. attorney general A. Mitchell Palmer, Washington arrested thousands of workers, charged them with communist activities, and deported hundreds. In the photo, those arrested are being taken to Ellis Island, where they were held pending deportation proceedings.

Our fight against the political police today continues the fight waged by Marx and Engels, beginning in 1848, against the series of frame-ups of leaders of the Communist League, including successful defenses of Marx himself. These led up to the notorious Cologne trial in 1852, which took place in the wake of the defeats of the 1848–49 revolutions. All the police methods we see today came to light there: the accusation of illegal conspiracy based solely on political ideas and activities, the false testimony of informers, even "mail covers" and police forgeries. The original "black bag job"—to use a current FBI term—took place in preparation for that frame-up.

Our fight today has many parallels with the fight by the German Social Democratic Party against the Anti-Socialist Laws in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The party fought for the right to function openly, as a legal party. And it refused to begin acting as a conspiratorial society even when

forced into illegality.

Our war with the FBI today is in a direct line of descent from the fight that the Bolshevik Party and the entire Russian workers' movement waged against the Okhrana, the tsars' FBI, which fielded an army of informers against the working-class movement. When the Russian workers finally got their hands on these informer files—it took a revolution to do it—they found records of almost 40,000 agents provocateurs. That was the first time in history that the entire account of a secret police operation, including its spy and disruption efforts, fell into the hands of the working class.

Our fight against the political police also has, of course, a long tradition in this country. It includes the national campaign against the execution of the Haymarket frame-up victims, the battles against the Pinkertons and other labor-spy outfits, and struggles to stop police and KKK racist terror against Blacks, Mexicanos, and Asians. An-

other early chapter was the crusade by the Wobblies, the Industrial Workers of the World, to establish their right to free speech on the street corners. It was a pre-World War I equivalent of our fights today to establish the right to petition in shopping malls and to defend our right to sell our newspapers on street corners and at plant gates.

Our heritage also includes the fight against the arrest, trial, and imprisonment of Eugene Debs and other antidraft and antiwar fighters in World War I. It includes the fight against the anticommunist and anti-immigrant witch-hunt and deportations after that war, known as the Palmer raids (named after A. Mitchell Palmer, the attorney general at the time). It includes the fight against the monstrous frame-up and murder of Sacco and Vanzetti, and countless other cases of political persecution aimed at the working-class movement. It is a continuation of the fight waged on behalf of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were martyrs of the witch-hunt in the 1950s.

The secret police apparatus as we know it today began to take shape at the end of the 1930s, on the eve of the war. This is when our case begins.

Roosevelt was replacing the New Deal with the War Deal, as the imperialists prepared to subject humanity to the second world slaughter. As the U.S. capitalists got ready for war against their rivals abroad, they also prepared their offensive against the working class and against Blacks and Chicanos at home. Their aims were to silence all opponents of the war drive, to channel all motion toward a labor party back into the two capitalist parties, and to make working people accept the necessity of sacrifice. All struggles for improvements in wages and working conditions, or for an end to racial discrimination and segregation, had to be subordinated to the needs of the imperialist war.

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Rd. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: bhmswp@yahoo.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: laswp@sbcglobal.net
San Francisco: 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: swpsf@sbcglobal.net

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206. Mailing address: P.O. Box 380846. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-4436. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515, Zip: 30321. Tel: (404) 768-1709. E-mail: swpatlanta@aol.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 3557 S. Archer Ave. Zip: 60609. Tel: (773) 890-1190. E-mail: Chicagoswp@sbcglobal.net

IOWA: Des Moines: 3707 Douglas Ave. Zip: 50310. Tel: (515) 255-1707. E-mail: swpdesmoines@cs.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst: 307 Brooks, 160 Infirmary Way. Zip: 01003. Tel: (914) 466-6772. E-mail: AmherstYS@hotmail.com
Boston: 13 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: swpboston@yahoo.com

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 695 Gullen Mall Apt. 408. Zip: 48360. Tel: (248) 860-9341. E-mail: ysdetroit@yahoo.com

