Economic depression in Japan gives rulers jitters
BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The Japanese economy is headed toward one of its worst downturns since the end of World War II, which has provoked anxiety among the major capitalist powers. With unemployment at its highest level in 45 years, the country’s economy contracted 0.5 percent in the 1997 fiscal year, corporate profits are down 15 percent, and zero growth is projected in 1998, the April 15 Business Week reported.

Corporate bankruptcies soared 30 percent in February to 1,586, according to Tokyo Shoko Research, a credit research company. The company forecasted 17,300 bankruptcies of companies owing a total of more than $100 billion for the 1998 fiscal year.

After adjusting for inflation, real wages of large companies in Japan fell an average of 1.3 percent last year.

At the same time, the government carried through an austerity budget that included raising the sales tax and cutting social spending.

“Weapons of the Japanese economy is currently facing its most difficult time ever,” Norito Ohga, chairman and chief executive of Sony, declared April 2. “I am concerned that if Japan falls into a deflationary spiral it would affect the Asian economies.”

Warning that “the economy is on the verge of collapse” that could trigger a world re-

Continued on Page 12

‘Militant’ sells well at plant gates, union rallies
BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

‘Militant’ sales were up 97 percent at Caterpillar workers in East Peoria, Illinois, April 4 and 3 percent higher in Peoria, Illinois, April 5 and the next day with 12 more copies at Caterpillar workers there.

Ail Reyburn, a member of the United Auto Workers in Chicago, said, “This is the only paper that stood behind us all the way,” he told his co-workers. “We’ll see Caterpillar workers in East Peoria, in Peoria, Illinois, April 7 at a community college in Kansas City, Missouri. The ‘Militant’ will be here, attended by 750 people selected by the liberal American Federation of Teachers and the Con

Continued on Page 14

Defend Social Security!

In the name of “educating” about Social Security and preparing ways to “save” it, the Clinton administration seeks to lay the groundwork to eventually dismantle this social gain, which was won as a product of the struggles of working people over decades. The union movement and all working people have a stake in opposing these moves.

The employing class prefers that workers die quickly once they’re too old or sick to sell their labor power. ‘For them it’s a prob-

Continued on Page 14

Clinton floats proposals for cuts in name of ‘fixing’ system
BY MARTIN KOPPEL

The White House has launched a campaign to win greater public acceptance for making inroads into Social Security — all in the name of “fixing” it. Some 44 million people, overwhelmingly workers and farmers, depend on this entitlement today.

On April 2, in a coordinated mili-

Continued on Page 14

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We’ll give up our lives, but we won’t give up Kosovo
Iraqis say ‘U.S.-UN out now’

During a March 24 funeral procession, the families of 53 Iraqi children who died a week earlier due to shortages in medicine, protested outside the Al-Rashid hotel in Baghdad, where United Nations “weapons inspectors” reside. Washington imposed economic sanctions on Iraq in August 1990 as part of its preparations for the 1991-90 Gulf War, and has pushed for the UN Security Council to keep them in place. Since then, the UN Security Council has imposed 15 sanctions, which cut off Baghdad’s ability to import medicines and other necessities.

Israeli shells kill Lebanese farmer

Israeli warplanes pummeled a small village in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Lebanon, with air-to-surface missiles April 2 and then shell ed the area, killing a 33-year-old farmer. Tel Aviv claims that Lebanese guerrillas, but such claims were all but deserted. That evening Hezbollah returned fire into territory occupied by Tel Aviv. Hezbollah was formed by fighters in Beirut who opposed the 1972 Zionist troop occupation of southern Lebanon, which was aimed at putting down resistance of Palestinian guerrillas.

The day before the Loueizeh attack, Tel Aviv claimed to endorse a “weapon inspectors”’ demand the withdrawal of Israeli forces to keep them in place since. By conservative estimates, half a million children have lost their lives as a direct result of the sanctions, which cut off Baghdad’s ability to import medicines and other necessities.

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Each week The Militant reaches 40,000 miles outside the U.S. in North America, Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. It is read by workers in all sections of the world, from the megalopolis to the village. It is the only socialist weekly produced for and by workers.
Imperialist rivalries highlighted with ‘euro’

BY CARL-ERIK IASCONSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Last 24 hours after German chancellor Helmut Kohl de­clared his government’s support for initiat­ing the projected European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) with 11 of the 15 members of the European Union (EU), the president of Germany’s central bank again raised doubts.

Speaking before the lower house of the German legislature April 5, Bundesbank chief Hans Tietmeyer said that the ratio of govern­ment debt to gross domestic product in Italy and Belgium was too high and could “very quickly” cause conflict over monetary policy within the single currency. He refused to discuss how many countries should start the EMU, however, saying this was a po­litical decision.

The governments planning to participate in the single currency see the “euro” as a possible economic block against rival cur­rencies, particularly the U.S. dollar and Japa­nese yen, but a step virtually ruled out today for two reasons. One is because of the conflicting political and economic interests among the potential members, par­ticularly Paris and Bonn. And secondly, be­cause of the failure of the capitalist rulers in any European country to break work­ers’ resistance to the austerity conditions the em­ployers demand to shore up their profit margins. The starting member­ship of the EMU is to be formally decided May 1, 1999.

On March 25 the European Commission, the executive body of the European Union, proposed 11 states for admission into the EMU: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain. These countries plan to block, or at least to slow down, the reunification of the Euro­pean Central bank, also issued a “conver­gence report” that gave approval to a start at the end of the year. On the income side, member countries pay a maximum of 1.27 percent of their GDP to the EU budget. The com­mission has not proposed any change on the income side, and is not expected to do so until after the German federal elections in September.

Earlier reductions in EU subsidies have brought about protests by farmers in Greece, Greece, and other member countries around the Mediterranean.

The Greek cabinet, which is composed of right-wing politicians, has promised to privatize companies and banks. The government announced last year it would not get the common currency, the “euro,” until the very end of the 1999

The European Commission proposal is officially promoted as a way of financing the enlargement of the European Union, but has never been given serious consideration, especially during the debate over the governments in Bonn is not allowed to reduce its payments to the European Union budget.

By the year 2001. The Greek foreign minister, for Russian antiaircraft missiles, which will be delivered later this year. The Greek government has demanded that negotiations with the Cypriot government on the issue of the Turkish Cypriot administration is paving the way for another war on the island. The government in southern Cyprus has imported a substantial amount of weapons from Turkey, which has been admitted to the EU as a member of the European Union. But have never been given serious consideration, especially during the debate over the governments in Bonn is not allowed to reduce its payments to the European Union budget.

By the year 2001.

The European Commission proposal is officially promoted as a way of financing the enlargement of the European Union, but has never been given serious consideration, especially during the debate over the governments in Bonn is not allowed to reduce its payments to the European Union budget.

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Nearly 140 turn out for Los Angeles socialist conference

BY PAT NIXON AND HEATHER MARTIN


Many of those attending the conference were young. Members and supporters of the Young Socialists from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Seattle attended. Three events from Ontario College in Los Angeles participated in their first socialist conference.

Teresa Harris, a young worker at United Airlines, attended because she wanted to learn about the Middle East and the world. “I love Che Guevara,” Harris said after reading Socialism and Man in Cuba by the Argentine-born revolutionary who was a leader of the Cuban revolution. “I liked his concept on the working man, his idea of feeling good about your work,” she said.

