

THE MILITANT

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INSIDE
Cuba demands extradition
of U.S.-protected terrorists

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VOL. 56/NO. 23 June 12, 1992

Embargo is no solution for ending Yugoslav war

Huge anti-war march demands end to carnage

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington and London have sharply stepped-up their intervention in the war in Yugoslavia under United Nations cover.

Making their plans loud and clear, the new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Edward Perkins, threatened "increasingly severe treatment" after the United Nations Security Council voted May 30 to impose an embargo on trade with Serbia and Montenegro.

"Anybody who believes that this is the last word on this matter from the Security Council is in for a bad surprise," stated British UN ambassador David Hannay after the vote. The embargo was approved by the Security Council virtually unanimously, with 13 votes in favor and two abstentions: China and Zimbabwe.

The UN resolution orders a ban on all air travel and trade including oil, but excluding food and medicine, subject to UN approval. It bans participation in international sporting events and demands a "significant reduc-

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Refugees fleeing the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia.

Bush tightens Haitian refugee policy

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Stepped-up repression by the military rulers in Haiti has forced a new and massive wave of emigration from the country. In May alone more than 10,000 Haitians took to the sea to escape abject poverty and political repression at the hands of the military officers who overthrew the democrat-

ically elected government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide last September.

In response, Washington ordered the Coast Guard to seize Haitians fleeing their country by boat on the high seas and to forcibly return them to the Caribbean country. This policy is being carried out under an executive order issued May 24 by U.S. pres-

ident George Bush.

The administration also announced it would remove all Haitian refugees from the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo, Cuba, where the U.S. government had dumped them as part of its policy of not allowing those fleeing persecution to come to the United States. The camp is now filled to capacity, with some 12,000 Haitians crammed into ill-equipped quarters.

The *New York Times* reported May 28 that 16 people had been killed and many others wounded in Port-au-Prince, the capital, in "the most violent week this city has experienced" since Aristide's overthrow. The regime issued an order barring civilians from owning handguns, as troops and police attacked government cities.

A prominent Haitian merchant, Georges Izmay, who is the brother of one of Aristide's most outspoken supporters, was gunned down in a death squad-style killing. Soldiers also detained the mayor of Port-au-Prince, Evans Paul, until a Canadian diplomat intervened on his behalf.

'Permanent, unofficial curfew'

"We are living in a permanent, unofficial curfew," said Lionel Jocelyn, a 35-year-old unemployed seaman in Petit-Goâve, a town where many Haitians come to catch boats to flee the country. "Every night there is a blackout here."

A prominent Haitian human rights attorney estimated that since the military coup between 20,000 and 25,000 Haitians have been arrested or have gone into hiding. "There are roundups all the time, and young men are either forced to go underground or set out to sea to survive," explained Rev. Jean Woudy Louis, a Roman Catholic priest in Petit-Goâve.

Since October, the U.S. Coast Guard has picked up 34,000 Haitians from 460 boats in international waters. About 9,000 people have been cleared to pursue asylum claims in the United States but only 6,000 have actually been allowed to set foot on U.S. soil.

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Warren speaks to Nationair workers

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

TORONTO — To applause from locked-out airline workers here, socialist candidate for U.S. president James Warren said that working people in the United States and around the world needed to fight employer and government assaults as part of an international class.

"What we have to do is to forget about the artificial borders that divide us, and build international working-class solidarity. That is how we will win," he told the rally of Nationair workers. "Unionists and workers and working farmers around the world are facing the same kind of attacks now focused on you."

The rally of some 200 trade unionists at the airport here May 28 celebrated the sixth month of the fight by 450 flight attendants against the Nationair airline. The workers, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), were locked out by the company last November during contract negotiations.

After the short rally, which was addressed by national and local CUPE leaders and Warren, groups of workers fanned out to establish spirited picket lines at ten entrances to the terminal complex.

Many of the pickets were captained by the young women flight attendants who have organized to maintain the momentum of the fight. Warren, a member of the United Steelworkers of America from Chicago, joined the picket squads for the afternoon.

For several hours, traffic around the terminal was seriously disrupted. Faced with determined lines and with young picketers leaning into their cabs to argue their case, a number of truck drivers readily agreed to turn around. Hundreds of leaflets outlining the issues in the fight were handed out to delivery drivers and workers in the terminal.

Taking advantage of "free trade in the air" deregulation policies, boss Robert Obadia has built Nationair into Canada's third larg-

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conference at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9



Volunteers are needed to help put the Socialist Workers presidential campaign on the ballot in nearly 25 states. Contribute to the \$75,000 fund to expand press coverage of the campaign, continue travel for the candidates, and produce national campaign literature. Join a petitioning team of volunteers to sign up youth and working people at campuses, working-class communities, plant gates, and street corners.

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Tel: (212) 675-6740. Or contact campaign supporters in your area (see page 12).

Paid for by the Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign Committee

Call issued for national meeting on cop brutality

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

A broad range of organizations in Minneapolis have called a national planning meeting for June 13 in the Twin Cities to discuss the possibility of national protests demanding federal prosecution of the cops who beat Rodney King.

The forces in the city launched this important initiative by sending out invitations to leaders and activists involved in protests against the Rodney King verdict across the United States. The letter is signed by a broad range of forces in Minnesota, including Brian Roberts, National Chairperson Elect of the Black Law Students Association; Vernon Bellecourt of the Indian Treaty Council; and Rev. Curtis Herron of the Zion Baptist Church.

This appeal follows a demonstration of
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Armenia, Azerbaijan at war

The military conflict between the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan over control of the majority-Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan is approaching full-scale war. In recent weeks Armenian forces have driven the last Azeris from the mountainous enclave of 150,000 people and have broken a corridor to the region through Azeri territory. The government of Turkey has also accused the Armenian regime of aggression against the Nakhichevan region of Azerbaijan, which is boxed between Armenia, Iran, and Turkey. "If another side gets involved in the [Armenia-Azerbaijan] conflict," threatened Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, commander of the joint command of the Commonwealth of Independent States, "we will be on the edge of World War III."

Moldova-Russia tensions rise

Mircea Snegur, president of the former Soviet republic of Moldova, said May 25 that war with Russia was possible unless his country was able to halt military activity in the breakaway Dniester region. Ethnic Russians there want the region to secede from Moldova. Snegur charges that Russian president Boris Yeltsin is using its control of the former Soviet 14th Army east of the Dniester river to support the separatists.

"The Moldovan parliament has to choose between two options," Snegur declared, "either to stop military activities in the Dniester region, which is not possible in my opinion, or to declare that Moldova is in a state of war with Russia." Reservists were called up by Snegur May 25 as part of a package of emergency measures.

Tensions rise in Korean peninsula

The South Korean government announced that its troops shot and killed three North Korean soldiers in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) May 22. Seoul, claiming the three had attempted to infiltrate the South, called on the North Korean government to admit its "misconduct." The DMZ, a two-mile-wide zone close to the 38th parallel, has divided the peninsula in two since the Korean War ended in 1953. Seoul said it captured two other North Korean soldiers and another escaped in the incident. Two South Korean soldiers were reportedly wounded in the shootout.

The North Korean government reacted harshly, branding the report a fabrication. "The South Korean puppets' outcries over infiltration from the North are a deliberate

and prearranged drama to get on our nerves and increase the tension," said a report from *Rodon Sinmun*, the daily of the Workers Party in North Korea. *Sinmun* charged that recent joint air exercises by U.S. and South Korean troops near the DMZ were "an extremely provocative war gamble." The paper charged Seoul with using the alleged incident to continue "open delaying tactics in implementing the North-South agreement." The pact, signed by the two governments in December, pledged mutual non-aggression and efforts to improve the ties between North and South Korea.

Thailand premier quits

Thailand's prime minister and former army general Suchinda Kraprayoon quit May 24 over his role in the killing by army troops of hundreds of protesters. Hundreds of thousands had demonstrated demanding his resignation over the preceding days. The parliament voted next day to amend the constitution so that future prime ministers must be elected. Opposition parties announced they will attempt to overturn a royal amnesty decree issued last weekend that bars the prosecution of Suchinda, now in hiding, and other government officials involved in the killings. Demonstrations continue demanding prosecution of the military officers responsible for the murders.

Clashes shake Nigeria regime

At least 500 people have been killed and as many as 800 wounded in Kaduna, in northern Nigeria, during clashes between different ethnic groups over land ownership in the past two weeks. The fighting in Kaduna followed a series of skirmishes between antigovernment demonstrators and riot police in Lagos, Nigeria's largest city, and other southern coastal towns. The antigovernment protests were triggered by a severe economic slump and fuel shortages in this oil-rich country in West Africa. Unemployment has risen sharply, while wages have fallen.

Since May 19, troops have enforced a curfew in Kaduna. All political, religious, and ethnic associations were banned except the two government-approved political parties. Nigeria's military rulers announced May 25 they will form a national guard to replace the police and the army and will quell unrest "using all means." General Ibrahim Babangida, chair of the Armed Forces Ruling Council, has promised elections later this year. But only the Social Democratic Party and the National Republican Convention will be allowed to take

part. Nigeria's military rulers created both parties and wrote their platforms.

Strikes in Spain

A half-day general strike was held in Spain May 28, called by the unions to protest unemployment benefit cuts, strike legislation, and layoffs. It was proclaimed a failure by the government and a success by the unions. At least 35 percent of the workforce in 4,210 companies nationwide took part. The government said it would not consider withdrawing the benefit cuts, announced as a first step in its effort to get Spain to join the European Community economic and monetary union in 1997.

Toronto abortion clinic bombed

An early morning blast May 18 destroyed one of Ontario's four abortion clinics in Toronto. The clinic was owned by Henry Morgentaler, a doctor and leading activist in the fight for the right to choose abortion. About 1,000 abortion rights supporters rallied the next day at the clinic to protest the bombing, the first against a clinic in Canada. Members of Buffalo United for Choice, from Buffalo, New York — who spearheaded the recent victory against rightist attacks by Operation Rescue on clinics there — also attended the rally. Ontario's provincial New Democratic Party (NDP) government said it will help Morgentaler rebuild his clinic and will make funds available to improve security at abortion clinics.

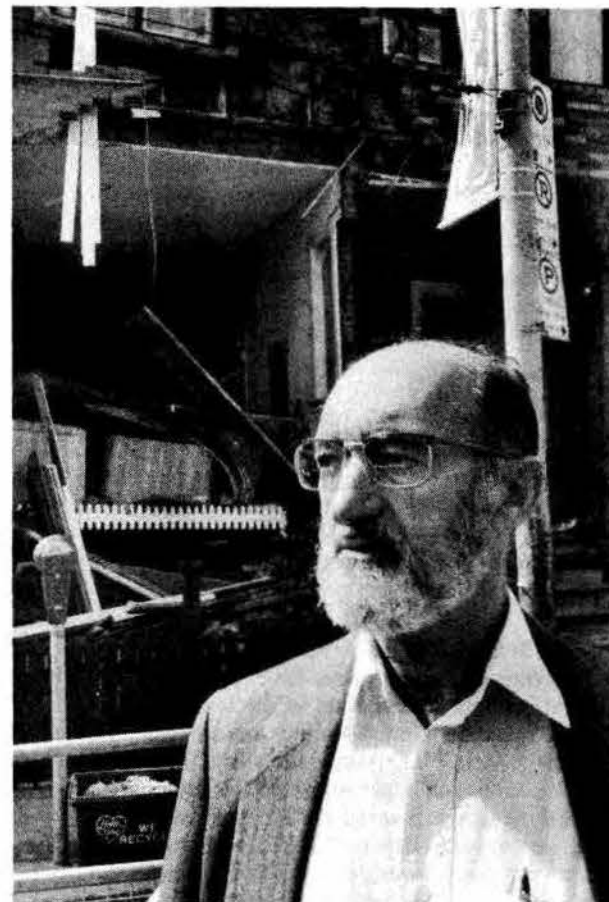
In a related development, Saskatchewan NDP minister of health Louise Simard announced May 13 that the province's medicare system would continue to fund abortions. Antiabortion groups have vowed to organize demonstrations protesting the decision. The former conservative government had won a nonbinding referendum to end medicare funding for abortions before it lost the election to the NDP.

Kosovo secedes from Serbia

On May 25 an overwhelming majority of the population of Kosovo, a territory in the southern part of the Yugoslav republic of Serbia, voted to secede from Serbia. The balloting involved only ethnic Albanians, who comprise 90 percent of the 2.1 million residents of Kosovo. There are about 200,000 Serbs in the region. The vote was deemed illegal by Belgrade and by local Serbian officials who, under the state of emergency declared two years ago, control all aspects of Kosovo's government. The Serbian regime has pledged force to prevent any attempt at secession.

Airbus goes after Boeing

Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft manufacturing consortium, is launching an



Morgentaler outside bombed Toronto abortion clinic

attack on one of the few remaining strongholds dominated by its U.S. rival Boeing — the market for jetliners with fewer than 150 seats. The company announced May 22 it would begin marketing a 124-seat jetliner to compete with Boeing's top-selling 737 jet. Airbus nearly matched Boeing's new orders last year and has signed up 14 of the 17 largest airlines in the world as customers.

A decade ago U.S.-based Boeing and McDonnell Douglas accounted for nearly 100 percent of new orders for large passenger aircraft in the world. Today the European consortium, supported by the French, German, British, and Spanish governments, commands 30 percent of the world market of new orders.

Record unemployment in Israel

Unemployment in Israel, already at a record 11 percent, continues to rise. It has already topped 35 percent among new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Israel's central bank recently warned that failure to create new jobs or to attract new investment is leading to economic stagnation. The gross domestic product grew 5.1 percent last year as the influx of Soviet Jews spurred home-building, including more settlements in the occupied territories of West Bank and Gaza. But the inability of immigrants to find work has led to a subsequent sharp decrease in immigration. In some towns tent cities of unemployed Israelis unable to buy or rent apartments have sprung up.

—ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

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Booksellers help rebuild Pathfinder store

BY SETH GALINSKY

Efforts to rebuild the Pathfinder Bookstore in Los Angeles won broad new support at the American Booksellers Association annual convention in Anaheim, California, this past week. Major publishing houses, prominent individuals, and noted writers responded to a request for funds, books, and other materials after the Southern California Booksellers Association (SCBA) put out an appeal for support for the Pathfinder and the Aquarian bookstores. The effort won the backing of the American Booksellers Association and became a central discussion at the convention.

The Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore was destroyed after the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King. A fire set in an adjoining shoe store spread, burning the book shop to the ground. Aquarian was also razed during the Los Angeles events.

The rebuilding effort has received coverage in the *New York Times*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and the *Orange County Register* — a major Southern California daily that featured the campaign on the front page of its metro section (see article below).

"I am honored to be here with the owners of the two burned-down bookstores," said Eduardo Galeano, one of Latin America's best known writers, at a May 26 breakfast of 2,000 people sponsored by the ABA during the four-day convention.

ing the four-day convention.

Seated at the head table, along with Galeano and former U.S. president James Carter, were Alfred and Bernice Ligon, co-owners of the Aquarian Bookstore, Eli Green, manager of the Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore, and Rich Stuart from Pathfinder Press in New York.

Charles Taylor, from the Multicultural Publishers Exchange gave an update to the crowd on efforts to aid the two stores.

More than 27,000 people in the publishing industry from the United States and around the world participated in the convention, one of the largest trade book fairs in the world.

Articles in special convention editions of *Publishers Weekly* and the *Daily ABA Program & Convention News*, encouraged those attending to contribute to the rebuilding effort and talk to representatives of the stores.

'Important stores for the community'

"We started putting all the information we could together as soon as possible," SCBA president Gwen Feldman told the *Daily ABA Program and Convention News*. "People in the community said these stores were very important to them."

"This is something that we can all come together on, and it's important to do some-

thing for our city," she added. "Fifty bucks, credit memos, fixtures — whatever it is — when you put it all together, we will have what it takes."

Thousands of convention participants stopped by Pathfinder Press's booth, which it shared with the Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore. The booth included a photo display on the destruction and the temporary location Pathfinder secured just down the street from the old location. Many convention-goers were impressed that one third of the Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore sales are of Spanish-language books.

Sandra Pucci, who is the director of the Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore Fund, helped staff the booth. "Ten or twenty people came by in one day alone and offered to make financial contributions," she said.

"People just couldn't believe that, in just a few days after the fire, we were up and running again," Pucci said in a phone interview. "We explained that it was quite an effort and how we received broad-based community support. A sign painter came in and helped. All kinds of people pitched in."

Pucci noted that the Pathfinder Bookstore has already collected about \$6,000 for a special Pathfinder Bookstore Fund. Several hundred contributions were made by people from the community. Many customers, after buying books, leave their change in a collection box.

Workers at Chevron oil refinery and at McDonnell Douglas, an aerospace plant, have contributed to the drive. Donations have also been received from around the United States and Canada, including from Northwest Airline workers in Detroit.

"This shows the potential for continuing to reach out to working people, youth, and supporters of democratic rights to help in the effort to rebuild the Pathfinder Bookstore," said Eli Green. "Everyone who thinks the writings and speeches of work-

ing-class and revolutionary leaders — from Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin to Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, and Fidel Castro — should be available in the Los Angeles area is encouraged to help out."

"We want to thank everyone who has contributed, from the book publishers and others who have donated to the SCBA fund for the two bookstores, to those who have contributed directly to the Pathfinder Bookstore Fund," Pucci said. "We really couldn't have been back in operation, we couldn't have gotten anything, without the community help."

Among the contributions to the rebuilding efforts of the two bookstores announced or made at the ABA convention:

- \$5,000 each from the African-American Publishers, Booksellers, and Writers Association and the National ABA Board of Directors for the SCBA fund.
- Random House publishers pledged to replace all its titles that were damaged or destroyed at Pathfinder and Aquarian on a one-to-one basis and extend a year's line of credit.
- Ingram Book Company extended a line of credit.
- Ediciones Era, a Mexico-based publisher, forgave Pathfinder's \$210 debt.
- The University of California donated its collection of Marcus Garvey and Martin Luther King papers to the Aquarian Bookstore.
- A bookstore in Las Vegas donated shelves and other fixtures to the fund.
- The Multicultural Publishers Exchange donated books and fixtures.
- The Brookings Institution donated all the books in its booth at the end of the event to Pathfinder.
- The University Of Chicago Press and The Distributors, a South Bend, Indiana, distributor announced book donations to the two stores.

Arizona prison authorities punish inmates for honoring Malcolm X

BY SETH GALINSKY

Prison authorities at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) in Phoenix, Arizona, have punished 20 prisoners for holding a peaceful march in honor of Malcolm X's birthday.

