Disease, hunger stalk Iraq as result of U.S. war, embargo

Harvard study says 170,000 children will die

BY GREG McCARTAN

A Harvard medical team report, released May 21, exposes the deteriorating health conditions in Iraq resulting from the U.S. and allied bombing and the now 10-month-old embargo of the country.

Epidemics, lack of electrical generation capacity, shortages of medical personnel and medicines, and the onset of summer are combining to create “a real crisis,” according to Dr. Harvey Fineberg, Harvard School of Public Health dean, who reviewed the team’s findings.

Coming one day after U.S. President George Bush reiterated Washington's demand that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein be ousted from power before the sanctions are lifted, the report reveals who really suffers — working people.

For children under age five, the death rate is now double or triple before the war “as a result of the delayed effects of the Gulf Crisis,” the team found.

Typhoid, cholera, malnutrition

One hundred and seventy thousand additional children will die this year in Iraq from typhoid, cholera, malnutrition, and other health problems as a result of the bombing and embargo, the report says.

During the six-week bombing of Iraq that began January 16, allied forces targeted power plants needed to run hospitals, water treatment plants, food factories, and other sectors of the country’s infrastructure. Iraq’s inability to import medicines and food compounded the already desperate conditions created by the bombing.

The study, one of the first complete reports from Iraq, is drawn on information gathered in numerous cities around the country. The group of doctors, lawyers, and public health specialists visited hospitals, clinics, power plants, sanitation facilities, and private homes.

Commenting to the press about the possible number of children who will die, team leader and physician Megan Passey said she “wouldn’t be surprised if it were at least double the 170,000 figure.”

The Harvard medical team report, based on visits around the country to hospitals and neighborhoods in Baghdad, delutes those stories by getting out the shocking facts.

The report confirms what a United Nations delegation found in March: “The U.S.-led war and embargo ‘destroyed or rendered tenu­ous’ most ‘means of modern life support’ in Iraq.”

Unmoved by the unfolding human tragedy, by a death rate for children under five that is double or triple what it was before the war, and by the epidemics of cholera and typhoid, Washington and London are press­ing for the continuation of the embargo against the Iraqi people.

Continued on Page 9

A book with the facts on Washington’s Mideast war

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast

Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations

U.S. HANDS OFF THE MIDEAST

By Peter Heathfield

"In this little book you get some of the lowdown on Cuba’s long-standing opposition to U.S. imperialism and particularly its most recent swagger into the Middle East.”

— Class magazine, May 1991

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Court assaults abortion rights; Congress hits affirmative action

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

The U.S. Supreme Court delivered a seri­ous blow to abortion rights May 23. In a 5-4 ruling, the Court upheld federal regulations barring employers of federally financed fam­ily planning clinics from all discussion of abortion with their patients.

At the same time, the U.S. Congress is pressing ahead with legislation aimed at gut­ting affirmative action programs. On May 21, members of the House Judiciary Committee unveiled a civil rights bill that would outlaw the use of hiring quotas.

Previous versions of the bill stated employ­ers were not required or encouraged to use quotas, but in a bipartisan drive against any numerical requirements on employers to hire women and members of oppressed national­ities, the Democrats added that quotas are “not permitted.”

The bill immediately came under crit­i­cism by some Republican representatives who said the limits on damages for victims of job discrimination did not provide enough protection for employers. The legislation limits compensatory damages to $150,000.

Democratic officeholders said the measure is written so nothing in the bill "shall be construed to require or encourage or permit an employer to adopt hiring or promotion quotas on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.”

Democratic Congressman Vic Fazio said, "Democrats are about to make quotas illegal, driving reverse discrimination out of the workplace and driving Republican race-bait­ing out of politics.”

In addition, the bill would allow those who claimed they were not hired or promoted because an employer implemented any form of quotas to sue and collect damages.

Eliminating quotas would take the teeth out of affirmative action programs. It is pri­marily through the use of quotas that employ­ers are forced to hire minorities and women.

The adoption of the legislation would allow employers to probe for ways to resegregate the workplace and carry out discriminatory employment practices.

Attack on abortion

The abortion ruling by the Supreme Court will affect 4,500 clinics. These clinics serve nearly four million women each year who are overwhelmingly white, poor and young. One­third of the clinics’ patients are teenagers. The
Latino groups call for Gates’ ouster at Los Angeles hearing

BY HARRY RING
LOS ANGELES — More than 300 Latinos packed a public hearing here May 20 to voice their anger over police brutality and add their voices to the call for removal of Police Chief Daryl Gates.

Representatives of various community organizations spoke out at the hearing of a commission appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley in the wake of the political furor created by the videotaped police beating of Rodney King, a union construction worker who is Black.

Al Belmontez of the Mexican-American Political Association charged that Mexican-Americans have been treated like “the enemy.” The police department, he declared, “has acted like an army of occupation.”

Dora Alica Alarcon, president of the Street Vendors Association and an emigre from El Salvador, described how cops grab the goods of vendors with no real explanation. She said she had not expected to come to the United States “to get such racist and bad treatment from police officers.”

A petition drive to qualify a recall-Gates proposition for the ballot is being supported by the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and by the Association of Mexican-American Educators.

An official of the educators’ group declared that representatives refuse to fire Daryl Gates, we will recall him.”

Cops’ excuse: “no chokehold”
Meanwhile Stag. Stacey Koon, one of the four cops indicted in the brutalization of King, said a key point in their defense will be that they had to club and kick the prostrate King because the Los Angeles Police Department ( LAPD) no longer officially permits the use of the chokehold.

Koon noted that Chief Gates had been prominent in bemoaning the loss of the chokehold and had predicted cops would use their clubs more freely.

During the time when the beating of King was being filmed, the cops delivered a reported 56 blows to the unresisting, prostrate King, most of them on the ground.

The chokehold, a form of neck strangulation, was formally eliminated in 1982 after a public outcry against it. In the previous seven years the cops stranded at least 17 people to death with the chokehold.

Meanwhile, in a mockery of justice, two cops in the city of Long Beach beat the rap after being tried for brutalizing Don Jackson, a former policeman who is Black.

To support his charges of widespread police brutality, Jackson had joined with a TV news crew in a sting operation.

An NBC-TV camera secretly rolled while Long Beach cops brutalized Jackson. The film shows two cops arresting him at a traffic light, and then assaulting him, smashing his head into a plate-glass window.

Not knowing the incident had been filmed, the two cops filed a report that said Jackson had leaped from his car, assumed a fighting stance, and cursed them. He then lunged forward, as per his report, and plunged into the window.

The two cops were charged for assault and for filing a false report.

A jury of eleven whites and one Black saw the film, which flatly contradicted the cops' reports. Yet the eleven whites; pressed for acquittal of the cops, with the lone Black man voting to go along.

With a hung jury, the judge dismissed the charges against the cops.

Judges abided the outcome “an endorsement of police for abuse, for racism.”

LOS ANGELES — A jury ordered the city of Los Angeles to pay $3.84 million to civil rights activist Michael Zinzun for damages done to him by Assistant Police Chief Robert Vernon. The jury also ordered Vernon to pay $10,000 in punitive damages.

Vernon had taken material about Zinzun from the police department’s “antiterrorist” files and made it available to Zinzun’s opponents in his 1989 bid for a seat on the Pasadena city council. Smeared as a “terrorist,” Zinzun was defeated.

From the secret files of the police department’s Anti-Terrorist Division, Vernon had selected a sheaf of newspaper clippings about Zinzun, which were then used to suggest that he had been under surveillance as a “terrorist.”

After a news report on what Vernon had done, Police Chief Daryl Gates said he had “repudiated” his assistant. But in the trial which ended May 10, Gates testified in Vernon’s behalf.

Zinzun was the third won by Zinzun.

In 1983, he was a plaintiff in a suit that put the spotlight on the illegal activities of the LAPD’s Public Disorder Intelligence Division, resulting in the dismantling of that surveillance and disruption operation and its replacement by the Anti-Terrorist Division.

Zinzun also won a $1.2 million settlement from the city of Pasadena after cops there gave him a beating in 1986 that left him blind in one eye. Jurors in the current trial were interviewed by Los Angeles Times. They bluntly said they did not believe the testimony of either Vernon or Gates and felt that the full story of what Vernon had done remains to be told.

“I felt they had a blatant disregard for the truth,” declared one juror.

Another scoffed at the defense insistence that Vernon had merely made available information reported in the public press.

“That was a smokescreen,” the juror said.

Several jurors added they had been unimpressed by Gates’ testimony on the police press.

“Weakened in憑 landmark security camera, he then agreed to sign a personal pledge to above address. A jury of eleven whites and one Black saw the film, which Gates himself, John Harris, described this week as “a test of the country’s commitment to the values of the 1988 accord. But Davis backed off from even signing this.

“UVM and the American educational system in general are Eurocentric and deny the global picture of the world and help to perpetuate the acceptance of intervention in countries of color,” said Josh Weiner, one of the student occupants.

This lack of progress has added to the anger that has increased over a series of incidents of racist harassment and violence.

Over 1,000 students rallied April 26 and hundreds have mobilized night and day in defense of the student occupiers to provide food and secure the perimeter of the building facing University Avenue.

On May 12, over 60 cops in riot gear removed the students from the Waterman Building. Nine were arrested. The protesters have declared “the struggle will continue.”

Vermont students occupy building to protest racial discrimination

BY JOHN HARRIS
BURLINGTON, Vermont — Student protests here are demanding an end to discrimination and racist treatment of oppressed nationalities. On April 22, 17 Black, Latino, and Native American students occupied the presidential wing of the University of Vermont (UVM). They presented 18 demands deeming cultural diversity in the university curriculum, granting tenure to minority professors, barring police from campus, and banning guns on campus security, implementing affirmative action in the enrollment of students and hiring of faculty, as well as a raise in pay for the staff workers.