Displays at the conference reflected the range of activities socialist workers and youth are involved in. A Pathfinder Bookstore exhibit featured the recent publication of English and Spanish of Celebrating the Homecoming of Ernesto Che Guevara’s Reinforcement Brigade to Cuba, a collection of articles reprinted from the Marxist buurt’s Guevara and the Cuban revolution’s place in world politics. A photo exhibit showed socialist workers and youth campaigning against imperialism in arts and culture, factory gates, political protests, picket lines, and on campuses. Another photo display detailed the working-class resistance in Albania, Kosovo, and Macadonia.

Conference speakers heard eyewitness reports from Jack Willey and Argiris Malapanis. Malapanis reporters just back from a two-week trip reporting to Egypt and the Balkans.

The reporters attended the conference of the World Federation of Democratic Youth held in Cairo, Egypt, and then traveled to Yugoslavia, especially the Kosovo province, Macedonia, and Albania. The discussion and questions reflected great interest in the roots of the national oppression of the Albanian population in Kosovo and the ongoing working-class resistance to that oppression.

Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, participated in the recent Havana Book Fair and reported to the conference.

Nearly 140 turn out for Los Angeles socialist conference

Give to a paper that prepares workers to fight

By Pat Nixon

NEWARK, New Jersey — “The Militant is a weapon that arms us, our co-workers, and everyone who will listen, and prepares us for the growing capitalist world disorder,” said Robin Maisel, a longtime supporter of the socialist paper, at a West Coast socialist conference held in Los Angeles April 4. Maisel made an appeal to the audience of 140 people to contribute $10,000 international Militant Fund, reported to the conference.

The conference, co-sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party branches in Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco, was highlighted by major presentations by Militant staffers Argiris Malapanis and Young Socialists leader Jack Willey, who spoke on their recent trip to Cairo and the Balkans, and Mary-Alice Waters speaking on the Cuban revolution and Pathfinder Press.

As members of the audience took envelopes in which to place their contributions, Maisel urged them to wait a bit and hear his appeal before writing out checks and pledges. “You don’t know yet exactly how much you want to give,” he suggested with a smile. Maisel was right. By the end of his brief but effective fundraising pitch, which underscored the irreplaceable role of the socialist press for workers who want to fight and change the world, those present had made more than $19,000 in pledges and contributed about $1,000.

The positive response to the Militant Fund has been evident in other cities as well. Megan Arney from Newark reported during a Sunday afternoon sale, a team of Militant supporters at Pennylane Station was approached by a member of the Teamsters union who works at the local Anheuser-Busch brewery. The Teamsters there are engaged in a contract fight and are preparing for a possible strike in face of the company’s attempts to force a two-tier contract and concessions on workers. The unionists stopped and talked with the salespeople, bought a Militant, and gave a $5 contribution. He said he and other Teamsters should welcome a Militant reporting team to come and interview workers to publish their side of the story.

Militant readers are urged to send in brief reports highlighting outstanding responses from workers at picket lines, on the job, and at factory gates.

Mike Iuliano in Atlanta reports that Militant supporters there raised $900 at an event April 7 where Mu’amir Shirvani spoke about the U.S. war drive against the workers states in Russia and republics of the Caspian Sea region. An auto worker from the local Ford plant and three other workers from Latin America who support the Militant were among a small but enthusiastic audience.

Sam Manuel in Washington, D.C., reported: “Supporters of the Militant newspaper here are planning a special fund raising rally on April 19, the forum will feature Rosa Garmendia, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, who was part of a recent Militant reporting team in Cuba.

Garmendia will speak about the Havana Book Fair and other developments, such as how working people in Cuba are collectively confronting the challenge of increasing agricultural and industrial production.”

Militant supporters need to take steps to turn this around, both in raising enough money to meet local goals, and especially to collect funds and send them in.

Contributions can be made out to the Militant Fund, and sent to 410 West Street, New York, New York, 10014.

Miami program to celebrate 100 years fighting U.S. imperialism

By Ernie Mailhot

MIAMI — Activists against the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba here have called for a public meeting titled “100 Years of Struggle Against U.S. Domination — Resistance of the Puerto Rican and Cuban People.” It will be held at the First Unitarian Church in southwest Miami on May 2.

Among the featured speakers at this event will be Rafael Cancel Miranda, a Puerto Rican independence fighter who spent 28 years in U.S. prisons; Andres Fernandez, a member of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of Cubans in the United States who support the Cuban revolution; and Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and editor of the English-language edition of The Bolshevik Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara. A representative from Cuba has also been invited to address the meeting.

The sponsors of the meeting include the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, the Antonio Maceo Brigade, the Alliance of Workers for the Communist Party, and the Socialist Workers Party.

One year ago the group sponsored a public meeting in Miami for Felix Wilson, the first Secretary of the Cuban International Section in Washington, D.C. This event marked the first time that a public meeting with a representative of the government of Cuba was held in Miami. More than 200 people, most of them Cuban-Americans, attended.

Orlando Collado, from the Miami Coalition to End the U.S. Embargo of Cuba, commented on the importance of the upcoming Miami meeting. “Last year’s meeting was a big success and showed the changes in this city. Those attacking Cuba have less support. The meeting with Rafael Cancel Miranda and the others will also show this. And this time we’re going to promote this weeks in advance.”

Ernie Mailhot is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1126.
Elvidio Mejia, organizer
Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and south­ers at the plant gate of the Amoco oil company and LTV capitalist farmers.
Rayson.
BY

One who is interested in the team can call us in Des Moines capital and Textile Employees at the plant gate of Pincus Brothers garment factory where a woman worker from Bosnia insisted on giving $5.00 for the paper because of the coverage on the independence struggle of Albanians in Kosovo, Yugoslavia. A sales team also went to a bus barn where members of the Transportation Workers Union worked. These workers are fighting for a contract with SEPTA, the regional trans­portation association, against demands for work rule changes and increased hiring of part-time workers. One driver bought the paper at a previous sale, on the night that a possible strike was projected, one worker bought a Militant subscription and three others bought the paper. Philadelphia supporters also set up a literature table at a meeting where 100 people came to hear Rafael Cancel Miranda, a longtime leader of the struggle for Puerto Rican independence. Participants at the meeting bought two sub­scriptions to the Militant, one to Perspectiva Mundial, and several books.

During the first three weeks of the sales campaign, six-co­workers of Militant supporters have bought subscrip­tions. Two were sold to members of the Machinists union who attended a film showing at the Pathfinder bookstore that raised funds to send their co-worker, Becca Arenson, to an international women’s conference in Havana, Cuba. A new subscriber at the Lear corporation in Newark, Dela­ware, attended a Militant Labor Forum and came to a class by Ma’mud Shirvani on the Russian revolution. A young Black worker at Boeing bought a subscription and then attended a campaign rally for his co-worker, Connie Allen, who is running for Congress on the socialist ticket.

Elvidio Mejia, organizer
Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and south­ers at the plant gate of the Amoco oil company and LTV capitalist farmers.
Rayson.

¡Militant! sells well at factory gates from Peoria to Vancouver!

BY MAGGIE TROWE

DES MOINES — Elvidio Mejia, organizer of the Militant/Perspectiva Mundial circulation drive in Iowa, reports that supporters of the Militant and PM here are preparing to field a team in the Midwest meatpacking region — Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and southern Minnesota — from April 25 through May 2. They will pay special attention to packing plants organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

“The team’s itinerary will include stops for plant gate campaigning with Socialist Work­ers candidates from Iowa,” said Mejia. “They will also visit campuses and go door-to-door in working-class neighborhoods.”