About 60 to 80 prisoners walked around the track May 19 in the prison's recreation area in an impromptu action. The next day, 20 prisoners were rounded up by a black-uniformed police unit called the Special Operations Response Team.

Dubbed the "Malcolm X 20" by fellow inmates, they were placed in the "Special Housing Unit" where they are locked up 23 hours a day, 5 days a week, and denied personal items, like shaving cream and soap. They have also been refused medical attention and are not released for exercise or recreation.

In a telephone interview from the prison, inmate Balagoon Moyenda, education chairman of the African Culture Workshop there, explained that FCI authorities had "been panicked" ever since the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King. The authorities feared that prisoners will react against the not guilty verdict, he said. Moyenda is accused of being a leader of the Malcolm X action and is one of those in the Special Housing Unit.

The authorities got even jumpier, Moyenda stated, after prisoners from Lompoc Federal Penitentiary in Lompoc, California, were transferred in, a few days before the Malcolm X walk. These prisoners had staged a work stoppage in Lompoc to protest poor working conditions, exposure to hazardous materials, and overcrowding there.

Prisoners involved in a rebellion sparked by the King verdict at Terminal Island in San Pedro, California, were also transferred to FCI.

According to Moyenda, there are now 1,400 prisoners at FCI, much more than its capacity of 500. "They have people lying on the floor," he said.

In the Special Housing Unit cell next to Moyenda is an Anglo prisoner who is on a hunger strike. "He has been accused of setting a fire," Moyenda said. "But he didn't do anything and no charges have been filed against him."

"They're making an example of him," Moyenda explained, for associating with Black prisoners and attending meetings of the African Culture Workshop.

Moyenda has also been on a hunger strike since being placed in the administrative unit. "Prisoners are just like everyone else, both whites and Blacks," he stated. "We want to fight against injustice and racism. The struggle here involves inmates from different backgrounds. It's part of the international movement."

Contacted by phone, authorities at FCI

refused to comment on conditions at the prison.

Moyenda requested that letters protesting the crackdown at the prison be sent to the Africa Culture Workshop at the Federal Correctional Institution, Box 1700, Black Canyon Stage One, Phoenix, AZ 85027-9741.

Riot-stricken bookstore seeks helping hand

By Marilyn Kalfus
The Orange County Register

ANAHEIM — Most merchants showed up at the American Booksellers Association convention to restock.

Sandra Pucci came to rebuild. The Pathfinder Bookstore, where she is a volunteer clerk, was destroyed April 30 in the Los Angeles riots.

The owners hope to resurrect the Pico Heights store with help from the nation's booksellers.

Pucci, 34, a college English instructor, stood in a booth at the Anaheim Convention Center on Monday beside a large photograph of the gutted storefront and a blow-up of a May 11 Publishers Weekly story detailing the destruction.

Pathfinder's supporters were seeking assistance from the more than 25,000 people who traipsed through the weekend trade show. Their needs: Money. Books. A good carpenter.

The destruction of Pathfinder came as a shock, Pucci said.

"We have books," she recalled thinking as nearby stores were looted and ravaged. "We're not a hot commodity."

But Pucci later watched in horror as the bookstore, known for its selection of works by Malcolm X, Che Guevara, Nelson Mandela and other revolutionary leaders, was engulfed in fire shortly after it closed for the day.

About 3,000 books were destroyed. The rented storefront was demolished. Damage to books and equipment totaled \$18,000.

"There's nothing left," Pucci told the authors, publishers and booksellers who wandered by the Pathfinder booth.

Fliers were distributed seeking contributions to Pathfinder and the



Steven Georges/For The Orange County Register

Sandra Pucci, a volunteer at Pathfinder Bookstore in Los Angeles, which was destroyed in the riots there, mans a booth at the convention.

Aquarian Bookstore in south-central Los Angeles, also destroyed in the riots.

A flier described Aquarian as one of the oldest black-owned bookstores in the nation. "Aquarian's inventory of over 10,000 titles, including a collection of rare books by African-American writers, was lost in flames," it stated.

Neither store had insurance, Pucci said, because premiums had been too high since the 1965 Watts riots.

Pucci said Pathfinder is owned by a partnership in Los Angeles and is not an outlet of Pathfinder Press, although it sells many of the New York publisher's books. The store also served as the political hub of the Socialist Workers Party.

A few days after the fire, Path-

finder re-opened in a vacant storefront nearby with only about 30 books. So far, the store has received \$5,000 in contributions from the community, Pucci said.

Those wishing to make a contribution to Pathfinder and Aquarian can contact the Bookstore Relief Fund, c/o Southern California Booksellers Association, 1223 Wilshire Blvd., #526, Santa Monica 90403.

Pathfinder also has a separate fund, c/o Pathfinder Bookstore, 2552-B Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 90006.

Today is the last day of the convention, which featured more than 1,900 exhibitors from the book industry. The event is open to the industry only and not to the general public.

Campaigning for socialism with the 'Militant'



Militant

SWP candidates Mark Severs campaigning at Seattle/Tacoma airport (left) and Ed Warren (at left in second picture) selling the 'Militant' to locked-out 'New York Times' drivers.



Militant/Stephen Bloodworth

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Supporters of the Socialist Workers candidates are beginning to organize their political activity around daily campaigning for the socialist alternative in 1992. Campaign activists have been joining protests, strikes, and other actions across the country, petitioning to get socialist candidates on the ballot, and setting up literature tables and selling subscriptions to the campaign newspaper the *Militant*.

The big political events in the world today, and their often explosive character—from Thailand to Los Angeles—offer op-

portunities for socialist campaigners to present working-class answers to the reactionary policies of the Democrats and Republicans who have nothing more to offer than new wars, racism, and economic depression.

Socialist campaigners win a real hearing for the idea that workers and youth around the world need to join a common international struggle against the impact of the capitalist economic crisis and its imperialist wars. Many young people who have met campaign supporters are anxious to get involved in various activities, from petitioning, to setting up speaking engagements, to

circulating the *Militant*.

Campaigners in a number of areas report sales of large numbers of single copies of the *Militant*. Through consistent follow-up discussions, many of these individuals, who have had a chance to read the political perspective put forward in the *Militant*, can be convinced to subscribe.

In New York City, 48 copies of the *Militant* and 6 subscriptions have been sold at the picket lines of locked-out members of the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers' Union of New York and Vicinity (NMDU). These unionists waged a militant three-week fight against the *New York Times*. During the past week alone NMDU members bought 3 subscriptions and 21 copies of the paper. Several of these new subscribers decided to sign up after reading the *Militant* and seeing the coverage of labor struggles and major political developments in the world today.

Socialist campaign supporters in Los Angeles, who have been selling a large number of papers in response to the Rodney King verdict and the antipolice riot there, jumped to second place on the subscription scoreboard chart. The *Militant* business office reports receiving the highest number of subscriptions from Los Angeles last week—15 to the *Militant* and 27 to *Perspectiva Mundial*. During the past three weeks supporters there have turned in 53 *Militant* subscriptions and 42 *Perspectiva Mundial* subs.

New Zealand supporters of the *Militant* are at 79 percent of their goal! Together with supporters in Sweden, who stand at 80 percent of the goal, they continue to lead the international circulation drive.

Felicity Coggan writes from Wellington, New Zealand: "This past week we sold 10 *Militant* subscriptions and 2 copies of *New International*. A young nurse who stopped by our table Saturday commented, 'We'll be fighting soon,' in response to the *Militant's* coverage of union struggles. She bought a copy of the *Militant* and left her phone number so we could contact her about a subscription."

Supporters in Australia received a wonderful response at a conference in solidarity with Cuba held in Melbourne May 9-10. Craig Foster writes: "Six *Militant* subscriptions, 14 single copies, 1 *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 2 *New Internationals* were sold from a book stall set up at the conference. There was considerable interest in the articles about Cuba and the anger in Los Angeles

following the Rodney King verdict. One new subscriber wanted to take a bundle of papers for sales at an Aboriginal community center."

From Philadelphia, Pete Seidman writes: "On Saturday, May 23, a Socialist Workers campaign and sales team sold 12 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* to Mexican farm workers who harvest mushrooms in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, described as the 'mushroom capital of the world.'"

Joining the scoreboard this week with newly adopted goals are Portland, Oregon, and Wilmington, Delaware. Supporters in the United Auto Workers have joined the "Selling the socialist press to unionists" scoreboard with a subscription goal of 75. Members of the United Transportation Union, after meeting an excellent response to the circulation campaign, have decided to raise their goal by 15 subscriptions to 60.

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold (Goal)	Sold	Goal	% Sold
UNITED STATES				
ACTWU	36%	55	20	25
IAM	41%	110	45	19
ILGWU	48%	46	22	5
OCAW	82%	39	32	15
UAW	69%	75	52	15
UFCW	49%	90	44	30
USWA	60%	85	51	20
UTU**	78%	60	47	20
TOTAL	56%	560	313	149
SHOULD BE	72%	403		107
AUSTRALIA				
MTFU	80%	5	4	2
SHOULD BE	72%		4	1
BRITAIN				
AEU	0%	10	0	5
NUM	10%	10	1	0
RMT	76%	17	13	14
TGWU	47%	15	7	5
TOTAL	68%	52	21	24
SHOULD BE	72%		37	17
CANADA				
ACTWU	63%	8	5	3
CAW	33%	15	5	2
IAM	60%	5	3	2
USWA	25%	16	4	8
TOTAL	39%	44	17	15
SHOULD BE	72%		32	11
SWEDEN				
FOOD WORKERS	50%	4	2	3
METALWORKERS	100%	7	7	3
TOTAL	82%	11	9	6
SHOULD BE	72%		8	4

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MTFU — Metal Trades Federation of Unions; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers Union; TGWU — Transport and General Workers' Union; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America.

* Also includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.
** Raised goal



Militant/Bob Buchan

Selling the 'Militant' in London

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		L'inter-nationale		New International		Total	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Des Moines, IA	130	83	64%	25	13	2	1	40	9	197	106
Los Angeles	180	110	61%	100	62	4	0	110	43	394	215
Seattle	120	73	61%	35	18	3	3	25	11	183	105
Salt Lake City	130	79	61%	20	5	2	0	30	9	182	93
Pittsburgh	90	54	60%	5	4	2	0	30	3	127	61
Twin Cities, MN	140	74	53%	20	10	2	0	30	6	192	90
Houston	80	41	51%	20	11	2	0	20	6	122	58
Birmingham, AL	80	40	50%	5	1	2	0	40	1	127	42
St. Louis	100	50	50%	5	1	2	0	25	1	132	52
Greensboro, NC	80	39	49%	8	6	2	1	15	0	105	46
San Francisco	150	73	49%	50	7	8	0	70	36	278	116
Washington DC	130	63	48%	20	19	10	0	55	16	215	98
Chicago	150	72	48%	35	14	5	0	70	14	260	100
Morgantown, WV	80	37	46%	3	2	2	0	30	7	115	46
Detroit	140	64	46%	10	3	2	0	30	17	182	84
Atlanta	90	38	42%	8	5	2	1	30	12	130	56
Boston	135	56	41%	40	22	15	2	50	22	240	102
Philadelphia	85	35	41%	20	22	3	0	30	12	138	69
Baltimore	110	44	40%	12	6	3	2	30	5	155	57
New Haven, CT	10	4	40%	2	1	0	0	3	0	15	5
Newark, NJ	160	57	36%	50	8	15	4	70	21	295	90
New York	250	83	33%	100	10	20	1	110	20	480	114
Cleveland	90	29	32%	10	1	2	1	20	8	122	39
Portland	10	3	30%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3
Miami	110	32	29%	30	16	15	14	45	20	200	82
Cincinnati*	39	11	28%	3	0	0	0	5	2	47	13
Ft. Madison, IA	5	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Wilmington, DE	10	1	10%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1
U.S. TOTAL	2,874	1,345	47%	636	267	125	30	1,013	301	4,648	1,943
AUSTRALIA											
	45	7	16%	14	3	1	0	10	2	70	12
BELGIUM											
	3	1	33%	1	0	12	1	8	2	24	4
BRITAIN											
Sheffield	50	29	58%	3	1	2	0	25	5	80	35
Manchester	50	23	46%	2	0	1	0	30	8	83	31
London	80	33	41%	6	1	2	0	40	10	128	44
BRITAIN TOTAL	180	85	47%	11	2	5	0	95	23	291	110
CANADA											
Vancouver	90	62	69%	15	4	5	2	30	11	140	79
Toronto	90	43	48%	20	11	5	2	45	8	160	64
Montreal	75	32	43%	20	16	30	12	60	30	185	90
CANADA TOTAL	255	137	54%	55	31	40	16	135	49	485	233
FRANCE											
	5	0	0%	2	0	15	1	5	3	27	4
ICELAND											
	20	13	65%	1	0	1	0	5	1	27	14
MEXICO											
	0	0	0%	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Wellington	40	39	98%	1	0	1	0	10	4	52	43
Auckland	55	41	75%	5	1	1	0	13	2	74	44
Christchurch	40	26	65%	1	0	1	0	10	1	52	27
Other, N.Z.	4	4	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
N.Z. TOTAL	139	110	79%	7	1	3	0	33	7	182	118
PUERTO RICO											
	1	0	0%	5	1	0	0	2	0	8	1
SWEDEN*											
	70	56	80%	30	18	3	0	15	12	118	86
TOTAL	3,589	1,753	50%	767	323	205	48	1,321	400	5,885	2,525
SHOULD BE		2520	72%		540		144		900		4,104
DRIVE GOALS	3,500			750		200		1,250		5,700	

* raised goal

France, Germany plan joint army corps

Icy U.S. reaction highlights rivalries and tensions between imperialist powers

BY SETH GALINSKY

The May 22 announcement that the French and German governments plan to form a 35,000-member joint army corps received a chilly reception in Washington and London.

The plan and the reaction to it highlight the degree of tensions and rivalries between the imperialist powers more than a year after the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

According to President François Mitterrand of France and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, the so-called Eurocorps will be the nucleus of an army that will give the European Community its "own military capability." French officials point to Yugoslavia as an example of the type of conflicts where the force could be involved.

The corps will be based at the start on an existing 4,200-member joint brigade stationed in Strasbourg, France. If the plan is implemented, these would be the first German troops stationed on French territory since World War II. The full force is scheduled to become operational near the end of 1995.

Washington and London are not at all pleased. A high-ranking British official told the *New York Times* that the corps would create "confusion and uncertainty," and asked, "What precisely is it there for?"

U.S. officials have made no formal statements, but have told the press and European diplomats that the Eurocorps will undermine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the U.S.-led military alliance.

What concerns Washington and London is not some abstract discussion on the role



German troops training. Bonn and Paris project joint unit as nucleus of European Community force.

of NATO — Bonn claims that the force would strengthen the alliance — but the relative importance of U.S. military might in Europe and around the world.

Trying to head off Washington's German and French rivals, U.S. Gen. John Galvin, NATO supreme commander for Europe, last

year proposed a new NATO-commanded rapid reaction force of 70,000 soldiers to be headed by Britain, Washington's closest ally.

The London *Financial Times* reports that "France saw the plan as a crude bid to pre-empt its own efforts to create a European defence structure that would be some-

thing more than a by-product of Nato."

The French government has long resented Washington's influence in Europe. Then president Charles de Gaulle withdrew France from NATO's military command in 1966. But with the rising dominance of Germany in Europe and the end of the Cold War, Paris saw an opportunity to further push back the United States.

Constrained by its defeat in World War II and continued resistance within Germany to its militarization drive, the Bonn government has been seeking ways to flex its muscles. German leaders know that to maintain its economic and political position and really be the number one power in Europe, it must ultimately be capable of backing its words with military action.

The opposition Social Democratic Party says that the Eurocorps could violate the German constitution by committing troops beyond NATO's borders and has pledged to block any amendment that would end the prohibition. A change in the constitution requires a two-thirds majority in parliament.

An indication of antimilitarist sentiment among working people in Germany is the number of conscientious objectors; figures reached an all time high with 151,000 last year alone.

During the war against Iraq, German military commitment was limited to a squadron of 18 fighter planes stationed in Turkey, a NATO member.

For similar reasons, no German soldiers have joined United Nations "peacekeeping" troops. But in a policy shift, some German military doctors were recently sent to Cambodia as part of UN forces there, without significant public opposition.

Bonn sees the Eurocorps as a way "of easing the constraints on German military involvement abroad," the *Financial Times* reports.

Tensions between Bonn and Paris

Despite the public announcement, implementation of the Eurocorps is not guaranteed. Although other governments are invited to participate, so far only Belgium, Spain, and Luxembourg have shown interest. Britain and the Netherlands are opposed. And Paris and Bonn themselves have had a stormy relationship over the years.

The French and Spanish governments were "infuriated" with Bonn last year, the press reported at the time, over Germany's proposal to recognize Croatian and Slovenian independence from Yugoslavia. Most recently, Bonn has been pushing for sanctions against Serbia, while France, Russia, and Greece have been opposed.

Some of the tensions are reflected in the existing symbolic French-German brigade. While ostensibly a joint force where German is spoken one day and French the next, each government's troops have separate codes of discipline, pay structures, and radio systems. Even the ammunition they use is not interchangeable.

Lebanon crisis sparks general strike

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

On May 7, the General Confederation of Lebanese Workers (CGTL) suspended a four-day general strike that had shut down the entire country. The suspension followed the announcement by Prime Minister Omar Karameh that the entire cabinet had resigned. The CGTL has a membership of 200,000 and has 60 union affiliates. It is one of the few organizations that has Muslim, Druze, and Christian members, and is by far the largest of these. Its president, Antoine Bechara, is a Christian.

The general strike, which was the largest action carried out by Lebanese unions since the inception of the civil war in 1975, was accompanied by large scale protests and riots, in particular in the southern majority-Muslim cities of Sidon, Tyre, and Nabatieh. The strike, however, was nationwide in character.

The CGTL had demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Karameh's cabinet, which has been the focus of corruption allegations, and also demanded a government policy that seeks to shore up the national currency — the Lebanese Lira (LL).

The strike was sparked by a crash in the LL, which in the beginning of May hit a record

low of 2,100 LL to the U.S. dollar. In 1975 the LL was rated at 2.5 LL to the dollar, and a year ago at 940 LL to the dollar. Immediately following the news of the drop in the LL, demonstrations broke out in many cities.

Most of Lebanon's consumer products, much of its food, and all its fuel are imported. This means that the drop in the value of the LL has a direct and devastating impact on the purchasing power of the population. With the new drop, the average monthly salary now stands at \$57. Many Lebanese immigrants returning to the United States from recent visits to Lebanon indicate that prices for fuel and food are beyond the reach for even middle-class families.