Struggles in defense of the rights of oppressed nationalities go back over 20 years on the campus. In 1969 and 1988 students won promises from the administration of a commitment to cultural diversity. A 1988 agreement signed by the University president committed UVM to expanding the representation of oppressed nationalities in the faculty, student body and administration, as well as increasing ethnic studies programs.

However, virtually no progress has been made toward fulfilling this agreement.

The new UVM President George Davis, who arrived in the fall of 1990, refused to sign the 1988 agreement. He instead agreed to sign a personal pledge in the stead of his commitment to the underlying values of the 1988 accord. But Davis backed off from even signing this.

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S. Korea protests spread, regime’s crisis deepens

BY PETER THIENJUNG
To accompany: Protests in South Korea, the U.S.-backed regime of President Roh Tae Woo replaced its prime minister, Lee Myung-Bak, on May 21. The government announced a limited amnesty for political prisoners and those charged with “antisemitic” crimes. Chung Won Shik was named to take the prime minister’s post after Roh dismissed his cabinet and promoted other convincing measures to further democracy.

Chung served as education minister in 1988-90 and was chiefly responsible for the stiff repression against Chunkyojo, the Korean Teachers and Educational Workers Union, and the resignation of Roh’s prime minister.

Just changing shields

“Roh is just changing his shield,” Oh Jung Yol, a protest leader in Kwangju, told the press. “The fundamental problem is the Roh Tae Woo government.”

On May 23, officials announced that 74 political prisoners would be released, 30 others would be freed on bond, and charges against another 154 government opponents would be dropped, including against Kim Taehoon, the former political prisoner and the leader of the opposition New Democratic Party. Kim had been charged with “antisemitism” and was due to report to authorities that an aide had traveled to North Korea.

All those to be freed were convicted under the notorious National Security Law which has been used as legal cover for repression against political opponents, trade unionists, supporters of Korean reunification, and others.

Government spokesmen said, however, that many other political prisoners would remain behind bars. There are currently 1,200 people convicted of political crimes in South Korea.

Im Su Kyong, a student sentenced to a 10-year jail term after traveling to North Korea during the 1989 World Festival of Youth and Students, will not be released. Im’s case has attracted international attention and calls for her freedom, and police toward her would not help calm the situation,” one Justice Ministry official said.

Roh’s government’s moves came in the midst of a wave of massive protests led by students commemorating the 11th anniversary of the 1980 student massacre and after a month of sustained street demonstrations by students and workers.

In 1980 South Korean troops cold-bloodedly slaughtered as many as 20,000 citizens during an uprising in the southern industrial city of Kwangju. The U.S. military, which since the 1950-53 Korean War has retained command of the South Korean army, gave the orders that allowed South Korean troops to suppress the 1980 rebellion.

Protests.

The leading general in the military regime in power at the time, is reviled by many Koreans as responsible for the Kwangju massacre.

The current upsurge has focused on the figure of former South Korean president and after a month of sustained street demonstrations by students and workers.

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Joe Young

BY JOE YOUNG
REGINA, Saskatchewan — Six thousand Saskatchewan nurses began returning to work May 21 after 11 days on the picket line.

At issue were wages, job security, and work rules. The Saskatchewan Nurses Union (SUN) was seeking contract language to respect seniority when layoffs occur or units are amalgamated, equal union representation on the pension benefits committee, the right to trade shifts, and a 15 percent wage increase over two years to achieve wage parity with Manitoba nurses.

There were no more charting to be done, more medications, less and the time that we spend doing technical work, nurses said. Nurses saw their fight as a struggle to defend quality in the government-funded Medicare. It’s really terrifying thing for many of them. Nurses gave no protection to the patients. There is more machinery to work with, more charting to be done, more medicines, so you are not at the bedside.

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SUN is organizing regional meetings in the weeks ahead, at which union members will vote on the proposed contract. According to SUN President Stuart, quoted in the May 20 Toronto Globe and Mail, “We made very significant gains in the area of job security for nurses and we’re very pleased with that.”

The nurses will receive a 9.2 percent wage increase over two years. Starting wages will be brought in line with those of Manitoba nurses.

This is the second large nurses’ strike this year in Canada. In January, 10,500 Manitoba nurses struck for the entire month of January, the longest nurses’ strike in Canadian history.

The nurses resisted threats of back-to-work legislation when they voted down a government offer of a 9 percent wage increase.

Fighting against intolerable working conditions and sex discrimination, and for higher wages, the nurses received a 14 percent wage increase over two years in addition to a 5 percent pay equity wage increase already mandated by government legislation.

June 7, 1991 The Militant
BY PETER THIERUNG

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has launched a special campaign to win the release of political activist and unionist Mark Curtis who is incarcerated in the state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa. Curtis was framed on rape and burglary charges in 1988 and is now serving a 25-year sentence.

"The object of this campaign is straight forward," John Studer, coordinator of the defense campaign, said in an interview. "We aim to do whatever we can to respectfully convince the officials of the Iowa Board of Parole to release Curtis.

Studer explained that the parole board is the government agency that has the power to release Curtis and is responsible for assessing whether an inmate has met the criteria for parole outlined by Iowa's parole and custody code.

According to the code, the board may consider an inmate's previous criminal record, the nature and the circumstances of the offense, participation in prison programs, general attitude and behavior while incarcerated, and other factors.

An exemplary record

"On all the criteria, Mark is a beyond average example," Studer said. "He is exemplary. Mark has no previous criminal record.

Even though the authorities have on a number of occasions challenged his exercise of his political rights in prison, they admit he rates him one of the leading figures to the conduct and his performance on every prison job he has ever had.

"Mark has now served more than two-and-a-half years in prison, well over the average time served by someone in the state of Iowa convicted of the ranking Mark was framed-up on," Studer said.

The defense committee coordinator points to the huge support network available to Curtis once he is released, another factor weighed by the parole board. "Because of what the defense campaign has accomplished, Mark is supported and looked to by thousands of people all over the world," he said.

"Union officials have offered their help in getting him out of prison. They would like to see him active in their union. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has offered to have him come to their Atlanta headquarters to join in mutual endeavors on behalf of union rights.

"These facts show Mark is an excellent candidate for parole," Studer said. "For having been in prison, he is a model example. Mark should have spent less time every day that he spends in jail now. Smacks of political retaliation.

"But he is beyond the point that they should have released him. We want to convince them to meet and rectify the mistake made by getting him wasted each day before he is released.

The campaign to convince the parole board to release Curtis will focus on a letter writing effort, Studer said. "We want individuals and organizations, unions, political groups, social justice organizations — to write to the board in their own words and request that the board meet now and release him.

"The defense committee projects collecting hundreds of letters from the inmates by July and will organize a delegation of unionists to present the letters to the parole board.

"We believe this effort can have a powerful effect and will help open the board's eyes to the just cause of releasing Mark," Studer said.

Studer emphasized that he believed the campaign would win a significant response in the labor movement. "It is in the traditions of the labor movement to respond to the just appeals of union members who have trouble with the authorities," he said.

"We did pretty well at demonstrating the broad support that exists for releasing Mark at the parole hearing last fall," Studer said. "It was support that goes way beyond those who are convinced that Mark was framed.

"Far from being a series of revelations publicly exposed the brutality and racial treatment carried out by Des Moines police against working people, especially in the Black and Latino communities. New revelations are now coming to light," Studer said.

Sgt. Ronald White, the commanding officer of the shift of the night Curtis was arrested, was recently suspended from the police force for stealing from the police station's evidence room.

"All this will increase interest in what happened to Mark and in the justice of his release," Studer said. "These events will add momentum to our campaign." Letters calling on the Iowa Board of Parole to release Curtis should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. For more information on the campaign, call (515) 246-1695.

Correction

In the May 24 Militant, the article "Auto giants hit at union organizing contracts" contained two editing errors.

In the third paragraph the last sentence was wrong.

"The car manufacturers, including those with factories in the South and lower in Japan, continues to use its collective bargaining power in an effort to strangle these important organizing campaigns," should have read, "The car manufacturers, including those with factories in the South and lower in Japan, have been using their collective bargaining power in an effort to strangle these important organizing campaigns."

In the second to last paragraph, the last sentence reads, "Estimated labor costs run between $8 and $13 an hour lower in nonunion Japanese-owned auto plants in North America."

"Estimated labor costs run between $8 and $13 an hour lower in nonunion Japanese-owned auto plants in North America."

Garment workers back El Paso strikers

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Union garment workers staged a demonstration here in support of striking workers in El Paso, Texas.

The El Paso workers have shut down four sweatshops, occupying one in a sit-in strike. Seven of the workers went on a hunger strike May 14.

Ninety percent of the strikers are Hispanic women. A good number are Mexican nationals, commuting daily across the border from neighboring Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

Backed by La Mujer Obrera (The Working Woman), an El Paso organization of female workers, the workers have fought scandalous sweatshop conditions for the past year. Now they are signed up with the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) and are demanding a union contract.

The solidarity demonstration here, May 16, was staged in the busy shopping mall of a downtown office building. Some of the 60 participating workers were 19th Century costumes and carried brooms and buckets to dramatize their aim of cleaning up sweatshop conditions. Some sat on the floor to register their support for the El Paso sit-down strikers.

The demonstrators were members of the ILGWU on their lunch breaks. They were joined by solidarity-minded members of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

In the mall, they marched and danced in front of Judy's, one of a chain of El Paso women's apparel shops which sell products from the strike company.

The ILGWU has initiated a boycott of Judy's and of the scab apparel—denim sports clothing, usually bearing the labels, "Maximum Energy USA" or "Total Energy."

These products are marketed by an outfit called DCB Apparel Group. It has a shop here and another in El Paso. The Los Angeles shop shut down after the ILGWU blew the whistle on illegal conditions.

It was paying workers in cash without records and failing to provide Workmen's Compensation coverage. The union also obtained evidence that the shop was giving out illegal workpaper.

