

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

'Desire to follow Cuban road is deep'

Chronicle of 1961-62 Latin American tour by 'Militant' editor

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 6 FEBRUARY 12, 2007

'Bring troops home!'

Tens of thousands march against war in Iraq



Militant/Hilda Cuzco

Tens of thousands march January 27 in Washington to demand end to U.S. war in Iraq

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, January 27—With signs, banners, and chants demanding, "End the war! Bring the troops home now!" tens of thousands of people rallied on the National Mall here today and marched through the streets surrounding the U.S. Capitol.

The action was called by United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ), and was endorsed by more than 60 national and local organizations. It attracted protesters from around the country.

"I'm here to try to stop the killing that has been going on way too long," said Skip Edwards, 61, a veteran of the Vietnam War from Telluride, Colorado. Edwards was one of several veterans of Washington's wars against Vietnam and Iraq marching. Relatives of soldiers killed in Iraq or currently stationed there marched, as well.

Joshua Despain, 25, who served in the U.S. Army in Fallujah and Ramadi in 2003-04, said his experience changed

his point of view. Despain said he went to Iraq "neutral" on Washington's role in the country, but was shocked at "seeing how people lived there." Despain said he became increasingly concerned by the U.S. military treating Iraqis as "less than human."

Several unions organized buses to the rally. These included the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Communications Workers of America, New Jersey Industrial Council, and Social Services Employees Union (SSEU). One bus from Allentown, Pennsylvania, was filled mostly by rail workers, members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees. SEIU representatives said the union organized about 12 buses from across the country.

Faye Moore, a vice president of SSEU Local 371 in New York, said 66 members of the local, the majority African Americans, came to the march. "The war has had a lot of impact on our members," she

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U.S. immigration agents arrest 21 workers at N. Carolina plant

Jailed workers face deportations

Smithfield threatens to fire nearly 600

BY SETH DELLINGER

WASHINGTON, January 31—Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested 21 workers a week



AP/Fayetteville Observer/Raul Rubiera

Workers walk out November 16 at Smithfield slaughterhouse in Tar Heel, North Carolina, to protest firing of coworkers for "false papers."

ago at the Smithfield Foods plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, the world's largest hog slaughterhouse. The workers were sent to the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia, and are now in the process of being deported, reported the January 26 *Fayetteville Observer*.

With the company's help, immigration cops entered the plant January 24 and arrested the workers on "administrative charges" of alleged immigration violations. The agents reportedly showed up plain clothed in unmarked cars. "We have cooperated fully," Dennis Pittman, Smithfield's director of corporate communications, told

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'Ethnic cleansing,' new U.S. gov't rationalization for war in Iraq

BY SAM MANUEL

The U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Lt. Gen. David Petraeus as the top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq January 26. The general's statements at his confirmation hearing showed that stopping "ethnic cleansing," not "spreading democracy," is becoming Washington's latest rationalization for its war there.

Many of the 21,500 additional troops the U.S. government is sending to Iraq are already in place, and Petraeus indicated that he may request more soldiers. U.S. troops, in fact, began deploying immediately after U.S. president George Bush announced January 10 the largest troop increase since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of the country. At a January 26 Pentagon briefing, defense secretary Robert Gates said he will work to accelerate the new troop deployments.

U.S. forces are already engaging Shiite and Sunni militias Washington considers obstacles to its drive to establishing a stable capitalist regime in Baghdad subservient to U.S. imperialist interests

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U.S. Special Forces carry out new bombing raids in Somalia

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

U.S. warplanes bombed a site in southern Somalia January 22. While refusing to give details, Pentagon officials suggested the attack involved Special Forces deployed from the same U.S. base in nearby Djibouti from which a similar January 7 bombing

was launched. U.S. warships continue operations off that country's coast, claiming to be looking for al-Qaeda leaders.

On the same day Ethiopian troops began a gradual withdrawal from Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. In late December thousands of Ethiopian soldiers, along with U.S. Special Forces, entered the country. Together with Somali troops they routed the forces of the Somalia Islamic Courts Council (SICC), which had controlled Mogadishu and much of southern Somalia for the previous six months. They established a "transitional" government whose members, with U.S. and European Union (EU) backing, had until

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1,400 protesters buy 'Militant' at antiwar actions

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

January 31—About 1,300 people bought copies of the *Militant* and another 102 subscribed at the January 27 march in Washington and at similar rallies that day in the western United States to protest the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Militant supporters also sold 230 books and pamphlets on revolutionary working-class politics at these actions, including nearly 80 copies of the new book by Pathfinder Press, *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* (see ad on p. 6).

The latter, and several other titles, were offered at reduced prices along with a *Militant* subscription at the demonstrations.

This response to the paper complements the *Militant's* current campaign

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Washington may send 2,300 more troops to Afghanistan

BY SAM MANUEL
WASHINGTON—In addition to sending more troops to Iraq, the Bush administration is considering increasing U.S. troops in Afghanistan by 2,300. During a visit to the Bagram U.S. air base in Afghanistan, U.S. defense secretary Robert Gates said he is “very sympathetic” to a request by U.S. officers for additional troops, reported the January 17 *American Forces Press Service*, a Pentagon publication.

Senators Hillary Clinton and Evan Bayh, both Democrats, sent a letter to Gates urging him to send more troops to Afghanistan to stave off a Taliban offensive expected sometime in the spring. Clashes between U.S.-led forces and Taliban supporters have tripled this year, according to the U.S. military.

“While we hope to soon discuss with you our impressions of the deteriorating situation in Iraq, we write this letter now, and with utmost urgency, about the need to expand our stabilization presence and increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan,” said the letter from Clinton and Bayh, a copy of which is posted on Clinton’s web site.

The Canadian government is rotating 1,160 troops to Afghanistan as part of its 2,500-member force based in Kandahar. Italy’s deputy prime minister, Massimo Dalima, rejected a call by some members of his country’s governing coalition to pull Italian troops out of Afghanistan. Rome has almost 2,000 troops there.

Washington has approximately 24,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, 11,000 of which are part of a NATO-led force of 20,000. Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, the top U.S. officer in Afghanistan, said he has asked the Pentagon to order a battalion of

the 10th Mountain Division to stay in the country until the end of the year, rather than leave this spring.

About 5,000 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division were deployed to Afghanistan January 20, the *Army Times* reported. They will be joined by a 5,000-strong South Carolina National Guard brigade as part of the regular U.S. troop rotation.

According to the U.S. military, the number of attacks by Taliban forces tripled between 2005 and 2006. In 2005 there were 27 suicide attacks, and 783 roadside bombs. Last year those figures jumped to 139 and 1,677 respectively. There were 1,558 firefights with Taliban forces in 2005 and 4,542 in 2006. The Islamist Taliban government was toppled by the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

At a rally at the Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in New Brunswick, Canada, the country’s defense minister Gordon O’Connor told the troops being sent to Afghanistan that Ottawa would support the NATO mission until it is accomplished. Forty-four Canadian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since 2002.

Leftist parties in Italy’s coalition

Protesters march in Philadelphia against killing by cops of Black youth



PHILADELPHIA—Protesters here march January 6 against the killing by cops of 20-year-old Bryan Jones. Police shot Jones three times in the head in the first few minutes of the new year. Five cops have been put on “administrative duty” while an investigation is held. In 2006 city police fatally shot 20 people, the highest number since 1980. On January 14, cops killed a second man and wounded a passerby in downtown Philadelphia.

—JANET POST

government, including two Communist parties and the Greens, have threatened to vote against continued financing for Italian troops in Afghanistan in retaliation to the government’s decision to allow the expansion of a U.S. military base near Venice, the *Financial Times* reported.