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St. E, West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Zip: 07104. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com

NEW YORK: Albany: Box 1767, Colonial Quad. Zip: 12222. Tel: (845) 706-4811. E-mail: YoungSocialists518@gmail.com
Manhattan: 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 629-6649. E-mail: newyorkswp@yahoo.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Zip: 19140. Tel: (215) 455-2682. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@gmail.com
Pittsburgh: 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: PittsburghSWP@verizon.net

TEXAS: Houston: 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. Zip: 77092. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@sbcglobal.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3717 B Georgia Ave. NW, Ground Floor. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 722-1315. E-mail: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@yahoo.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box 164, Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail:

cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

ONTARIO: Toronto: 2238 Dundas St. W., #201, Postal code M6R 3A9. Tel: (416) 535-9140. E-mail: cltoronto@bellnet.ca

FRANCE

Paris: P.O. 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 40-10-28-37. E-mail: milpath.paris@laposte.net

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 1202. E-mail: kb-reykjavik@simnet.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: clauk@paradise.net.nz

Christchurch: 287 Selwyn St., Spreydon. Postal address: P.O. Box 7103. Tel: (3) 930-3373. E-mail: clchch@gmail.com

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Bildhuggarvägen 17, 12144 Johanneshov. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: kfstockholm@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: London: First Floor, 120 Bethnal Green (Entrance in Brick Lane). Postal code: E2 6DG. Tel: 020-7613-3855. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.com

SCOTLAND: Edinburgh: First Floor, 3 Grosvenor St., Haymarket. Postal code: EH12 5ED. Tel: 0131-226-2756. E-mail: cl.edinburgh@btinternet.com

May **BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

PATHFINDER READERS CLUB SPECIALS

FBI on Trial
by Margaret Jayko
The 1987 victory in the 14-year legal battle against the FBI, CIA, and other government spy agencies "increases the space for politics, and expands the de facto use of the Bill of Rights."
\$18.95 **Special price: \$14.00**

Emancipación de la mujer y la lucha africana
(Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle)
by Thomas Sankara
There is no true social revolution without the liberation of women, explains the leader of the 1983–87 revolution in Burkina Faso.
\$5.00 **Special price: \$3.50**

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution
by Jack Barnes
"There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before there will be a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba." That 1961 statement by Fidel Castro remains as true today as when it was spoken. \$13.00 **Special price: \$9.75**

Habla Malcolm X
(Malcolm X Speaks)
\$19.00 **Special price: \$14.00**

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

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM
OFFER GOOD UNTIL MAY 31

May Day: a workers’ tradition reborn

On May Day 2006, millions of workers stayed off the job in cities and towns across the United States. They poured into the streets and demanded the right to legal residency for 12 million undocumented immigrants. They set an example for all working people, showing the potential power of labor. Thus May Day, a working-class tradition celebrated across the globe, is being reborn in the United States.

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles—the largest U.S. seaport complex—went quiet. Packing-houses throughout the Midwest were shut down. Vegetables and fruits were left unpicked in California’s fields. Construction sites in South Florida were paralyzed.

What happened on May Day gives the lie to opponents of amnesty for the undocumented who argue, “They broke the law to enter the country!”

The employers depend on the labor of undocumented workers. They make sure immigrants keep flowing across the border, often through coyote operations the bosses organize. And they have institutionalized the superexploitation of these workers. That’s what existing immigration laws, and all the bills under debate in Congress, are designed to do: not to keep out immigrants without papers, but to allow bosses to divide the working class by keeping millions deprived of basic rights.

The fight for immediate and unconditional permanent residency for all immigrants is in the interests of all workers, farmers, and other exploited producers.

The millions who are standing up and speaking out today are helping break down prejudices the bosses promote to weaken the working class and bring down everyone’s wages. This creates more favorable conditions to organize all working people, U.S.- and foreign-born, into trade unions and to fight together for jobs and improved pay and conditions for all.