Refused to pay back wages

El Paso Police have brought a 200 workers at the DCB at the shop and three DCB contractors. About half are employed at Sonia's, the biggest of them.

The sit-in and hunger strike is taking place at Sonia's.

"Shocking," Studer said. He was triggered April 29 when the boss at Sonia's reneged on a promise to pay back wages.

"But the ex Pumping heat, no heating in the winter cold.

Overtime is mandatory and sometimes with­

out overtime pay.

There are no sick leaves, no paid holidays, no vacations.

The strikers are demanding the money owed them to end these abuses, and, to back it up, a union contract.

According to La Mujer Obrera, garment workers are the largest industry in El Paso, employing 15,000 workers, mostly in small sweat­shops.

At the demonstration here, Marta Samano, an ILGWU official, said all the workers in the four sweatshop strikes signed up with the union during a two-month organizing drive. La Mujer Obrera is building support for the strike.

A circular issued by the group declares: "More than just a strike — a struggle for a life with dignity.

The circular adds: "With this act, for the first time in El Paso, garment workers are raising their heads in hope. Their aspirations are modest — they want to be paid on time, to work in a sweatshop they do not freeze in winter, to be treated without verbal abuse or physical threats, to have a contract that gives them some measure of job security. Your support will help make the achieve­ments of these hopes a reality."

Contributions to aid the strikers can be sent to La Mujer Obrera, P.O. Box 3975, El Paso, Texas 79923.
Neighborhood in U.S. capital remains occupied by police

BY ELLEN M. WHITT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Heavy police occupation of the Mt. Pleasant community here continues in the wake of a three-day rebellion against police brutality.

The rebellion of youth was sparked by the May 5 cop shooting of Daniel Enrique Gomez, a Salvadoran construction worker. A number of witnesses stated that Gomez was handcuffed at the time he was shot in the chest.

Bail for Gomez has been set at $15,000. His case has been referred to the D.C. Superior Court Grand Jury, which will consider complaints that city police routinely abuse Latinos, both verbally and physically. In addition, evidence was presented that city police have discriminated against Latinos in hiring and promotions.

Abuse of Latinos

The following day, the D.C. Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights met to consider the Gomez case. The committee’s task force reported that the Mt. Pleasant community is the site of multiple disputes between various residents and city government officials.

Neighbors in occupation of the Mt. Pleasant community have been engaged in a long-term conflict with city officials over the closure of public housing in the neighborhood.

The neighborhood has been occupied by police since the May 5 shooting of immigrant construction worker Daniel Enrique Gomez. Above, part of police occupation force in Mt. Pleasant neighborhood.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

The Young Socialist Alliance is a revolutionary organization of students and young workers across the United States. The YSA seeks to organize young people in the fight against the wars, imperialism, racism, and sexism bred by the capitalist system.

Justice for Daniel Enrique Gomez

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Join us!

The Young Socialist Alliance is an organization of young people from across the country who are fighting against the wars and economic crises of capitalism and for socialism.

Join us today!

Join us today!

Join us today!

Join us today!
BULLETTINE MONTAUK, STEPHEN CRANE, AND PETER LINK
DETROIT — “Communication between working people transcends borders. I speak for the hundreds of Cubans here who expressed their solidarity with Cu\nTrade Unions (CTU) when I welcome our Cuban friends tomarrow.”

This greeting by DETROIT CBFU leader Horace Shellaced was echoed at every meeting where the Cuban trade unionists met in May.

Joaquin Bernal Camero, a member of the National Central Council of the Union of Communist Workers (CNCUT), and Luis Guillermo Abreu Mejias, general secretary of the National Union of Workers (UAN), greeted the Cuban labor leaders’ tour through the United States.

“We are at a critical time for the world,” Abreu said. “This is the time when we must help those who are fighting to change the world, and we must help those who are fighting for justice and peace.”

Bernal explained that the main goal of the Cuban unionists’ tour is to meet with workers in the United States and to share their experiences with the Cuban people.

“The Cuban people are still struggling to build a socialist society, and they need our support,” Bernal said. “We are visiting the United States to learn from the struggles of the workers here and to help them understand the importance of working together.”

“We are also visiting the United States to show our solidarity with the workers here and to support their struggles,” Abreu added. “We believe that the struggles of the workers in the United States and Cuba are interconnected, and that we must work together to build a better world.”

Bernal and Abreu explained the social and political achievements of the Cuban revolution, and how they fight for their revolution in Cuba. They emphasized that massive struggle by workers and peasants threw out the hated U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista.

“The Cuban people have fought for their freedom, and they continue to fight for justice and peace,” Abreu said. “We must support their struggle, and we must work together to build a better world.”

Bernal also spoke about the recent events in Cuba, including the recent demonstrations and the government’s response.

“The Cuban people have a right to express their thoughts and demands, and we must support their struggle,” Bernal said. “We are visiting the United States to show our solidarity with the Cuban people and to support their struggle for justice and peace.”

Bernal and Abreu emphasized the importance of working together with workers in the United States and around the world to build a better world.

“We are visiting the United States to show our solidarity with the workers here and to support their struggles,” Bernal said. “We believe that the struggles of the workers in the United States and Cuba are interconnected, and that we must work together to build a better world.”

Bernal and Abreu explained that the Cuban unionists have received the hospitality of many North American workers and engaged in hours of discussions.

In his presentation Bernal said the motto of the Cuban workers movement lie in the late century and are marked by a long history of struggles. He explained that the Cuban revolution in 1959, workers organizations constantly fought attempts by the employers to destroy them. Many labor leaders lost their lives in this struggle.

The triumph of the revolution opened the road to dramatically increase the participation of workers in unions. Today, trade unions in Cuba have two goals. Bernal said. The first is to defend the right to organize, the second is to promote the active participation of the working class in the construction of socialism. Trade unions in Cuba are neither party nor state organizations, but they have the respect and support of the government.

After the triumph of the revolution many workers were welcomed by their government and received many different topics, from the role of voluntary labor to retirement benefits and vacations. A member of the Communication Workers of America asked several questions regarding maternity leave, integration of youth into the workforce, and retired workers.

In response, Bernal said workers are guaranteed a minimum of three months maternity leave and the right to leaves for doctor’s visits — all with pay. Workers pay not one penny for pension care, child care, or post retirement care because all medical care in Cuba is free, he said. Due to the fact that 49 percent of the workforce in Cuba is women, with many technical fields having an even higher percentage, such measures are crucial to the full participation of women in the labor force.

Youth are also begun to be added at age 17. Many trade unionists through vocational and technical high schools as well as union-organized hands-on training programs for those who need them. Retirement benefits are one of the greatest gains of the revolution, he said. Before the revolution there were millions of workers without retirement if they retired at all, or if they did, they were pillaged by those in charge. Many workers, after a lifetime of work, would find themselves receiving only a fraction of their full earnings.

Today every Cuban worker receives immediate eligibility for retirement, which is fully paid by the state. Workers earn their full salary earned during the last five years of work upon retirement, these facts drew enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Bernal concluded the evening with some impressions of his tour. He said that his experience with the working class in the United States has deepened. This class is one of the most important workers in the world, and is marked by a long history of struggles and fighting for justice and peace.

Bernal noted that the struggle and mismanagement by the capitalists of the wealth created by the workers—"is truly shocking," he said. "I leave here shaken that in this wealthy country there is no guaranteed health-care and that in cities big and small there are empty housing units while people live in the streets. Through our visit here we have been able to explain another mission and experience for workers—"that of Cuba."
BY WENDY LYONS
Havana — The Cuban government has launched a campaign to achieve self-sufficiency in production of the means of life. The campaign is one of the consequences of the challenges presented by the so-called "special period" — brought on by a substantial decrease in trade with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. More than 100,000 people from the capital city here have participated in voluntary work in the countryside over the last eight months. Onehalf are members of the Cuban Communist Party or the Union of Young Communists. While the great majority have volunteered for 15-day stints on a contingent, others sign up for two years.

Along with other trade unionists from the United States visiting Cuba in May at the invitation of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC), I visited a farming enterprise organized by one such contingent.

The first group of volunteer workers arrived at the farm last November. When we visited the camp there were 258 volunteers. The most several hundred each in low to 300 within a few days. They were organized into 30 brigades of 10 each — 2 women and 8 men in each brigade. Among the volunteers were factory workers and those with professional jobs.

One of our tour members asked the enterprise director if there was a problem teaching people the kind of work to do in the farm. "The Cuban people are not strangers to agricultural work," he said, "even if they are from the city. Everyone participates in the work-study and many have participated in mass mobilizations to help sugar cane over the years."

High morale

Morale is high among the volunteers. They work 10 hour days for 12 days and then take three days to get home to their family elsewhere. Pay has been raised for this kind of work recently, with incentives for high productivity.

Good relations are maintained for the farm workers. The workers are organized to take care of the administrative aspects of running the enterprise to eliminate bureaucracy and unneeded non-productive positions.

The construction of the structures of the farm were built by volunteer labor as well. The plan is to build three different communities in the area, so people can establish permanent residence. New houses will be built and the present camps will be used for social facilities for the communities when it is completed.

The primary goals of this ambitious program are to boost food production in the countryside and help solve the shortage of adequate housing in the cities.

One woman told us she formerly worked in the publishing house of the youth organization in Cuba, before joining the brigades. When asked why she decided to volunteer for the contingent for two years she said, "It's very hard work, but we have principles to fulfill for revolution. We are facing this special period, so we feel good about working as hard as we can to overcome our problems."

The U.S. trade unionists gave the director of the farm project two buttons as a gesture of solidarity: one produced by working farmwomen fighting against foreclosures that says "Farm Not Arts." The other, put out by the United Farm Workers union, features their union symbol and the saying, "Si Se Puede!" (Yes it can be done).