Expansion of that base was agreed to by the previous government, headed by Silvio Berlusconi, which sent Italian

troops to Afghanistan and Iraq. The current government of prime minister Romano Prodi pulled the troops from Iraq but has kept them in Afghanistan. Dalima said withdrawing Italian troops from Afghanistan would mean “relinquishing our political role at the international community level and this would isolate Italy from Europe and the world.”

Chinese Canadians protest exploitation of contract workers

BY SANDRA MITCHELL

TORONTO—The Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) issued a statement January 8 demanding the federal government and employers “bring forth measures to prevent the exploitation of foreign temporary workers.” It was responding to a news report that 61 workers, hired through the government’s Foreign

Worker Program at Maple Leaf Food’s pork plant in Brandon, Manitoba, had each paid Can\$10,000 to come to Canada from China (Can\$1=US 85 cents).

“This amounts to a modern day head tax and borderline human trafficking,” said CCNC president Colleen Hua.

The head tax was a racist measure imposed by the Canadian government on Chinese who immigrated here between 1885 and 1923. By 1903 it amounted to \$500 per person, the equivalent of two years’ pay. Today, the CCNC and other Chinese-Canadian organizations are demanding full government redress to families of those who paid the head tax.

According to the January 8 *Globe and Mail*, Maple Leaf officials claimed they had no knowledge that their employees made the \$10,000 payments—several times the average annual factory wage in China. They said they found out only when workers began asking to be moved

to cheaper housing because they could not afford the rent in the company-provided housing.

Maple Leaf used a Vancouver-based agency to find workers, the *Globe and Mail* reported. Maple Leaf, which was to import another 182 workers from China, says it has now stopped using the government program and ended its dealings with the agency.

Robert Ziegler, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 832, which represents workers at the Brandon plant, called on the company to repay the 61 affected workers, CBC News reported.

The government set up the temporary foreign worker program to aid employers claiming a labor shortage. Like the “guest worker” programs the U.S. Congress has been debating, it limits workers’ rights, making their legal status dependent on their bosses.

THE MILITANT

‘Gets the story straight from workers’

“I subscribe to the ‘Militant’ because I like to get the story straight from the workers, unadulterated by the conventional media that represents the upper classes.”

—Meg Felts

UTU Local 1941, San Francisco



Meg Felts is a school bus driver and member of United Transportation Union Local 1941 in San Francisco.

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The Militant

Vol. 71/No. 6

Closing news date: January 31, 2007

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Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June.
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

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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 send \$35 to above address.

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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.

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‘Not one penny, or person, for Washington’s wars!’

Young Socialists attract support at D.C. rally

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

WASHINGTON, January 27—“No to war and occupation, stop the raids and deportations!” was one of the popular chants in the Young Socialists contingent at today’s antiwar march here. The contingent was part of the work by the Young Socialists to win young people to a revolutionary working-class perspective.

Marching behind a banner that said, “Not one penny, not one person for Washington’s wars. Bring the troops home now!” about 50 people from six countries made up the contingent. Among them were students from Albany, New York, and New York City; Amherst and Lowell, Massachusetts; Chicago; Ontario, Canada; Washington, DC; and elsewhere. Three young grocery store workers of Guatemalan origin, who came in a van from Atlanta, marched in the contingent, as did older workers from Boston, Houston, New York, and other cities.

A group of high school students from New Jersey calling themselves the Student Socialist Coalition hooked up with the YS contingent as it went by. Two students from the University of Maryland College Park joined the contingent as it marched past with youth chanting in English and Spanish, “Hands off Cuba and Venezuela!” Others joined in after meeting YSers and reading the *Militant* on buses to the action or during the rally.

“U.S. troops out now: Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, Korea;” and “U.S. Hands off Iran” were among the most prominent signs Young Socialists and others in the contingent carried.

After the march, 30 people attended an open house, said Ross Hogan, a member of the Young Socialists national steering committee and a student at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Youth from Cleveland, Philadelphia, Albany, Boston, and Atlanta, some of whom met the YS for the first time here, were among 15 people who came to learn more about the communist youth organization.

Hogan and Gabriela Moreano, a Young Socialist and a worker in St. Paul, Minnesota, spoke on Washington’s wars, working-class resistance, and the need for a revolutionary youth organization. Moreano described how the YS responded to immigration raids at Swift packing plants in the Midwest in December by reaching out to meat packers and other workers with the *Militant* and engaging them in discussions on how to fight back.

“Washington and its ‘coalition of the willing’ are carrying out the largest escalation of their war in Iraq since the invasion three years ago,” said Hogan.

“The only way to end imperialist war is to put an end to the system that perpetuates it, capitalism, and replace it with a government run by and in the interests of workers and farmers,” Hogan said. “That’s why we encourage all youth who are serious about ending the U.S. rulers’ wars to join the Young Socialists.” After the program, a student at York University in Toronto asked to do just that.

“I want to help change things, not just here in the U.S.,” said Ben Patterson, 19, an unemployed worker from Milwaukee who met the YS for the first time at the rally. “I think the war in Iraq is about money. We live in a capitalist world.”

“Liberals may do things for the work-

ing class,” said Molly Thomas, 20, a student at American University here, explaining why she was interested in the Young Socialists. “But the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists isn’t about ‘helping’ workers but about struggling alongside them.”

Thomas was one of dozens of young people who went on to a meeting in New York City the next day. That event, titled “Imperialism’s Spreading Wars and Financial Disorder In Face of the Irreversible Strengthening of the U.S. Working Class,” featured Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International* magazine, and

Tens of thousands march in Washington

Continued from front page

said. “We have members serving over there. We want the troops out now.”

U.S. forces in Iraq must “get out immediately,” said Tracy Miller, a view expressed by a number of protesters. Miller, whose son Cpl. Nicolas Zielkowsky was killed in Fallujah in 2004, was marching as part of the Military Families Speak Out contingent.

Others in the crowd, and many of the march organizers, expressed a different approach, placing their hopes on the Democratic majority in Congress achieving a “phased withdrawal.” In an interview with the *Washington Post* two days before the demonstration, UFPI spokesman Hany Khalil said the purpose of the march was to push for “an orderly, speedy, and safe” withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

UFPI includes many pacifist and liberal groups, as well as the Communist Party USA and Committees of Correspondence, a split-off from the CPUSA.

Many of the more than 40 speakers addressing the opening rally elaborated on the point Khalil made. They focused their fire on the Bush administration, including calling for the president’s impeachment. Signs expressing such views were prominent in the crowd.

Fred Mason, president of the Maryland-D.C. AFL-CIO, said the labor federation was backing this action “because Bush was leading the country in the wrong direction.” He called upon Congress “to stop funding efforts for war, death, and destruction and instead redirect resources to rebuild America.”

One of the best received speakers was Robert Watada, a retired executive with the State of Hawaii and father of Lt. Ehren Watada, who faces a court-martial for refusing to be deployed to Iraq. “The army wants to make my son a political prisoner in this country,” Watada said.

Other speakers included Democratic politician Jesse Jackson; Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women; and entertainers Jane Fonda, Tim Robbins, and Susan Sarandon.

After the rally, protesters marched past the Capitol and back along the other side of the Mall.

The crowd included many middle-aged people who had taken part in previous peace rallies, including those against the Vietnam War. A good number of high-school and college students, as well as other youth, took part.

Many demonstrators carried hand-made signs. “A nonbinding resolution is as useless as a shrubbery in the Oval



Militant/Ben Joyce

Part of the Young Socialists contingent at January 27 peace rally in Washington.

SWP national secretary Jack Barnes.

For more information, contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; Tel: (212) 629-6649; E-mail:

youngsocialists@mac.com

David Argüello from San Diego contributed to this article.