1989 accords

In 1989 the main Lebanese factions representing various wings of the capitalist class, under the auspices of Saudi Arabia and Syria, signed the Taif Accords. These accords reformed Lebanon's sectarian religious constitution giving Muslims more of a share in the parliament and the government. The accords, however, did not in any way fundamentally change the sectarian religious system. For example, the president and the commander of the army are to re-

main Maronite Catholics even though Christians are a minority. The accords also left the Israeli and Syrian armies in control of large parts of the country. The Taif Accords reflected a shift by the Lebanese bourgeoisie toward an alliance with Syria.

A very bloody battle was waged in 1990 to defeat and dislodge the fascist chief of the army, General Michel Aoun, who adamantly opposed the accords and proclaimed himself "President of the Republic." The battle lasted several months and destroyed much of Beirut. Aoun was defeated with the help of Syria and finally fled under French naval protection to France in 1991.

After the defeat of Aoun, the government of President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Karameh moved to disarm the militias. They used this excuse to attack the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and deal it some blows in Sidon in the summer of 1991. There are an estimated 6,000 PLO fighters in Sidon.

The new government estimated the cost of reconstruction at \$25 billion. Yet by April 1991 only \$821 million in aid was promised by the European Economic Community and Saudi Arabia. At that time official unemployment stood at 33 percent and another quarter of the population had emigrated due to worsening conditions during the war.

The government also began implementing austerity measures. They halted a wheat subsidy program and established a fuel tax and custom's duties. The latest austerity measure was the Central Bank's decision in February of this year to stop shoring up the LL. This led to the immediate collapse of the currency and the subsequent rise in prices.

The daily life of the population has been further degraded by continued electrical power outages and water cutoffs that last several hours.

Following these events, in mid-May Israel launched massive bombing raids on villages in southern Lebanon where they claim the pro-Iranian group Hezbollah has a strong presence. On May 25, the Israeli bombardment killed two small girls and their parents, and wounded six others. Some 14,000 people have abandoned their homes in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley in fear of continued Israeli attacks.

Georges Mehrabian is a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 101 in San Francisco, and is the Socialist Workers candidate for the 13th State Assembly District in California.

'Times' drivers ratify new contract

BY KATHARINE O'NEILL

NEW ROCHELLE, New York — "Very tense." That is how *New York Times* delivery driver Ozzie Ventresca described the atmosphere at the newspaper's distribution plant here, as drivers braced themselves for the second night back at work after a three-week lockout. The workers, members of the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers' Union of New York and Vicinity (NMDU), ratified new contracts May 28.

The fight began when the *Times* demanded sweeping concessions in working conditions and wages from the 220 truck drivers who deliver the paper. The dispute took on wider significance as many workers in the industry recognized the attack as part of the broader and longer-range attempts by the bosses to radically alter wages, work rules, and union strength to the benefit of the wealthy owners of the *Times* and other newspapers.

The 2,900-member NMDU, which organizes drivers for the *Times* and other newspapers in the New York area, resoundingly

rejected the initial contract proposal May 6. The following day all *Times* drivers were replaced with scabs by Imperial Delivery Service, a firm that had bought the assets of the newspaper company's two distribution plants.

A slightly revised agreement, recommended by the executive board and three mediators, has now been approved by a small majority of union members after intense debate at two union meetings. One of the biggest objections raised was to the no-strike clause in the new contract, which expires in the year 2000.

Ventresca, union shop chairman at the New Rochelle distribution center, and other workers there reported that drivers returning to work had to run a gauntlet of video cameras, metal detectors, armed guards, and dogs. They also had to sign a list of 39 new work rules intended to regiment the workplace. Drivers waiting to go into work discussed how to continue the fight to defend their union in the face of the company's continued assault.

Activists discuss how to fight cop brutality

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Demonstrations and protests against police violence have taken place across Iowa since the verdict acquitting the cops who beat Rodney King in Los Angeles was announced.

One important event was a panel of Iowa activists against police brutality who spoke out at the May 9 Militant Labor Forum, held at the Pathfinder Bookstore.

The forum panel consisted of three leaders of antibrutality protests, Cory Williams, president of Students Against Police Abuse at Roosevelt High School; Robert Easterling, president of the Black Student Association at Iowa State University in Ames; and Cleve Andrew Pulley, a packinghouse worker and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Iowa.

Williams told more than 25 forum goers that many Roosevelt students were outraged about the King verdict and determined to act.

"Instead of using my anger in a negative way," Williams said, "I decided to do something in a positive way, to organize a walk-out, a protest."

The students walked out of class and out of the school. Williams led the protesters in a march that went back through the school two times, winning additional participants and support. The group is planning further activities to spotlight police brutality and racism.

"The beating of Larry Milton here in Des Moines caused the biggest protests in our community," Williams said, referring to the 35-year-old Black worker brutalized by the cops last December. "But not enough people stood up, and it just died off. The cops got off scot-free."

Organized meetings and demonstrations protesting the beating of Milton have fallen off. After the protests ebbed, the Polk County Grand Jury refused to indict the three cops who beat Milton. In addition, the

cops' own internal affairs department and the State Ombudsman's office released reports whitewashing the police beating.

Robert Easterling told the forum audience that the Black Student Association at Iowa State felt it had to organize a response to the King verdict. "There was a lot of media around Iowa State because of the annual Vieshea festival, so we decided to organize a contingent in the festival parade protesting the verdict," Easterling said. "At first we started with only 50 students, but, as we marched, hundreds and hundreds applauded and joined us. By the end of the march, there were over 3,000 people in our group."

Cleve Andrew Pulley explained that he thought the forum discussion was important because it involved activists who were contributing to finding a way to push back the growing monster of police brutality.

Pulley pointed to other instances of police violence in Des Moines. "Just this week, the Polk County Grand Jury decided not to return indictments against the county sheriffs who murdered Julius Bryan in cold blood," Pulley said. "As long as we don't mobilize, don't protest in the streets, they will exonerate themselves and step up their violence against us."

Pulley noted that one important advance in the struggle against police brutality had been made with the legal victory scored by Mark Curtis, a framed-up union and political activist. Curtis had recently won a federal civil rights lawsuit against the Des Moines cops who beat him while calling him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds," when they framed him on false charges of rape and burglary in 1988.

"Both in Los Angeles and in Des Moines we've got to press for the cops who brutalized Rodney King and Larry Milton to be brought to justice under federal civil rights laws," Pulley said. "To force these indictments, we must continue



Militant/Chris Remple

January 1992 protest in Des Moines, Iowa, against cop beating of Larry Milton.

to demonstrate and to protest — to turn up the heat."

Pulley took issue with the view expressed by Kalonji Saadiq, KUCB radio station manager and a leader of early protests against the police beating of Larry Milton. KUCB radio is based in the Black community in Des Moines.

At a recent city council meeting, Saadiq hailed the Los Angeles rioting and said he was vindicated in his statement that Blacks could make cities go "poof" overnight, "like we did in the sixties."

Pulley stated, "The LA riot was not a victory but a defeat. Look at the casualties

of Blacks and other working people. Look at the destruction and the 15,000 arrests."

Pulley further explained, "Threats of this kind do not frighten the rulers. Instead of riots or the threat of riots, we should have used all last year and this year to build massive street protests in Los Angeles and Des Moines. Such a policy would have advanced the possibility of winning some victories."

Activists demand federal charges.

On May 18, activists against police brutality held a press conference in Des Moines to demand federal indictments of the Los Angeles police who beat Rodney King, and charges against the cops who beat Larry Milton and killed Julius Bryan.

Organizers of the event included Dudley Allison, Community Support Force Direct Action chair, who faces frame-up charges stemming from videotaping an arrest; Jim Hester, Iowa spokesperson for the Congress of Racial Equality; Sonja Palmer, a leader of Mothers and Wives Against Police Brutality, who led two marches to demand that the cops who beat Milton be jailed; Cleve Andrew Pulley; and Cory Williams.

Three television stations and two radio reporters covered the conference and the *Des Moines Register* also ran an article on it the next day.

Joanne Murphy from Des Moines contributed to this article.

On death row for 10 years, Mexican worker wins postponement of his execution in Texas

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

HOUSTON — On May 11, frame-up victim Ricardo Aldape Guerra won a postponement of his scheduled May 12 execution. More than 200 supporters packed the courtroom and picketed outside during the May 11 hearing.

Aldape, a 30-year-old Mexican-born worker, has been on death row for 10 years. In 1982, he came to Houston from Monterrey, Mexico, looking for work. Within three months, he was arrested on frame-up charges of killing a Houston cop, tried, convicted, and sentenced to death.

On July 13, 1982, Aldape and a companion, Roberto Carrasco Flores, were stopped by a Houston cop. Carrasco shot the cop and was then killed when other policemen arrived.

Although Aldape was present, he had no part in the shooting. The murder weapon and the cop's own gun were found on Carrasco's dead body.

The only evidence against Aldape was testimony from police-coached witnesses, none of whom were able to identify him in a police line-up.

Throughout the trial, the prosecution displayed mannequins dressed in blood-stained clothing — supposedly representing Carrasco and Aldape. The prosecution smeared Aldape as an "illegal alien." Eyewitnesses to the killing, themselves immigrants, were intimidated from coming forward. The prosecution hid the existence of one such witness until after the trial.

Pressure on the government grew in the days leading up to the scheduled execution. On May 2, 400 people marched in Houston to defend Aldape. Signs at the march called for his freedom and justice for Rodney King.

Fifty people turned out for a meeting of the Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee on May 7 to plan the next steps in the fight. The following day the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), one of the largest Mexican-American organizations in the United States, announced its support for Aldape.

A contingent of Aldape supporters joined

a 500-strong demonstration in Houston for justice for Rodney King May 9. The same day, 300 supporters from both Mexico and the U.S. marched on the international bridge between Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Mexico. Demonstrations were also held in Mexico City, Monterrey, and other cities in Mexico.

Also on May 9, Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gortari wrote to Texas governor Ann Richards appealing for clemency. The Mexican House of Deputies and the National Human Rights Commission also came out for Aldape.

His case has been prominently covered in the Mexican news media and in the Houston-area Spanish-language press, as well as in the English-language press here.

Due to the successful campaign, the execution has been postponed until September 24 while the court considers



Rally in support of Ricardo Aldape

Aldape's motion for a new trial.

The defense committee is urging that messages in support of a new trial for Aldape be sent to: Judge Woody Densen, 248th District Judge, 301 San Jacinto St., Houston, TX 77002; and to: Court of Criminal Appeals, Capitol Station, P.O. Box 12308, Austin, TX 78711. Copies, and messages of support, should be sent to: Ricardo Aldape Guerra Defense Committee, 2510 Broad Street, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77087.

Rally demands Canadian government halt deportation of Nigerian refugee

BY JOHN MORTON AND NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — A rally at the Canadian immigration offices in downtown Vancouver was held May 14 to stop the deportation of Steven Ogunwuyi. Supporters of Ogunwuyi are demanding that the Canadian government grant him refugee status rather than deport him to Nigeria. "If I go back there I'll be killed — I'm certain of that," he explains.

Ogunwuyi, 23, came to Canada last year after being unknowingly implicated in a failed coup attempt against Nigeria's military ruler, General Ibrahim Babangida.

In April 1990 he helped his landlord load some heavy boxes onto a truck. The next day the coup attempt took place. When it failed, the landlord, a former army officer, was arrested. Ogunwuyi believes now that the crates he loaded probably had guns. He fled the country after finding out that the military was looking for him. More than 70 people suspected of involvement in the coup attempt have since been executed.

The Canadian Convention and Refugee Determination Division ruled that Ogunwuyi not be considered a refugee. He did not receive a fair hearing due to inadequate legal representation. He was not even informed of the denial until two days before

he was supposed to leave the country.

The Canadian government has imposed much sharper restrictions on immigration as the economic crisis has deepened. In 1989, 75 percent of refugee claimants were allowed to stay in Canada. This year, 50 percent of all applicants have been quickly rejected.

Ogunwuyi was to report to Canadian immigration on May 8 and be quickly deported. Fearing for his life, he sought refuge in the Collingwood United Church of Reverend Jim Manly, a former New Democratic Party member of Parliament.

Groups opposed to his deportation include the Vancouver chapter of Amnesty International, the Canadian Council of Churches, and the Vancouver Refugee Council.

On May 19, some 50 delegates to the Vancouver and District Labour Council adopted a motion supporting Ogunwuyi and called on the government to reverse the deportation order.

Messages to help stop the deportation should be sent to Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Immigration, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6, with copies to Svend Robinson, member of Parliament, at the same address. For more information call lawyer Phil Rankin, phone (604) 682-3621, or fax (604) 682-3919.

Socialist debates Nation of Islam leader in Minnesota

Nisan backs revolutionary perspective advocated by Malcolm X, Mandela

BY ERIC LONG
AND AUGUST NIMTZ

MINNEAPOLIS — An important political debate took place here recently between a leading official of the Nation of Islam and Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the Fifth Congressional District. Distinct and polarized views surfaced on issues as varied as the legacy of Malcolm X, the role of the African National Congress in the South African freedom struggle, and the Nation of Islam's participation in Democratic Party politics.

Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad, one of the highest-ranking officials in the Nation of Islam, was invited to speak at the University of Minnesota by the Africana Student Cultural Center. His talk, which lasted almost an hour and a half, was attended by some 800 people from the Twin Cities Black community.

In his speech Muhammad denounced white supremacy, Black "self-hatred," interracial relationships, and homosexuality, among other things. After his talk, Muhammad invited questions from the audience. One of the questioners wanted to know his response to the political analysis of the Nation by supporters of the Socialist Workers Party.

She summarized the socialists' position as being that the Nation of Islam is in the Democratic Party and on the side of the oppressors of Black people, and that under its founder, Elijah Muhammad, it "sold out" the civil rights movement owing to a deal with the Ku Klux Klan.

Muhammad denounced these views and demanded that whoever made such accusations reveal themselves. He repeatedly asked: "Where is the fool?"

SWP candidate Chris Nisan rose to answer Muhammad's challenge and went to the front of the almost packed hall. Nisan explained that he and other young socialists had criticized the Nation's participation in the Democratic Party. This included the fact that a couple of years ago the organization ran candidates in the Democratic Party primaries in Prince George's County, Maryland. He also criticized its past alliance with fascist and ultraright organizations like the

American Nazi Party, Ku Klux Klan, and White Aryan Resistance.

With regard to the Democratic Party, Muhammad answered that, according to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, "the masses of Black people are not into nationalism or socialism but in Democratic politics. And since the masses are into Democratic Party politics there are short-term, mid-range gains that can be made."

"Elijah Muhammad," he said, "had written that if we could find a candidate that would take the Muslim program of reparations and freedom and independence before Congress, we should back such a candidate all the way. We thought [Jesse] Jackson would do that. We weren't backing the Democratic Party but Jackson. But Jesse let us down. So then we ran two Muslims."

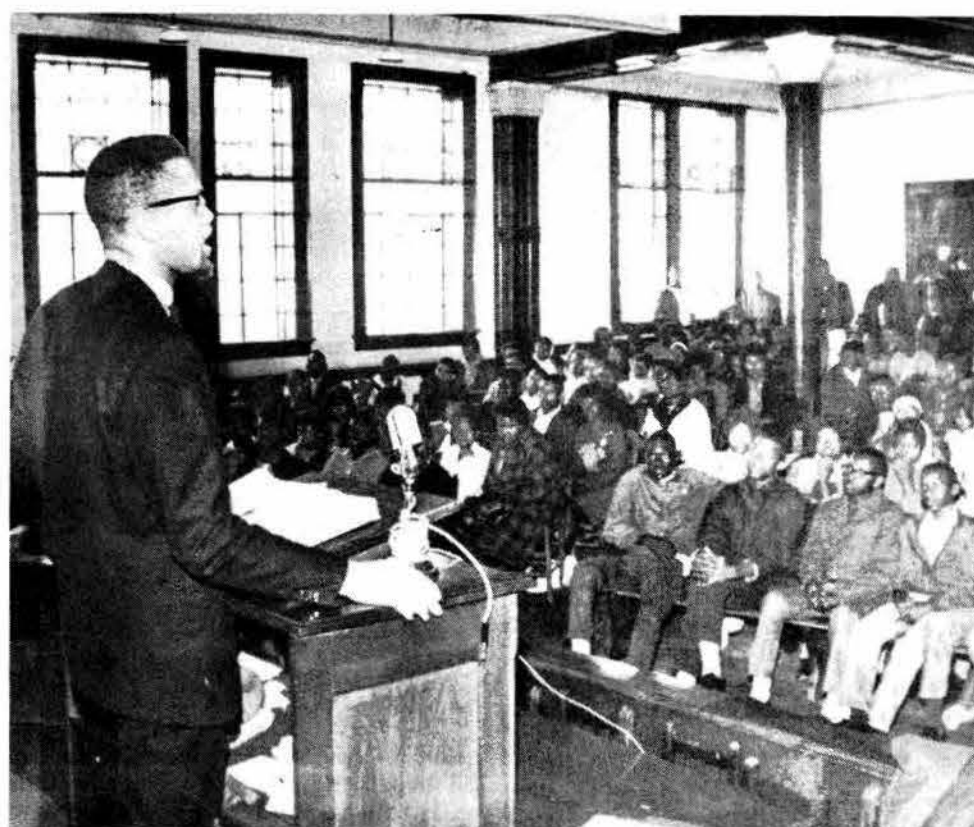
Lessons from Malcolm X

Nisan countered that such a position contradicted that of Malcolm X who said he would never organize any Black person into the Democratic or Republican parties.

Nisan also raised the criticisms that Malcolm made of the Nation after he broke with it in 1964, in particular the fact that the organization abstained from any involvement in political action and protests, especially the massive civil rights battles of the day. Malcolm also denounced the Nation's dealings with the American Nazi Party and the Ku Klux Klan.

Muhammad responded by questioning Malcolm as an authority and leader. "No dead general can lead a living army," he said. He added that "we should study the life of Malcolm for the positives as well as the negatives." "For every one thing of Malcolm we can show you something else because during Malcolm's last 200-plus days he was confused."

Muhammad then mentioned Malcolm's description of his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1964, where the revolutionary was profoundly struck by the multiracial and integrated character of the religious center. The Nation official challenged such a view of Mecca saying, "There's as much racism in Mecca as there is in Mississippi."



Malcolm X speaking to young civil rights fighters in Selma, Alabama, on Feb. 4, 1965. Socialist Workers candidate Chris Nisan explained in debate with Nation of Islam leader Khalid Abdul Muhammad that Malcolm X opposed organizing any Black person into Democratic or Republican parties.