The director of the farm told us, "Send greetings to the North American people from the Cubans, especially to the farmers who are fighting for their farms and to the farm workers and their families. Greetings and a hug."

Construction contingents

The two-year contingents in the countryside are organized along the same lines as the Bias Roqa contingent, a model of the organization of volunteer labor. That contingent has constructed many roads and is now working on building the stadiums for the Pan-American games to be held in Havana in August.

The contingent grew up out of the vast expansion of volunteer labor that has been organized in Cuba over the last five years as part of what Cubans call the "rectification campaign."

Volunteer labor — using the collective brain and muscle power of Cuban working people to decide priorities and carry them out — had been a cornerstone of the Cuban revolution in its early years. Later, the methods of running the economy used in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union — with their emphasis on commodity relations and material incentives — were instituted in Cuba. Volunteer labor all but disappeared, labeled impractical and unfeasible by technocrats in the state planning apparatus.

As a result of these new economic practices the ranks of those not involved in productive labor dwindled. Workers, farmers, and others who could be won to participate in increasing the productivity and politicization of the country were demobilized.

As part of current grassroots volunteer labor and contingents began to be organized on a vast scale again. Their first task was to set about building new schools, clinics, and family doctor clinics — all things that were not being built but that were considered "unprofitable" under the old system.

The shortages caused as a result of the political and economic development in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has forced the initial and rapid expansion of such building campaigns. The shortages caused by the "special period" are to boost food production in the countryside and help solve the shortage of adequate housing in the cities.

Students lead Cuban 'bicycle campaign'

BY ELIZABETH HAMEL
Havana — On every street, highway, and beach there are hundreds of bicycles being pedaled by Cubans young and old in response to the oil shortage facing this country during their "special period in peace time."

Since the summer of 1990, delays and shortages of deliveries of oil from the Soviet bloc from which Cuba imports 80 percent of its oil, have forced the initiation of rationing and re- structuring of Cuba’s consumption of oil.

In an interview, Carlos Alfaro, first secretary of the 125,000-member Federation of University Students (FEU) and a member of the National Committee of the Union of Young Communists (UEC), described the evolution of the "Bicycle Campaign."

The National Committee of the Union of Young Communists organized massive mobilizations in the universities and high schools to lay out the plans for the campaign and began to implement it in November, 1990, Alfaro said. Polytechnic high schools around the country are assembling Soviet and Chinese-imported bicycle parts. These high schools are similar to what are known in the United States as "bike schools" where students from 15-18 years old learn technical skills and trade.

At one such school I had a chance to visit during the last week of work on the bicycle project. A total of 100,000 bicycles had already been assembled. Twelve thousand had been assembled in just three months. The students were proud and enthusiastic to carry out this task, given them by the government, "to respond to the transportation needs of the people," one student said.

100,000 already assembled

Alfaro estimated that since November 1990, 100,000 bicycles had already been assembled and distributed, 40,000 of those to students. The project is to assemble and import enough bicycles so that by the end of the year 800,000 will have been distributed.

In the spirit of self-sufficiency for the struggling island, a former bus assembly plant is now being remodeled to be used as a factory where Cuban bicycle parts would be made to build Cuban bikes, eliminating the need to import any parts.

The bikes are needed so that workers and students are able to carry out their studies and work during the oil shortage. The Cubans are preparing in this way for further challenges and difficulties in transportation. Oil is prioritized for the agricultural sector, to be used planting and harvesting the food the population needs.

Alfaro explained that distribution of the bicycles is being done according to certain priorities. Distribution among students is decided according to the student’s level of necessity (how far from school he or she lives) and the level of commitment he or she has shown in his or her studies and political leadership. The limited number of bicycles is decided in each study brigade of twenty students studying the same subject.

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"As a small imperialist power, the rulers in Sweden maneuver within the strongest imperialist framework, and this limits what they can find. They avoid trade wars that force them to take sides between the main imperialist rivals. However, the ongoing trade disputes. This accelerated economic competition between Washington, Bonn, Tokyo, and others is what marks imperialism in its domestic form — it is heading toward more wars and a depression," Isacsson said.

Thirty-five delegates and guests, from 13 countries, participated in the discussion on reports and resolutions before the congress.

Members of the Communist League forged their organization over the last two years through a series of common actions. At the center of their efforts has been the distribution of Pathfinder books and the Militant to the Swedish trade union international, and the New International to workers and fellow unionists, students and other young people. Sweden is poised to enter the Cuban revolution and struggles from South Africa to Korea. The congress came after the league's working-class campaign against imperialism and war as Washington and its allies mounted their assault against the Iraqi people.

The league put this campaign at the center of their political work and joined in a common effort with communist organizations in the United States, Britain, Iceland, France, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

The Militant

"Organized slaughter"

The imperialist war was an organized slaughter of the workers and farmers in Iraq — those in and out of uniform," said Isacsson, as he pointed to the ¡nternational. "Imagine the motorway between Stockholm and Södertälje, 35 kilometers long. Imagine this road during the rush hour, packed with cars, civilians and military.

"This is what the road was like between Baghdad and Kuwait City," he said, "where U.S. and allied forces bombed the front of the car, students confronted soldiers and civilians and then the back. No one could escape. They attacked these people — who were no longer armed — with Bangalore rifles and mechanized artillery. It was a slaughter."

One negative consequence for Washington, Isacsson said, is that a major campaign against the Gulf war was launched two years ago in the U.S. and Europe.

"The imperialist Gulf war was a campaign to destabilize the Gulf states regime. The aim of the imperialist war was to remove the one million workers in the Gulf regime. In order to do that, the U.S. government imposed a blanket ban on all exports of workable goods to Iraq and Iran — once that could better police the region for imperialism. This has eluded the imperialists.

"The brutal war has unleashed new anticorporate social forces," the Communist League organizer continued, "such as the massive struggles that erupted in the north and south of Iraq. The Kurdish people's struggle for national liberation, exploitation, and the reactionary policies of the monarchy, caused increasing unrest."

In 1974 thousands of taxi drivers, teachers, and farmers organized strikes and demonstrations. Millions marched demanding an end to religious discrimination. Women demanded a new legal code for equal rights. Farmers seized crops and burned the homes of landlords.

A group of junior army officers — known as the "September group" — finally overthrew Selassie in September 1974.

The new government, of which Mengistu was a part, took measures to sweep away the previous semifeudal structures. Land was given to peasants and tenant farmers and sharecroppers were bailed out. Banks, credit institutions, and insurance companies were nationalized.

But at the same time the Dergue continued the war, begun under the previous semifeudal regime, against the Eritrean people in the north, who had been waging a guerrilla struggle for independence since the early 1960s. Mengistu became the dominant figure in the Dergue by 1977. The ruling Workers' Party had been declared to be Marxist, but in reality de­ferred the interests of the capitalist class.

The U.S. government was hostile to the revolutionary measures undertaken after the overthrow of Selassie. It did everything pos­sible to bring down the new government and to set back the advances that had been made.

In 1977 the army of neighboring Somalia, as the instigation of Washington, invaded Ethiopia in an attempt to overturn the revolu­tion. With the aid of Cuban troops the imperialist attempt was blocked.

In recent years the Mengistu government sought to rid itself of its enemies. The nationalization of all the banks and 40% of the industrial sector also led to new fights. In 1981 a noticeable increase in the level and keeping wages in contracts at the national level low. Bonuses and wage sys­tems that gave more to a small number of workers were used to divide the working class as a whole. But the rulers have not been as successful as they need to be, explained Isacsson. They have not broken the unions and the bureaucracy and have not succeeded in giving the workers leverage for themselves in the world.

The two main rebel groups are the Eritrean and the Tigrinya band among the rulers on how to wage the attack.

The Militant

"The ruling classes of imperialists in Europe are not moving closer to economic integration. Instead, competition and rivalry is growing," said Isacsson.

Last winter the social-democrat government tried to impose a strike ban and increase the taxes. That government was brought down by union protests and growing division among the workers, who refused to work the strike on the labor movement.

The employers have postponed their attack and are waiting for better times and a stronger government after the elections this fall to put them in a stronger position, he added.

"Not a nice imperialism"

"Swedish imperialism has never been a 'nice' kind of imperialism," said a member of the Metal Workers Union during the discussion. "The worker described how Sweden helped Germany's Hitler send hundreds of thousands of troops into Poland, through the war that began against the Soviet Union during World War II. Radicals were imprisoned in Sweden during the war."

The heavy involvement of troops from Sweden in the United Nations-organized war against the national liberation movements in the Congo (now Zaire) in the 1960s was described by another delegate. "Swedish rulers have tried to use the UN to gain leverage for themselves in the world. But in the end the U.S. decided everything." An organized slaughter

In 1980 the employers tried to bring down the workers in the Second World War, the rulers in Sweden have the same aims. They are trying to maintain the world order to bring their economic power to bear in today's world, the rulers in this country have to do the same. Swedish companies will not get more the workers from Kuwait and Iraq as before the war.

"Sweden," the delegate said, "is the most heavily armed country in the world in relation to the number of its inhabitants. Sweden's ruling rich are also driven to use their military to gain leverage for themselves and connect their interests around the world. They will use against workers and farmers in the Third World to begin with."

In the summary of the discussion, Isacsson said, "The concentration of financial capital in Sweden has been dominated by 15 families, by more than one, the Wallenbergs, than any other."

"There has been a pact between the officialdom of the labor movement and the bureaucracy to join the Wallenbergs, since 1917. Because of the relative expansion of the world capitalist economy since World War II, Sweden has had some space to grant concessions to the workers," he said. "But now Swedish corporations are deeply in debt. They have had to sell companies and find niches in the world economy in order to survive. The very foundation for the pact has been eroded."

Willingness to fight

Although the labor movement in Sweden has retreated over the past decade, when union officials have allowed fights to take place — especially on local contracts — workers have taken advantage of the opportunity. Many strike battles have been ended when the Labor Court declared them illegal. This means that if the workers do not return to work they can be fired.