Office,” read one from Ohio. “Lt. Watada is a true hero,” read another carried made by Myrtle Dill, from Weatherford, Oklahoma. She and five others drove 24 hours to attend the demonstration. “This sign has gotten a lot of thumbs up,” she said. “I never supported this war, though I do support the troops.”

Contingents by political and other groups included those by the International Socialist Organization, Young Communist League, Campus Antiwar. net, the antiwar coalition ANSWER, and a number of churches. “Stop the war in Iran before it starts,” read the banner of the American-Iranian Friendship Committee. Supporters of ANSWER distributed flyers for a similar rally in Washington on March 17, the fourth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

The Young Socialists marched behind the banner, “Not one penny, not one person for Washington’s wars. Bring the troops home now!” (see article above).

Demonstrators also rallied the same day in Los Angeles and San Francisco (see articles below). In addition, 1,500 people protested in San Diego, 1,400 in Seattle, and 1,000 in Olympia, Washington.

David Argüello and Sylvia Hansen from San Diego, Tom Baumann from Minneapolis, Osborne Hart from Philadelphia, Chris Hoeppner from Seattle, and Cindy Jaquith from Pittsburgh, contributed to this article.



BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES, January 27—Chanting “No war, no guerra, bring the troops home, now!” 3,000 people marched in the rain to the Federal Building here

—CALENDAR—

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Socialist Education Weekend, February 17–18. A weekend of political discussion with Young Socialists graduating from summer schools in Auckland and Sydney. Sat., Feb. 17., 3:00 p.m. **Celebrate the publication of *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*.** Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Imperialism’s Spreading Wars and Financial Disorder in Face of Irreversible Strengthening of U.S. Working Class. 7:00 p.m.

Sun., Feb. 18. Final sessions of summer school. Sponsored by the Communist League and Young Socialists. 7 *Mason Ave., Otahuhu Tel. (09) 276-8885.*

today. The action was sponsored by the January 27 Action Coalition.

“This is my first rally,” said Katrina Patton, 20, a California State University–Los Angeles student. “The Democrats say they are against the war, yet we don’t see any progress. Only more soldiers going to Iraq.”

“This war is escalating,” said Zu Kim, a leader of Young Koreans United in Los Angeles. “Bring the troops home from Iraq—whether they come from the U.S. or South Korea. The target is working people.”



BY BETSEY STONE

SAN FRANCISCO, January 27—Led off by protesters carrying a large sign saying, “Troops Out Now!” more than 7,000 people marched down Market Street to the port of San Francisco today. The protest ended at Pier 33 where demonstrators joined the picket line of Alcatraz ferry workers, who are fighting the union-busting drive of Hornblower Cruises. The company, contracted by the National Parks Service to carry tourists to Alcatraz, refuses to recognize the unions representing the ferry workers.

The action was sponsored by the January 27 Coalition and endorsed by United for Peace and Justice, ANSWER, San Francisco Labor Council, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, International Socialist Organization, Socialist Workers Party, and others.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

The ‘Peace Process’ in Nepal. Speaker: Terry Coggan, Communist League. Fri., Feb. 9, 7:00 p.m. 7 *Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Tel. (09) 276-8885.*

NEW YORK

Manhattan

From Somalia to Darfur: Imperialism Tightens Its Grip on Africa. Speaker: Laura Garza, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 9. Dinner, 7:00 p.m.; program, 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor (use north set of elevators) Tel. (212) 629-6649.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Venezuela, the Cuban Revolution, and the World Today. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Feb. 9. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 5907 Penn Ave., Room 225. Tel. (412) 365-1090.

‘Ethnic cleansing’ pretext for Iraq war

Continued from front page

in the region. At least 250 members of a Shiite militia were killed January 28 in a 15-hour battle with U.S. troops and Iraqi government forces near Najaf in southern Iraq.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Democratic and Republican members of Congress, headed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, called on NATO to increase its troops in Afghanistan. The delegation had just returned from a visit to Kabul.

“The situation in Iraq has deteriorated significantly since the bombing this past February of the Al-Askari mosque in Samarra, the third-holiest Shi’a Islamic shrine,” Petraeus said January 23 in his opening statement to the Senate Armed Services Committee. “In this environment, Iraq’s new government, its fourth in three and a half years, has found it difficult to gain traction.”

The general said U.S. troops will now act regardless of what Iraqi government forces do. Iraqi troops would be “kept in the lead” whenever possible, he said, or “at arm’s length when that is not possible.”

The general cautioned that the war will be long. “It will take time for the additional forces to flow to Iraq, time for them to gain an understanding of the areas in which they will operate, time to plan with and get to know their Iraqi partners, time to set conditions for the successful conduct of security operations, and of course time to conduct those operations and they to build on what they achieve,” he said. “In fact, the way ahead will be neither quick nor easy.”

Petraeus said he applauds Bush’s recent announcement to increase the overall number of Army troops and Marines by nearly 100,000. “Our ongoing endeavors in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere are people-intensive, and it is heartening to know that there will be more soldiers and Marines to shoulder the load,” he said.

During his testimony, Petraeus and Senator Carl Levin, a Democrat from Michigan, referred to “ethnic slaughter” and “ethnic militias.” Sectarian groups, Petraeus said, would “try to expand their turf. They would do that by greatly increasing ethnic cleansing.”

On January 26, the Senate voted 81-0 to confirm Petraeus.

At a Capitol Hill press conference four days later, Pelosi became the latest in a string of Democrats and Republicans critical of the White House to call for increasing the number of imperialist troops in Afghanistan (see also article on p. 2.)

Commenting on the lack of any serious alternative in the ruling class to the White House escalation of the war in Iraq, a January 30 *Investor’s Business Daily* column on a nonbinding resolution approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said, “What the resolution tells us is that most members of Congress . . . yearn to return to the holiday from history that we thought we were enjoying between the fall of the Berlin Wall and Sept. 11, 2001. And that they have no idea at all of how to get there.”

Some 34,000 Iraqi civilians were killed last year, largely as a result of

factional fighting.

The polarizing impact of the fighting was captured in a January 28 *New York Times* Week in Review feature. Sabrina Tavernise, who has spent 22 months in Iraq, wrote that a year ago her interviews were peppered with phrases like “Iraqis are all brothers.” Those she interviewed would get angry when asked their religious sect. “Now some of them introduce themselves that way,” she said.

After describing the results of the bloodletting, Tavernise noted, “For those eager to write off Iraq as lost, one fact bears remembering. A great many Shiites and Kurds, who together make up 80 percent of the population, will tell you that in spite of all the mistakes the Americans have made here, the single act of removing Saddam Hussein was worth it. And the new American plan, despite all the obstacles, may have a chance to work.”

She said this view is not shared by officials of the government headed by Iraqi premier Nouri Kamal al-Maliki. “When American officials were debating whether to send more troops in December, I went to see an Iraqi government official. The prospect of more troops infuriated him. More Americans would simply prolong the war, he said. ‘If you don’t allow the minority to lose, you will carry on forever,’ he said.” A young Shiite in Sadr City told Tavernise, “This just has to burn itself out.”

Meanwhile, the deployment of additional troops is going full steam ahead. Members of the 82nd Airborne Division arrived in Iraq January 12. With one month’s notice, extra food and supplies, expanded motor pools, and new quarters had been built at forward operating bases on the edge of Sadr City, a stronghold of Muqtada Al-Sadr’s Shiite militia, a major



Getty/John Moore

A U.S. marine patrols the streets of Ramadi, in Iraq’s Anbar province, January 28.

target of the U.S. military escalation.

A battalion of the 6th Marines from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, deployed January 25. Tours of duty have been extended for a number of Marine units operating in the Anbar province. Another Marine unit left Lejeune in early January.