He also claimed Malcolm reversed his refusal to see himself as an "American" because he decided in 1964 to name his political organization the Organization of Afro-American Unity. In so doing, Muhammad asserted, "Malcolm started saying that he was an American. . . . If you are an African-American, you're saying you're African and American. I'm not an African-American."

'Didn't back civil rights movement'

Regarding the civil rights movement, Muhammad said, "We didn't support it because we didn't agree with [it]. We didn't believe in integrating toilets. That's why we didn't join the civil rights movement, because we believe in separation and independence. America is based on separation and independence."

As for separation, independence, and self-determination, Nisan argued for a distinction between the reactionary nationalism of the capitalist class and middle-class layers, and the struggles of oppressed masses to win national liberation, suggesting that the Nation was in the former camp.

Muhammad replied: "I believe that it [the struggle] will always be based on color." Rejecting any class analysis of the roots of racism or Malcolm's explanation of the fact that capitalism perpetuates national oppression, Muhammad said, "I've

been all over the world. I've been to communist countries and whenever the Black-white dynamic existed I found the white communists on the top and the Black communists on the bottom."

Finally, to Malcolm's charge about the links between the Nation and the Klan and Nazis, charges that he made in now-published speeches, Muhammad's reply was, "You can't read from a book." The apparent suggestion was that such negative accusations against the Nation are not to be taken seriously.

'Mandela not a revolutionary'

Following the confrontation between Muhammad and Nisan, one of Nisan's campaign supporters questioned Muhammad about his views on South Africa and the revolutionary leadership of Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC).

Muhammad replied, "Nelson Mandela is not a revolutionary. Mandela's spending 27 years in prison doesn't prove him to be a revolutionary. He didn't have a choice. He had to spend 27 years in prison. White people support him in the print and electronic media. You should support whatever the enemy opposes and oppose whatever the enemy supports."

"If the enemy supports Nelson Mandela, you can believe that Mandela must be working in the interests of white people. If they are against Mandela then you better look carefully at Mandela because Mandela is for us. I spoke at the UN a month ago. I was not the guest of Mandela and the ANC. I was the guest of the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] — a PAC that refuses to sit down in the Codesa meetings," he said, referring to the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, the present constitutional negotiations under way in South Africa.

"They pulled out saying they are not going to sit down with this white man in South Africa over our lands," he continued. "Mandela is back dancing with the white man. And while Mandela is sitting down with de Klerk in the Codesa meetings, it's just like Martin Luther King sitting down with Lyndon Baines Johnson and others when they were planning MLK's murder at the same time he and the Big Six [civil rights leaders] were sitting down negotiating civil rights games."

Following the debate between Nisan and his supporters and Muhammad, other questions from the audience were discussed. Nine people signed up as endorsers of the socialist campaign and bought socialist literature from a table just outside the meeting.

At an informal meeting the following day, Nisan, Muhammad, and members of the Africana Student Cultural Center agreed to continue the discussion from the previous night in a civil manner in the near future.

The majority of the audience appeared to support or be sympathetic to many of Muhammad's views. But, since the debate, a number of youth have sought out Nisan, asking for more information about his positions.

Warren addresses Canada airline unionists

Continued from front page

est airline. Nationair's growth, based in charter operations, has been made possible by imposing low wages and poor working conditions on Nationair's employees. Nationair flight attendants earn substantially less than counterparts at other major airlines. The union members have no guaran-

teed wage for a day's work and are expected to be available around the clock in the event of reassignment due to a flight cancellation.

In order to maintain these conditions and the competitive edge that they give the company, Nationair has set out to break the union. The company hopes to bring the union to heel by enforcing a lockout in the middle of contract talks, and then by drafting in scab workers to keep the planes flying. But instead of rolling over, union members at Nationair fought back.

"The attack on workers at Nationair is a product of intensified competition in the airline industry," Warren said after the rally. "The employers try to pit workers in one industry against another or in one country against another. They take advantage of world depression conditions to stiffen competition between working people."

"Like my opponents in the United States, the wealthy rulers and their spokespeople all push nationalism, attempting to get us to turn away from international solidarity to support 'our' government or 'our' company. Accepting this framework will allow the ruling rich to lead humanity into World War III," he said, "which is their solution to the economic crisis of capitalism, the new world disorder, and sharpening interimperialist competition."

He saluted the fight at Nationair, pointing to it as an example of the resistance among young people and workers that the employers and their governments are running into around the world.

"This week young people in their tens of thousands fought in the streets against the military regime in Thailand," he said. "Workers in Germany refused to accept concession demands and threats by the employers and waged a successful strike. Youth in Buffalo, New York, organized to win a gigantic victory for women's rights when they defended the clinics there against the rightist mobilizations in the streets organized by Operation Rescue."

Reaching out to win support

On the picket line, Micheline Durivage, a 19-year-old flight attendant based in Toronto, explained how the workers at Nationair have continued their struggle. "We began by going out to visit travel agents to persuade them to help us boycott Nationair. We gave them information on the real situation at Nationair. We went out to speak to other unions to win their support. We have had great support from the auto workers, postal workers, steelworkers, and many others. We organize to picket Nationair arrivals and departures. We tell the passengers what's going on, and we greet the scabs going in and out!"

Durivage believes the union needs to organize "bigger pickets like the ones we did today. We need to win the active support of other union members in the airport to shut Nationair down."

Andy Buchanan is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union at British Aerospace in Manchester, Britain.

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Should working people support Perot?

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

H. Ross Perot, Texas billionaire and presidential hopeful, is headline news across the country. He has outpolled both George Bush and William Clinton in several states, including California and Ohio.

Although he has not officially declared his candidacy, Perot is a serious contender in the race.

Why an "independent" candidate is getting such a wide hearing, the political roots and character of the Perot campaign, and why working people and youth should reject this ruling class figure's populist and demagogic political course was the topic of a recent phone interview with Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate.

"Perot is getting a serious hearing because of the failure of capitalism," DeBates said, on a break during a tour stop in Montreal. "There is a great lack of confidence in the ability of the two-party system to solve the social crisis and the depression-like conditions working people face in this country and around the world."

Perot uses demagoguery to attract support, says DeBates. "He promotes himself as the consummate outsider, independent of the corrupt two-party system, as antiestablishment, and for the little guy. By a demagogue I mean someone who plays on prejudices and the real and perceived insecurities of layers of the population. Such figures make false claims and promises and create scapegoats in their quest for power."

For Perot, running as an "independent" fits with his demagoguery, she said. "But we must look at this, as with all political developments, in class terms. Independent of what? For whom? Perot is not independent of the wealthy U.S. rulers and their anti-working-class, racist, and imperialist policies."

DeBates pointed to Perot's statements that what the country needs is "tough" people, not the "sissies" who run Washington. "Grassroots America" is less interested in his stand on the issues, claims Perot, than in his promise "to take out the trash and clear out the barn." The latter is Perot's oft-repeated refrain for the need to "take our country back" from the "Washington insiders."

"In every possible way," Perot has said, "I want to reemphasize to the people that they own this country" and that Bush and Clinton have "let America down."

"Perot claims to speak for working people," said the socialist candidate. "He says things like 'we' own the country, or that it is 'our' country. This is nonsense. We don't own the country, nor is this 'our' country," said the socialist candidate.

"Perot talks as if there are no classes and the rulers don't exploit working people. In my campaign I ask working people, what do you own? What do you have in common with billionaire Perot and millionaires like Bush and Clinton?"

DeBates said her starting point on this question is the *Communist Manifesto*, a pamphlet written by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, revolutionary working-class politicians from the nineteenth century. "They said working people have no country, that we are part of an international class. You can't take from working people what they haven't got," she said.

DeBates' socialist campaign rejects solutions that take as their starting point "we



Billionaire Ross Perot appeals to the 'little man,' but his policies are not independent from those of wealthy U.S. rulers.

Americans" versus "them" — whether "they" live beyond or within U.S. borders. "I argue against this because it hooks the prospects of working people to the designs of the wealthy rulers of this country who are responsible for exploitation, oppression, and wars. Like the rest of our opponents, Perot champions nationalism and puts forward family, faith, and country as the solution to the problems working people face."

Perot has attracted support and interest from liberals and conservatives, said DeBates. "Several big-name liberals from Hollywood have jumped on the bandwagon. It's also been reported that a few of Reagan's inner circle and some followers of Buchanan are

now behind the Perot candidacy."

The idea that Perot is an "outsider" is false, notes DeBates. "We've always said that the country is run by the billionaire families. Perot is the third or fourth richest guy in the country. While not part of the old 'Blue Blood' — like the Rockefellers and Duponts — Perot is from the 'new blood' of the ruling class. The idea that he's some outsider or independent is ludicrous."

Foreign policy

Perot is a gung-ho supporter of U.S. imperialism. But in many cases he is to the right of Washington, remarked DeBates. "He supported the war against the Vietnamese people to the end. But he did it his way, often at odds with Washington. For example, he undertook his own investigation of soldiers who were missing in the Vietnam War, arguing that the government was covering this up."

"Perot is proimperialist with a bent to thumbing his nose at Washington," she said. During the U.S.-led contra war in Nicaragua, Perot rebuffed conservative groups soliciting financial support for the contras. He told them to come back when "they can prove to him that America will fight to win in Central America."

For two decades Perot has financed private attempts to rescue military personnel in Vietnam. Perot has a "devoted following in the military, notably within the special-operations community," according to *Newsday*. Perot supported the illegal undercover operations carried out by Oliver North in Central America and the Middle East.

DeBates said his views on working people are no better. "In Texas, he's an experienced union-buster. He advocated cordoning off the

Black community in Dallas and searching door-to-door, in what he described as 'Fort Apache' neighborhoods in 1988."

"Last week he said it's not 'realistic' for gays to be in the military," commented the socialist candidate. "Perot says he supports a woman's right to abortion, but when pressed recently on whether he supported federal funding he said he 'hadn't spent 10 minutes thinking about it,'" said DeBates, adding, "I've spent the better part of my adult life acting to defend and advance women's rights and so have millions of other women and working people."

DeBates said she has gotten a good response from working people. "What is important is that our campaign answers the increasingly reactionary policies of the Democratic and Republican parties. We've explained the politics of resentment — the targeting of scapegoats in a time of economic and social crisis, political polarization, and rising class tensions, exacerbated by a depression. This rightward drift of capitalist politics, plus the abysmal failure of capitalism, is what lays the basis for the rise of demagogues like Ross Perot."

DeBates says young fighters need ideas to move forward in politics. Unlike Perot, who demagogically says deeds are more important than words, DeBates says working people and young fighters need both. "We need both the lessons of the working-class struggle for emancipation and the internationalist course of action in order to effectively resist the employers' assaults," she said. "With such a strategy, working people can fight to take political power out of the hands of the billionaire ruling families and open up the struggle for socialism."

Fund helps get out socialist alternative in '92

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Socialist Workers candidates for public office are receiving a wide hearing across the country and around the world.

"This initial response on both the state-wide and national level shows why fighting to get the socialist candidates on the ballot and contributing to their campaign are among the most important political activities young people and other fighters can do today," said Greg McCartan, national director of the 1992 Socialist Workers campaign.

Socialist candidates have spoken at union rallies and picket lines during strikes at Caterpillar, the *New York Times*, Nationair, and elsewhere; joined protests in defense of abortion rights in Buffalo, New York, and campaigned for federal indictment of the Los Angeles cops who beat Rodney King; and have received substantial press coverage. James Warren and Estelle DeBates, candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, have traveled to Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada to present a working-class and internationalist voice in 1992.

To kick off a \$75,000 campaign fund-raising effort and the petition drives, Warren and DeBates issued an appeal to supporters May 8. "Funds are urgently needed now to continue building on the early successes of the campaign," said McCartan. The money collected will be used to expand the press coverage, keep up the pace of travel of the candidates around the country, and produce national campaign literature. "Our aim is to collect \$75,000 by July 1," McCartan added. The socialist campaign director said funds are needed now and urged supporters to send in contributions to the national campaign office. (See ad on front page.)

"Socialist seeking presidency kicks off petition drive here," read a headline in a May 23 article from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. The article covered the drive, kicked off by candidate Warren, to put the party on the ballot in Illinois. "We need 25,000 signatures for the party to be on the state ballot and another 5,000 signatures for candidates to run for Congress," the *Post-Dispatch* article quoted Warren saying at a news conference in East St. Louis.

The *Post-Dispatch* reporter went on to explain Warren's view of the elections, political developments in the world, and

some of his proposals.

Supporters of the socialist ticket in local areas are mailing Warren's and DeBates's appeal to hundreds of people in their regions, asking for funds and volunteers.

'Youth brigades' spearhead petitioning

Many young supporters have already joined petitioning teams in Florida, Illinois, and Ohio to collect enough signatures to put the socialist ticket on the ballot. Dubbing themselves "youth brigades" for the socialist alternative, these supporters are spearheading the petition drives.

"Unlike Democrats and Republicans, undemocratic election laws require our campaign to get tens of thousands of signatures in most states to get on the ballot," McCartan explained. Most must be filed in July and August. Recent articles in the press have pointed out that the onerous restrictions are making it hard for even a billionaire like Ross Perot to get on the ballot in all 50 states.

"Our goal with the fight to get on the ballot in as many states as possible is not just to be able to present a working-class voice in the elections," said McCartan. "It is an important part of defending and extending democratic rights."

Campaign supporters take the requirement of having to collect tens of thousands of signatures and turn it into an opportunity to talk to thousands of people about the socialist alternative in 1992, McCartan explained.

'An exciting day'

About 2,100 signatures were collected the first day of petitioning in Illinois May 24. "It was an exciting day," said Beth Hanan, one of the petitioners who just graduated from high school. Jim Clifton, who signed one of Beth's petitions, came to a campaign meeting that evening to find out more about what the socialists had to say. Campaign supporters in Illinois aim to sign up 36,000 people.

A crowd of 5,000 turned out to hear Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's deposed president, at a rally in West Palm Beach May 28. A team of volunteers petitioning to put Laura Garza, socialist candidate for U.S. Congress, on the Florida ballot got a great response at the event. Garza campaigns to open the U.S. borders to all Haitian refugees. Nearly 200 participants

at the rally signed cards supporting the campaign.

Supporters in Florida had collected 6,200 of the 8,500 signatures required by May 24. "On May 22 a team of five campaigners traveled 350 miles to Florida State University (FSU) in Gainesville," reported Melissa Harris from Miami. Pete Self, an FSU student, housed the team. Self had set up a meeting for Dan Fein, socialist candidate for U.S. Senate. A press release issued by Self was picked up by the *Gainesville Sun* and the *Alligator*, the campus newspaper. Twenty-five people attended the meeting. Among them was Steffani, an FSU student who joined the petitioning team next day.

Ohio Socialist Workers candidates kicked off their petition drive by joining a protest during an appearance of Patrick Buchanan in Cincinnati. Members of Operation Rescue who were jailed in Buffalo during their ill-fated attempt to shut down abortion clinics there came to show their support to Buchanan.

Socialist candidates and their supporters picketed Buchanan's meeting with signs demanding justice for Rodney King and exposing the rightist candidate's anti-working-class positions.

Petitioning efforts are about to be launched in Michigan, where 25,000 signatures are required. "More volunteers are needed in Michigan, Massachusetts, New York, Alabama, and other states," McCartan said. The socialists will try to place their presidential ticket on the ballot in 25 states.

The socialist candidates are urging all their campaign supporters to make plans now to attend the international youth and socialist campaign conference scheduled to take place at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9. "We are appealing to all young people who want to join the fight to change the system that breeds war, unemployment, and racism to come to the conference," McCartan said. "Come and join an organization that can continue this fight year round — the Socialist Workers Party."

To volunteer for the petitioning teams or send in a contribution to the \$75,000 fund, clip and mail the ad on the front page.

John Staggs from Chicago, Illinois; and Melissa Harris and Rosa Garmendia from Miami contributed to this article.

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Socialist: Antiwar fight must begin today

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

TORONTO — "The most burning question facing working people around the world is the fight against imperialist war. This question must be on our agenda today — not put off until tomorrow," Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president James Warren told 25 people attending a Militant Labor Forum here May 27.

"The war against Iraq signaled the opening guns of World War III. When we first raised this fact during the course of the Iraq war itself, it seemed to many to be an extreme statement — but it seems less so today because of world events from Thailand to Korea and from Los Angeles to Libya," the socialist candidate said.

Warren described the scenes of carnage in Yugoslavia, of a mortar attack by the Serbian terrorist army on a crowded market place in Sarajevo shown that day on the news channel CNN. "Dozens of working men and women — many of them elderly — were slaughtered and wounded as they went out to buy food thinking a cease-fire was in effect after a 3-day curfew," he said.

"The imperialist war against Iraq and the break-up of the Soviet Union, combined with a steep recession, ushered in a world depression. In order to resolve this crisis in their favor, the imperialist ruling classes will do exactly what they did during the depression of the 1930s — aim to decisively defeat the working class in bloody battles and prepare to go to war with each other over the economic domination of the world's markets. The wealthy rulers of Germany and Japan will press toward using their military forces abroad in order to advance their economic and political interests. Sharpening competition will lead the imperialist powers toward more wars and greater conflict," Warren explained.

In this context one of the most deadly traps working people can fall into is to start with "their nation" rather than the fact

that every country is class-divided and that all workers around the world are part of a single class. "All the big-business candidates in the U.S. are 'America Firsters,'" Warren said. "In Canada the leadership of the trade union movement and the New Democratic Party work overtime to convince working people of the need to protect 'Canadian' jobs from U.S. workers. The bosses try to use unemployment to get us to buy into wars against workers in other countries. That is why advancing the perspective of fighting for jobs for all is so important. We need an international fight to win the 30-hour workweek with no loss in pay," Warren said.

Warren raised the need for a fight for affirmative action, to overcome the race and sex discrimination used to divide working people, and canceling the third world debt to the imperialist bankers.

During his five-day tour in the Toronto area, Warren, a member of the United Steelworkers of America on leave from his job in Chicago, presented his message of international working class solidarity to a May 28 rally of locked-out Nationalair flight attendants, at press events, and at meetings of students and other youth.

A highlight of the campaign stop was a public meeting at McMaster University in nearby Hamilton. A supporter who had recently sold five subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper, the socialist campaign's weekly voice, organized the meeting.

Warren's busy schedule in the Toronto region included an interview with CKLN, a community news station with an audience of 120,000 people; a meeting at York University where two students convinced their professor to invite Warren to speak to a class of 40; and a visit to a picket line to bring solidarity to striking members of the Canadian Auto Workers on strike at Nestle's chocolate.