"Now the employers are preparing to end all these forms of collaboration," Isacsson said. "They may decide to stop collecting union dues directly from workers wages, said Isacsson. Continued on Page 12

The Militant June 7, 1991
U.S. troops to bolster ‘order’ in Kuwait

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington is dispatching an armored brigade of 3,700 troops to Kuwait, at the request of the U.S. ambassador, to arrive in mid-June from their base in Germany, elements of which are already being charged with keeping order for the shaky regime as other U.S. troops are withdrawn.

The March 19 Kuwaiti government began making some what to amounts to no more than show trials of hundreds of people accused of “collaboration,” for having aided the Iraq invaders in Kuwait in August 1990. Nearly all of those being tried are not considered to be citizens of Kuwait or even Kuwaitis—some of whom have lived there for generations. So far, none of those brought to trial are Palestinian.

On the first day of the trials the government provided no evidence or witnesses. Government-appointed defense attorneys were not allowed to meet with defendants prior to their hearings.

There is no jury. Instead, cases are decided by a five-judge tribunal.

In a May 20 news conference U.S. President George Bush defended the character of the trials by saying “I tried to put myself in the place of the Kuwaiti people who were brutalized by Saddam Hussein.”

In its first statement on the matter the State Department did not criticize the lack of democratic rights and due process in the trials. But as the kangaroo courts began, something of an international scandal and embarrassment to the “liberators” of Kuwait, the department issued a statement expressing concern “that due process may not have been fully observed in the proceedings.”

Those who are on trial have tried to get out the truth about their conditions in jail and the torture for their rights.

“I am not guilty,” stated Jawad Abu Rehman at the May 19 hearing. “I confessed because they beat me.” Prisoners in Kuwait are routinely tortured.

15-year sentence for Hussein T-shirt

Another prosecutor, Adrian Abdi Ali, who is accused of wearing a T-shirt with the portrait of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on it, also said he was innocent and requested a lawyer. He is now undergoing trial with “commonly” convicted atenced to 15 years in prison, to be followed by deportation. Once convicted, there is no right to appeal.

Saddam Hussein shirts were not uncommon in Kuwait before the August 1990 invasion of Iraq, which now threatened the stability of the Kuwaiti government helped finance the Iraqi regime’s eight-year war against the Iranian people.

A government prosecutor said March 19 that the spread of the Hussein shirts was encouraged by the regime, which was accused of trying to stir up “violations of international principles and the world order.”

“We are not guilty,” said the judge and prosecutor, Naja, told the defendants. “You spread lies and rumors which caused disasters to the country.”

In this was proven during the investigation.

2,000 detained

By early March more than 2,000 Palestinian, Iranian, South American, and Algerian had been detained, some by the returning government, others by armed groups.

No figures have been released on how many remain in prison facing charges of “collaboration” or being held as hostages.

The arbitrary arrest and beatings of Palestinians continued without let-up according to the Wall Street Journal. An untold number have been killed, tortured, or expelled after the end of the occupation. Those Palestinians that remain must register with the government, as have other noncitizens. Prior to last August, 200,000 Palestinians lived in Kuwait. Many had been there for decades. Palestinians played a key role working in government offices and private businesses as accountants, engineers, computer programmers, bank managers, scientists, and professors.

Deep-going political crisis

The trials take place amid a deep-going political crisis in Kuwait. Many Palestinians are still in effect, activities by opposition groups are outlawed, and little has been done to rehabilitating war-damaged areas. Kuwait’s ruling family, the Sa’ads, continue to try to maintain a tight grip on power.

“This country is totallyainless,” said Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank, Kuwait’s second largest. “It’s just swaying in the wind.”

When announcing the new troop deployment to Kuwait, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney put it just as bluntly, but from the standpoint of defending Washington’s interests. “The situation in Kuwait is still very unstable,” he said on the Evans and Novak program, televised on Cable News Network. “They’ve not really been able to stabilize their own forces. They are necessarily, very nervous, given what happened to them just last August.”

The weaknesses of the regime was demonstrated in the face of the August 1990 invasion by the Iraqi forces. The government collapsed and key leaders, including the emir—Kuwait’s ruler—fled without putting up a fight.

Given its narrow social base and dependence on an immigrant work force, the royal family has had to rely on foreign forces to patch together public services and act as an internal police force. A Pentagon press officer in a phone interview said that a total of “some 5,000” U.S. troops are still stationed there, although he said he did not have precise figures. In addition, 40,000 Saudi troops remain in the country.

Washington’s war and the subsequent withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait did not solve any of the problems facing the regime. On the contrary, the government is less stable today than it was last August.

While early reports of damage caused by the Iraqi invasion and the U.S. attacks were greatly exaggerated—most buildings, roads, and bridges were untouched by the war—the Sa’ab dynasty has proven itself infallible.

Continued on Page 12

Harvard study: 170,000 children will die

Lack of electricity has led to a shortage of clean water and ability to process sewage, the root cause of the epidemics. One hospital in Baghdad reported 30 to 35 new cases of cholera in one week during April. Cases of typhoid were also observed in six Iraqi cities.

Tuberculosis patients who were still infectious have been discharged from hospitals because of the lack of chloraminic, the main treatment for the disease.

The March 20 UN report said the seven-month war had “destroyed or rendered ten” most “means of modern commerce in Iraq. Without massive humanitarian relief, including “fuel, and power to drive vehicles, pumps, generators, refrigeration, supply disposal works, harvesting machines, all the kinds of mechanisms that an advanced industrial society depends upon” the Iraqi people face “imminent catastrophe.”

As the Harvard report indicates, the big-business media, Washington, UN agencies, and the Iraqi government have all tried to cover up the growing devastation facing the Iraqi people.

Stung by the March 20 UN report’s indictment of the impact of the war and embargo, the Bush administration has tried to downplay the severity of the health conditions in Iraq.

Enzo Gianmi Murz, UN Children’s Fund representative in Iraq, minimized the risk of cholera for some time. Finally, responding in an interview with BBC, he cited the study as “very risky” and expressed concern “that due process may not have been fully observed in the proceedings.”

No evidence is that there will be a substantial number of epidemic cases, except in cities near the Gulf, where the risk of cholera is the greatest.

22 percent of electrical capacity

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Survivor of bombing of civilian neighborhood in Baghdad. Forty people died in air raid.

Che Guevara, Cuba, and the road to socialism

In New International no. 8

Che’s proletarian legacy and Cuba’s rectification

The creativity of Che’s economic thought

The politics of economics: Che Guevara and Marxist criticism

Available from Pathfinder Press 410 West St., N.Y. 10014

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Please include $3 for shipping and handling.
This column is dedicated to reporting the news to the workers, enabling the employers' assault to their living standards, working conditions, and the unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, or attacks on health and safety. Some companies faced with steep backslide demand deals from workers. Busting moves by the employers have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way to let fellow workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. We will try to let other Militant readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that, too.

Members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2125 at Crenlo in Rochester, Minn., are discussing the recent concession contract the union has signed with the company. The contract contains concessions in medical care and a minimal wage increase.

Crenlo, an expanding and profitable manufacturer of tractor cabs, employs 600 workers. It does work for John Deere, Caterpillar, and other farm implement and construction companies.

ON THE PICKET LINE

The union's contract with Crenlo expired January 26, but workers stayed on the job until a new contract was adopted. The union membership voted on the new contract February 20 by a margin of almost three to one. The most common reason cited for the "yes" vote were: a limit on wage increases to 90 cents over three years; a pay raise for laid-off workers of $150 to $250 of a wage increase over three years for the job market and medical coverage.

On April 5, after an extended discussion, union members voted on a new contract proposal by a margin of 57 percent. The new proposal was the same as the one voted down earlier, but with an added 15 cents raise spread over three years and a bonus of $100 on contract approval.

Three years ago a contract with similar concessions was accepted by a 70 percent margin the same day it was presented to union members.

Workers have higher expectations now after seeing Crenlo drastically expand its production and take in higher profits. More unionists see that simply granting concessions leads to more concessions. Crenlo is an open shop. Only 55 percent of the workers are in the union. This is an obstacle to getting a better contract. A recruitment drive over the last year brought in over 100 new members, but it is clear that the drive must continue.

The union is pushing ahead to win more new members which will put workers in a better position in future struggles.

Engineer workers across Britain participated in a rally in London April 12, to mark the suspension of the campaign for a 55-hour week by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU). A campaign of selective strikes aimed at winning improvements on the national agreement break down two years ago.

The CSEU reported that during the campaign there were about 25 strikes.

The president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, Bill Jordan, told the rally that a 37-hour week or less had been achieved at 1,666 plants employing 600,000 workers. The CSEU says this is at least three quarters of the unionized blue-collar work force in the industry.

Unlike the previous reduction from 40 to 39 hours, won in the 1980s following a series of one-day strikes, the absence of a national agreement means the cut in hours does not extend to workers at companies organized by the Engineering Employers Federation.

The CSEU will keep the outstanding £7.1 million strike fund for the next stage of the campaign - a reduction to 35 hours.

Two months after the picket line, Unionists at a tractor plant discuss concessions now after seeing Crenlo.

"In the last year, to $31.5 million.

Nine thousand members of the ATV - driving teachers and clerks - struck Greyhound in 1990. The company offered "open shop" replacements and broke the strike. Courthouse duty and bankruptcy on June 4, 1990.

Lawyers for the National Labor Relations Board lashed out that the workers should receive more than $120 million in back pay because Greyhound violated labor law by forcing the workers out on strike.

Andy Buchanan from London, Brian Bickels and Craig Hents and Henry Zannn, representatives of the Local 2125 in Rochester, Minnesota, contributed to this column.

Supreme Court rulings curtail democratic rights

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The U.S. Supreme Court considered a series of decisions recently that narrow constitutional protections, help speed up executions of prisoners on death row and in some instances provide greater latitude for police to violate people's rights.