These forces are being increasingly drawn into combat. U.S. ground troops, F-16 fighter planes, and Apache helicopters had to be called in on January 29 as Iraqi troops were initially overwhelmed in fighting the Soldiers of Heaven, a Shiite militia in Najaf.

The governor of the province said the militia had planned to attack Shiite clerics and convoys en route to Najaf during the Ashura holiday. Among those to be targeted was Ali al-Sistani, Iraq’s top Shiite cleric. Saddam Hussein’s regime helped finance Soldiers of Heaven in the 1990s to counter Sistani’s influence.

Shiites, a majority in Iraq, along with the Kurds, an oppressed nationality, faced widespread discrimination under the Hussein regime, which was based among a minority of wealthy Sunnis.

Subscription renewal drive

Continued from front page

to expand its long-term readership.

“A student from south Korea and her mother bought the *Militant* after seeing the sign we had on our table saying ‘U.S. troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea,’” said *Militant* editor Argiris Malapanis

about his experiences at the Washington action. “She translated the slogan into Korean for her mother and told us that most people in Korea want all U.S. troops out of the country.”

“A few people said they were glad we were calling for troops out of Afghanistan because no one else was saying that,” Malapanis continued. “But one protester approached the table and said sarcastically, ‘So you want to let those people cultivate their poppy seeds in peace?’ We said yes.”

“A group of high school students from West Virginia pooled their lunch money to get a subscription,” said Maggie Trowe, a meat packer from Miami who attended the Washington march. “They said they were glad we were communists because they were looking for a group to join.”

“We had signs on the table calling for an end to deportations and solidarity with Smithfield workers,” Trowe explained, referring to the fight at the Tar Heel, North Carolina, slaughterhouse (see front-page article). “Many people picked up the paper because of the questions addressed in those signs. Others told us they were in favor of the deportations.”

Follow-up work with those who got the *Militant* at the peace rallies can be combined with getting in touch with current or former subscribers about renewing. The sub renewal campaign, which lasts until February 25, is on target after the first week, with 101 renewals or new long-term subs sold.

Smithfield workers arrested

Continued from front page

the *Observer*.

The arrests follow a company announcement that 541 workers face termination on allegations that their Social Security numbers do not match federal records.

Smithfield has joined the government’s IMAGE program, under which it cross-checks all employees’ names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers against federal records.

About 1,000 meat packers at the Tar Heel plant walked out November 16–17 to protest the firing of 75 fellow workers, who the company claimed had false papers. The action forced the bosses to rehire those dismissed. Smithfield gave employees 60 days to provide proper immigration documents.

The Tar Heel plant employs 5,000 workers, who kill 32,000 hogs daily. For more than a decade, workers there have been involved in efforts to organize into the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union.

“Smithfield has a history of using threats of arrest by immigration authorities to intimidate workers and this is a continuation of that pattern,” said Gene Bruskin, a UFCW official and leader of the Justice at Smithfield campaign. “Most of the leaders of a walkout in November are on their list,” Leila McDowell, a UFCW spokeswoman, told the *News Observer*, referring to the workers the company is threatening to fire.

This week, Smithfield announced an agreement with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to pay \$1.5 million in damages to workers fired while involved in union-organizing efforts. The company is appealing NLRB findings that it used violence and intimidation, including the threat of contacting immigration authorities, against workers who walked out in 2003 to protest working conditions in the plant.

After last weeks’ arrests, production plunged by up to 50 percent in some departments as many workers stayed away, said UFCW representatives and workers interviewed by the *Militant*. The company took out ads on Spanish-language radio to attempt to bring workers back.

“They are losing money, but it’s their fault,” meat cutter Consuelo Martínez told the *Militant* in a January 30 phone interview. According to Martínez, local television news reports have shown several workers selling their cars and trailer homes and packing to leave for their countries of origin.

Other workers who have quit say they are seeking different jobs in the Tar Heel area.

Amanda, another meat cutter at Tar Heel who asked that her last name not be used for fear of reprisals by the company, reported that a coworker whose husband had been arrested in last week’s raid received a phone call from someone claim-

Continued on page 5

Fall ‘Militant’ Subscription Drive			
Sept. 9 – Nov. 7 ♦ Week 1 of 8			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
NEW ZEALAND	20	10	50%
ICELAND	4	1	25%
UK			
Edinburgh	8	0	0%
London	20	6	30%
UK Total	28	6	21%
U.S.			
Washington, DC	25	11	44%
Boston	20	8	40%
New York	50	15	30%
Newark	25	6	24%
Albany, NY	5	1	20%
Los Angeles	30	5	17%
Miami	36	6	17%
Philadelphia	30	5	17%
Seattle	20	3	15%
Atlanta	17	2	12%
Des Moines	35	4	11%
Twin Cities	27	3	11%
Chicago	20	2	10%
Houston	20	2	10%
Birmingham	23	2	9%
San Francisco	20	1	5%
Pittsburgh	15	0	0%
U.S. Total	418	76	18%
CANADA	25	4	16%
SWEDEN	13	2	15%
AUSTRALIA	15	2	13%
Int’l totals	523	101	20%
Should be	500	100	20%

Killing of Hmong hunter in Wisconsin sparks protest

BY DENNIS RICHTER

CHICAGO—Cha Vang, a 30-year-old Hmong man, was fatally shot January 5 while hunting with three other Hmong men at the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area, north of Green Bay, Wisconsin. The incident has focused renewed public debate on racist harassment against Hmong immigrants, a growing community in several Midwest cities that has increasingly spoken out against discrimination.

Cha Vang's body was found covered with leaves and other debris after members of his hunting party reported him missing. An autopsy indicated he had been hit with a shotgun blast and stabbed six times. He also had a wooden stick coming out of his clenched teeth.

James Nichols, a resident of nearby Peshtigo, was arrested and charged with murder. Nichols has claimed self-defense. Sheriff's deputies told the media, however, that after his arrest he told them that Hmong people "were mean and kill everything and



AP/Evan Siegle

Pang Vue holds a picture of her late husband, Cha Vang, a Hmong man murdered while he was hunting January 5. Relatives and others say it was racially motivated.

that they go for, anything that moves." They said Nichols told several versions of his story. In one, he said Cha Vang shouted, "I'm going to kill you. I'm going to kill you." Pang Vue, the

slain man's wife, said he knew no English.

The district attorney in Marinette County said he knew of no motive for the killing. Vang's relatives said it appeared to be racially motivated.

Some in the Hmong community have expressed concern that the killing could be in retaliation for an earlier incident. In November 2004 Chai Soua Vang (no relation to Cha Vang), shot six white hunters after he was confronted and accused of trespassing while hunting deer in the Wisconsin woods near Rice Lake. At his trial Chai Soua Vang said he acted in self-defense after the other hunters shouted racist slurs at him and opened fire first. Vang was convicted on six counts of murder and is serving multiple life sentences.

A public forum was held January 7 in Green Bay to discuss the fatal shooting of Cha Vang. It was called by the Coalition for Community Relations, a Hmong group based in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Tou Ger Xiong, a member of this group, said in an interview that the meeting was called "to discuss the murder of Cha Vang as a hate crime. This was not just one isolated incident. There have been many other incidents in recent years between Hmong and

white hunters." He reported that more than 500 people, mostly Hmong, attended the meeting, coming from all over Wisconsin.

The Hmong are an ethnic group from the hill country of northern Laos who immigrated to the United States after the U.S. war in Indochina. About 40,000 Hmong live in Wisconsin, the third-highest Hmong population in the United States, after California and Minnesota. Of this number, some 6,000 live in the Green Bay area.