Big-business voices have warned: don’t use tactics that antagonize “Americans.” Don’t raise your voices. Don’t display your flags. Speak English. Be patriotic. Leave things to the legislators. And don’t go on strike.

These cynical admonitions recall arguments used in the 1950s and ’60s—to no avail—to try to stop millions of Blacks from marching, and from waging sit-ins and boycotts, that eventually overthrew Jim Crow segregation in the South.

The real reason for these complaints? The U.S. rulers are afraid today’s mass demonstrations for immigrant rights will *win greater support* among working people. They might inspire ideas about how to resist the employers’ assaults and win. Many U.S.-born workers have watched the protests. They have seen that by collectively withholding our labor and mobilizing in the streets we can prove stronger than the bosses. In the political arena, more working people may also see the need to act independent of—and against—the twin parties of capitalism, Democrats and Republicans.

May Day was born exactly 120 years ago in the United States. On May 1, 1886, a nationwide strike wave started for the eight-hour day. Since then the international working-class movement has celebrated that date and honored the Haymarket martyrs, the revolutionary workers framed up and hanged by the U.S. capitalists in Chicago for their role in that struggle.

May Day rallies drew tens of thousands in New York and other U.S. cities right up to the eve of World War II. During the war, however, the Stalinist and Social Democratic misleaders of the labor movement turned May Day actions into patriotic, pro-imperialist affairs and then canceled them in the name of wartime “national unity” with the American bosses. That class collaboration killed May Day in the United States.

Today, for the first time in nearly seven decades, International Workers Day became a mass celebration by working people in the citadel of capitalism. In Chicago, the major unions backed the march and rally. It is testimony to how the entire U.S. labor movement has been strengthened by foreign-born workers who bring their experiences and traditions of struggle.

That is truly cause for celebration—and a gain to build on.

Sami Al-Arian gets maximum sentence

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

A federal judge on May 1 sentenced Palestinian activist Sami Al-Arian to the maximum sentence allowed under a plea bargain agreed to two weeks earlier. In pronouncing the nearly five-year sentence, District Judge James Moody called the defendant “a master manipulator” and his denial of “terrorism” charges “a lie.”

Under terms of the agreement with prosecutors, Al-Arian had pled guilty to “conspiracy to provide services” to Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and would be given a prison term of 46 to 57 months. Al-Arian would then be turned over to immigration authorities for deportation. The government’s more than 10-year case against the former University of South Florida professor collapsed last December when a jury acquitted him of terrorism charges and deadlocked on other counts. He remained imprisoned—where he has remained since his February 2003 arrest—while prosecutors considered whether to retry or attempt to deport him.

Because of the time Al-Arian has already served behind bars, he is likely to spend at least one more year in prison, and then be handed over to the immigration police.

The *New York Sun* cheered the sentencing and the judge’s rebuke of the “terrorist professor.” Its editors praised Judge Moody—a Clinton appointee—for bringing “inspiring clarity” to the case and presenting “the authentic American voice.”

Women miners hold conference

Continued from page 2

ment operator on a BHP surface mine for 17 years, said the conference “is a valuable tool for women co-workers, but it is not only for them. It educates men folks to identify abuse by the boss and sense our responsibility for respect and dignity.”

Benally also noted that women still comprise a small percentage of the workforce where he works. Across the U.S. coalfields, there is signifi-

cant hiring of workers into the mines because of a boom in coal production as coal prices—and company profits—have shot up with increased demand for coal. But few women have been hired in coal mines. According to an April 8 article in Kentucky’s *Lexington Herald-Leader*, “Under-represented underground,” there are fewer than a dozen women miners in Kentucky today. These figures stand in sharp contrast to the coal boom of the 1970s, when women first fought their way into the mines. By 1985, nearly 4,000 women worked in coal mines.

Threats against Iran

Continued from front page

including research and development.” The UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released a report that day saying Tehran defied that demand and has not allowed sufficient “transparency” for UN “inspectors.”