The rulings come on the heels of a High Court decision in March that permits confessions coerced by police to be entered as evidence in criminal trials.

In a major decision curtailing the right to appeal handing down a limiting right to appeal to the Appellate Court. The Court ruled that if a federal judge could dismiss a second or subsequent appeal, the evidence has in many cases provided greater latitude for police to violate people's rights.

The Court's new standard calls on lower federal courts to occnve police and habeas corpus petition or later appeals only in unusual circumstances. Habeas corpus is the legal means by which a convicted person can seek a new trial through a court.

Reversing past rights' gains

The ruling specifically targets previous Supreme Court decisions dating back to the mid-1960s that re-recognized gains for the right to appeal. The Court ruled that if a federal judge could dismiss a second or subsequent habeas corpus petition or later appeals only in unusual circumstances, the Court's new standard calls on lower federal courts to oc scenarios police and habeas corpus petition or later appeals only in unusual circumstances. Habeas corpus is the legal means by which a convicted person can seek a new trial through a court.

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New York supporters hit the streets in sales blitz

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

A final push is needed to reach the $1 million goal of the international Expansion Fund, which was launched at the August 1990 convention of the Socialist Workers Party.

According to fund director Dave Prince, $77,189 has been received in new pledges since socialists were called to action in April. That is $64,919 more than what was collected for the same period in 1991. These new totals $903,069, of which $588,827 has been collected. The fund aims to reach $1 million goal of the international Expansion Fund was established to encourage a new wave of printing and publishing equipment, and to rebuild several floors of the Pathfinder building in New York. With building houses the offices of the Militant and America, two socialist publications, and of Pathfinder publishers. Part of the new goal will go to remodeling the national offices of the Socialist Workers Party, which are also located in the Pathfinder building.

This upgrading is needed to respond to expanded offerings for circulating books and periodicals. "We must educate today's fighters to arm them to meet the political challenges as well as growing numbers of working people. For example, after the launching of the Militant's campaign to arm the people of Iraq up until the end of the cease-fire, hundreds of thousands of copies of books, newspapers, magazines and other pieces of literature that contributed to the fight against the war have been written, edited, and printed.

The rebuilding project has just gotten underway, with volunteers arriving in New York. A major reorganization of the existing publishers is expected to make in order to reorganize work is now completed.

Implementing the plan to upgrade the production systems used by the editorial and business staffs of the Militant, and America, is continuing. One particularly valuable addition which has been made to this equipment is an optical scanner which "reads" text from books and magazines directly into a computer, bypassing the need for most of the keyboarding work previously required for such tasks.

Prince explained that reaching the pledge goal and collecting it on time is essential if the fund's aims are to be met in full and on time. "This includes having funds on hand at the completion of the rebuilding that will begin the phase up to the pressure and other printing equipment," he said.

In March it was reported that a total of $900,880 had been pledged to the fund. This included a pledge of $75,000 which will not be received.

A total of 74 supporters have now contributed to the Expansion Fund, which includes $900,880 more than what the same period in 1991. In March, "The recent pledges include $11,500 that four railroad workers donated to the fund. They sign contract bonus payments and have a pledge of $25,000 from two supporters who sold their houses and pledged a portion of the proceeds to the fund," Prince reported.

The fund appeals to people who are in a position to contribute $1,000 or more. Their donations are not used to finance daily operations but are exclusively used for major capital improvements that will have long-term benefits.

For more information about the fund, write: The Expansion Fund, 406 West St, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Final effort needed to reach goal in million-dollar capital fund

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

A few weeks of bold are needed to reach the $1 million goal of the international Expansion Fund of the Socialist Workers Party.

According to fund director Dave Prince, $77,189 has been received in new pledges since socialists were called to action in April. That is $64,919 more than what was collected for the same period in 1991. These new totals $903,069, of which $588,827 has been collected. The fund aims to reach $1 million goal of the international Expansion Fund was established to encourage a new wave of printing and publishing equipment, and to rebuild several floors of the Pathfinder building in New York. With building houses the offices of the Militant and America, two socialist publications, and of Pathfinder publishers. Part of the new goal will go to remodeling the national offices of the Socialist Workers Party, which are also located in the Pathfinder building.

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Continued from Page 8 which will really be an attack against the trade union bureaucracy.

Cathrina Tirsen gave the second report, "Building the imperialist warmakers. Organizing and the League Mundial, clicking country; participating in several subscriptions This included holding well-attended public meetings to launch several new Pathfinder books; building a Pathfinder organization are getting the leadership," the organization leading up to the congress. The Militant June 7, 1991

The campaign "Working people to clear minefields and areas hit by landmines," said Ahmed Baqir, an Islamic constitutional groups condemning the arrest and harassment of Palestinians or others without Kuwait citizenship.

U.S. troops to bolster ‘order’ in Kuwait

Continued from Page 9 pable of organizing to rebuild the country. This government has yet to report tracts to clear minefields and areas hit by landmines. All 100 out of 500 oil well fires have been controlled as of May 16. Government ministers are not functioning correctly. Only 10 out of 1,000 mostly Kuwaiti companies have the capability and the will to do the work. The bombing of the oil wells has been a disaster for the country and for those people who have been affected by the war.

Tirsen explained that while U.S. President George Bush declared a halt to offensive operations on February 27, the real problem is not over. The real problem is that the production of the Golf state is still not functioning at a level that can satisfy the needs of the people. The real problem is that the unemployment rate is high and the cost of living is too high for the average person.

Tirsen said that the U.S. government has been spending billions of dollars on military operations, while the people of Kuwait are suffering from the effects of the war. The situation is getting worse by the day, and it will not improve until the war is ended.

Australia: Sydney, 19 Terry St., Surry Hills Sydney NSW 2070, May 31, 7:30 p.m. 407/2041


Britain: London, Imperialism: Marching to War, Stumbling to Depression. Speaker: Martin Hill, Communist League, Sat., June 1, 3 p.m. 1586 E. Washington St. Donations: $3. Tel: (303) 345-3040.


The Militant June 7, 1991

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UNITED STATES


CALIFORNIA: San Francisco: Against the War against Working People around the World: How Do We Fight Back? Speaker: Jim White, Socialists Workers Party candidate for mayor.


IOWA: Des Moines: A day in history of the Communist League in Canada today -- An Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Elizabeth Kretly, just returned from Cuba as member of the Vancouver最新的 Shield and Sun. Sat., June 1, 6:30 p.m. 303 14th St. Donations: $3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

WASHINGTON: Olympia: Free Trade with Mexico: Does it Help Working People? Speaker: Héctor Mujica,officer member and several Pathfinder books; building a Pathfinder organization are getting the leadership," the organization leading up to the congress.

Campaigning against the war Communist League members who belong to the labor union book group participated in the international campaign to circulate the socialist newspaper: the International Review. According to Tirsen, a "working-class campaign against the imperialist war" and the Pathfinder book on Cuba's actions in the "War on Iraq." The congress "took a bold political step," Tirsen said, and "we are all here to strengthen the leadership of the class struggle in the socialist direction.

Tirsen explained that, during the negotiations with the U.S. government, the League had demanded that the United States stop its attacks on Iraq, that the U.S. government withdraw its forces from the region, and that the U.S. government pay compensation to the people of Iraq for the damages caused by the war.

Tirsen said that the League had also demanded that the U.S. government respect the right of the Iraqi people to self-determination and to determine their own future. The League had also demanded that the U.S. government stop its interference in the internal affairs of other countries in the region.

Tirsen pointed out that the central tasks of the organization are getting the need for working people to organize independently in order to fight against the war and to protect the interests of the working class.


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U.S. continues prosecution of Los Angeles Eight

Palestine solidarity activists threatened with ongoing gov’t deportation attempts

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES—In its ongoing drive to deport the Los Angeles Eight, the government is now using two immigration laws—a reactionary McCarthy-era statute recently scrapped by Congress, the other a supposedly liberal substitute for it.

Two of the Los Angeles Eight now find themselves in the situation of being the last to be prosecuted under the old law, and the first under the new one.

Meanwhile, the government informed two of the eight that it intends to deny their applications for permanent residence, which they are entitled to under an immigration "amnesty" statute.

The eight—seven Palestinians and a Kenyan married to one of them—were singled out for prosecution because of their solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle. The government has falsely branded them "terrorists."

Importantly victory scored

Although the eight have won a series of important legal victories since their arrest in January 1987, the government has doggedly continued efforts to deport them.

The terrorism charge against them is based on assertions, of which they deny, that they are members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and have provided funds to it. The PFLP is an affiliate of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Initally, the eight were indicted under the now defunct 1952 McCarran-Walter Act, which allowed the government to deport or exclude immigrants on the basis of their beliefs.

At that point the government charged that the PFLP was "widely perceived in both this country and worldwide communism."

But the eight won a significant victory on the basis of the onetime immigrants when a federal judge ruled that the ideological provisions of the McCarran Act were unconstitutional.

The government had not anticipated this legal setback. Nor did they anticipate the wave of public support won by the eight. They had been arrested 11 months before the expiration of the Palestinian in jail, and the court apparently assumed that recruiting pro-Israel, anti-Arab bias would permit early prosecution.

Yet an encouraging number of organizations and individuals have come to the defense of the eight, including a number of prominent Jewish individuals.

Government presses case

Yet the government has persisted. Six of the eight are here on visitor or student visas. The PFLP was rechartered on April 11 as the National Palestine Liberation Movement. They are recharged on a series of technicalities—ostensibly their visitor’s permit, working part-time while on a student visa, etc.

The other two of the eight, Klaher Hamide and Michel Shehadeh, presented a thornier issue because they are Palestinian refugees who have been in the United States on political asylum status since 1976.

When that didn’t fly, they went to the "terrorist" charge.