Warren's tour helped to build the fusion convention of the Young Socialists and Communist League, held here May 30-31. The socialist candidate explained that one of the campaign's goals was "to inspire young fighters throughout the world that they can make a difference in changing the world through joining the communist movement."

Beverly Bernardo is a member of Local 219 of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.



Militant/Colin McKay
Socialist presidential candidate James Warren at Nationalair protest in Toronto.

Youth debate L.A. events and anti-SWP article

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — Events sparked by the April 29 acquittal of four Los Angeles cops who beat Rodney King and tasks facing antipolice brutality activists were debated here during a meeting sponsored by the May Day Bookstore.

The May 22 meeting attracted a standing-room-only crowd of more than 100 activists, most of them in their early 20s, who heard and discussed a series of presentations by local protest leaders.

The forum's title, "When L.A. Hit Min-

neapolis," referred to the local May 2 mobilization of 6,000 demanding prosecution of the acquitted Los Angeles cops on federal civil right charges, and two evening police confrontations May 7 in Minneapolis's Black community and the Cedar-Riverside area. The latter is a popular gathering place for area radical youth, including many who describe themselves as anarchists. Both confrontations were widely covered in the Twin Cities media.

One focus of the debate was the contents of an anonymous, four-page newspaper, *L.A. Today*. It appeared the day of the May 7 cop confrontations.

Its articles hailed the Los Angeles outburst in the wake of the cop acquittal as the beginning of "a summer of reckoning for the U.S. A new struggle has begun." A headline over a photo of three Black men kicking a fallen white man read, "Anarchy, Chaos, Violence: Bravo!"

Photographs of the four cops acquitted in Simi Valley appeared as a miniposter, entitled "WANTED/DEAD."

A boxed article, with the headline "We Say: Fuck the SWP," charged the Socialist Workers Party in the Twin Cities for taking "control of organizing protest... they cooperated fully with police and recruited their own security thugs to ensure the passivity of the crowd of 6,000 plus angry marchers.... We don't need these parasites sucking up the energy of our anger and treat[ing] us like herded sheep."

The paper was published, one young anarchist stated at the May Day bookstore forum, by an "all white group" of anarchists as an expression "of solidarity with the Black community."

Forum speaker Keith Ellison, a key leader of the Coalition for Police Accountability and a central organizer of the May 2 protest, criticized the anti-SWP piece in *L.A. Today* as an expression of "sectarianism" and a blow to "comradeship" and "broad unity." Ellison pointed to the powerful impact of the May 2 march, and defended its security efforts.

"We should be very clear," he said, "that the folks who oppress us didn't like that march at all. I have many disagreements with the SWP, I'll probably never be in the SWP, but I work with them, respect them and say more power to them for helping to build that mobilization." Ellison described the events in Los Angeles triggered by the verdict as "a rebellion, an insurrection, and uprising."

One speaker from Love and Rage, a national anarchist group, defended *L.A. Today* as a way "to show what really happened" in Los Angeles.

Other speakers proposed mobile, direct actions against police as "empowering."

Laura, an antiracist student activist, however, urged the youth there "not to fall into the trap of romanticizing the riot, or whatever we call it. This would be a danger. We have to see what really happened there."

Jim, another anarchist, urged rejection of

the demands "justice for Rodney King and prosecute the police."

"There can be no justice in the court system in this country," he said.

Several anarchists cited the events in Los Angeles as proof that "the masses have gone beyond the leaders."

April Knutsen, a leader of the Committees of Correspondence, a national group organized by former Communist Party members, explained, from the floor, to applause, "I am on the side of Love and Rage. The Los Angeles rebellion is a positive example of people's creativity."

Forum speaker Chris Nisan, a leader of cop-brutality protests, an initiator of the May 2 protest, and an SWP candidate for U.S. Congress urged debate to be conducted on a "civil level, the level of comradeship, between revolutionaries who share a common hatred of racism, capitalism, exploitation, and oppression."

He rejected the *L.A. Today* attack on the SWP "not simply for partisan reasons, but because instead of contributing to clarity by clearly posing disagreements, and enabling us to have a useful debate, it lowered the level of discussion and poisoned the atmosphere."

During the discussion, several young anarchists disassociated themselves from the article.

Nisan asserted that the events in Los Angeles were not an advance for working people. "Right now, there are 15,000 people in jail. What would happen if [South African president F.W.] de Klerk tried to arrest 15,000 people?"

From the initial announcement of the "not guilty" verdict to the unraveling of the antipolice riot, Nisan said, "the government went from being on the defensive to the offensive. That's why it is harder, not easier, to mobilize for justice for Rodney King, because events have given the ruling class a handle to shift popular attention from the outrageous verdict to the so-called hoodlums in the streets."

A real rebellion, Nisan said, would clearly "have advanced the struggle. In the 1960s, the ghetto rebellions grew out of and fed into struggle, into a living, marching movement. Out of those fighters came real leaders who politically mobilized the masses against the government. This has not happened in Los Angeles. Far from it: working people and the community are demobilized."

This emphasizes the importance of "organizing massive action around concrete political demands against the government: from freeing the thousands of our jailed brothers and sisters in Los Angeles to pushing the fight for justice for Rodney King and federal civil rights charges against all the acquitted police. If the cops walk, it will be that much worse for all of us," Nisan said.

Nisan urged the young activists to support his election campaign, which, he said, "continues to press these demands to the maximum."

DISNEYLAND BURNS

MICKEY MOUSE DEAD!

THEY SHOT HIM IN THE HEAD

L.A. TODAY

TOMORROW... THE WORLD

WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING:

"Total anarchy on the streets... Police no match for looters" —USA Today

"We were overwhelmed from the beginning" —Jesse Brewer, L.A. Police Commission



WE SAY

Fuck the SWP

In the true fashion of the leech-like scum they are, the Socialist Workers Party, Revolutionary Communist Party and other shit leftist organizations were quick to try to harness the post-trial anger for their own self-serving ends. These top-to-bottom groups change causes like a chameleon changes colors, sucking up the energy to further the power-hungry objectives of the career politicians in charge. All over the country these groups are having a heyday in the King trial aftermath. You can't miss 'em as they're the ones who flock to you selling their shit newspapers at every King demonstration. When these people talk about revolution they're talking straight out of their assholes.

In Minneapolis the SWP quickly took control of organizing protest, transforming it into a liberal-reformist spectacle and a platform to increase their party membership and power for those on top. At the first big demonstration they cooperated fully with police and recruited their

own security thugs to ensure the passivity of the crowd of 6000 plus angry marchers. They even allowed the Mayor and police chief to march—two of the biggest hypocritical bastards in the city!

When some youths ignored the security and broke off from the march to pillage downtown they were chased by the march security who went as far as pulling people from stores being looted. So much for their chants of "Power to the people" and their claims to speak for the working classes!

So we say fuck the SWP and all the other self-righteous "leadership" of the working class. Again and again they prove they don't give a fuck about us—only their careers. We don't need these parasites sucking up the energy of our anger and treat us like herded sheep. Don't get sucked into their power games and be a pawn for them to use and abuse. We don't need any leaders to tell us what is right when we already know how to do the right thing!

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By Senae Rev
L.A. TODAY
Inside
CLASS

Los Angeles riots: not Black-Korean conflict

BY GALE SHANGOLD

LOS ANGELES — In the wake of the antipolice riot, many reports in the big-business press have stated that the real target of the riots were Korean store owners. The coverage has pointed to bad relations between Blacks and Koreans as being, in part, responsible for the explosion.

The electronic media, talk shows, newspaper articles, and informal discussions throughout the city, have picked up on this theme. Some maintain the rioting reflected resentment by Blacks at the success of many Korean-owned businesses in their neighborhoods.

"A Target of Rioters, Koreatown is Bitter, Armed and Determined," blared a headline in the *New York Times*. In response to a question on why it happened, one Korean said, "I think the Black people are jealous of the Koreans. They're lazy; we are working hard. They're not making money; we are making money."

Korean store owner, Eddie Rho, told *Los Angeles Times* reporters he believed his business was targeted because of the expensive stereo equipment he sold, but he also wondered if it was because he is Korean.

A column by *Los Angeles Times* journalist Elaine Woo, a third-generation Chinese-American, received a lot of play in the media. "After the not-guilty verdicts were returned Wednesday against the four white officers in the Rodney King case, the city — my city — blew up in a firestorm of racial suspicions," she wrote. "And the whole equation of living and working in multiracial L.A. changed."

"Suddenly I am scared to be Asian."

"More specifically, I am afraid of being mistaken for Korean."

With these developments, right-wing presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan went to town, exploiting the situation to serve his reactionary ends.

Buchanan made two campaign stops: one to the Korean shop owners; the other to the police and national guard. He consciously left off his itinerary visits to Blacks and Latinos who had lost their businesses in the events.

Buchanan demagoguery

In the middle of this, Buchanan also took his campaign to the U.S.-Mexican border to unveil his 10-point plan on immigration.



April 1991 demonstration against cop brutality in Los Angeles. 'Koreans were not the targets,' explained Kyung Kuy Lim, member of Young Koreans United in Los Angeles, about recent riots. 'We were one of the many groups to suffer damages.'

The rightist told reporters, "Foreigners are coming into this country illegally and helping to burn down one of the greatest cities in America."

By the end of the social explosion a total of 623 businesses were destroyed — far fewer than the 5,537 originally reported. Newspaper reports show that about 2,000 Korean-owned businesses were damaged with losses estimated at \$360 million. The final death toll reached 58; two Asians were killed.

While there was an element of anti-Korean sentiment it was not significant. Koreans were not the special targets during the rioting. Sixty seven percent of the stores destroyed were not owned by Koreans. No Korean churches or residences in Koreatown were hit by violence; stores were the predominant target. No conflicts between Black and Korean workers in local factories and other workplaces have been reported.

Black-owned stores were also hit hard. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that "presidential candidate Pat Buchanan didn't visit

Gene & Sandy's Fish Market. Neither did Rep. Maxine Waters. Neither did Ted Koppel nor the South Korean delegation that came to town demanding reparations." The fish market was one among many devastated businesses owned by Blacks.

A young Latino, who got in on the looting, told a *Los Angeles Times* reporter he was expressing his anger for all the times he had been turned away by shop owners for being a few pennies short. "They throw it back at you," José said, referring to shopkeepers of any color or ethnic background. "That's the way they treat us."

Kyung Yoon, a Korean who has owned a gas station in Koreatown for 22 years, also disagreed with the verdict in the Rodney King trial. Yoon suffered \$21,000 in damages from the riot. He said he wished that "Black, yellow, and white could all work together." He noted that Black-owned stores were destroyed also.

No leadership

In a May 15 interview with the *Militant*, Kyung Kuy Lim, a member of Young Koreans United of Los Angeles, said, "Many Koreans were outraged by the verdict against Rodney King. We wanted to participate in some demonstrations but that wasn't possible when the riot began. We were saddened and disappointed that there was no leadership to channel our anger."

Young Koreans United of Los Angeles is an activist organization that educates and organizes around issues of social justice and human rights in Korea and beyond.

"Koreans were not the targets," explained Lim. "We were one of many groups to suffer damages. We suffered because many Koreans have businesses in South Central and because Koreatown is adjacent to Afro-American neighborhoods. So naturally Korean-owned stores were hit. But the people were less concerned about owners and more concerned about the contents."

"There were some exceptions to this. Some Korean store owners were not liked and they were treated more harshly. And some were liked so their stores were protected," said Lim.

"We need to get away from the idea that the Koreans were targeted, because that idea further polarizes the Korean and Black communities and enflames the divisions."

"Many Koreans are now having a rude awakening. We were told if we worked hard, and we did, we would achieve the 'American Dream.' But we are realizing that achievement was fragile. We became the middlemen between the establishment and the urban poor. Koreans thought we had relations with the establishment and were liked by the politicians and the media. But no one protected us. The establishment sees us like they see all people of color."

'Rebuild so everyone can benefit'

"When the establishment says 'Re-build LA' they mean the structures, not the social-economic basis of LA. We want re-building with Afro-Americans and Latinos so everyone can benefit."

"Many Koreans don't have the wherewithal to speak out. The reactionary Koreans can. So our voices are not heard like

the reactionary ones are. But there is hope because the young Koreans, the second generation Koreans, realize there is no American Dream out there, that there is prejudice against us, like others of color," Lim added.

Many connect the explosion to events in March, 1991 when a Korean-American merchant killed Latasha Harlins, a 15-year-old Black girl, in a dispute over a bottle of orange juice. The merchant, Soon Ja Du, was given five years probation instead of the 16-year prison sentence she could have received. Some Korean organizations have spoken out against the verdict in the Harlins case.

In June 1991 another Black customer was killed by a Korean store owner. When the district attorney's office concluded that the shooting was justified, a boycott of the store was organized by Danny Bakewell, a prominent Black businessman and president of the Black civic organization Brotherhood Crusade.

Later, Bakewell organized a concerted campaign for more Black-owned stores in the Black community.

"The verdict in the Latasha Harlins case made it appear that Koreans can get away with murder when really we can't," said Lim. "Many Koreans feel that the outcome of that trial was unjust. Some Korean merchants have been despicable. But they do not represent all Koreans."

"We have so many myths about each other [Koreans and Blacks]," explained Lim. "Many think that Koreans have close connections with the establishment. This is not true; we are in the same situation as other people of color."

"We have myths about Afro-Americans too. There is ignorance about their culture and struggle. We had no knowledge in Korea. The only contact we have with Afro-Americans in Korea is on the U.S. military bases, so we do come here with prejudices."

"There is no outlet to educate ourselves about the greatness of Afro-American heritage. When we were too busy living the American Dream we failed to realize many things like that the civil rights movement improved life for all people of color including Koreans."

"We get racist education in Korea and in the U.S. And there is no outlet to get rid of this education and prejudice. It is the same media in both countries. The U.S. has colonized Korea since 1945."

Kyung Kuy Lim said what is needed are "quickly called, concrete actions that will be productive for all of us. A terrible injustice has been done to Rodney King. We need to mobilize and unite our voices through concrete actions around Rodney King."

"We must remind the media and the establishment that we are still angry about the Rodney King verdict. We have to draw lessons from the recent events. We were unprepared, uninformed and unorganized when the verdict came down."

"There is no guarantee that the federal government will prosecute the cops that beat King. So we have to stand guard, apply pressure, and send a message that we all stand together on this. If we don't there could be another acquittal."

Farm activists point to timeliness of Pathfinder's farm crisis pamphlet

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — Comments from two prominent farm activists indicate the timeliness of *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*, the recently released Pathfinder pamphlet by Doug Jenness.

The pamphlet examines the deepening world economic and social crisis and explains how farmers and workers can unite against the mounting assaults from the billionaire bankers, industrialists, and merchants.

The 40-page publication "is a reminder that the economic depression that has gripped much of rural America for the past decade is still threatening the very survival

of family farm agriculture," stated Mark Ritchie, executive director of the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

"This booklet covers everything from farm programs to free trade, including an in-depth look at GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which gives readers an overview of the wide range of issues and concerns facing farmers in the 1990s," concluded Ritchie, who is known by farm activists nationally.

From rural upstate New York, where dairy farmers are battling for survival, one of their leaders, Jo Bates, found *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* a "very in-depth study of our economic ills, with an interesting approach toward a solution."

Bates is the president of the Empire State Family Farm Alliance.

The effort to promote the pamphlet is centered in the Twin Cities.

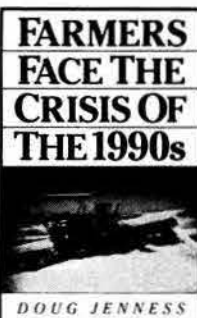
Supporters of Pathfinder have sent mailings to Pathfinder bookstores around the world, urging reviews in union and farm journals and from agricultural writers in local newspapers.

In addition, complimentary copies have been sent to farm activists, national farm organizations, and to important midwestern newspapers with large rural readerships.

Doug Jenness has written extensively on the farm movement and the issues confronting it. He is a former editor of the *Militant* and a member of Local 15199 of the United Steelworkers of America. Jenness has recently spoken to promote the pamphlet at Militant Labor Forums in Des Moines, Iowa, and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Comments on *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* can be sent to Pathfinder Bookstore, 508 N. Snelling, St Paul, MN 55104.

New from Pathfinder



Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s

by Doug Jenness

Pamphlet 35pp., \$3

Available from bookstores listed on Page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY, 10014. Add \$3 for shipping, \$50 for each additional copy.

At UN, Cuba demands extradition of two terrorists protected by Washington

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

Speaking before the United Nations Security Council May 21, Cuban ambassador Ricardo Alarcón demanded that Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles be turned over to the Cuban government. Many believe Bosch and Posada plotted the 1976 bombing of a Cuban jetliner over Barbados that killed 73 people.

The Cuban ambassador testified that Bosch and Posada "have still not been punished and are currently under the protection of the United States Government." Cuba requested that the Security Council condemn the bombing of the Cuban plane and urged Washington to provide information and evidence on the perpetrators.

Alarcón also asked the United States government to adopt effective measures to prevent its territory from being used to prepare, organize, or carry out terrorist acts against Cuba.

In response, U.S. ambassador Edward Perkins said, "I frankly cannot help but wonder why we are here." Perkins said he regretted "that Cuba would misuse the valuable time of the Security Council to make these baseless allegations against the United States."

Perkins said the United States "and indeed all men and women of good will condemn this dastardly, senseless act. But Cuba's attempt to portray the United States as a supporter of international terrorism and a harbinger of terrorists is absurd."

Perkins said it was a "fatuous assertion" that the United States was protecting Bosch

and Posada.

The *Miami Herald* reported that Cuba's request "could embarrass the United States as it tries to pressure Libya into turning over two terrorists the Bush administration says blew up a Pan Am jetliner over Scotland in 1988." The Cuban government has condemned the Pan Am bombing.

The U.S. State Department has gone so far as to argue that Cuba's demands that those responsible for the criminal act be brought to justice are simply an attempt to divert attention from Cuba's deteriorating economic situation. Said one State Department official, "It's a cynical, political ploy."

Alarcón described the 1976 bombing as "one of the most abominable, repugnant and cruel" crimes in Cuba's history. In his testimony he noted that the matter at hand "has not been closed."

After the 1976 bombing, Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada were arrested. Two Venezuelans, Hernán Ricardo and Freddy Lugo, were arrested for placing the bombs on the airliner and were given 20-year sentences.