Uranium enrichment, a process necessary for producing fuel for nuclear energy, is also used in the production of nuclear weapons. Washington, its imperialist allies in Europe, and Moscow have pressured Tehran to give up its pursuit of that technology purportedly to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear arms.

The Iranian government responded to the IAEA report by sending a letter to the agency’s inspector general, Mohammed ElBaradei, offering to allow the agency “unscheduled controls” or unannounced inspections of its nuclear facilities as long as the matter of Iran’s nuclear industry remains under the purview of the IAEA and not the Security Council.

The U.S., British, and French governments have reportedly drafted a joint resolution for the Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Such resolutions are enforceable through economic and other sanctions and/or military action.

“Everybody agrees on one goal: we cannot allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon or a program to develop nuclear defense,” French foreign ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei told Bloomberg News May 2.

“We have a lot of diplomatic arrows in our quiver at the Security Council,” said U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice April 30 on CBS TV’s “Face the Nation.” But if Washington is unsuccessful in getting its way in the UN, Rice added, there are “also like-minded states that might be willing to look at additional measures if the Security Council does not seem to be enough.”

Moscow and Beijing have spoken against applying economic sanctions at this time but have not said whether they would vote in favor of a binding Chapter 7 resolution. The Russian government voted to refer the matter to the Security Council, while the Chinese government abstained, allowing the move to proceed to this point.

Washington, Paris, London, Berlin, and Moscow have all joined in pressuring Tehran to forfeit its right to produce nuclear fuel, which is codified in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Instead, these governments demand that Tehran depend on imported fuel.

“The Iranian nation considers it an absolute right to benefit from all the technologies of the day, including nuclear technology, for entirely peaceful purposes, and insists on materializing that right,” Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said April 28, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency.

Bolivia nationalizations

Continued from front page

field, Agence France-Presse reported. “The looting by foreign companies has ended.” Morales ordered army troops to take control of this field and the country’s 55 other oil and gas installations.

A decree issued by Morales orders foreign energy companies to agree to new contracts with Bolivia’s state-run company, Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB), within 180 days. During this time all energy companies producing more than 100 million cubic feet of natural gas daily would receive 18 percent of revenues, with 82 percent going to YPFB. “At the end of this period, companies that do not sign new contracts will not be able to operate in the country,” Morales stated.

In demonstrations and roadblocks across the country last year, prior to the election of Morales, the candidate of the Movement Toward Socialism, workers and peasants demanded nationalization of the oil and gas reserves.

Bolivia has the second-largest natural gas reserves in Latin America, after Venezuela, with an estimated 54 trillion cubic feet. About 25 energy companies have investments in Bolivia. The biggest operators are Petrobras of Brazil and Repsol of Spain. Others include British Petroleum, Total of France, and the U.S.-based Exxon-Mobil. About half of Brazil’s natural gas needs—520 million cubic feet daily—are supplied by Bolivia through a 2,000-mile pipeline operated by Petrobras.

“Obviously there are concerns’ about a ripple effect,” said the May 2 *Wall Street Journal* in a front-page article, quoting ExxonMobil spokesman Robert Davis. Foreign investors said they were cautious on what the move would mean for their businesses until they saw what the renegotiation of existing contracts the government has ordered brings about.

— CALENDAR —

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles
Hands Off Venezuela and Cuba.
Sat., May 20 at 12 noon. *Gather at the downtown Federal Building, 300 N. Los Angeles. March to Pershing Square.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Hands Off Venezuela and Cuba.
Sat., May 20. 10:00 a.m. at 15th St. and Euclid N.W., march to Lafayette Park. 2:00 p.m. rally in front of White House. Tel.: (917) 887-8710.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Robert F. Williams: The Fight for Black Rights and Its Meaning for Today. A meeting for the Militant Fund. Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 12. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Tel.: (973) 481-0077.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Hear the Socialist Workers Candidates. Speakers: David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate; Connie Allen, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress. Sat., May 13. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 5418 Rainer Ave. S. Tel.: (206) 323-1755.