Meanwhile, last year, Congress decided to get rid of the McCarran Act which was becoming an international embarrassment. Under its provisions, a number of noted antiwar figures—writers, artists, and politicians—were barred from entering the country and were even subjected to criminal prosecution.

In March of this year, the McCarran Act opened a new front and a new and more odious antiliberties provision, the "solidarity" statute permits the deportation or exclusion of communists. And, in an added twist, it specifically cites the PLO and its "affiliates" as subject to deportation. The government claims that those who were indicted under the McCarran Act before it expired can still be prosecuted and is processing the case against Hamide and Shehadeh under both the old and the new one.

A group of immigrant rights and civil liberties lawyers filed a lawsuit in late May challenging the government’s continued prosecution.

According to Alexander Nassof, organizer for the committee that is defending the eight, their lawyers are planning to file a motion for a new trial on grounds of "perfidiousness and treachery" of the dual-barreled prosecution.

The committee needs funds to defray the cost of this massive legal campaign. Contributions should be sent to the Committee for Justice to Stop the McCarran-Walter Act Deportations, P.O. Box 4631, Los Angeles, CA 90051.

Striking Pittsburgh grocery workers win massive support

BY LORRAINE STARSKY

PITTSBURGH—In a massive show of solidarity, striking members of the Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 23, more than 30,000 unionists and supporters marched through downtown Pittsburgh May 4. Nearly 6,000 Local 23 mem­bers and almost 2,000 Giant Eagle employees joined the strike in protest of union-busting since the Piggly Wiggly chain was the last remaining unionized grocery chain in the city.

Giant Eagle, Pittsburgh’s largest supermarket chain, has refused to bargain in good faith, the strike charge.

Workers of America, Teamsters, and several local independent unions have come out in support of the workers.

In a statement yesterday, the company’s general counsel noted that in a test case, the water to a criminal charge of conspiring to run the waterfall against the workers. But the workers remain determined to continue the struggle.

Several union representatives offered encouragement and solidarity at a rally following the march. The United Mine Workers District 5 president pledged, "We’re not only going to be here, we’re beside you.”

A speaker from one of the rally union halls said, "We tried to organize workers in the strike but the company prevented us. The only time Congress ever did anything in one day was when they ended our strike." The vice president of the Cambria-Nassau Hospital Workers, also on strike, stated, "There’s no better place to spend our first month’s strike anniversary than here at your rally."

Sal Sabatucci, a 17-year member of UFCW Local 23, said, "We’re going to last one more day than the company does!”

Since the rally, Giant Eagle has severed health, hospitalization, and life and long-term disability insurance benefits of the strikers. In another move meant to demoralize Local 23, the company asserted that 900 members are back to work. The union responded by organizing community participation on the picket lines—May 10.

Striking Pittsburgh grocery workers win massive support

Join the campaign against imperialism and war

Death and dislocation continue to stalk the peoples of Latin America as the whole Mideast region in the wake of the U.S.-led war. As the consequences of Washington’s aggression unfold and its lies unravel, more and more farm workers, farmers, youths and GI’s are seeking an explanation of the roots of imperialism and war, and the system that breeds them.

Join us in circulating New International no. 7, a special issue on the war and picketing workers-class-action plans, with the political questions being discussed and debated by fighters today. Why don’t they have “victory” in Iraq in the struggle into a political figaro... The roots of the Palestinian struggle for national self-determination and the imperialist character of the Saddam Hussein regime and its failure to organize a fight against the U.S.-led invasion... Why the war against Iraq sounded the opening guns of World War III... How the working class can prevail in the decisive battles to come, warring the war-making powers out of the exploiter’s hand.

$12 Available from Pathfinder, 410 West St.
New York, NY 10014. $1 shipping and handling.

Feature commodities, is planning to open 200 profit-making schools.

Some companies do care— The 1991 Portland, ME 911.TV favorable reviews, but one critic noted that in a test car, the wind­shield washer liquid was drying out. The olafing fan was stuck on low, and the knob fell off on the hood. A Volkswagen assured that on a $103,000 car, a local rep would usually make house calls.

Concerned citizens— In Bel­l Air, a wealthy Los Angeles suburb, the Wilson’s are having a pool and 45-foot waterfall built in their back­yard. Concerned about the water shortage, Jayne Wilson assures, "We’ll only run the waterfall a cou­ple of times a week."

Holy Moses— Masachus­etts, the baying of se­veral of the wind­shields was ignited, and paid a $1 million fine.

Free-market product— With growing awareness of water con­sumption, sales of bottled water are soaring despite high prices. Yet a quarter of the bottled stuff comes from the same sources as tap water. One consumer group checked and found that a third of the sampled bottles exceeded allowable microbe contamination.
Defend quotas, abortion rights

The labor movement, women's rights groups, and civil rights organizations need to protest the drive by the U.S. rulers to affirm affirmative action and to further undermine a working class movement against racism.

Affirmative action, enforced by quotas, is one of the key ways the labor movement can break down the divisions between workers and the working poor. Championing the interests of this section of the working class that suffers race or sex discrimination, from schooling to employment, is essential in uniting the ranks of labor to fight against the employer-govern-ment offensive at home and their wars abroad.

Discrimination along race and sex lines is an institutional part of capitalist society. The employers will never police themselves voluntarily complying with affirmative action laws. They know that quotas are essential in overcoming the past consequences of racism and sexism. Defending affirmative action today is even more vital as the economic and social crisis deepens and capitalist exploitation becomes more fierce.

As the world capitalist economic crisis deepens, the employers must drive to lower workers' standard of living, break the unions, and push back democratic rights - all to boost their sagging profits and put them in a better position vis-a-vis their competitors.

A failure to respond to the attacks on abortion rights and affirmative action will only encourage the bosses and their government to make bolder moves that limit the rights working people have fought for and won.

The anti-black, anti-Spanish, and anti-woman offensive can be pushed back. In fact, because they fear a response, the capitalist rulers can only increase the attacks to stave off the white backlash and growth of the black and proletarian movements.

One clear step needed is a state-by-state response to the myriad of antiabortion legislation before state governments.

Instead of wasting energy on lobbying efforts and trying to cultivate "pro-life" sentiment in Congress, in the vain hope of crippling up an erosive duality base in the unions, the labor movement needs to take a militant political course of advancing the interests of all working people — in particular those in the front lines of employer and government assault.

Solidarity with Korea protests

The wanton brutality of the South Korean police in killing Kang Kyung Dae, a 20-year-old student, unleashed years of pent-up popular anger and hatred for the U.S.-backed South Korean regime.

The May 24 New York Times called the current protests in South Korea "the biggest since the '67 war" and the Wall Street Journal labeled the protests as "hard core radicals." But this presentation passed on as fact is inaccurate with many reality. The large, democratic, peaceful demonstrations are aiming their fire squarely at President Roh Tae Woo's regime, which despite democratic pretenses, has been an obstacle to democratic political and social rights, economic rights, social justice, and the reunification of Korea.

Roh, the progeny of the previous military regime, became president of South Korea in 1987. He promises democracy, economic rights, social justice, and a departure from the brutalities of the military. South Korea, with U.S. imperialism's help, was to become the miracle of Asia — an example of what capitalism could produce for working people. It has not been.

But the reality has not matched Roh's rhetoric or Washington's predictions. A 20 percent annual inflation rate, the government budget deficit, and prices skyrocketing due to speculation, environmental disasters, a government permeated by corruption, low wages and union busting, and crimes against democracy all evidence that capitalism in its decline is incapable of bringing development to semicolonial countries.

Today, the South Korean regime maintains more than 600,000 troops under arms, including an elite "security" unit, and a police force of tens of thousands. This armed might is backed by the 43,000 U.S. troops.

The main function of this armed might is not, as claimed by Washington, to protect the lives of the South Korean people from "communists." It is to break up the protests, to maintain order, and to be used to suppress the energy of the South Korean people. The brutalization of the Iraqi people weakens the ability of the Iraqi people to resist the imperialist's help, was to become the miracle of Asia to speculation, environmental disasters, a government permeated by corruption, low wages and union busting, and crimes against democracy all evidence that capitalism in its decline is incapable of bringing development to semicolonial countries.

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The brutalization of the Iraqi people weakens the ability of the Iraqi people to resist the imperialists with arms to advance their interests against each other. Although his eyes had been bothering him, John had not been able to get out of the May 17 Militant headquarters, "Japan sends 6 warships to Gulf: first deployment since WWII."

Workers and farmers are not the only people who are suffering in South Korea. The workers are laboring under an embargo and market conditions that limit their ability to get ahead. The workers. and farmers around the world have to fight against the economic blockade of Iraq.

The war and embargo against the Iraqi people are not mere aberrations of a sick mind in the White House. They are efforts to force workers and farmers in this country to give up all their gains and to work for less. But it is not enough for the truth to be true, as Fidel Castro once said. It must be told.

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Visiting with veteran communist farm activist

BY DOUG JENNIES

SACRED HEART, Minnesota — A couple of hours west of the Twin Cities the soil is moist and black on farm after farm. Farmers and prairie planners point with pride to the bright green and lilies are in full bloom in nearly every field.

A failure and unable to force a rally to demand that President Roh Tae Woo end the carpet-bombing and to prevent their farms from being foreclosed. And as long as farmers continue to be squeezed by mounting production costs and low prices for their crops, the fight will develop.

John Ennewitz, who lives on a small farm near Sacred Heart, has been an active participant and leader in the battles here for most of his life. He will be 85 on May 30.

Learning about socialism

John has been a socialist since the 1920s and was a delegate to the founding convention of the Socialists Workers Party in 1938.

John volunteered to go to Minnesota, to Kate Kaku, and I were able to visit John. Kuku, is the wife of Mark Curtis, the framfed-up unionist and political activist who is serving a 25-year sentence for organizing and from the Twin Cities. Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

John, a long-time SWP activist in Minnesota and a retired rail worker, drove us from the Twin Cities.