Mejia explained that “destinations include the IBP-owned Tama Packing plant in Tama, Iowa, where the company called in the immi­gration cops in January after workers had staged two days of sit-down strikes in the cafeteria, the Swift ham plant in Omaha, Ne­braska, where Immigration and Naturalization Service agents arrested 110 workers in Febru­ary, and an Iowa hog packing facility where the packing bosses sold hamburger tainted with E. coli bacteria last year, thousands of pounds of which was ordered recalled by government inspectors.

Socialist activists will also visit the large IBP plant in Perry, Iowa, where Thomas Alter, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Iowa, works. They will combine plant gate campaigning with visits to university cam­puses in Des Moines; Omaha; Lawrence, Kan­sas; and Minneapolis. The Iowa sales team will also reach out to working farmers in the area, including hog farmers who have been hit by a steep drop in prices and competition with big capital­ist farmers.

“Supporters of the Militant and PM can join us if they can get that week or part of it off,” Mejia said. “While many of the packing­house workers are Spanish-speaking, you don’t have to speak Spanish to be part of the team. Any­one who is interested in the team can call us in Des Moines at (515) 277-2312.”

BY CANDACE WAGNER

PHILADELPHIA — Supporters of the Militant and Perspec­tiva Mundial drive to Kentem Squares, Pennsylvania, “the mushroom capital of the world,” where workers at the Kaolin mushroom factory have been in a seven-year fight for union recognition. The team went to several buildings in the town, where one mushroom worker bought a subscription to Perspectiva Mundial and another mush­room worker renewed his PM subscription.

One worker bought a yearlong subscription along with the special offer of Celebrating the Homecoming of El­vira Guarnizo, the Guerrero Republic­an Enforcement Brigade’s组织开展．One former mushroom worker purchased a copy of Juntos a Che Guevara (At the Side of Che Guevara) by Cuban leader Harry Vilegas. Several expressed interest in attending a Militant Fund event in Philadelphia in two weeks.

Supporters of the Militant pressed to sell two copies of the Militant to members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) at the plant gate of The Boeing Company. A sales team also talked to members of the Union of Needletrades, In

dustrial and Textile Employees at the plant gate of Pincus Brothers garment factory where a woman worker from Bosnia insisted on giving $5.00 for the paper because of the coverage on the independence struggle of Albanians in Kosovo, Yugoslavia. A sales team also went to a bus barn where members of the Transportation Workers Union worked. These workers are fighting for a contract with SEPTA, the regional trans­portation association, against demands for work rule changes and increased hiring of part-time workers. One driver bought the paper at a previous sale, on the night that a possible strike was projected, one worker bought a Militant subscription and three others bought the paper. Philadelphia supporters also set up a literature table at a meeting where 100 people came to hear Rafael Cancel Miranda, a longtime leader of the struggle for Puerto Rican independence. Participants at the meeting bought two sub­scriptions to the Militant, one to Perspectiva Mundial, and several books.

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![Militant supporter John Naubert, right, selling the paper at a Boeing gate in Renton, Washington.](image)

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April 20, 1989 The Militant 5
YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD

Los Angeles YS built on action and study

This column is written and edited by the members of the Young Socialists (YS), an interna­tional organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, 1573 N. Milwaukee, P.O. Box 4878, Chicago, IL 60632-4878. Tel: (773) 772-8551. Compuserve: 101562,605.

BY HEATHER MARTIN

BY MIKE BROUSAS

In the AEGEAN, Young Socialists in Los Angeles have organized a weekly class series at Occidental College on New Internationalist, which began in the article, "The Opening Gates of World War III." The class was formed following a rally of 150 held late February at that campus to protest Washington's war plans against Iraq. Four people who attended the rally have also participated in the class and carried out activities with the YS since.

In addition to the class at Occidental, the Young Socialists has also held a class on the same topic at the Pathfinder Bookstore. Teresa Harris, a student for United Airlines, attended that class because, "I wanted to know what was going on in the Middle East," and purchased New Internationalist, 7, Is Biology Woman's Destiny? by Evelyn Reed, and Socialism Today.

Selling Pathfinder at UFW march

Members of the Los Angeles Young Socialist chapter attended a march and rally in San Fernando of about 300 people March 29 to commemorate the anniversary of the death of César Chávez and to support current farm workers' struggles. The action was called by the United Farm Workers and the National Farm Union. The march went from Brand Park to San Fernando Park. At the culminating rally at San Fernando Park, a reading was done by staffed by Young Socialists and others attracted workers, students, and youth. Three copies of The Communist Manifesto and two copies of the New International magazine, which sell at a number of other bookstores sold at the rally. Two people bought subscriptions to Perspectiva Mundial and one signed up for the Militant.

Building report back from Kosovo, Havana

The Los Angeles YS, with help from a regional Young Socialists team from Seattle, also helped to prepare the Afghanistan report back from Kosovo, Cairo, and Havana.

Sara Hart, an 18-year-old student at Occidental, and Man in Cuba by Ernesto Che Guevara.

Protests mount against cop brutality in Chicago

BY JOHN STUDER

CHICAGO—"I feel like marching," Rev. Paul Jones, chairman of the Greater Chicago Community Peace Initiative, told a crowd of more than 300 people at a tribunal against police brutality here March 29. The event followed a week of mobilizations by hundreds of Blacks and other opponents of police brutality to protest the arrest of and verbal and physical assault of 19-year-old Jeremiah Mearday.

Mearday was arrested by cops last September and beaten down his throat by a police flashlight. On March 28, in a week of escalating police violence, the two cops involved, James Comito Jr. and Matthew Thiel, were fired by the Chicago Police Board. The board said the cops used "egregiously violent conduct" and "conspired to cover up what occurred on that day.

One week after the firing, three cops accused Mearday as he was sitting on his front steps. A number of witnesses have told the press they saw the cops jump Mearday and handcuff him. The cops took the young man to the same police station where Comito and Thiel had been assigned, searched him, and found nothing. The cops claimed later that they had found six pieces of cocaine in one of Mearday's pockets. Mearday was held overnight and charged with attacking the three cops who arrested him. Hundreds turned out for an emergency motorcade on March 18 at the office of the Midwest Community Council, a Black community organization. Jones organized funds and support for the families of the Black groups to cover Mearday's bail, and he was released the next day.

The following Sunday, March 29, the cops began scouring Mearday's neighborhood passing out subpoenas and telling area residents they had to show up before a grand jury the next Monday, March 23, or go to jail. Mearday supporters called a rally that Sunday night at the New Mount Pilgrim M.B. Church to organize to fight this effort to intimidate witnesses to the cop beating. The featured speaker at that rally of 300 people was former Illinois appellate court judge and author of the book Police Brutality, who serve as attorney for all those who had been served a subpoena. The rally was the broadest since the Mearday fight began. All three of Chicago's Black congressmen attended, as well as dozens of area ministers and political figures. Another meeting was called for the following night. A videotape was shown of the TV coverage reporting the cops' claim that they didn't recognize Mearday because his face was covered by a hood, followed by the footage of Mearday being brought into the cop station. The crowd chanted, "No hood! No hood!"

Monday morning Pincham appeared before Judge Thomas Fitzgerald flanked by 80 opponents of police brutality. The cops had to admit that the subpoenas they had served had no names on them and no identification of any grand jury for witnesses to appear before the judge. But the judge ruled that the subpoenas were invalid, and no one could be forced to appear before a grand jury without an opportunity to consult with Pincham first.

Two hundred people rallied at the Old St. Paul M.B. church to celebrate the victory and decided to organize a march in Mearday's neighborhood the next evening. More than 100 people joined that action. Many area residents marched and several shouted support from their porches.