Bosch spent 11 years in a Venezuelan prison while his case awaited trial. He was acquitted in 1988 and entered the United States, where he was arrested for jumping parole in 1974 for another crime.

The FBI said Bosch had "repeatedly expressed and demonstrated a willingness to cause indiscriminate injury and death." The U.S. Justice Department claimed it wanted to deport him but no country would accept him. During this period, a number of Republican politicians in South Florida, in-



United Nations
Cuban ambassador to the United Nations Ricardo Alarcón has urged Washington to provide evidence on perpetrators of 1976 bombing of Cuban jetliner.

cluding President Bush's son, lobbied hard to release Bosch.

As the *New York Times* editorialized at the time of Bosch's release from prison in 1990, "In the name of fighting terrorism, the United States sent the Air Force to bomb Libya and the Army to invade Panama. Yet now the Bush administration coddles one of the hemisphere's most notorious terrorists."

Alarcón said the decision to free Bosch was made by the executive branch of the U.S. government.

Bosch now lives in West Dade, Florida.

Posada escaped from a Venezuelan prison in 1985. Alarcón said that the CIA was involved in his getaway. Posada is reported to be somewhere in Latin America.

In his report to the Security Council, Alarcón cited a 1989 U.S. Justice Department document, authored by Joe Whitley. The report says "that the October 6, 1976,

Cuban airline bombing was a CORU operation under the direction of Bosch." CORU is the name of a counterrevolutionary exile group.

It was on the basis of this evidence that the Justice Department decided to deport Bosch from the United States. The Justice Department also has information that shows Bosch organized acts of violence and sabotage from prison, such as the bombing of Venezuelan facilities.

Alarcón argued that the United States refused to provide information on the events around the bombing to the Venezuelan court, which is one of the reasons Bosch was acquitted there in 1987. The U.S. government, Alarcón explained, "has thus been protecting the murderers and that in so doing it placed the court of an honorable, respectable country [Venezuela] in the regrettable position of declaring 'innocent' someone [Bosch] whom Washington knew and knows to be guilty."

Alarcón stated that Posada, after his escape from a Venezuelan prison in 1985, played a central role in the CIA's arms supply operation backing the antigovernment *contras* in Nicaragua.

Posada's right-hand man was Félix Rodríguez, another Cuban exile who worked with the CIA. President Bush, who was vice-president at the time, was deeply involved with the entire contra supply operation and knew Rodríguez personally. He described Rodríguez as a "patriot."

Alarcón testified that in addition to being a "long-term explosives expert and assassin," Posada is now a painter. His paintings have been publicly exhibited and sold in Miami. Alarcón charged that "the United States has helped Luis Posada to evade justice, and it continues to do so."

ANC vows mass demonstrations 'to break intransigence of regime'

Continued from Page 16

other hand," Sparks points out, "have made it clear they are opposed to majority rule, which they call a 'winner takes all' system. They want... 'power-sharing.'"

The ANC tersely notes that this would be a "loser keeps all" system.

On the eve of Codesa II, the ANC, the South African Communist Party (SACP), and COSATU gave their position in a joint statement. They "reaffirmed that the central issue in the whole negotiation process is agreement on a democratically elected constituent assembly (CA). The CA should be a single chamber structure. It should be sovereign, with no veto powers over its decisions."

On May 15 the Codesa II proceedings began amid high expectations for an agreement. But South African president F.W. de Klerk continued to raise proposals to block or delay majority rule.

At a press conference that day as the conference reached a stalemate, ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa noted that the Pretoria regime kept proposing formation of a senate, based on the current apartheid legislature and Bantustan governments, with veto power over a democratically elected national assembly.

SACP delegate Joe Slovo asked the government delegation if they would accept "a democratically elected senate." The government said no, Ramaphosa explained.

It is clear, he concluded, that the government is "not prepared to take that final step to allow a democratically elected body of people [to] determine the future of our country."

Millions without jobs, homes, or food

Mandela, in his speech to the closing session of Codesa II, noted that every day that apartheid continues "our people continue to die as a result of brutal violence carried out by forces that are opposed to democratic change."

He pointed to the "millions of people

without jobs, without homes, and without food."

On top of the existing crisis in South Africa, Mandela added, "The lives of many of our people will be made even more miserable by the terrible drought which afflicts many parts of the country."

"On the horizon we can therefore see nothing but even more misery and further deterioration of the fabric of society, affecting all aspects of life."

Because of this, Mandela said, "we have to move as quickly as possible to arrive at a new constitution which must enshrine the principal of a united, democratic, nonracial, and nonsexist South Africa."

The people, he stated, will not accept a delay in having a constituent assembly elected on the basis of one person, one vote, with "the sovereign powers to negotiate, draft, and adopt a new constitution."

During the course of the Codesa negotiations, the regime raised numerous objections designed to block a transition, among them an antidemocratic senate and an alleged need to protect "minority" rights, as well as a perspective of ensuring a voice for administrative regions of the country.

In response, Mandela and the ANC offered numerous compromises aimed at guaranteeing all points of view could be heard in a new parliament, without giving up the fundamental principle of one person, one vote and majority rule.

Masses opened door to negotiations

Referring to government attempts to block a constituent assembly in spite of the ANC's concessions, Mandela pointed out that the South African people would not allow "any interim structure to be imposed upon or constrain the constitution-making body."

"The masses consider this regime to be illegitimate," Mandela warned the government. "They accuse it of having brought the country to the sorry state in which it is through the pursuit of the evil and immoral

system of apartheid."

"We all know that it is the relentless struggle of these masses that has brought us to where we are today," Mandela reminded de Klerk. "Through their struggles, they created the possibility for a negotiated resolution of the problems of our country."

Mandela emphasized that "not only do the masses have the right, they have the duty to engage in struggle to change their condition, change any government or leader they see as acting against their common good."

Mandela blasts apartheid in Sweden visit

BY ANITA ÖSTLING

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A delegation from the African National Congress led by Nelson Mandela visited here in mid-May.

Mandela began his visit at a public rally of 1,000 people, organized by a coalition of solidarity groups, trade unions, and political parties. He also met with members of the Swedish government, business representatives, and antiapartheid groups.

The African National Congress (ANC) leader encouraged young people to come to South Africa and meet South African youth and exchange experiences.

"Our people can no longer endure the legacy of apartheid, including the intolerable violence that has cost 700 lives in the last two months alone," Mandela stated. "This is on par with the losses suffered in the tragic conflict that is tearing Yugoslavia apart. But that is recognized as a war, while in South Africa it is called 'black on black' violence."

"The violence and how to bring it to an end is one of the principal challenges facing us," Mandela explained. "The regime is singularly failing to tackle the problem, primarily because the police, the army, the [ruling] National Party, and the government are themselves a creation of apart-

heid.

"It is only an interim government, through multiparty commissions, which would be established to control the army, police, and security forces, that can tackle this problem effectively."

The ANC leader also said the international community should "discuss with us sending monitoring teams to South Africa to investigate the violence."

Prime Minister Carl Bildt had hoped that he would be able to announce the lifting of economic sanctions against the apartheid regime during Mandela's visit. But Mandela stated that would be premature.

"Signing agreements and contracts with this minority government that cannot last much longer is not a solution," he said. "Sustaining economic pressure, however, is a sure way to guarantee the establishment of an interim government."

"We hope that the ending of people-to-people sanctions has already resulted in a flourishing of links between our countries," Mandela added. "Tourism, air links, and sporting and cultural contacts should expand rapidly."

"This would help create the climate and contact necessary for future trade and investment, to the benefit of both our peoples," he said.

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Conversations with Japanese Workers: A Report from Japan. Speakers: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1547; Betsy Stone, member International Association of Machinists Local 1932. Sun., June 7, 2:30 p.m. 2552-B W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Solidarity with the Haitian People. Open the U.S. Borders! Full Rights for Haitian Refugees! No U.S. Military Intervention! Sat., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Abolish the Death Penalty! Speakers: Brock Carlsen, president Amnesty International chapter at North High School; Miesha Patterson, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 3944. Sat., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

Free Leonard Peltier! Speakers: Ken Rhyne, Southeast Regional Coordinator, American Indian Movement; Cleto Montelongo, American Indian Center; Bob Braxton, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 882. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

Bush tightens policy on Haitians fleeing repression

Continued from front page

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, which had been conducting preliminary asylum interviews with the Haitian refugees held at Guantánamo, has drawn sharp criticism from the State and Defense departments for allowing even that number of people to request asylum.

'We want to get out'

"We don't just want to go to Miami, we want to get out of Haiti," Gerald Labarre, a 28-year-old unemployed painter, who has twice set sail from Haiti as a result of beatings from soldiers and police, told the *New York Times*. "It doesn't matter where we land. Things are not right here. Every day people are being beaten and killed."

Protests against Washington's moves and military rule in the country continue in the United States and elsewhere. Several prominent human rights organizations have renewed their legal efforts aimed at forcing Washington to allow the refugees into the United States.

Bill O'Neill, deputy director of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, explained that an international pact ratified by the United States, called the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, "absolutely prohibits sending people back to a place where they fear political persecution."

"This creates a really frightening precedent," stated Bill Frelick, an analyst for the U.S. Committee for Refugees. "They can return them to torture, to death, to execution, to sharks at sea. In a sense, it could be the end of asylum."

"We're doing the right thing," President Bush said in defense of his policy. He continues to insist that there is no evidence that refugees being returned to Haiti suffer persecution. "I will not, because I've sworn to uphold the Constitution, open the doors to economic refugees all over the world," Bush stated.

Democratic congressman Stephen Solarz, seeking to give a more humanitarian face to Washington's policy, called for Congress to return to the Reagan administration policy, which allowed interviews of Haitian refugees aboard ships prior to their return.

"We have never argued that people don't experience fear here," said a diplomat at the U.S. Embassy in Port-Au-Prince. "There is little you can do about that. But that standard is not enough to make you a refugee. We are not living in anything like a Guatemala or an El Salvador."

Washington suggests that those wanting asylum in the United States apply at the U.S. embassy office in Port-Au-Prince. But of the 279 Haitians who have put in such applica-

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Behind the Continuing War in Yugoslavia. Sat., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Drive to War and Depression: The New World Disorder. Speaker: David Sandor, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

How to Fight Racism: Afro-Centrism or Internationalism? Speakers: Ervin Brisbon, community activist; Maceo Dixon, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

The Fight for Gay Liberation Today. Speakers: Jim McGill, member CRY-OUT, ACT-UP, and Alliance for Progressive Action; Louise Halverson, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., June 7, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

The Social and Political Crisis in Peru. Speaker: Bill Scheer, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., June 14, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Open U.S. Borders to Haitians! Protest the Forced Repatriations! Speaker: Harvey McArthur, Socialist Workers Party, member United

Transportation Union Local 845. Sat., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Abolish the Death Penalty! Panel discussion including Janice Lynn, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 13, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Haiti Under the Gun. U.S. Returns Haitians to 'Torture Chamber.' Speaker: Linda Joyce, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 242 Walnut St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

CANADA

Vancouver

Westray Mine Disaster. The Fight of Coal

Call for meeting on police brutality

Continued from front page

6,000 that took place in the Twin Cities within 48 hours of the Simi Valley verdict. That protest was "militant, disciplined, and peaceful," says the letter. "The crowd included a broad cross-section of the community—Black, white, Native American, Asian, and Hispanic. Among the protesters were students, workers, political activists, gang members, unemployed, and people who had never protested in their lives."

The letter notes that, while a federal Grand Jury has been convened to look into the possibility of federal indictments against the

Miners Against Safety Violations & Concessions. Speakers: Paul Kouri, member United Steelworkers of America, recently returned from Elk Valley, where he participated in a *Militant* reporting team; Cheryl Pruitt, member Canadian Auto Workers union, participated in reporting team in Nova Scotia. Sat., June 6, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24th Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

After the Fiji Elections—What Next? Speaker: representative from the Coalition for Democracy in Fiji. Sat., June 13, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Wellington

Behind the Civil War in Yugoslavia. Sat., June 6, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

cops, "the Simi Valley verdict is proof that without organized, consistent, mass action in the streets, we can't count on getting justice in the courts. . . . As Malcolm X said 'nothing is going to change until you make it change.'"

Many who attended the May 16 demonstration in Washington, D.C., called by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, says the letter, went to express their anger at the Los Angeles verdict. "Jesse Jackson has also called for a national day of 'protest and healing' on June 19," it adds. "We need to join with others in these protests and discuss how these actions can help advance the building of a massive national protest campaign, including the possibility of a march on Washington."

The letter appeals for all who want to advance protest action along these lines to attend the national planning meeting, and to urgently contact the organizers. "Let us know what you think of this proposal," it urges. The mailing address is: Justice for Rodney King, c/o Zion Baptist Church, 621 Elwood Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411. Phone (612) 377-5436, Fax (612) 827-6433. Other contact people are Chris Nisan (612) 644-6325; Keith Ellison (612) 529-1412; Laura Lambert (612) 722-6923; and Norvelle Laurent (612) 773-9567.

The other signers of the letter are Lucia Wilkes, Women Against Military Madness; Mahmoud El-Kati, Professor of History, Macalester College; Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers Party; Norvell Laurent, St Paul Police/Community Relations Task Force; Sharif Willis, Viceroy Nation; Clyde Bellecourt, American Indian Movement; Keith Ellison and Laura Lambert, Minneapolis Coalition for Police Accountability; Alan Dale, Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Libya; Alva Waller, Black Law Students Association, University of Minnesota; and Mel Reeves, Coalition Against Police Brutality.

tions since February, only 16 have been ruled eligible.

Meanwhile, reports coming out of Haiti indicate some protests have been held despite fierce military repression. Youthful Aristide supporters held demonstrations in Port-au-Prince, Cap Haitien, Leogane, and other cities at the end of May. A coalition of 29 labor, peasant, student and church organizations called a nationwide general strike May 21 to demand Aristide's return, *Haiti Progrès* reported.

Protesting students at the Jean-Jacques Dessalines High School in the capital were arrested by police May 25 as the government suspended most secondary school classes. To the dismay of the army, a plane flew over Port-au-Prince, dropping thousands of leaflets in support of Aristide.

After months of tacit approval of the course of Haiti's military regime, the U.S. government has now bowed a bit in the face of growing repression in the country. Washington has promised to abide by a May 17 resolution passed by the Organization of American States. The measure would ban

from the United States, as well as other member country's ports, all ships doing business with Haiti.

To date European governments have refused to join the embargo — called for by peasant and labor organizations and Aristide supporters in Haiti — and continue to allow delivery of fuel and other essential goods to Haiti.

While declaring its intention to tighten rules against foreign ships trading with Haiti, Washington has been relaxing restrictions on U.S. goods going there. The U.S. State Department recently altered the embargo rules to allow seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides to be sent from the United States to Haiti. Last February, the Bush administration exempted from the embargo all U.S. businesses with factories in Haiti.

Meanwhile, the Haitian regime announced plans to form a "national unity" government without Aristide. A new prime minister and cabinet would be appointed and the post of president would be left vacant. An early draft of the agreement said that this move would "close the door" on Aristide.

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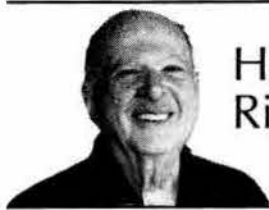
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No need to flatter him — "He seems like an average type of man."



Harry Ring

He's not, like, smart. I'm not trying to bag on him... but he has the same mentality I have — and I'm in the eighth grade." — Los Angeles student Venessa Martinez, after hearing the vice prez rap on the virtues of holy wedlock.

Read-it-and-retch dep't — In

the People's Republic Of China, applicants for flight attendant jobs on China Air must pass more than the usual tests. "They must be virgins," says the director of the training school. "We can't have our girls fooling around with the passengers. We speak to their teachers about it. ... We ask if the girls spend too much time with the boys. If they do, they're out."

Law n' Order — At Maryland's Coppin State College, Patrick Omo-Osagie, a student, was busted by a campus cop and held in a Baltimore jail for nine hours before gaining release. The cop claimed it all began with Omo-Osagie breaking the rules by eating potato chips

in the campus library.

He must be psychic — Addressing the National Association of Home Builders, the prez noted an average five percent monthly gain in housing starts during the first quarter of the year, and advised: "The old adage is coming true. As housing goes, so goes the economy." The next day, the government reported that in April, housing starts plunged 17 percent, the steepest drop in eight years.

Socialism, anyone? — The Census Bureau, which is not prone to exaggerating the situation, reports that in 1990, 18 percent of full-time workers were in "low-wage" jobs (\$12,195 or under).

That's compared to 12.1 percent in 1979. And, the bureau observes, the trend is likely to continue.

Tell us about it — That Census report warns that "declining wage rates can be a source of economic and social stress." Low wages, the report explains, make it harder to afford things like education and medical care.

Sounds reasonable — Despite the recession, the well-heeled are still traveling in style. Like the honeymooners who dropped \$500,000 on a three-week visit to Europe. That included Concorde flights, royal suites in London, Paris, and Rome, with a Rolls

Royce waiting at each stop.

Pink-slip special — The Post Office has issued a 29-cent stamp saluting the 200th anniversary of the founding of the New York Stock Exchange.

Not much protection — The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rents space in a privately owned D.C. building. Obviously familiar with the agency's record, its staff bypassed EPA and went to court, complaining of headaches and nausea caused by overcrowding, poor ventilation, and fumes from carpeting. Argues the landlord, "The air inside is better than the air outside."

Why U.S. economic upturn may be short-lived

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

A growing number of articles appearing in the financial pages and opinion columns of major newspapers have noted that the current U.S. economic upturn might be weak and short-lived, and could well be pulled down by a worldwide economic slide.

In an April 3 piece entitled "Facing Dangers of a Global Bust," *New York Times* columnist Leonard Silk commented, "The American economic recovery is being threatened by a global recession. In all the major countries, including this one, the recessions of the 1990s have proved to be deeper and more tenacious than the consensus forecasts of economists or governments."

"The unusually weak recovery now under way," Alfred Malabre wrote in the May 11 *Wall Street Journal*, "could run up against constraints that could cause a new recession."

"We are," said Gert von der Linde, chief economist at the Wall Street firm Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, "in the early to medium stages of a worldwide recession."

The latest downturn in the business cycle, which began in mid-1990 and ended recently, was the longest U.S. recession since the 1930s. In April, such economic indicators as increases in manufacturing, retail sales, and home-building, as well as the first dip in unemployment in nine months, showed that a recovery had begun.

Debt and unemployment

The *Wall Street Journal* remarked, however, "The economy may have less elbow room to keep expanding easily in coming years than is commonly supposed." It pointed out that personal savings in the United States are at "unusually low levels" and considerably lower than at the end of earlier recessions.