We brought John a copy of newly released SWP's "Solidarity with Korea" and "Rebellion, Capitalism, Imperialism," which he had been reading. We discussed the contributions of the SWP to the anti-war movement, especially in relation to their rivals in Japan and Germany, and the mounting difficulties Washington is confronting in attempting to maintain the embargo.

John wanted to talk about the mounting conflicts between the Iraqi workers and farmers and the growing likelihood of the imperialists using arms to advance their interests against each other. Although his eyes had been bothering him, he kept on reading the book. The May 17 Militant headlined, "Japanese sends 6 warships to Gulf: first deployment since WWII."

But these particular examples about the problems working people are having in Iraq as a result of the devas-tation created by the bombing attacks and the 10-month-long economic blockade. As a long-time opponent of imperialist wars, he recognizes the stakes working farmers and wage workers around the world have in opposing Washington's military occupation and economic blockade of Iraq.

The only beneficiaries of Washington's assault are the U.S. employers, bankers and speculators that are attempting to force workers and farmers in this country to give up more of our income and to work harder under harder economic conditions.

We continued talking as John gave us a tour of his farmyard and orchard. He and his wife, Edythe, no longer farm. "We've sold most of the fruit trees," John said with a smile, "and skimp Social Security checks don't cover most of the remaning bills."

John is the grandson of Norwegian immigrants who homesteaded this area in the 1860s. John's father and uncle were active in the Non-Partisan League, which was a predecessor of the Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota.

In 1938 John became part of the Farmers' Holiday Association, which launched a farmers' "strike." The idea was to force processors and distributors to give farmers a better deal by collectively keeping produce off the market. Pitched battles occurred as cops and national guardsmen tried to herd scabs through farmers' lines. In an interview in the March 25, 1983 Militant, John recalled, "Here in Renville County we had all milk and eggs from getting to market. We completely shut down the creameries."

In 1972 the veteran farm activist became a supporter of the American Agriculture Movement and participated in food protests in斯州. In his late 70s.

Back in the Twin Cities, John was one of the first to release New International no. 8, and while we were there he wrote a memo on the importance of this magazine for revolutionary-minded workers and farmers. The message was presented at a rally to raise funds for New International held in St. Paul two days later.

As we left, John expressed his solidarity with Mark Curtis and his current fight to win parole.

Lift the embargo against Iraq!

Continued from front page

Not satisfied with the death and destruction that has already been caused, and oblivious to the 70,000 refugees from southern Iraq in addition to the Kurds in the north, Washington and its allies are pushing for onerous war reparations that would bleed the Iraqi people for years to come.

Workers, unionists, farmers, and young people should demand the opposite: Lift the embargo and open the U.S. borders to all war refugees. That would be an elementary act of solidarity with fellow workers and farmers in Iraq, who are suffering the most from the war.

Workers in the United States are part of a worldwide network of the web of lies and misinformation by Bush and his warrior chiefs since August 1990:

• "We are not going to intervene," said Bush was saying to avoid war with Iraq, a bipartisan majority was preparing a massive aerial bombardment and armored invasion.

• They claimed their aim was to "liberate" Kuwait. But their real goal all along had nothing to do with freedom and democracy. In the recent language of the U.S. military in Kuwait proved. What they were really after was a pretext to invade Baghdad, a more reliable, subsequent regime beholden to the new imperialism in power.

They wanted to see the continued struggles of working people in the region as a whole and win greater control of the Gulf oil reserves.

The brutalization of the Iraqis weakens the ability of the labor movement around the world to stand up to us. We have not been the only rich who back the embargo against the Iraqi people are the same ones who push for cutbacks and attack workers at home.

The war and embargo against the Iraqi people are not just another war against a sick mind in the White House. They are extensions of U.S. imperialism's full-scale policy of the capitalist rulers in the United States, Britain, Canada, and around the world.

As the Bush administration reports show, the truth is beginning to come out. But it is not enough for the truth to be true, as Fidel Castro once said. It must be told.

You can help get the word out by contributing the Militant, Perspectiva Mundial, L' internationaliste, and the just published New International no. 8 with the article Washington's Assault on Iraq Opening Guns of War World III, and Pathfinder books such as U.S. Hands Off the Midwest: Cuba Smokes Out a New World Empire. We need to join together to demand:

Lift the embargo!

All foreign troops out of Iraq.

Open the U.S. borders to all the refugees!
Railworkers discuss contract fight, one-day strike

BY TAMAR ROSENFIELD
SAN FRANCISCO - A wider interest among working people about conditions on the railroads is one result of the mid-April one-day strike that brought freight transported by rail to a screeching halt across the country.

In the past, the robber employers and their government rail unions and the outcome of the work stoppage has also challenged the rail companies and the bipartisan stand in Washington, the top union officials immediately ordered the strikers back to work.

The last national rail contract was signed in 1985. It expired three years ago and rail bosses have been pushing for massive concessions ever since. Last year, President Bush set up a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) to mediate the dispute between the two sides. In that period, the PEB made recommendations that were deemed unacceptable by most union members.

In Grand Island, a member of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Local 1730, explained the importance of this case for the members. We, the main 'minorities and historically have made 60 percent less than other crafts. Over the life of the contract, they're offering, well, shoving down our wages. This allowed Congress to pass laws to order us back to work. Not wanting to embarrass their union bosses was coming to a head in mid-April and looked forward to extending solidarity with such a fight. Millions are looking for a strike battle to unfold that can take on the employers' tactics and shut down production. Railworker's rally in Wyoming in mid-April. Many working people knew conflict with rail bosses was coming and looking forward to extending solidarity with such a fight. Millions are looking for a strike battle to unfold that can take on the employers' tactics and shut down production.

UNION TALK

Two switchmen and a welder who work in the Union Pacific yards near San Francisco spoke to an audience of 50. Brian Lewis, local chairman of the Transport Union Local 1730, discussed the history of the union. "In the 1930's, the Railway Labor Act came into being. This allowed Congress to pass laws to order us back to work," he explained.

Not wanting to embarrass their union bosses was coming to a head in mid-April and looked forward to extending solidarity with such a fight. Millions are looking for a strike battle to unfold that can take on the employers' tactics and shut down production.

TAMAR ROSENFIELD

Rodney King

I am a man of color raised in Harlem but am presently incarcerated in Nebraska, a state that houses a 2 percent minority population but a 41 percent minority prison population. As a member of the Student National Congress of Black Students, I am a man of color raised in Nebraska, and a man of color raised in Nebraska, a state that houses a 2 percent minority population but a 41 percent minority prison population. As a member of the Student National Congress of Black Students, I am a man of color raised in Nebraska, and a man of color raised in Nebraska, a state that houses a 2 percent minority population but a 41 percent minority prison population. As a member of the Student National Congress of Black Students, I am a man of color raised in Nebraska, and a man of color raised in Nebraska, a state that houses a 2 percent minority population but a 41 percent minority prison population. 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New York mayor uses ‘fiscal crisis’ to aim budget cuts at working people

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — In a new escalation of attacks on working people, Mayor David Dinkins announced he will impose $1.5 billion in cuts in city jobs and social services.

The severe measures are being carried out under the guise of reducing and obtaining financing for the deficit in this year’s municipal budget. City officials expect a $3.5 billion deficit for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The city’s fiscal crisis has hit as the state government is implementing $4.5 billion in cuts in education and other areas in order to finance a $6.5 billion deficit.

But the mayor didn’t stop there. He said further cuts would be by 44 percent, the parks department by 39 percent, the sanitation department by 22 percent, and mental health services by 25 percent. Ten homeless shelters are to be closed as well. The total is also called $1 billion in tax increases.

A $1.8 billion program to put thousands more cops on the streets will go ahead, Dinkins said.

Wants union concessions

In addition to preparing the ground for big new cuts in services — on top of the $1 billion already being implemented — Dinkins is using the threatened layoffs and cutbacks to press municipal unions to accept $700 million in takebacks. He indicated that the scope of the service cuts would be reduced somewhat if the unions went along and other additional funds were obtained.

Getting the unions to accept takebacks without a fight will make it easier for the governor to get his restrainin g austerity program on working people here.

“The fiscal challenge today is largely the direct result of a failing national economy,” Dinkins said. “We must make sure that the children grow up with health clinics, swimming pools, libraries — all the things I had when I was growing up.”

The Sanitation Department, led by John F.Walsh, president of AFSCME Local 237, which organizes employees of the Parks and Recreation Department and some other city workers, voiced dis­approval. “He’s going totally against the entire platform that he won [the election] on,” said Dinkins.

State cuts as well

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, who is seeking to impose a wage freeze and layoffs on the state’s workers, also joined the effort to squeeze takebacks out of city workers. Cuomo warned that the city could get no state aid for its budget crunch unless the unions yield. He is also hinting that the state’s Financial Control Board, set up in 1975, might take over regulation of city finances, as it is currently empowered to do if the city has a deficit of 25 percent or more after the fiscal year ends June 30.

“While urging cooperation, not control,” Cuomo stressed that “you cannot have a control period without first admitting failure.”

Felix Rohatyn, a banker who is chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, floated a plan to link union concessions to refunding $1 billion of the city’s debt over four years. MAC was set up in the fiscal crisis in the 1970s to guarantee the bonds the city issues to finance its debt.

Union officials had demanded that MAC provide cash before they would agree to sell concessions to the union membership — a reflection of their claim that the solution to the fiscal problems is for the billionaire own­ers of banks and corporations to “share the pain” with workers who are employed by the city or who need social services.

Rohatyn dropped the plan, however, when Standard & Poor’s downgraded the city’s bonds further in order to get rate­cuts on city bond issues — stated that the city’s credit rating would be damaged by the MAC plan. That would also mean that the city’s other capitalists would demand higher interest rates before purchasing city bonds or might not buy them at all.

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