At the meeting, Tou Ger Xiong said, "When I asked people to raise their hands if they thought it was a hate crime, almost every hand went up. Since the details of the killing have been released, it is clear the murder was a hate crime. This was not an accidental meeting in the woods. Cha Vang received stab wounds to his face. His body was bruised in many places. At the funeral the photos were available for the public to see." He noted that "the murderer tried to conceal his crime."

The town hall meeting was called "so the community could get out and come together and voice its concerns. We were also responding to the claim of self-defense, advocated by James Nichol's girlfriend, which was widely covered in the media. Race is a very important factor in this crime," stated Tou Ger Xiong.

Though Cha Vang lived in Wisconsin, the funeral service was held in St. Paul because many of his closest relatives live there. Graphic pictures of Vang's body, stitched up after the autopsy, hung on a wall at the funeral home to draw attention to the nature of his death.

At the funeral home, Kou Vang, one of his uncles, told the *Militant*, "We hope this murder will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I think this country was founded on justice, and justice is supposed to be blind and I hope it is. Justice needs to be served."

Tom Fiske, Rebecca Williamson, and Carlos Samaniego from St. Paul, Minnesota, contributed to this article.

U.S. warplanes bomb Somalia

Continued from front page
then functioned from Nairobi, Kenya, and the Somali town of Baidoa.

Washington has taken advantage of the warring between armed groups in Somalia to step up its military presence in the Horn of Africa. The U.S.-backed government and the SICC forces are both based among wealthy Somali businessmen who control local trade and resources through the country's clan structures.

Abdirahman Dinari, a spokesperson for the transitional government, said it might take several weeks for the thousands of Ethiopian troops to withdraw, and that a large force would remain on the Ethiopian side of the border, the *Washington Post* reported January 24. The Ethiopian government is nervous about dragging out a foreign occupation that will foster greater resentment among Somalis.

Dinari said 1,000 troops from Uganda would probably arrive the following week as the first contingent

of an African Union "peacekeeping" force in Somalia. It will back the new government, which is weak. The governments of Malawi and Nigeria have also pledged troops, while South Africa and Rwanda have said they will not deploy soldiers. Washington has offered airlift and "logistics" support.

In recent weeks, SICC supporters have been launching mortar and grenade attacks on Ethiopian and Somali government troops in the capital. EU and U.S. officials have pressed the new regime in Mogadishu to incorporate some of the ousted Islamist leaders in order to broaden its limited appeal. Somali government officials said they would consider doing so if they "renounce violence" and "ask for forgiveness." One such individual is former SICC leader Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, who fled Somalia and recently turned himself in to authorities in Kenya, where the U.S. ambassador also met with him.

Smithfield raids

Continued from page 4
ing to be an immigration official, who made racist comments and threats.

Willie Tate, an African-American worker in the kill-floor cooler, said the company is trying to use the arrests and threatened firings to "divide and conquer." Three days after the arrests, many Latino coworkers left work during the day when a false rumor circulated that *la migra* was returning to the plant, he said. After this incident, a Latino coworker accused some Black workers of calling immigration authorities. In response, the Black workers involved said Latinos "shouldn't be here in the first place," Tate reported.

About half of the workers at the Tar Heel plant are Latino, and a third are African American. Hundreds of meat packers refused to work January 15, Martin Luther King Day, to protest the company's refusal to recognize this national holiday with a paid day off.

Tate said the company has promoted divisions along national lines as part of attempts to stop workers from defending their rights and organizing. "We need the union out there," he said.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



February 12, 1982

Can the cops tap your phone and bug your home, without even a warrant from a judge? They can in New York. And it's all perfectly legal under the terms of a deal struck by the cops and lawyers for the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU).

Can they use informers to spy on and disrupt unions and political organizations? In sworn answers, the cops admit that this too, is OKed by the agreement, as long as their informer operations are "consistent with the law." In plain English, this means that the cops can carry out informer and disruption operations whenever they please.

The deal between the cops and the NYCLU is the proposed out-of-court settlement of a ten-year-long lawsuit against the cops' notorious Red Squad. The suit was brought on behalf of everyone who has ever been, is, or may become the victim of police spying, harassment, and disruption operations.



February 11, 1957

A South African bus boycott begun Jan. 7, in protest against an increase in fares is spreading. The movement now involves over 60,000 Negroes who are walking the ten miles to work from segregated compounds outside Johannesburg and Pretoria. Negroes were forced from their homes inside Johannesburg at gun point in 1955 in a city drive to make residence mainly white. Meetings protesting this action were broken up as "subversive" as are all South African meetings which oppose segregation. Police have been unable to break the boycott movement, however, and it has spread to other areas. A subtle industrial slowdown is taking place as workers arrive late and tired after the long walk. The main Negro refreshment hall in Johannesburg, run by the city, has been boycotted since Jan. 28. It used to serve 35,000 Negroes daily. Now it serves none.



February 13, 1932

In the New York dressmakers strike, now on, the crucial issue is that of working class unity. But it will be attained only with a policy based upon that objective. And so far the exact opposite is the case.

The condition of two unions existing within the needle trades is not one originating today and cannot be changed at will. To that extent the workers are naturally and of necessity divided. But it is precisely because of this condition that the problem of working class unity has become the crucial issue. For this reason the only policy of the revolutionary party which can stand the test in this situation is the one which is founded upon the united front of all workers involved in the conflict. This policy, which, in other words, is a fundamental duty of the revolutionary party, the Stalinist leadership has constantly evaded.

‘The desire to follow Cuban road is deep’

Chronicle of 1961–62 tour of Latin America by ‘Militant’ editor Joseph Hansen

BY MIKE TABER

“The wave of trembling anger, of demands for justice, of claims for rights trampled underfoot, which is beginning to sweep the lands of Latin America, will not stop. . . . For this great mass of humanity has said ‘Enough!’”

So asserts the Second Declaration of Havana, a manifesto of revolutionary struggle in the Americas adopted by the million-strong National General Assembly of the Cuban People in February 1962.

The document, addressed to the people of Latin America and the world, is contained in *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, a new book issued by Pathfinder Press on the 45th anniversary of its adoption. The manifesto was published in full by the *Militant* at the time.

Pathfinder (then called Pioneer) released the Second Declaration as a pamphlet in March 1962 and has kept it in print ever since. The new edition contains the first and second declarations of Havana, along with a chronology, glossary, 16 pages of photographs, and a preface by Mary-Alice Waters, the book’s editor.

Looking back on the situation described by these declarations, Cuban president Fidel Castro told the International Meeting of Solidarity among Women in 1998 that he “believed then—and I believe now—that it was possible then to make a revolution such as Cuba’s in all of Latin America, which would have accelerated the course of history.”

The wave of struggle “sweeping the lands of Latin America” referred to by the Second Declaration was vividly recorded by *Militant* editor Joseph Hansen during a four-month reporting trip across Latin America from September 1961 to January 1962. As Hansen concluded:

“Latin America is moving onto the road of social revolution. It is true that this movement is irregular and subject to many ups and downs, but the basic direction is unmistakable.”

It was among the working people and youth engaged in such struggles, the *Militant* editor said, “that a leadership will be formed” politically capable of organizing the toilers to make a revolution.

General strikes, street battles

“In yesterday’s nationwide 24-hour general strike the labor movement of



Left: *Militant* editor Joseph Hansen speaks with children in Quito, Ecuador, during visit in October 1961. Right: “Three tanks roared into the square . . . guns trained on the crowd,” reported Hansen, about demonstration by workers and students there October 5.



Militant/Reba Hansen (left); Joseph Hansen (right)

Ecuador scored an outstanding victory,” begins Hansen’s Oct. 5, 1961, dispatch from Quito, the capital.