The Committee Against Police Brutality held the tribunal on police violence at the Quality Inn near downtown March 29.

John Studer is a member of the United Steelworkers of America Local 1011.

Activists protest death penalty in Florida

BY GLENN SWANSON

AND MACEEL FRUIT

MIAMI — "The state of Florida is about to carry out the legal murder of four people in the eight-day period beginning March 23," stated Angel Lariscy, who represented the Florida Committee Against the Death Penalty in the Militant Labor Forum here March 20.

Judie Buenoano, Gerald Stano, Leo Jones, and Man in Cuba by Ernesto Che Guevara.

Most of the discussion in the media focused on what is the "best" method to kill death row prisoners. Florida is one of only six states in the nation that mandates electrocution as the primary method of execution. The death penalty has been temporary abolished in the state since 1976.

"The unanimous decision of the state Senate and the case with which it is dis­cussed is part of the nationwide push to in­crease the use of the death penalty," Lariscy said. "These legal Lynchings have nothing to do with fighting crime. They are meant to deter the working class and to stifle resistance. Capital punishment is meted out as a political tool against the working class, while the crimes of capital go unpunished."

"From the workers who are maimed and killed due to unsafe working conditions to the millions of children who die from preventable diseases because of lack of medical care, workers are among the greatest oppressed people. But as we sit here, the workers of Iraq continue to face the same archaic U.S. government and "American military and intervention solidarity" in the U.S.

Also speaking at the forum was Ray Taseff from the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado. He stated that, although in the polls support for capital punishment seems high, "public support for the death penalty goes down once you start to probe it with ques­tions like, 'Do you support the execution of jogging or mental people? Do you support the politicians, however, such as U.S. Senator Bob Graham, have made their careers on the death penalty. Both speakers pointed to U.S. President William Clinton's attempt to be, also at the Arkansas execution of Ricky Ray Rector, who was mentally incompetent, dur­ing Clinton's first presidential election cam­paign. "Fifty percent of all the executions carried out since 1976 have realized that Clinton became president," Lariscy stated.

Taseff said that there is a debate now among progressive lawyers whether com­mitment give credibility to the institu­tion, does it feed the machinery of death, or is it our obligation to save even one life if we can."

Lariscy said that the legal fights against the death penalty are important but that ul­timately a political fight by the labor move­ment, which is the eventual target of the state's strategy, is what will need to be stopped. "The 1972 Supreme Court decision, which temporarily halted the use of the death penalty, came on the heels of the massive working-class civil rights movement proposed institutional racism in the U.S. and demanded a new respect for hu­man life."
ANC economic policy tackles racist legacy

Black workers, peasants in South Africa fight for better wages, working conditions

BY T.J. FIGUEROA

Johannesburg, South Africa — Having buried the apartheid white minority regime in 1994 after decades of mass struggle, the black majority is grappling with democratic, social, and political rights that are today being written into law by the country’s first nonracial parliament. This has opened the way for workers and peasants to tackle the harsh social and economic conditions under apartheid.

Blacks — Africans, Indians, and so-called Coloreds — constituting 86 percent of the population, are the main workers with the majority of whites abroad from those whites living in South Africa. The poorest 20 percent of the population, virtually all Blacks, receives only 1 percent of national income; the richest 10 percent, nearly all whites, takes fully half.

Since the 1994 elections, the African National Congress-led government, in addition to the old ruling National Party’s, has advanced measures to alter the conditions of life for blacks in city and countryside.

The ANC’s economic policy aims to advance a capitalist economy while using a large percentage of the national income for programs that address the basic needs of workers and peasants. Within this framework, factors that support the transformation of this country, ridden with apartheid’s legacy, are the old order of the whites.

For example, in just nine months last year, 354 people died in police custody. And the number of-rights abuses by the police in South Africa news agencies reported that a number of top army generals from the old order had been fired for their role in the government’s “recent” investigation into “intelligence” report. The bogus report — in the report, the army had used a falsified military apparatus — alleged that se­veral ANC members in the military were planning a coup d’etat.

The ANC’s economic policies are summarized in the government’s Growth, Employment, and Redistribution (GEAR) program, which relies on many market-driven “solutions,” puts sharp fiscal and political con­straints on the government, and sometimes clashes with demands put forward by work­ers.

In a speech before an ANC Congress held at the end of 1997, ANC leader and South Africa’s President, Thabo Mbeki, explained that although the parties that ran the government under apartheid are professing to do so the conditions of life for blacks in both the urban areas and the to­day’s economy.

In his speech opening parliament Febru­ary 6, Mandela highlighted a number of the government’s initiatives that are crucial in igno­red. In Mamelodi township, outside Pretoria, many roads are paved for the first time, clinics are being built, and side­walks are being laid. The same is true in Soweto and the largest township in the coun­try. Sanitation crews are picking up the gar­bage sometimes. Metropolitan authori­ties are building roads and the servicing of housing construction, which has not received the op­erations are from the bank of work.

Basic services versus fiscal constraints

What are the other visible changes in a coun­try where for decades the majority of na­tional income went to service the white mi­nority? In South Africa, where 43,000 deaths are recorded annually from AIDS, housing that barely meet the most basic standards, and inadequate sanitation.

Jobs and affirmative action

Mandela said a “jobs summit” later this year involving the government, unions, and employers would be a top priority. Latest figures put unemployment at 34 percent and rising.

An initiative of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), a “gold summit” was held February 26-27. The union demands action to prevent imminent mass retrenchments. NUM announced plans to lay off tens of thousands of miners. So far, more than 50,000 miners were retrenched, and according to the NUM, 30,000 more were laid off in January alone.

The NUM called for, and won, a morato­rium on retrenchments prior to the “gold summit.” There have been calls for a nation­wide strike campaign if an agreement to protect jobs and provide retraining was not reached. The summer “regulatory planning commit­tee” composed of the NUM, Chamber of Mines, and the government to regulate layoffs and a “social plan” to cushion the impact on miners. A one-week morato­rium on layoffs was agreed to. In addition, the ANC has introduced the Employment Equity Bill into parliament, the first law to remove nonracial barriers for workers. In addition, the bill requires every company employing more than 49 people to meet with trade unions and/or employees to: set up new state en­terprises; strengthen tenureship rights for the rural population; restitution of land (or com­pensation) to all those who have suffered loss due to apartheid from 1913 to 1994; and redistribute land to landless peasants. These three goals were to be achieved by year 2000. It is widely acknowledged that progress on this has now been slow.

Mandela reported that land tenure legis­lation, which would benefit the rights of 6 million rural dwellers, many of them farm workers. The seventh restitution claimant, he said, was a 100-year-old Afri­can farmer in whose family had been stolen under apartheid from 1913 on; and redistributing land that had been given to non­racial farmers.

An opinion column by Ray Goforth in the November/December 1997 issue of the Act from land restitution, is based on some of the failures of the land reform to date. “Current compensation, for Restitution of Land Rights estimates it could take up to 15 years to complete the adjudication process and to have, for example, a total of $5 million in jobs and growth averaged only about 2 per­cent. While foreign investment in the stock used up scarce resources, foreign direct investment is a different story. The government, at the last year.

The GEAR policy targets 6 percent growth and a total of 400,000 jobs by year 2000. In the context of the cur­rent world economic crisis, deflationary pressures, and the unprecedented recession, the IMF has put in the same boat with the GEAR proposals.