Working people are also more deeply in debt. Consumer debt comes to 17 percent of after-tax personal income, far greater than at the beginning of previous recoveries. The levels of corporate and government debt are also high.

The number of workers applying for unemployment benefits rose by 10,000 at the beginning of May, to nearly half a million. "I think these numbers tell us we have a fragile recovery at best," said Anthony Chan, senior economist at an important securities firm.

In Europe, according to Edward Balls of the London *Financial Times*, unemployment "has remained persistently and exceptionally high," reaching 9.4 percent and expected to keep going up.

These figures reveal only part of the picture though. While 9 million people in the United States are officially unemployed, another 1 million are considered "discouraged workers."

Because of the growing proportion of discouraged workers, Balls writes, "Male labour force participation has dropped sharply over the past decade as many have shifted from being 'unemployed' to 'economically inactive.'" Referring to the combined total of jobless workers, he states, "The non-employment rate of men aged 25-55 has doubled in the U.S. since 1970. It tripled in the U.K. [Britain], France and Germany."

In addition, one out of five full-time workers in the United States earns less than the poverty level — a 50 percent jump over the last decade. The *Wall Street Journal*

observed that this is not a result of the downturn in the business cycle "but rather is reflective of more fundamental shifts in the economy."

The rise in bankruptcies is also causing concern. The number of U.S. business failures rose by 44 percent last year to a record 87,266, according to Dun and Bradstreet Corp. annual report. Most affected were banks, insurance companies, and real estate firms.

"The recession, coupled with the vast amount of debt accumulated in the 1980s, has taken its toll across the U.S.," said Joseph Duncan, vice-president of Dun and Bradstreet. He added that a quick turnaround is unlikely. "The first phases of a recovery are often too little, too late for many firms," he said.

The recent announcement that Olympia & York, the world's largest real estate company, was filing for bankruptcy sent shock waves through financial circles. This "could have an impact on some major banks in Europe, Canada and Japan as well as some New York banks, including Citicorp, J.P. Morgan and Company and Chemical Bank," a front-page *New York Times* article reported May 15.

Real estate prices have been falling since the speculative boom of the early 1980s. "The market hasn't been the same since the 1987 [stock market] crash," said Richard O'Brien, chief economist of the American Express Bank in London.

Financial collapse in Japan?

The British magazine *Economist*, in its April 25 issue, focuses on another factor in the instability of the world capitalist economy. "After fretting for years that Japan was becoming too strong," it comments, "American pundits are now facing an unexpected challenge: coping with a Japan which, in some respects, may be too weak." It points out that the Nikkei stock index has plunged by more than 50 percent since December 1989.

"With the Tokyo stock-market tumbling, banks being squeezed and the economy entering recession, the fear in America and Europe is that a Japanese financial collapse could bring tentative recovery to a halt" in



The nonemployment rate of men aged 25-55 has doubled in the U.S. since 1970.

the United States and elsewhere, the magazine notes in another issue. It voices the concern that this could lead to a drop in U.S. exports to Japan as well as a cutback in lending by Japanese banks in the United States. Japanese banks now account for about a third of commercial and industrial lending in California, which has not yet come out of the recession.

At the same time, the German economy — the strongest in Europe — is faltering. "Only a few weeks ago, it seems, Germany's new strength was the issue," the *Economist* remarks, referring to the worries of its imperialist competitors. "Now, suddenly, the issue is German weakness." Calling Germany "the sickly giant," the article points to the huge cost of unification with eastern Germany and recent labor strikes that won wage increases.

The sluggish economies of other European countries such as Britain, France, and Italy "are being hampered by Germany," *New York Times* reporter Leonard Silk stated. In turn, as the headline of another *Times* article complained, "A Weak Europe Could Prevent U.S. Recovery."

Exacerbating these problems, the *Wall Street Journal* explained, "tensions between Washington and some trading partners have heightened lately, potentially complicating efforts to open foreign markets" and cutting down on U.S. exports. Trade competition

has been intensifying between the United States and its rivals in Canada, Japan, and Europe.

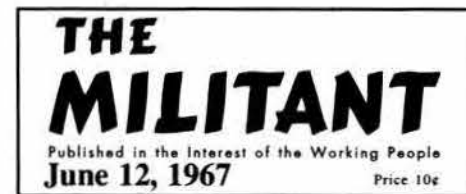
The economic domino effect extends worldwide, hitting the semicolonial countries particularly hard. The World Bank reported in mid-April that for the first time since World War II, per capita income in Third World countries had dropped for two consecutive years. It said the recession in the imperialist countries, together with the Gulf War, had battered the economies of Third World nations.

In the face of this slide into a world depression, the wealthy rulers of the United States and other imperialist countries have offered no solution. The somber mood in ruling circles was captured by *Financial Times* writer Balls:

"Slow growth and rising unemployment are fueling social discontent across the developed world: anti-immigration French nationalism, a threatened general strike in Spain, rising crime in Britain, riots in America are all worrying examples."

Yet, he added, as a meeting of finance ministers from all the imperialist governments approached in late May, "the representatives of the world's richest and most successful market economies will have little alternative but to wring their hands and shake their heads."

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



The eruption of the Israel-Arab conflict has been accompanied by the spectacle of a remarkably swift transformation of leading Vietnam "doves" into pro-Israel "hawks."

A Washington correspondent of the *New York Times*, Mary McGrory, cites the example of Senator Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.), a Vietnam dove, who told a Jewish Memorial Day rally in Washington that there could be no question of U.S. obligation to support Israel and, "if military action is necessary to obtain order and quiet in the Middle East, that action should be taken by the U.S. in concert with other nations. Yet there remains, if these efforts fail, a clear obligation for us to fulfill our own commitments."

Miss McGrory further reports that while Senator Robert Kennedy (D-N.Y.) has thus far taken the relatively dovish position of favoring dispatching a multilateral sea patrol to the Mideast, Senator Wayne Morse, a long-time critic on Vietnam, favors sending the U.S. Sixth Fleet.



Nine modern Pontius Pilates of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 1, for the second time within a month, washed their hands of the impending execution of Odell Waller, a poor Virginia Negro sharecropper condemned to die on June 19 for the self-de-

fense slaying of his white landlord.

The Supreme Court judges refused to review the case without even saying why.

But if Waller dies, his blood will be upon those nine august justices, as much as on the Jim Crow Virginia judge and the all-white planters' jury who convicted Waller, and the southern courts which upheld the conviction.

For Waller never had a fair trial, and the Supreme Court knows it. He did not have a hearing before a jury of his peers. In Virginia, as in seven other southern states, the poll tax has served to disfranchise the vast majority of citizens, the impoverished whites and Negroes. They cannot vote; they cannot serve on juries.

If the Supreme Court had ruled, as it should have, that Waller had not been tried by a jury of his peers, a great blow would have been struck at the poll-tax system. That is the system which permits a handful of ruling southern whites, the most reactionary scum in the country, to perpetuate themselves in political office.

But the Democratic Party's strongest base is that very southern ruling class which demands the death of Waller. That is why Roosevelt's Supreme Court would not even express an opinion on the case.

The CIO and AFL general counsels, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Negro March on Washington Movement, and a host of other organizations are demanding that Waller go free.

Let every labor and liberal organization act now! Let them flood Governor Darden with demands for a stay of execution. More is at stake than the life of an innocent man—vital as it is to save that life for its own sake. If Waller dies in the electric chair, there will burn along with him a portion of the rights and liberties of the American people.

No to U.S. war moves

Ivan Vejvoda, sociologist: "We are here with a message of great importance from Belgrade to the people of Sarajevo: We are with you."

Sanja Sanader, tourist agent: "Sanctions on the whole will punish the average person, the working class will bear the burden."

Goran Jovanovic, student at Belgrade University: "I came here to show support for Bosnia. We are also here to destroy the regime, but we don't know how."

A Yugoslav Airline flight attendant, laid off because of the sanctions: "I am against the war and the regime that has sucked our sons into the war. I want to show the world that all Serbs are not the same. We all expect to be bombed, and we remember when the Americans bombed Belgrade in 1944."

— statements by participants in an anti-war march of 50,000 in Belgrade May 31.

Washington — closely backed by London — has taken rapid steps to enforce an embargo against Yugoslavia. Officials are openly discussing military involvement in Yugoslavia under cover of the United Nations.

In making these moves, Washington and London do not have the interests of working people in any part of the former Yugoslavia at heart. Rather they seek to use the war there to bolster their position against rivals in Europe, particularly in Germany and France.

The drive to enact the UN sanctions is primarily spurred by the announcement of plans to form a joint French-German military unit, not by the terrorist killings carried out by Serbian forces in Bosnia. Washington fears the joint force will eventually undermine or call into question the NATO alliance.

A *New York Times* news analysis quotes an unnamed senior administration official who defended and tried to give cover to the move for exactly that reason, calling this "a defining moment on what kind of European security

system we are going to have. There is an absence of U.S. power, an absence of power generally. People are worried that the whole area is going to pot."

Washington has no desire to occupy the Balkans. As in Iraq, they deeply fear getting mired in a conflict that they cannot end. But serious consideration is being given to a limited incursion into Bosnia in order to demonstrate who calls the shots in military matters in Europe and to help justify U.S. war moves the world over. They want to take Germany down a peg and show that NATO, dominated by the United States with its significant troop numbers and unrivaled nuclear and other weaponry, must remain in first place.

Hence the sudden attempt to paint Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, as another "Saddam Hussein." Yet even the United Nations resolution imposing sanctions on Belgrade is careful to note that "all parties bear some responsibility for the situation" in Yugoslavia.

In reality, the savage conflict there results from the drive of various elements in the Yugoslav bureaucracy to bolster their power and access to land and other resources through fanning the flames of ancient ethnic divisions. The bureaucratic layer in Belgrade has demonstrated themselves to be the primary aggressors, capable of devastating the lives of millions. The divisions the rulers of the country are trying to exploit were largely superseded by the unity working people forged in the Yugoslav revolution of the 1940s and the advances working people in the different regions made together since that time.

Imperialist intervention will not solve the challenges facing the peoples of the former Yugoslavia. The road forward is indicated rather by actions such as the 50,000-strong May 31 antiwar march in Belgrade.

Working people everywhere should oppose the Washington-led sanctions and steps towards military intervention in Yugoslavia.

Embargo no solution to Yugoslav war

Continued from front page
tion" of Yugoslav diplomatic staffs.

The resolution expressly exempts from sanctions trade through Serbia and Montenegro, "trans-shipments," whose destination is outside the region. This is a sop to Greece, which conducts most of its trade with Europe through Serbia.

Yugoslav workers oppose the war

Working people throughout Yugoslavia have opposed the increasingly destructive war in spite of the attempts of the bureaucratic rulers to use nationalist rhetoric to win support. Tens of thousands marched through Belgrade May 31 to protest the war. Large black banners carried in the march commemorated those killed fighting both in Bosnia and Croatia.

One demonstrator interviewed by Cable News Network worried that the UN sanctions would not harm the bureaucratic regimes, but instead would increase the suffering of Yugoslav workers and farmers.

At least 2,500 people have been killed and more than 700,000 left homeless in the past two months, as rival bureaucracies in Yugoslavia have sought to divide up the land and resources of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Fighting increased in the last few weeks as it became clear that Washington and London would impose sanctions. Each side is trying to grab as much as they can before Washington intervenes.

Shelling of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, by Belgrade-backed forces May 28 "was the worst" ever, one resident told the *New York Times*. New fighting between Croatian and Serbian forces broke out May 30 at the port city of Dubrovnik, Croatia. Twelve people were wounded.

Better equipped and outgunning its opponents, Belgrade, which controls the Yugoslav Army, has made the most territorial gains, wresting a large chunk of Croatia and 70 percent of Bosnia. Recently it was reported that it began using multiple rocket launchers.

The U.S. and British governments have hinted at initiating some limited military intervention in Yugoslavia. A May 26 report by the UN secretary-general said sending "humanitarian relief deliveries . . . would require the deployment of troops in some force on each occasion to clear the route in advance of the convoy and protect it as it passed."

Another "potential combat operation," the document adds, would "require United Nations troops to secure the surrounding hills from which the [Sarajevo] airport and its approaches can easily be shelled." This, it says, would take "a considerable body of troops."

A naval blockade and closing air space over Bosnia-Herzegovina to Serbian military flights, such as was done in the war against the Iraqi people, are also being considered.

To justify the embargo, Bush claimed that "the grave events in Serbia and Montenegro constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States."

'Simmering tensions' between imperialists

The moves by both the U.S. and British governments highlight the extent to which the war in Yugoslavia has sharpened conflicts between the major imperialist powers. Far from defending working people in the battle-scarred country, Washington seeks to gain advantage over Germany and France. The war "has brought to the surface some of the simmering tensions between the United States and its European allies," notes a May 29 *New York Times* news analysis.

France, although it ended up voting for the sanctions, was at first opposed. The French Foreign Ministry later "disassociated" itself from the resolution's ban on sports contacts.

Germany, which is not in the Security Council, has been reluctant to back military intervention although it is for the sanctions.

"I would say that at the moment we should not be thinking about military action," stated German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel, "but rather that we should expect the sanctions to have an effect."

According to Reuters wire service, Bonn, which has backed the Croatian bureaucracy in the conflict, has ruled out sending its own troops to Yugoslavia, saying that memories of Nazi subjugation of the Balkans in World War II were too strong.

Washington worries that sending troops to Yugoslavia could end up getting the United States stuck in "a European quagmire," notes the *Times* article.

The *Times* points to the most important reason for the U.S. moves, saying its actions are "promoted by a desire to . . . upstage the Europeans," noting the White House was "greatly irritated" by the announcement of plans for a joint French-German army corps earlier in the month, which it sees as undercutting the U.S.-dominated North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). [see article on page 5]

"The Europeans were saying every day that they are a force to be reckoned with, that they want to organize themselves, so we gave the ball to them and they dropped it," a U.S. official told the *Times*.

Join the socialist campaign!

The worldwide offensive by the capitalist rulers against working people's standard of living and democratic rights continues. A relentless drive toward military intervention in Yugoslavia; layoffs; union-busting attempts; cutbacks in wages; cop brutality; racist attacks; pushing back abortion rights; deportations of immigrant workers in Los Angeles — these are the responses by the wealthy owners of capital to the deep problems of their system.

Faced with this onslaught, youth and working people around the world are resisting the capitalists' offensive.

Tens of thousands marched in Belgrade May 31 against the war that is led by the regime there to grab pieces of Yugoslavia. In June the African National Congress called for a series of strikes, boycotts, and demonstrations as a step in the fight for a democratic nonracial republic in South Africa. On May 24 mass protests in Thailand forced the resignation of the brutal regime of general Suchinda.

Canadian miners, Japanese rail workers, German public employees and metalworkers, steelworkers in Ravenswood, West Virginia, and other workers have fought strikes against cutbacks, winning victories in some cases.

Young people around the world are in the front lines of these battles. The majority of the protesters in Thailand were students. Some 50,000 students from throughout South Korea marched in Seoul May 31 demanding reunification of the Korean peninsula and the ouster of U.S. troops.

In Buffalo, New York, last April, it was mostly teenagers and youth in their early 20s that stood firm, rain or shine, every day for two weeks, to defend abortion clinics. The abortion rights supporters scored a giant victory by defeating the attempt by the rightist outfit Operation Rescue to shut the clinics.

Youth have been in the forefront of protests across the United States and in other countries demanding that the Los Angeles cops who beat Rodney King be convicted.

It is for these fighters, young and old, that James Warren and Estelle DeBates are running their socialist campaign for U.S. president and vice-president. Warren and DeBates and other Socialist Workers candidates are presenting an alternative to the parties of war, racism, and economic depression — the Democratic and Republican parties — as well as to rightist demagogues like Ross Perot who equally defend the capitalist system that breeds unemployment, cop violence, and attacks on women's rights.

All fighters against these evils should join in the Socialist Workers campaign.

- Participate in the petitioning teams to put the socialist candidates on the ballot and strike a blow against the undemocratic laws designed to exclude all but the major capitalist parties from the ballot.

- Reach out with the working-class voice in 1992 to thousands of youth and working people. Distribute socialist campaign literature and sell subscriptions to the socialist periodicals the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New Internationalist*. These weapons, along with Pathfinder books, enable fighters to make the most out of the struggles that are breaking out. Above all fighters need to study the lessons and experiences of past struggles by working people to register advances in today's battles.

- Contribute generously to the \$75,000 socialist campaign fund to keep the candidates on the road, expand press coverage of the campaign, and produce national campaign literature. The socialist campaign is not funded by billionaires but by the contributions of youth and working people.

- Make plans now to attend the international youth and socialist campaign conference at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9. At this conference, youth from around the world will discuss how to advance the common struggle against the onslaught of the wealthy rulers.

The socialist campaign is your campaign!

National lead on King protests

The national planning meeting, called for the Twin Cities — St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota — on June 13, is an opportunity to launch significant national protest actions seeking justice for Rodney King. The call for the meeting builds on the broad support reflected in the 6,000-strong demonstration in the Twin Cities that followed the verdict.

The Twin Cities demonstration was one of dozens of protest actions in cities from Los Angeles to Boston that denounced the verdict of the Simi Valley trial. Tens of thousands, prominent among them being college and high-school age youth, have shown their anger and willingness to continue fighting on this issue. The demand for federal civil rights indictments of the four cops by figures such as Joseph Hicks of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Danny Bakewell of the Brotherhood Crusade in Los Angeles also reflects this widespread sentiment.

However, as long as no focus is provided for the fight, capitalist politicians will continue to register gains, throw-

ing a smokescreen around the outrageous April 29 verdict with their denunciations of the Los Angeles events as nothing but the work of "criminals" and street gangs.

The federal grand jury considering the case of the four racist cops who were acquitted, as well as the scheduled retrial of one of the officers, will produce nothing in the absence of massive public protest. On the other hand, as the national planning meeting organizers' letter explains, "Federal prosecution is wholly possible under existing civil rights statutes and completely winnable with organized mass action aimed at the government."

All those who want to fight for justice for Rodney King and score a blow against cop brutality should support the call for this national planning meeting. Circulate copies of the letter to your union, student organization, and other groups and individuals in your city. Organize representatives to attend the meeting.

Build national actions to demand indictment of the guilty cops!

1,000 rally to support Ravenswood Steelworkers

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standard, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and safety benefits. Some unionists faced with sharp takeback demands, lockouts, and union-bust-

total blackout on the negotiations, and this was reflected at the rally. No information was given on how the talks were progressing, which many there had hoped to hear.