“Business was at a virtual standstill, plants closed,” he wrote. Armed troops were everywhere. “In some areas soldiers, divided into groups of three, marched through the streets, bayonets glinting in the equatorial sun.”

Hansen reported what happened next: “At the Plaza del Teatro, workers and students attempted to hold a street meeting. Soldiers in gas masks were ordered to move on the crowd . . .

“[T]hree tanks roared into the square and wheeled into formation, guns trained on the crowd, which was already running. The tear gas, I might add, smelled exactly like that sometimes used in the United States in labor conflicts.”

Hansen gave graphic portrayals of similar battles in other countries he visited: a one-day general strike in Uruguay; a six-week strike of railway workers in Argentina; an attempted general strike in São Paulo, Brazil; strikes by thousands of bank workers in Colombia and taxi drivers in La Paz, Bolivia.

Most of these actions were met by assaults from the cops and armed forces. One street battle Hansen witnessed was in Bolivia.

“Late Monday afternoon [Oct. 23, 1961] a crowd of some thousands gathered on El Prado, a beautiful wide street” in La Paz, Hansen reported. “The crowd sought to reach the plaza, where speakers might be heard, but police barred the way. The crowd pushed forward. The police threw

tear-gas grenades, using a type of gas not seen before in this city. It forms a yellowish haze that bites persistently. The crowd retreated, reformed and came back again. When the tear gas was exhausted the crowd succeeded in overcoming the police and chased some of them into a deep gulley where the La Paz river runs through the city.

“Heavy police reinforcements came through surrounding streets with fresh supplies of tear gas. . . . The gas did not prove sufficient to disperse the demonstrators and rifles came into play. . . .

“A student advised us not to venture closer to the rifle fire as it was dangerous. Some people had ‘already been killed’ and ‘many were wounded.’

“A few demonstrators were running down the street, away from the persistent shooting. Our own inclination was to match their pace; however, we followed the example of those who kept close to walls. . . .

“It turned out that it didn’t really matter much in which direction we went, for street battles were in process in various areas over strategic squares. The demonstrators used rocks, bottles—some empty and some filled with gasoline and flaming wicks—and pieces of iron” yanked from benches along the street.

‘Alliance for Progress’

Millions of workers and peasants across the Americas at the time were being attracted to the measures carried out by working people in Cuba since the 1959 revolutionary victory registered in the toppling of the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship. These measures included: a sweeping land reform, a radical reduction of rent and utilities rates, steps barring racist discrimination against Blacks, and the expropriation of U.S. imperialist interests and Cuban capitalists who had brutally exploited the toilers and despoiled the nation’s resources for decades.

To counter the appeal of the Cuban Revolution and forestall revolution elsewhere in the Americas, in 1961 the U.S. administration of President John F. Kennedy announced the “Alliance for Progress.” As its most highly touted feature, the program allocated \$20 billion for loans to Latin American governments over a 10-year period in

exchange for their compliance in lining up against Cuba.

As Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and other Cuban leaders repeatedly pointed out, this program was incapable of dealing with the problems created by imperialism itself. This “alliance,” in fact, intensified Latin America’s exploitation by the ruling families of the United States, sucking out billions of dollars through interest payments on debts from these loans.

Pro-imperialist capitalist and landlord regimes in Latin America trumpeted the program as an alternative to Cuba.

“As for the workers and other oppressed layers of the population,” however, Hansen said, “they are showing what they think about Kennedy’s promises in the way that comes most natural to them—action.”

In a humorous example of the low esteem in which U.S. imperialism was held among working people south of the Rio Grande, Hansen in one article recalled a trip by the president to Latin America earlier in 1961:

“Kennedy’s brief visit to Venezuela and Colombia was hailed in the press here as an enormous success. He was not stoned.”

Discussions among militants

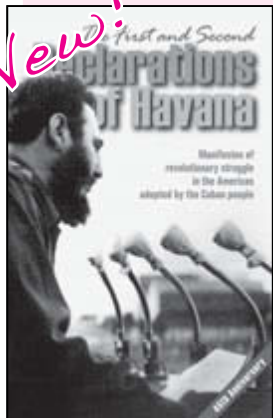
In discussions with militants in Latin America about fights in their



Demonstrators in the Dominican Republic in November 1961, after a gift sent to U.S. president John F. Kennedy by Dominican leader Juan Bosch, bending his knees and giving the chair to Kennedy.

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Granma (left and center)/ Prensa Latina (right)

Left: Protest in Venezuela in January 1962 against government of Rómulo Betancourt, who was installed after a popular uprising toppled a military dictatorship. Center: Protest in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in solidarity with Cuba during October 1962 "missile crisis." Right: Indigenous peasants demonstrate demanding land in Peru in the 1960s.

own countries, Hansen found that they were also interested in struggles in the United States, particularly the fight led by Blacks to overturn Jim Crow segregation in the South during the 1950s and '60s.

Hansen also reported on efforts by working-class militants to grapple with life-or-death questions of program, strategy, and tactics. In Brazil, for example, he explained how workers were drawing a balance sheet of what union leaders had termed an “indefinite general strike.”

“The strike was organized with insufficient foresight,” Hansen wrote. “While customary preparations were made for an ordinary strike, the leaders overlooked the possibility of violence being used against an ‘indefinite’ general strike.”

“The government, on the other hand, decided to utilize the strike for a demonstration of force and made all-out preparations. It declared the strike ‘illegal’ and the press took up the hue and cry about ‘outside agitators’ and ‘communist influence.’” Some 1,300 were arrested, including virtually the entire strike leadership.

“Unprepared to meet such measures,” Hansen reported, “the leaders felt forced to call off the strike.”

Example of Cuban Revolution

It was not only in the cities that struggles were unfolding in Latin America in the early 1960s. In Peru, for example, a mass movement based among Quechua Indians was fighting to take back land stolen from them over centuries by foreign colonizers and local capitalists and landlords. The movement also fought to union-

ize agricultural workers. That story is recounted in the Pathfinder book *Land or Death* by Hugo Blanco.

In Brazil at that time the Peasant Leagues were mobilizing thousands of rural toilers to struggle for land. Hansen interviewed Francisco Julião, organizer of the Peasant Leagues. Julião said the organization had experienced big growth among peasants inspired by the example of agrarian reform in Cuba.

While in Mexico, his last stop of the Latin American tour, in February 1962, Hansen also interviewed Ramón Romero, a leader of the battle in Nicaragua against the tyranny of the Somoza family. Romero's history went back to the days of liberation fighter Augusto César Sandino in the 1930s. Hansen asked Romero about the

impact in Nicaragua of the victory of the Cuban Revolution.

“Surprise and joy,” Romero replied. In the sharpening conflict between U.S. imperialism and the workers and farmers of Cuba, he said, “The Nicaraguan people . . . are on Cuba’s side.”

Reporting in a Nov. 11, 1961, article on how the general strike in Ecuador had led to the overthrow of the hated government of José María Velasco Ibarra, Hansen reviewed the challenges the new regime faced. A capitalist politician, Carlos Julio Arosemena, had become president, and his spokesmen “declared that the new head of state could be counted on ‘to attempt to put into practice the ideas of the Kennedy plan for an “Alliance for Progress.””

"The alternative," Hansen wrote, "is a thoroughgoing agrarian reform, the expropriation of foreign and native capitalist holdings and the introduction of economic planning, as in Cuba. Will Arosemena follow the Cuban example? It would be completely illusory to expect this bourgeois figure to follow such a revolutionary course. . . .

"Among the popular forces, however, the desire to follow through *à la Cubana* is very deep."