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April 20, 1998

The Militant
‘Socialism cannot be exported, but Cuba is a powerful example’

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE
MONTREAL. — “Socialism can’t be exported, but Cuba is a powerful example,” said Aleida Guevara March. “But Cuba is a powerful example for all oppressed and exploited around the world. If Cuba succeeds, then can we try to see, yes, why not? This is why U.S. imperialism remains so hostile to the Cuban revolution until this very day.”

Guevara March is the daughter of Ernesto Che Guevara, who was a central leader of the Cuban revolution and one of the outstanding communist leaders of the 20th century. She kicked off a three-city tour of Canada with two very successful events in Montreal March 23.

In the evening, she spoke at a packed hall of some 200 at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM). Another 200 people who were unable to get in stood in the corridor and filled an adjoining cafeteria to full capacity, where they viewed her presentation live on a closed-circuit television.

The same morning, she addressed a well-attended press conference at the Cuban consulate in Montreal, Gabriel Tiel, were also in attendance. The Cuban ambassador to Canada, Bienvenido Garcia, the Cuban general consul in Montreal, Gabriel Tiel, were also in attendance.

Aleida Guevara March, 36, is a doctor who works as a pediatrician-allergist at the national hospital for children William Soler in Havana. She has participated in two international missions.

The first was in Nicaragua during the “contra” dirty war organized, financed, and led by Washington to overthrow the workers’ and farmers’ government established through the 1979 revolution in that country. The second was in Angola in the late 1980s, as part of the Cuban effort to help repel the invading forces of the South African apartheid regime. The combined Angolan, Cuban, and Namibian forces eventually inflicted a decisive defeat on Pretoria’s racist armed forces in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1988 — exactly 10 years ago.

In both her talk and press conference, Guevara March spoke extensively about the major gains in health care and education made by the working people of socialist Cuba and the challenge they face under the impact of the more than 35-year-long embargo imposed on their country by the U.S. government.

“Before the [revolution] of 1959 was like Haiti and the Dominican Republic today,” she explained. “It was a neocolonial island. All of its resources were exported from the island — such as sugar and nickel — was sent to the U.S. to be processed and then sold back to us at very steep prices.” This was completely changed when the revolution broke the domination and power of the big landowners and of imperialism on the island. The needs of working people began to be put first. “The capitalist system never solved anything in Cuba. Socialism did, even with the errors we made. That’s why we are not going back to capitalism today.”

“Today,” said Guevara March, “there are teachers in all corners of the country. There are universities in each of the 14 provinces. The infant mortality rate is one of the lowest in the world, at 7.2 deaths for 1,000 live births.”

At both events, people asked what will happen in Cuba when Fidel Castro dies. “Fidel represents the consolidation and the persistence of Cuba’s historic revolutionary changes,” she answered. “He is also a magnificent educator. But Cuba has got where it is today because there are others willing to continue this struggle. I know some of them. For example, the Communist Party secretaries in the provinces of Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Santiago, and others are men and women of 35, 40, 45 years old. Some of them have been elected to the Central Committee and even to the Political Bureau.”

Aleida Guevara March’s presence in Montreal was widely covered by the local media, beginning with a front-page inter-

The Militant April 20, 1998
‘We’ll give up our lives, but we won’t give up Kosovo’

More than 100,000 march in Pristina

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

“We just came back from the demonstration. It was one of the largest in Pristina. So we think that there is at least 150,000 people here. It is our first demonstration since Kosovo is under SF and the right-wing-nationalist.” That’s how Mitil Cakaj, a member of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) of Pristina, described the April 9 mass mobilization in Pristina, Kosovo’s capital, in a telephone interview from that city the same day.

“We’ll give up our lives, but we won’t give up Kosovo,” was among the slogans, as in previous marches.

This was the largest protest for self-determination of the Albanian majority in Kosovo since early March, when tens of thousands poured into the streets of Pristina and other cities and towns of Kosovo in daily protests against assaults by special police forces and against the decision to grant to the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) and the Independent Students Union (UPS) at the April 7 session of the assembly that we would be signing our enemies, and people in Kosovo according to Cakaj and reports from Pristina, Kosovo’s capital, in a telephone interview from that city the same day.

Demonstrations for national rights of Albanians had subsided for a couple of weeks following an agreement reached in the Dragodan neighborhood of Pristina.

At the same time, however, Belgrade has been increasing its pressure on Kosovo according to Cakaj and reports from Kosovo Information Center. The Serbian army and secret services have increased hundreds of additional troops at Kosovo’s border with Albania and has held military exercises in the region.

The April 9 mobilization was sponsored by the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the main political party among Albanians there. It took place two days after the Serbian Parliament approved a proposal by Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic to hold a referendum on how to resolve the Kosovo conflict. The LDK and other political parties in Kosovo have held many demonstrations against the referendum. The LDK and other opposition parties have called for a referendum on the right to self-determination for Albanians in Kosovo.

“The calling of this referendum is another indication of what the regime intends to wage war on us,” Cakaj stated.

“We will continue to resist,” said Cakaj.

The LDK has kept in touch with a number of student leaders from the University of Belgrade who over the last two months have organized small delegations of Albanian students to join actions in Pristina supporting self-determination for Albanians.

“Those people, however, don’t have enough support yet to organize demonstrations in support of our struggle,” said Cakaj.

“We are worried about provocations from the ultranationalist movements. We will continue to open the way for broad support inside Serbia,” Cakaj said.

UCK gains strength

At the same time, press reports indicate that the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) has been strengthening its armed forces. The UCK was formed in 1991 in response to the declaration of independence by Yugoslavia. The UCK has been working to establish a separate Albanian state in Kosovo.

Since the crisis began, Washington and the UCK have openly worked to undermine the efforts of the Serbs to establish a separate Albanian state. The UCK has been working to establish a separate Albanian state in Kosovo.

“Under the former Yugoslav administration, Kosovo had autonomy and its own self-government. It has been a part of Yugoslavia since 1918. In 1991, the Milosevic regime revoked Kosovo’s autonomous status in 1989 and imposed a state of emergency that has been in place ever since. In 1998, the Milosevic regime revoked Kosovo’s autonomous status in 1989 and imposed a state of emergency that has been in place ever since. In 1998, the Milosevic regime revoked Kosovo’s autonomous status in 1989 and imposed a state of emergency that has been in place ever since.

The demand for independence gained momentum in March 1999 when the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1244, which called for a referendum on the future of Kosovo. Under the resolution, the UCK has been working to establish a separate Albanian state in Kosovo.

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'Family values' drive New Zealand is attack on social gains

BY FELICITY COGGAN
AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Prime Minister Jennifer Shipley used the occasion of her election to Wellington on February 17 to announce her government's intentions to push ahead with new attacks on social welfare. She followed her announcement the previous day that New Zealand’s militant Labour movement had won Washington’s military build-up against Iraq.

A cornerstone of Shipley’s February 17 speech was the launch of a proposed “Code of Social and Family Responsibility” in the form of a questionnaire to be posted to all New Zealand households. With the results supposedly to be collated for a report to the government in late July, the code is defined as a “key issue” by which the government claims its concern is of concern to “New Zealanders” and asserts an expectation for each area. It poses several leading questions for respondents to answer, and asks whether the code should be passed into law, or adopted as a policy guide for government.

The central theme of the code is that where the working class is suffering a crisis bred by capitalism, and that the solution is for individual workers and their families to take responsibility for meeting social needs.

With the code in place, more can the government do to encourage beneficiaries into work?” and “Should the courts have the power to curtail or cut welfare payments?” is the form being used by the government to establish a mandatory family and democratic rights.