The company is under a lot of financial pressure. According to an AP report on court documents, RAC lost \$23.5 million dollars in 1991 compared to a profit of \$18 million before the lockout. A com-

The ship's operators then applied for and were granted a court injunction, which bars the Seafarers Union and the Waterfront Workers Union from picketing the *Straitsman*.

The company has also filed a claim against the two unions for about \$75,000 in damages for loss of business that it alleges was caused by the pickets.

Until a year ago, the vast majority of workers in New Zealand were formally members of unions. Employers were required by law to comply with union contracts setting conditions of work and enforcing union coverage of workplaces. This has begun to change since the passage of the Employment Contracts Act (ECA) in May 1991, which removes these legal protections.

In many workplaces, union contracts have been replaced by company contracts. This has often led to a drop in union membership or the end of union coverage altogether.

Employers have also used the cover of the ECA to step up their offensive against workers' wages and conditions. A central focus to

date has been extending the work day by removing restrictions on the hours of work and by abolishing or reducing the payment of extra rates for overtime, shift work, and weekend work. Many workers have also seen their wages frozen or reduced, and more contracts now have lower pay rates for new hires.

These changes have often occurred with little or no resistance from workers. The picketing of the *Straitsman* by members of the Seafarers and other unions is one of the exceptions to this.

Workers launch strike against Georgia-Pacific

Some 65 workers at the Georgia-Pacific roofing plant in Hampton, Georgia, are maintaining picket lines 24 hours a day. The morale of the striking members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local Lodge 2731 is high. The strike began April 21 when union members rejected a company contract offer that would have taken back double-time pay for the seventh consecutive day worked, increased the deductible

on medical insurance, and run for five years instead of three.

The strikers want to maintain their old contract. Two days before Thanksgiving last year, the company laid off 24 workers, including the union president, and afterward workers worked many Saturdays and Sundays, as well as 16-hour days.

The company has been attempting to operate the plant with supervisory personnel. They have also tried to hire temporary workers locally to cross the picket lines. The pickets, however, have been successfully turning the temporary workers away.

When the strike started, six Henry County Police cars and a SWAT team came to the plant to protect the company. On at least one occasion the strikers have been harassed by police after turning away temporaries.

Teachers' strike begins in U.S. Virgin Islands

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) began a strike May 15 in the U.S. territory of the Virgin Islands. The AFT, which includes 2,500 teachers, paraprofessionals, and support staff, took this action in response to the governor's refusal to sign a contract that had been verbally agreed to at the beginning of the school year in September. The contract calls for a 4 percent raise for each of the next four years, and cost-of-living allowances.

"The reason for the strike is because of the callous and recalcitrant attitude of the governor in terms of his position of not being willing to execute the teacher contract," stated Cecil Benjamin, president of the St. Croix Federation of Teachers.

On April 1, more than two-thirds of the members of the union voted to begin a work slowdown. Two weeks later the union membership narrowly voted by a 50.6 percent margin to continue the work slowdown rather than strike. On May 4, as required by law, the union served notice on the government of intent to strike.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Linda Joyce, member of the International Union of Electronic Workers Local 627 in Fairmont, West Virginia; Miesa Zarate and Nick Gruenberg, members of the United Steelworkers of America in McDonough, Georgia; Janet Roth, member of the United Food and Chemical Workers Union in Wellington, New Zealand; Wendell Hamilton in St. Croix, Virgin Islands; and Paul Kouri, member of USWA Local 3495 in Vancouver.

ON THE PICKET LINE

ing moves have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines 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.

One thousand people attended a solidarity rally in Ravenswood, West Virginia, May 16, in support of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 5668. These workers have been locked out for 18 months by the Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation (RAC).

Those attending this event included members of more than a dozen different unions from throughout West Virginia, as well as from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky.

"Ravenswood is where the working class draws a line in the sand," stated United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) President Richard Trumka. "You pushed us too far and we're going to push and push and push back. . . . Unionism doesn't stop at the border—to fight multinational companies we have to have multinational union solidarity."

Many UMWA members attended the rally. A few weeks earlier UMWA District 17 had organized a day-long bucket collection in towns across Lincoln and Logan counties and at the bathhouses on mine sites, collecting more than \$6,000. In addition, District 17 presented a check at the rally for \$13,400 and \$405 in cash from miners at Pittston Coal, who had themselves waged a bitter strike in 1989.

Negotiations with RAC resumed April 27 after a complete top management shake-up, and every indication is that the workers will soon be going back to work. The question remains, however, under what conditions? There is union agreement to a

pany report claims they are on the "brink of financial ruin."

The company got agreement from National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) administrative judge Bernard Ries to delay his ruling on unfair labor practices against RAC until after the present negotiations. Previously, the NLRB had ruled in the union's favor and the company appealed. At issue is the illegal hiring of 1,000 scabs that replaced the workers, and more than \$100 million dollars in back pay.

Ernie Cobb, a 28-year employee of RAC and member of Local 5668, summed up what many echoed all throughout the rally and on the picket lines: "We've won what we have so far through solidarity, including our unity, with having only a few cross the picket line. But the main thing is the outside support from other unions and individuals—you just can't imagine the support we've gotten."

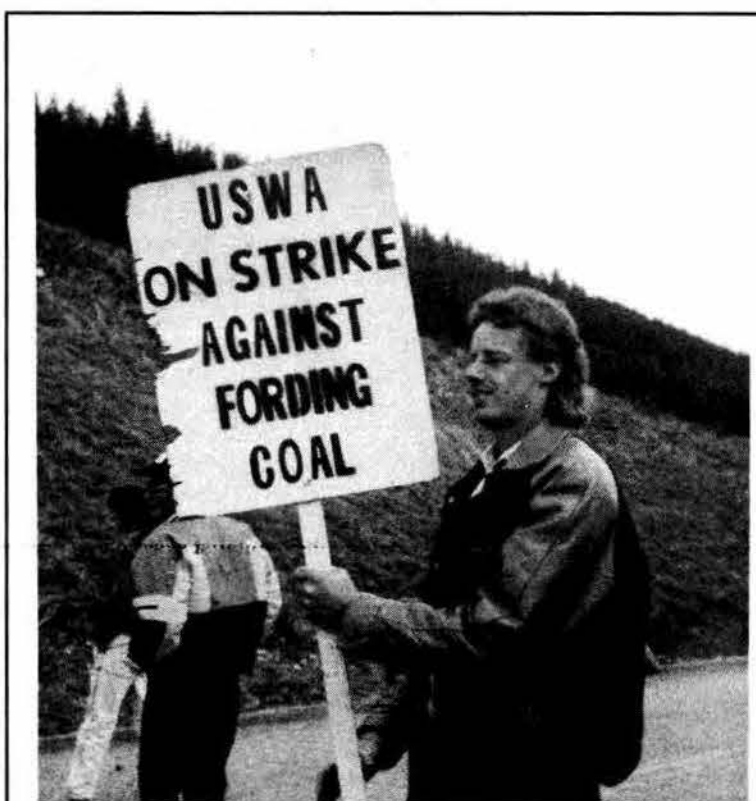
Workers picket nonunion ship in New Zealand

One hundred fifty unionists gathered on the waterfront May 19 at 4:30 a.m. in Wellington, New Zealand, to picket the ship the *Straitsman*. They were protesting the vessel being worked by non-union labor.

A range of unions joined the picket line, including car assembly workers from Porirua, meat workers from Shannon, and a contingent of pulp and paper workers from Kawerau, several hundred miles away.

The *Straitsman*, which carries livestock between New Zealand's North Island and South Island, had already been loaded earlier in the night. As the vessel was due to sail, a large contingent of police arrived to ensure pickets could not prevent its departure.

In a previous picket of the *Straitsman*, in April, members of the Seafarers and other unions occupied the ship's gangplank and surrounded its mooring ropes. It was only able to leave after police arrested more than 20 of the protesters.



Militant/Anna Schell

United Steelworkers of America Local 7884 picket line near Sparwood, British Columbia. Two of Canada's largest open pit coal mines have been locked out and on strike since early May. Some 900 members of the USWA struck Fording Coal over safety violations and the renewal of their contract. Nearby Westar Mining locked out 1,100 members of the United Mine Workers union after 62 percent of the workers voted against the company's contract proposal.

Coal miners from both unions are concerned about the deteriorating safety conditions at the mines as the bosses drive for increased productivity. An engineer at the Fording Mine, Ken Wong, fell down a chute to his death on April 27. "We have been nothing but a number for the company," explained Gary Clarke, USWA safety committee chairman. "For them workers' blood spilled is the same as diesel fuel spilled."

LETTERS

Union victory

Workers at Pacific Steel in Auckland, New Zealand, where I work, won an important victory when, under the threat of an indefinite strike, the company agreed to back off from attempts to impose individual contracts on the workforce and to exclude the union.

As the 250-strong workforce was meeting May 14 to vote on the strike, the bosses sent word that they were prepared to commence negotiations on a collective agreement. Union representatives would be part of the talks and any agreement reached would be brought back to the workers for their ratification.

Our fight to continue the previous collective agreement under the existing conditions dates back to December last year. At this time the

bosses presented us with individual contracts which cut into extra pay and work conditions, made no mention of the right of workers to be represented by the unions, and allowed the company to change any of the work conditions at any time. The contracts contained no termination date.

The workers responded to these attacks by establishing a site committee which represented all the unions in the plant.

In a series of meetings, the committee explained the need for the workers to be proud of the fact that they produced steel and that if they stuck together there was nothing that the company could do.

In the days leading up to the strike vote the site committee appointed a picket captain, collected all the workers' phone numbers,

and started organizing picket shifts. Two days before the strike vote we all marched again to the managers' office to show him that what the company faced was a united group. When he lost his cool and called us a "mob," the reply came back "we're the mob that produces the steel around here."

Tony Gibson
Auckland, New Zealand

Curtis defense meeting

Thirty-five people attended a meeting May 13 at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, in defense of imprisoned activist Mark Curtis. John Gaige, a longtime leader of the Curtis defense effort, addressed the meeting following a showing of a video, *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*.

Gaige explained how a political campaign has been launched against Curtis by the cops and their supporters, including some union officials who hate and fear the possibility of rank-and-file union members like Mark going into struggle.

"You can see how such procop right-wing forces also launched a smear campaign against Rodney King to seek justification for what they did in Los Angeles," he noted. Curtis's defense committee has rebutted every specific argument made by these opponents, who are "trying to do what the courts and prosecutors could not do: make the frame-up against Mark Curtis stick."

Gaige stressed that all working people should support Curtis because the facts in his case show that he is innocent. It is very important to defend the principle that some-

one, whether they are a political activist or not, has the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty," Gaige said.

There were many people in the audience who were just learning about the case. There was a rich discussion period in which they asked numerous factual questions about the frame-up and the politics behind it. Some \$30 was donated in a collection.

Peter Seidman
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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

Los Angeles: government campaign defends arrest of immigrants, Blacks

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — District Attorney Ira Reiner has made the preposterous claim that 150,000 Black youth in Los Angeles County — one of every two — are members of criminal gangs.

Meanwhile, prominent figures in the Black community repeated the demand that the federal government prosecute the four cops who beat Rodney King.

Reiner's claim of 150,000 gang members is intended to give credence to various federal and local officials who argue that the social outburst triggered by the whitewash of the cops who beat King was in fact largely the work of criminals.

Reiner is also adding his voice to the racist chorus of politicians and media who are bent on exploiting to the maximum the arrest of the four young Black men charged with the beating of Reginald Denny.

Denny is the white truck driver who was pulled from his truck and badly beaten soon after the verdict in the King case was reported.

The four young men are alleged to be members of, or "associated" with, a street gang.

At the time they were arrested, a deputy district attorney, Anne Ingalls, declared, "This is one of the most violent gangs in the city. There is a malignancy in their hearts that is chilling."

Earlier, U.S. attorney general William Barr had said: "I think the violence was largely the product of the criminal element that was taking advantage of the situation."

In Los Angeles, U.S. attorney Lourdes Baird disclosed that the federal government was weighing gang indictments under the RICO law. An asserted antiracketeering statute, RICO has been used in political cases as well as criminal ones.

"There's no question," Baird declared, "that we are looking at the potential of utilizing the RICO statute against the gangs."

District Attorney Reiner, defending the numbers he had come up with, talked out of both sides of his mouth.

"That number may be artificially high," he conceded. "But on the other hand it may not be. . . . It may mean just what it says, that about one out of every two Black males are involved in gangs."

The figures are derived from a huge computer file system which lists tens of thousands of young people's names accumulated by cops on the basis of such "evidence" as baggy pants, T-shirts with the names of particular sports teams on them, baseball caps, tattoos, and, also, by what they assert to be admissions of gang membership — that is, the claimed responses of youth who are stopped and grilled on the streets.

Mark Hill, a warehouse worker, and two friends told one reporter that, though none of them were ever gang members, they have watched cops list gang affiliations next to their names while questioning them. Hill estimates that since adolescence he has been stopped and questioned more than a hundred times, without being arrested.

Prosecutors say they make frequent use of the gang "data." The assistant district attorney who is the head gang prosecutor said the listing helps him to prepare cases and to argue for harsher sentences.

Meanwhile, city officials decided to modify their original figures on the number of buildings burned during the out-

Rally calls for new trial of killer cop

BY HARRY RING

COMPTON, California — In a display of solidarity and determination, 1,000 members of the Samoan community rallied at City Hall here May 28 demanding the retrial of Alfred Skiles, a cop who pumped 19 bullets into two Samoan brothers and then pleaded self-defense.

A mistrial was declared when the jury divided 9-3 in favor of acquittal of the cop who killed Pouvi Tualalelei and his brother Itali.

Among the participants in the protest were Julie Tualalelei, widow of one of the slain brothers, and their sons, Niles, 8, and Itali, 6.

Niles carried a sign that said: "Al Skiles: Why did you murder my father?"

Itali held a placard declaring, "Al Skiles: you shot my father in the back."

Asked why she was participating in the demonstration, Julie Tualalelei said, "I want to express my outrage at the justice system."

That clearly was the mood of the protesters, young and old, men and women.

In addition to demanding a retrial, a number of rally speakers pressed for federal intervention. The Justice Department, they insisted, should prosecute Skiles under federal civil rights laws. Declarations of support and solidarity were read from figures in the Black, Korean, and Filipino communities.

At one point the rally recessed and the entire throng marched around the Civic

Plaza, a municipal complex, chanting demands for justice.

As they marched past police headquarters, with armed cops on the roof, a roar went up: "Nineteen bullets!"

In an interview, Fuiava Alailima, a cousin of the two slain men and a community activist, said the first trial showed that the office of Los Angeles County district attorney Ira Reiner could not be relied on to mount an effective prosecution.

"There's an inherent conflict of interest," Alailima said, noting that the district attorney and the various county police agencies "all work together."

"We want a lawyer," he said, "who has the [Samoan] community's interest at heart."

Many Samoans live in the area. Alailima said a recent social agency survey indicated that between 20,000 and 30,000 live in Compton, Carson, Long Beach, and Wilmington, a cluster of municipalities in the greater Los Angeles area.

The two brothers, one a warehouse worker and the other a college student, were killed in front of their Compton home by Skiles, who had responded to a domestic dispute call.

Witnesses said Skiles began shooting after the two unarmed men complied with his command to kneel on the ground.

At the trial, Skiles testified that his recollection of the shooting was hazy but that he had feared for his life and fired in self-defense when the brothers allegedly threatened him.

After shooting the two men 10 times, he claimed, they rose from the ground and moved again to attack him.

With that, the cop asserted, he hurriedly reloaded his gun by discharging the empty magazine and took a fresh one from a buttoned belt pouch, popping it into the gun. He then fired again.

According to autopsy reports, Skiles fired a total of 19 shots, all hitting the victims in the back or side.

A neighbor, who called the emergency 911 number when she heard the first round of gunfire, testified that she then heard a shout, "Get on your f---ing feet," followed by a second barrage of gunfire.

The trial was the first time in a decade that a cop in Los Angeles County had been criminally charged in a killing.

In the Samoan community there was anger from the outset that Skiles was charged only with manslaughter, not murder.



Cops arrest youth in Los Angeles

ANC vows mass actions to 'break intransigence of regime'

BY SETH GALINSKY

African National Congress president Nelson Mandela warned the South African government May 28 that it must stop trying to maintain white minority domination of the country.

Speaking at a four-day African National Congress (ANC) policy conference in Johannesburg, Mandela said that the ANC

delegates had set July as a deadline for possible mass action "to break the intransigence of the regime."

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) also announced plans for a campaign of marches and demonstrations that could lead to a general strike.

Referring to last week's deadlock at the second session of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa II), Mandela said, "The inescapable reality is that the regime laid bare its fundamental contempt of democracy and its unmitigated desire to hold on to power." Codesa, with the participation of the ANC, the government and 17 other political groups, is negotiating an end to the apartheid regime.

Several major papers in the United States like the *New York Times* tried to portray the deadlock in the Codesa II negotiations as principally a dispute over what percentage of votes in an interim government would be needed to enact constitutional provisions.

Heart of dispute is over majority rule

But *Washington Post* columnist Allister Sparks noted in a May 28 column that "the heart of the divergence between the ANC and the white government [is] over what kind of country the new South Africa should be."

"The ANC wants majority rule," Sparks wrote. "It insists that the majority party must have the right to form the government — or, as Nelson Mandela put it, 'normal democracy as the world knows it.'"

"De Klerk and his National Party, on the

Continued on Page 11



Militant/Greg McCartan
ANC president Nelson Mandela

break and, also, the number of people arrested.

Initially, the Los Angeles County sheriff's department had stated that 18,807 people had been arrested.

Officials now say this was some 50 percent off the mark and the actual number arrested is somewhere under 10,000.

Fire department officials who initially said that they had coped with 5,537 structure fires now explain that the actual number in the city of Los Angeles was 623. They say a study revealed that many of the reported fires were multiple 911 calls about the same blazes.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service now reports that during the outbreak it took immediate custody of 318 people arrested during the outbreak and deemed to be here illegally.

Meanwhile, Judge Stanley Weisberg ordered that policeman Lawrence Powell be tried again, this time in Los Angeles County.

Powell was the only one of the four cops not exonerated on all counts. A mistrial was declared on a single count against him when four jurors refused to clear him of the charge of using excessive force "under color of authority."

Joseph Hicks, executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said the decision to retry Powell was not sufficient, that justice would not be done unless all four cops are prosecuted by the federal government.

This demand, also made by Danny Bakewell of the Brotherhood Crusade, was echoed by city council member Mark Ridley-Thomas.