Such responses, which Hansen traced throughout his dispatches, confirm the accuracy of the Second Declaration of Havana's conclusion:

“What Cuba can give to the peoples, and has already given, is its example. And what does the Cuban Revolution teach? That revolution is possible.”

Young socialists helped organize 31-campus U.S. speaking tour

Following Joseph Hansen's four-month reporting trip to Latin America, the *Militant* editor went on a more than three-month speaking tour across the United States in the spring of 1962 on "What Makes Latin America Explosive?"

Hansen spoke at 31 colleges and universities in 17 states, in addition to other meetings and forums. A good number of events drew between 100 and 200 participants, with several thousand attending overall. Thousands more read, heard, or watched Hansen on radio, television, or campus papers and major dailies.

Among the main organizers of the tour was the Young Socialist Alliance—predecessor of today's Young Socialists—which had held its founding national convention just two years earlier. A wide range of groups sponsored the meetings, including local student organizations and chapters of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. The latter organized solidarity with the Cuban Revolution and opposition to Washington's economic war against Cuba.

Several campus meetings were organized as debates between Hansen and opponents of the Cuban Revolution, often local professors. In the course of spirited exchanges from the platform and by members of the audience, many young people were won to support the Cuban Revolution. A number were also attracted to the perspective Hansen presented of emulating the Cuban example by organizing to make a socialist revolution in the United States too.

When administrators at San Diego State College and San Diego City Col-



Headlines from U.S. press covering 1962 speaking tour by *Militant* editor

lege banned scheduled meetings for Hansen—a move covered widely in the local press—students at California Western University (now United States International University) organized a campus meeting of 65 on 24 hours' notice.

In a number of cities, Hansen spoke at the Militant Labor Forum. Coming at the tail end of the anticommunist witch-hunt in the United States, many of these were the largest such forums in years.

The *Militant's* regular coverage of the tour had a special feature, too. Since Hansen's Latin American tour

took place well before the days of electronic cameras, or even cheap international express-mail service, the many vivid photos he took during the trip couldn't be featured together with the dispatches mailed in to the *Militant* each week.

So the editors took advantage of the U.S. speaking tour to run a number of these photos along with the weekly coverage (some of these appear above). In those days of lead type, photos couldn't simply be dropped into the page on a computer either. Each photo was a zinc engraving on a wood block!

—M.T.



Granma

ember 1962 carry a rocking chair, symbolizing the Dominican ruler Rafael Bonnelly. Poster shows Bonnelly and then giving him the Dominican Republic.

Malcolm X: ‘Get freedom by doing whatever it takes’

“You get freedom by letting your enemy know that you will do anything to get your freedom,” Malcolm X told a group of young civil rights fighters from McComb, Mississippi, in a speech on Jan. 1, 1965. Below we reprint excerpts of the speech, taken from the pamphlet *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, one of *Pathfinder’s Books of the Month* for February. Copyright © 1965 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MALCOLM X

So I think in 1965—whether you like it, or I like it, or we like it, or they like it, or not—you will see that there is a generation of Black people born in this country who become mature to the point where they feel that they have no more business being asked to take a peaceful approach than anybody else takes, unless everybody’s going to take a peaceful approach.

So we here in the Organization of Afro-American Unity, we’re with the struggle in Mississippi 1,000 percent. We’re with the efforts to register our people in Mississippi to



Malcolm X talks with students at Tuskegee Institute, Feb. 3, 1965.

vote 1,000 percent. But we do not go along with anybody telling us to help nonviolently. We think if the government says that Negroes have a right to vote, and then when Negroes go out to vote some kind of Ku Klux Klan is going to put them in the river, and the government doesn’t do anything about it, it’s time for us to organize and band together and equip ourselves and qualify ourselves to protect ourselves. *[Applause]* And once you can protect yourself, you don’t have to worry about being hurt. That’s it. *[Applause]*. . . .

And if you don’t have enough of them down there to do it, we’ll come down there and help you do it. Because we are tired of this old runaround that our people have been given in this country.

For a long time they accused me of not getting involved in politics. They should’ve been glad I didn’t get involved in politics, because anything I get in, I’m in it all the way. Now if they say that we don’t take part in the Mississippi struggle, we will organize

brothers here in New York who know how to handle these kinds of affairs, and they’ll slip into Mississippi like Jesus slipped into Jerusalem. *[Laughter and applause]*

This doesn’t mean that we’re against white people, but we sure are against the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizens Councils. Anything that looks like it’s against us, we’re against it.

Excuse me for raising my voice, but this thing, you know, it gets me upset. Even being involved in a discussion in a country that’s supposed to be a democracy. Imagine that, in a country that’s supposed to be a democracy, supposed to be for freedom and all of that kind of stuff that they tell you when they want to draft you and put you in the army and send you to Saigon to fight for them. And then you’ve got to turn around and all night long discuss how you’re going to just get a right to register and vote without being murdered. Why; that’s the most hypocritical governmental half-truth that has ever been invented since the world was the world. . . .

I hope that you don’t think that I’m trying to incite you. But look here, just look at yourselves. Some of you all are teenagers, students. Now how do you think I feel—and I belong to a generation ahead of you—how do you think I feel having to tell you, “We, my generation, sat around like a knot on the wall while the whole world was actually fighting for what were its human rights”—and you’ve got to be born into a society where you still have that same fight. What did we do, who preceded you? I’ll tell what we did: nothing. And don’t you make the same mistake we made. . . .

You get freedom by letting your enemy know that you’ll do anything to get your freedom. You’ll get it. It’s the only way you’ll get it. Then, when you get that kind of attitude, they’ll label you as a “crazy Negro,” or they’ll call you a “crazy nigger”—they don’t say Negro. They say, “That nigger’s crazy.” Or they’ll call you an extremist or they’ll call you a subversive, or seditious, or a Red, or a radical. But when you stay radical long enough, and get enough people to be just like you, you’ll get your freedom. . . .

So don’t you run around here trying to make friends with somebody who’s depriving you of your rights. They’re not your friends. No, they’re your enemies. Treat them like that and fight them, and you’ll get your freedom. And after you get your freedom, your enemy will respect you. *[Applause]* He *will* respect you.

I say that with no hate. I have no hate in me. I have no hate at all. I don’t have any hate. But I’ve got some sense. *[Laughter]* I think I’ve got some sense. I’m not going to let somebody who hates me tell me to love him. I’m not that way-out. And you, young as you are, and because you start thinking, you’re not going to do it either. The only time you’re going to get in that kind of bag is if somebody puts you in there, somebody else, who doesn’t have your welfare at heart.

FebruaryBOOKS OF THE MONTH

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8 The Militant February 12, 2007

No peace party in Congress

The unanimous confirmation by the Senate of Gen. David Petraeus as the new commander of the U.S. troops in Iraq is the latest sign that there is no peace party in Congress. There is only a war party in Washington. It includes both the supporters of the Bush administration and the Democrats and Republicans who criticize the White House but have backed the imperialist war every step of the way. The approval of Petraeus, a major proponent of the current large-scale military escalation in Iraq, shows this is not just Bush's, or Petraeus's, war—it's Congress's war as well.

The call to stop "ethnic cleansing," not the pretext of spreading "democracy," is now becoming Washington's latest rationalization for its imperialist war—as it was in the brutal U.S.-led assaults on Yugoslavia in the 1990s. U.S. soldiers are needed today because, if they pulled out, Iraqis would slaughter each other, we are told. But the U.S. rulers are not increasing their troop levels to 150,000 because of concern for the safety of the Iraqi toilers. Their goal is to prop up a capitalist regime stable enough to allow the unimpeded imperialist plunder of the resources and exploitation of labor in the Mideast. That is against the interests of working people anywhere, from Iraq to the United States.