Then it asks, “If there are beneficiaries who have certain obligations that you are not fulfilling, then you've not really a very clear message to the taxpayer expects better and we're going to get better out of you,” said Peters. The code was widened to include New Zealand residents. However, those who argue about the moving people and Maori — and women — who will take the benefits, work, or take on a new job.

A particular target throughout the code is women who have been unemployed, employment, sickness, and single parent benefits.

In the section “Managing Money,” it says, “Women have an important role in support for those who are on the unemployed, including, the sick and disabled, single parents, and the elderly.”

Prominent among the questions is the New Zealand First coalition government in December 1996, leftists New Zealand First leader Winston Peters, the deputy prime minister and treasurer, said that the coalition government would be distinguished by its “commitment to independency” toward the New Zealand Herald. A number of proposals, including introducing a “work or dole” scheme, were put forward in the coalition agreement between the two parties.

In March 1997 the government hosted a “Beyond Dependency” conference to promote schemes to cut social benefits. One example presented was the “Wisconsin Works” program in the U.S. state of Wisconsin that included measures to reduce access to public benefits, work for the dole schemes, and requiring single mothers to seek work when their infants are 12 weeks old.

The “Code of Social and Family Responsibility” was first proposed by Peters in his January 1996 budget. At that time, in a January 2006 report urged the government to trim its spending on public welfare and to cut unemployment, which pays when it occurs.

“The code of responsibility is about breaking that cycle. We need to encourage them to work, to get a good education, to build a future and attain a higher standard of living.”

The replacement of National Prime minister Jim Bolger by the Shearer government last December was greeted in ruling circles with anxiety to take further major moves to reduce unemployment to 8 percent of the workforce. Twenty-one percent of the working-age population receives benefits while only 30 percent of the country lives in families that depend on such benefits for income.

Shipley uses this fact to claim that “the community is crying out for ‘pegs in the ground’ in terms of what is fair, what can reasonably be expected from each of us and from government on behalf of all taxpayers.”

In fact, the government has already been in place to restrict a significant slowing of growth in numbers on benefits. And payment levels have only just caught up with the amounts being paid in other countries and being promised by the National government in 1991, not allowing for inflation.

The combined impact of the economic crisis and benefit cuts was reflected in an April 1996 study, which showed that 20.5 percent of the New Zealand population lived below a poverty line of NZ$16,891 a year for two adults and one child (NZ$21,000 or US$10.56). The incidence of poverty was two and a half times higher among Maori and three and a half times higher among Pacific Islanders.

Promotion of “family values” and “work ethic” has been a theme through a number of回避 from both political parties in promoting the code. Speaking in Wellington March 26, Shipley called for the reintroduction of religion in state schools and praised a law that was almost gutted by the Social Security education had “created an amoral environment,” she said. Public education in New Zealand has been secular since 1977.

Rightist voices have been embedded in this atmosphere. One rightist group, Cathi­olic Action, is preparing the latest wave of student actions in support of the hun­dreds of investment for Canadian capitalists. The opposition Labour Party has stated its opposition to the code. However, last year it stopped warning to worker people to lower their expectations of a Labour govern­ment if elected, explaining that it was “primarily the government’s job to improve the lot of the New Zealand people. The “families” locked at the last election. The Alliance party and the Council of Trade Unions is also criti­cism of the right-wing Labour and ACT endorses it, though saying it does not go far enough.

Felicity Coggan is a member of the Engi­neers Union in Auckland.

Chilean immigrant flight deportation in Canada

BY CARLOS CATALAN
Montreal, Quebec AL — “I don’t feel like an immigrant…. In coming here we are only fighting back what has been stolen from us a thousand and one times for centuries,” said René González, speaking at a Militant Lab­our Forum here titled, “No More Deporta­tions: Solidarity with Chilean Hunger Strik­ers.” González had been part of a hunger strike in 1986 to underline the threat of mass deportations of more than 160 families from Chile who have been denied political asylum by Canadian immigration authorities. The Canadian government has denied a record number of refugee claims in the last year.

The strike was supported by the “No to Indifference” committee, which organized a number of actions in support of Chilean hunger strikers. Support was strongest among students. Valentina Martínez, a 23-year-old student who took part in a 23-hour occupation of the Quebec Ministry of In­ternational Relations on March 18, said, Montreal, “Fifteen people participated in the occupation including students from the University of Montreal, the University of Quebec in Montreal, and Vieux-Montreal College. In organizing this action we wanted to protest the plight of the Canadian gov­ernment towards the Chilean refugees.”

Militant reporter Felicity Coggan, at the University of Montreal, active in or­ganizing the latest wave of student actions here in Quebec, added: “I think that the Canadian government is hypo­critical,” Letellier said. “For as long as we can’t change Canada’s role in Chile and as long as things haven’t changed for Chile, I think that they [the refugees] should all have the right to stay here and we shouldn’t be expected to welcome those who would like to come.” The Chilean refugees ended their 39-day fast March 24, with the promise that a sup­port committee, including Roman Catholic Church Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte and Gérard Larose, President of the Conferen­ce of National Trade Unions (CSN), would survey their cases as they are submitted to immigration procedures. Throughout the strike Federal Immigration Minister Lucienne Robillard has denied any special treatment for political refugees from Chile. Immigration official Eric Tremblay immedi­ately reaffirmed this policy at the end of the hunger strike, declaring, “No special status is accorded to the Chileans.”

This fight has put a sharper focus on Canada’s repressive immigration policy, especially the situation in Montreal, the University of Quebec in Montreal, and Vieux-Montreal College. In organizing this action we wanted to protest the plight of the Canadian gov­ernment towards the Chilean refugees.

Chile has always been an important area of investment for Canadian capitalists. Since the Canadian government signed a free trade accord with Santiago last year, Canadian businesses have become the second-largest for­eign investors, with $8.4 billion in total in­vestment and $4.8 billion in mining inter­est. According to Segaran, who was at the No to Indifference committee, commented, “It’s clear that the Canadian government puts profits before the refugees, before hu­man beings.”

This fight comes as Ottawa prepares to further restrict immigration rights in Canada. Proposals being considered include barring immigrants who do not speak En­glish or French, those who have not com­pleted two years of post-secondary edu­cation, or who have not obtained work per­mits. None of these moves would change the recommendations for asylum from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The conclusion of the Militant Labor Forum was that this flight is the result of a flight. Members of the No to Indifference committee explained their willingness to continue the fight. The work of the No to Indifference committee is dedicated to the work of the No to Indifference committee. The work of the No to Indifference committee is dedicated to the work of the No to Indifference committee. The work of the No to Indifference committee is dedicated to the work of the No to Indifference committee.
**Nurses strike against union busting in N.Y.**

**BY RUTH NEBBIA**

BROOKLYN, New York—"No Contract, No Real Nurses." "Until they walk, we will walk. If they do not want to give us one department to another, but a nurse from Maimonides also wants to float nurses from one area to another, but a nurse from one area may not be familiar in treating patients with illnesses in another area of the hospital." 

The nurses are trying to stand together," Palmorico said, "because if they can do it here, they can do it elsewhere. Just because we are women doesn't mean they can mess around with us."

Pepe Hofman, 46 and an orthopedic nurse for 20 years, agreed. She said that nurses specialize in areas of care, and floating them could be detrimental to the patients.

"Other unions have come out to support us," said Carmen Lazarini, 50, who works in the medical unit. "The teachers came today, [Hospital Workers Local] 1999, Lynch College nurses, nurses from Brooklyn Hospital and from other New York hospitals, and other unions." 

Among the issues in the contract dispute are cuts in uniform allowance and requiring nurses to pay for more employee parking. "This makes it harder for many nurses," explained Lazarini, who has 17 years at Maimonides, "because many are single with children."

"We're not asking for anything unfair; otherwise other unions would not back us," Lazarini told the Militant. "If we want without a raise for four years and they are asking for two more years without a raise."

"We want a contract," stated Rose Aparo, 34 and a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit. She emphasized that the main concern for the nurses is the proposed cuts in medical benefits.

Maimonides was prepared to break the strike, using in replacement nurses from the first day. The hospital administration has also accused nurses of sabotaging some of the equipment. "They say we damaged some equipment," one nurse who wished not to be identified told the Militant, "but we reported that equipment damaged months ago."

Maimonides is Brooklyn's second-largest hospital.

**'Militant' supporters discuss contract fight with UAW members at Case Corp.**

**BY AMANDA ULMAN AND RAY PARSONS**

EAST MOLINE, Illinois—A team of Militant supporters from Chicago and Des Moines discussed strike preparations and contract issues with members of the United Auto Workers at Case Corp. here April 3. That day, they sold 31 copies of the Militant and one subscription to the unionists who continue to take care of workers from an employment agency. 

Some 3,300 workers are affected at five Case plants in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. Case, a major builder of farm and construction equipment, is seeking increased demands and cuts in retirement benefits.

The weekly newsletter of the socialist newspaper weekly have been organized in East Moline and Burlington, Iowa, since March 3. UAW members in these plants have purchased three subscriptions and 130 copies of the Militant. 

First time and repeat buyers of the Militant are members of the United Auto Workers. According to the Local 1304 newsletter Union Voice, an informational meeting and strike vote was held March 15. The East Moline unionists voted 98.6 percent in favor of a strike if necessary, and the overall vote of all locals was 99.2 percent.

Since early March UAW Local 1304 in East Moline has organized solidarity rallies every Thursday. At times, the union has held rallies at a plant currently deadlocked in negotiations with the factory. The local has organized a public Solidarity rallies to raise the question of the company's commitment to the community, and many cars honked in support. 

Representatives of the Teamsters who drive for UPS are reported to have stopped by with a $50 donation to the strike fund, which was then used to buy pizzas for the nurses on the line. The strikers are planning a solidarity rally for April 14.

**Workers push back Case's contract demands at UK plant**

**BY PAUL GALLOWAY**

MANCHESTER, England—At a mass meeting in early March, shop stewards of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU) reported they were deadlocked in negotiations at the factory formerly known as Ferroc, which is now owned by Case Corp., a U.S.-based manufacturer of heavy construction equipment.

Case had offered a 3.8 percent pay raise, plus a 30p hike in the weekly allowance. One of 1,160 are members of Local 1304, and two other UAW locals represent clerical and skilled trades workers. 

Unionists have used the rallies to raise questions about their rights while working without a contract. 

Amanda Ulman is a member of UAW Local 1304, which represents workers at the plant in Des Moines, Iowa.

At the picket line, strikers handed out a flyer to passersby asking the backing of the workers, and many cars honked in support. 

The strikers are planning a solidarity rally for April 14.

Ruth Nebbia is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1447.
Economy in Japan

Continued from front page
cession, Ohga compared Japanese prime minister's decision to Herbert Hoover, the U.S. president at the start of the 1929 Wall Street stock market crash. "If you look at President Hoover's response to the time of the great depression and what Mr. Hashimoto is saying at the moment, they are very similar."

Other world capital figures and mouthpieces expressed similar apprehensions. "Japan's borrowing foreign debt deflation of the kind that afflicted the U.S. in the 1930's," the editors of London's Financial Times reported on April 4. "But the history of the past 18 months has become a closer compari-..."ner the kind that afflicted the United States and the rest of the world. The day after the U.S. president made his comments, the international credit rat-...ing agency Moody's Investor's Service lowered its rating on Japan, whose economy totals $5 trillion, to junk status. "There is a growing sense that Tokyo is un..."ood, the currency devaluations that was triggered when the government of Thailand released the baht's peg to the U.S. dollar last July. The currency devaluations make it more difficult for compa-...or the Bank of Tokyo to pry open its financial..."nd its rivals in Europe to avoid a profit squeeze if the crisis deepens in Tokyo's fi-...cal system. A financial collapse in Japan, whose economy totals $5 trillion, would have a sharp impact on the United States and the rest of the world.

The Japanese rulers have been derided by their rivals in Washington and Europe for lacking a decisive course of action to resolve the crisis. "Japan has entered its first extended recession without precedent in 100 years," the Wall Street Journal reported last month, and the latest news suggests that no one in authority is capable of doing anything about it. "You simply can't stay with a strategy that is not appropriate to the new realities and expect to get the results that are needed for the country," said U.S. president William..."p...alism, to be cut off. The prospects for the Japanese economy in the next nine months

CAIFORNIA

Los Angeles: Puerto Rico: 100 Years of U.S. Colonialism. Speakers: Ivan Camilli Rivero, Puerto Rican pro-independence movement activist, political analyst, and commentator for Claridad. Mark Friedman, Socialist Workers Party, member of International Committee of Asso-...onHUD. The day after the Japanese rulers have been derided by their rivals in Washington and Europe for lacking a decisive course of action to resolve the crisis. "Japan has entered its first extended recession without precedent in 100 years," the Wall Street Journal reported last month, and the latest news suggests that no one in authority is capable of doing anything about it. "You simply can't stay with a strategy that is not appropriate to the new realities and expect to get the results that are needed for the country," said U.S. president William...
Below we print excerpts from "Angola: African Giron, April 19, 1976" in Fidel Castro Speeches: Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy, 1975-80. This speech was given in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Cuban victory at the Bay of Pigs (Playa Giron). On April 19, 1961, 1,500 U.S.-based Cuban-born mercenaries invaded the Bay of Pigs on the southeast coast of the island. The action, organized by Washington, aimed to establish a U.S. military base in Cuba, an affair which was later to result in the famous "Cuban Missile Crisis." The invasion was defeated by the Cuban army, and the attackers were captured by the Cuban forces.

"...The United States has established throughout the world a system of military pacts, bases of aggression, centers of imperialism's most sinister and treacherous means. By these treacherous means, it seized the powerful empire that subjected all. Being stronger than all the risk, suffering, and dangers it would be necessary to bear. Never, without...."
EDITORIALS

Deny Social Security!

**Continued from front page**

Why the employers and the politicians who represent them want to roll it back, and put more of the burden for care of the young, the old, and the disabled on individual families.

Making Social Security an entitlement — available to all — was also part of knitting working-class solidarity of us who have higher incomes but rely on this program to make ends meet.

Like other social gains such as Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security has been presented as a result of the collective labor struggle that forged the industrial unions in the United States in the 1930s, and later extended in the course of the struggle for civil rights in the 1960s and 1970s.

The U.S. rulers are hesitant to take on Social Security, which 44 million people depend on for most or all of their income — directly. They probe at ways to encroach on this entitlement, from raising the retirement age to tax- exempting various “private” retirement savings schemes.

By criticizing the most extreme “privatization” proposals, the Democrats have defined themselves as a defender of Social Security. But the course of the Clinton administration has been to consistently set the stage for greater intrusions into this social wage. He pointed to the myth that there’s “just not enough money to go around” and brags about “ending welfare as we know it,” referring to his signature scheme to “end the welfare as we know it” for Single, Dependent Children, a piece of the 1995 Social Security Act.