The U.S. occupation of Iraq has only served to foster the divisions between Sunnis and Shiites, between Arabs and Kurds, and will continue to do so. The U.S.-sponsored Iraqi elections and adoption of a new constitution helped fan the flames of war between bourgeois factions competing for wealth and power. A federated Iraq, or "soft partition," favored by many in U.S. ruling circles, would further institutionalize these divisions.

In fact, imperialist domination of the Mideast is the root cause of the existing divisions. Over decades, Washington and London backed the capitalist forces in Iraq that rolled back the 1958 democratic

revolution, carried out systematic discrimination against Kurds and Shiites, and gave privileges to Sunnis.

Only the Iraqi people can confront the problems they face. They will need time and space to develop a working-class leadership that can spearhead that fight. To do so, they need to get the occupation troops off their backs—now.

The U.S. rulers are in crisis over the Iraq war. Many in the capitalist class still flinch in face of their need to use military power to confront the growing disorder of the capitalist world to defend imperialism's interests. They wish they could go back to the years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and before 9/11, a period marked by triumphalist talk of a new era of capitalist "peace," "democracy," "stability," and even "the end of history."

But no section of the U.S. ruling class has an alternative to the escalation of the war in Iraq, which is already being carried out by the Pentagon. The only course they have in face of mounting economic vulnerability, coupled with political and military challenges to their domination worldwide, is the multi-theater war now unfolding under the banner of fighting "terrorism." That includes the stepped-up war in Afghanistan, the tightening squeeze on Iran, U.S. Special Forces operations from the Philippines to Somalia, and the expanding U.S. military presence throughout Africa. These military assaults are an extension of a developing war on the working class at home—from factory raids and deportations to murders by the police in working-class neighborhoods.

That's why the response by working people must be to demand, as the Young Socialists contingent did in its boisterous chants throughout the January 27 march on Washington: Bring all the U.S. troops home now! Out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Kosova, Korea, and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba! Stop the threats against Iran! Not one penny, not one person for imperialist wars!

Larry Lane, supporter and builder of SWP

BY JOEL BRITTON

SAN FRANCISCO—Larry Lane, a supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, died here in late December from cancer. He was 61 years old.

Lane joined the Young Socialist Alliance for a brief time in the late 1960s when he was a student at the State University of New York in Binghamton active in the movement against the U.S. war on Vietnam. Lane joined the SWP in 1977, after the party formed a branch in Albany, New York. Lane remained in Albany and became an at-large SWP member when that branch was dissolved some years later. He worked as a machinist at a General Electric plant in nearby Schenectady and was a member of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE).

In 1986 Lane participated in *Construimos Juntos* (We Build Together), a construction brigade building a school in the Nicaraguan town of San Pedro de Lóvago. A workers and farmers government, which working people established through a popular insurrection in 1979, was in power there at the time. That government was leading Nicaragua's toilers to defend the revolution from a war being waged against it by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries,

known as *contras*.

In 1994 Lane was the SWP candidate for governor as part of the party's ticket in the New York State elections. The Socialist Workers candidates were on the state ballot that year as the result of a big effort by campaign supporters in New York City and across the Northeast. Some 22,000 people signed nominating petitions, including more than 300 of Lane's coworkers.

Lane moved to San Francisco in 1996. For the last decade, he worked as a machinist at the United Airlines maintenance base here. He dropped his membership in the SWP in 2000.

Lane later joined with many other party supporters as a volunteer in the Pathfinder Printing Project. Last year Lane was part of a large team of SWP supporters who indexed the Pathfinder Press book *The Case of Leon Trotsky*, which reports on his testimony before the 1937 Dewey Commission investigating charges made against him in the Moscow Trials.

Printing Project volunteers are producing upgraded editions of nearly 400 Pathfinder Press titles, making the living legacy of the communist program understandable to new generations of readers of all ages.

LETTERS

China in Africa

A coworker translated into Chinese the article "Is China capitalist?" by Olympia Newton from the Dec. 25, 2006, *Militant*.

A fellow truck driver coworker and his wife did the translation. They are both from Shanghai.

He was interested in reading the *Militant* article when it came out, but he said his English was

not good enough to understand it all. So at his initiative, he and his wife worked with a dictionary to translate it.

He gave me the translation after work. He said he liked the article. He knew a little about what China was doing in Africa and the conditions there were very bad. On another point, he told me that independence for Tibet or Taiwan would be bad

for China.

Stu Singer
New York, New York

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

U.S. squeeze on Iran

Continued from front page

firmly," said U.S. president George Bush in a January 29 interview with National Public Radio.

Responding to accusations that his administration is trying to fabricate evidence to justify a military assault on Iran, Bush told ABC News a day later he has no such intentions. "Some are trying to take my words and say, 'Well, what he's really trying to do is go invade Iran,'" he said. "Nobody's talking about that."

Tehran to offer military aid to Iraq

Iran's ambassador to Iraq, Hassan Kazemi Qumi, gave an interview to the *New York Times*, published in the daily's January 29 issue. In the interview, Qumi denied Washington's allegations and ridiculed the "evidence" the U.S. military claims it has collected against Tehran, such as maps of Baghdad delineating Sunni, Shiite, and mixed neighborhoods, which U.S. officials have said "would be useful for militias engaged in ethnic slaughter," according to the *Times*.

Qumi said Tehran is prepared to offer Iraqi government forces training, equipment, and advisors for what he called "the security fight." He acknowledged that two Iranians seized and later released by U.S. forces in December were security officials, but he said they were engaged in legitimate discussions with the Iraqi government.

Qumi also said that Tehran would soon open a national bank in Iraq, which the *Times* article described as "a new Iranian financial institution right under the Americans' noses." A senior Iraqi banking official, Hussein al-Uzri, confirmed that Iran's government had received a license to open the bank. He said this would be the first wholly owned subsidiary in Iraq of a bank based in a foreign country.

Saudi monarchy targets Iran

Meanwhile, Sunni-dominated governments in the region are aligning with Washington to squeeze Tehran. A January 29 dispatch by *Strategic Forecasting*, a U.S. private intelligence agency, headlined, "The Palestinian issue and Saudi-Iranian contest," reported that Saudi King Abdullah invited leaders of the Palestinian groups Hamas and Fatah, which have been engaged in armed conflicts against each other recently, to meet at the Grand Mosque in Mecca to negotiate "without any interference by outsiders."

This was a veiled reference to Iran, the article said.

The invitation was carried in an open letter published by the Saudi Press Agency in which the Saudi monarch said "the intra-Palestinian fighting, which has killed as many as 27 people in the last three days, 'serves only the interests of the enemies of Islam and the Arabs,'" *Stratfor* reported.

The reference to "the enemies of . . . the Arabs" is aimed against Tehran, the article said. "From a Saudi and Wahhabi point of view, the Shiite Iranians and their Arab allies are not true Muslims, and therefore can be lumped into the 'enemies of Islam' category."

A front-page article January 28 in Egypt's most widely circulated newspaper, *Al Ahram*, which has close ties to the country's government, accused Iranian intelligence of involvement in the 2005 killing of the Egyptian ambassador to Iraq. Cairo was the first government of a majority Sunni Arab country to send a resident ambassador to Iraq. The foreign ministries of Iran and Egypt denied the allegations.

Divisions among Iranian rulers

The U.S.-orchestrated squeeze on Tehran seems to be producing divisions among Iran's rulers. Two Iranian newspapers, including one reflecting the views of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's "supreme leader," recently called on Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to end involvement in Tehran's nuclear program.

Ahmadinejad has been at the center of a confrontation with Washington over the program, defending his country's efforts to develop nuclear energy against Washington's allegations that Tehran is secretly trying to produce nuclear weapons.