Fighting to defend and extend social entitlements is part of defending the social protections needed to hold the working class together in face of economic crises and the divisions of race, gender, and sexual orientation that flourished when the labor movement should join in exposing Clinton’s attack on Social Security and organize to defeat it.

We won’t give up Kosovo

**Continued from Page 5**

organizing people to NATO training center in southern Macedonia, to be used for a U.S.-led Balkans rapid deployment force that could be dispatched to Kosovo; maintaining the 1,000 to 2,000 U.S. troops in Macedonia; and expanding the NATO presence in Albania to “train” that country’s army. The April 1 Washington Post reported that a number of U.S. troops in Macedonia have been shifted to Kosovo, and rising Albanian border tensions in the sight of Kosovo. Washington also maintains 8,000 troops in Bosnia that dominate the 30,000-strong NATO force occupying the republic.

The U.S. push for deeper intervention into the Balkans has stirred opposition from Moscow, which has balked at additional sanctions on Belgrade at the UN Security Council. The pro-capitalist government of Russia has been on a collision course with Washington over expansion of NATO into Eastern Europe and U.S. attempts not to only dominate the oil in the former Soviet republics of the Caspian Sea, but penetrate the broad layers of workers and peasants throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics from Yugoslavia to Slovakia and Belarus.

“Entry of new competitors into the market ishibited by state regulations and a shortage of entrepreneurial talent,” said an article in the April 7 Wall Street Journal, for example, referring to Romania. “Not to mention the welfare-state psychology that has conditioned so many Romanians against undertaking risky new ventures.”

The financial daily and other mouthpieces for the U.S. capitalist system reporting on the Washington press conference with Russian officials are putting people up to the attempts to bring back the system of wage slavery — from the workers states of Central and Eastern Europe to Romania. Some Macedonia even to the protection of a European policy dominated by France and Germany, to the benefit of a U.S.-led, U.K.-controlled, “Europe.”

Pension reform has been approved for NATO membership by the Atlantic military alliance. The accord awaits ratification by the U.S. Congress.

Washington’s main aim in the Balkans and with the encirclement of Russia is to use its military might to reestablish capitalist “law and order” in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

**‘Better under Soviet times’**

An article in the March 28 Economist of London, titled “A truly dreadful perspective,” cited a poll in the Ukrainian Expressing Satisfaclion newspaper which found working people and other layers of the population over “market reforms” in that republic of the former Soviet Union. In response to the question “When were you and your family better off?” 79 percent said in Soviet times and 4 percent said now. A majority also said they expected they’ll be worse off a year from now under the current course of the regime.

A plurality, 32 percent, said they favored union with Russia and only 1 percent supported NATO membership for the republic.

A number of articles in the big-business press have been recently produced expressing the broad layers of workers and peasants throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics from Yugoslavia to Slovakia and Belarus.

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Clinton on Social Security

Continued from front page

Gore. They are billed as a prelude to a White House aid, “reforms” that will be called “private” retirement savings schemes.

Continued from front page

The White House has also advocated raising the retirement age, which is currently 65 and is scheduled to rise to 67 by 2022.

The Social Security debate in capitalist circles has shifted in recent years more to “privatization.” Repub­lican senator and presidential candidate Michael Santi­orum, for example, who joined Clinton at the Kansas City meeting, advocates a scheme to allow individuals to invest 5 percent — nearly half — of their 15-year-old investment in the stock mar­ket or elsewhere. Liberal Democratic senator Daniel Moynihan calls for a cut of up to 30 percent in future Social Security benefits for higher-income Social Security taxes and promoting individual retirement accounts. Alternatively, his proposal would let workers get an increase in take-home pay instead of paying Social Security taxes. Moynihan also proposes raising the retirement age in stages to 70.

Other proposals that would benefit the rich and lower living expenses, Social Security helps benefits. This gain was won in the 1960s as a result of massive social struggles by work­ers, particularly Blacks fighting for civil rights. Social Security and other entitlements were won through the wave of labor struggles of the 1930s.

British troops out of Ireland!

**The following statement was issued March 28 by the Communist League candidates in the May local council elections in London, Celia Pugh for Coningham ward, Brian Hammersmith and Rick Fullham, and Pete Clifford for Angell ward, Lambeth.**

A United Nations Commission for Human Rights re­port has been forced to confirm what many people have known for a long time. That there is an organised relation­ship between the loyalist paramilitaries and the British army. It confirms that Brian Nelson, who was head of intelligence for the U.S. Defense Department, was a British army agent. He was involved in the murder of 15 people, attempted murders and 62 conspiracies to murder. Most well known of these were under­army orders, was that of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane. Finucane was killed by the UDA on Feb. 12, 1989, just three weeks after Daughney of the UDA was killed. Nelson had complained in parliament about solicitors who were sympathetic to nationalists.

These revelations come against a background where the truth about British rule in Ireland is unraveling. In recent months:

• The government has finally conceded a new public inquiry into the killings of 14 civil rights protesters by the British army in Bogside, Jan. 31, 1972. This is only came as a result of the international campaign for justice led by relatives of those who were killed.

• Under pressure from nationalist leaders to deal with the rightist Orange marches the government has set up a “Parades Commission” to look at their rerouting. Yet it has announced to the community, warned by Glenn Barr and the only two Catholics appointed have previously worked for the Orange Order.

“Privatization” is to be a united Ireland. British capital and an armed police force. Behind that is an institutionalised system of discrimination exists against Catholics at all levels from jobs and housing to education. This is what is meant in popular terms that Britain is seeking to defend. It has only been through the 30 year long fight by nationalists, led by Sinn Fein, that the final chapter of this murky history is being written.

Working people in Britain have every interest in taking the side of those fighting against the British government for a united Ireland and independent state. The same government that cuts disability benefits, scapegoats single mothers, uses up their savings and sells them to news racist murderers to get off scot-free. As the recent events over Iraq show, this same government is also preparing to take us to war for them in the coming months and years. As working people resist here they will come up against the same policies used against the Irish, just as the miners did in their 1984-85 strike. Progress in the fight for Irish freedom is progress for all working people. One example of this is how the breaking of the police frame-ups of the Guildhall 4 and Birmingham 6 mirroring in the British injustice system, leading to many others winning their freedom.

That’s why the Communist League candidates in the May 7th council elections will put at the centre of their campaign the call for a united Ireland. If we come out, the RUC must be disbanded, the prisoners released, and repressive legislation ended. Today we especially join the call for an independent public inquiry into the Brian Nelson affair.

Australia dockers

Continued from front page and a small delegation of state parliamentarians, mumsy-dumsy from the Labor Party, visited the pickets.

Defying a one-week Federal Court injunction against the workers, David Hargreaves, a leader of the dockers, Patrick used nonunion labor at its Freemantle wharf to unload a container ship in face of a rowdy pro­test. With support of the Prime Minister, the Liberal Unions is planning a national campaign to support the MUA. In Victoria a statewide work stoppage is planned.

Linda Harris and Bob Aiken, members of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, contributed to this article.
**LETTERS**

**Stalinism and Indonesia**

The "Book of the Week" column of the April 6 issue of the Militant printed selections from the article "Leninism and the Sta­linist tradition in Indonesia" by Ernest Mandel. The article appeared in the 1966 Pathfinder pamphlet "Stalinism and Leninism in Indonesia — Three articles on the fatal consequences of Communist Party policies." The article describes the depth of the catastrophic defeat that the world communist movement suffered in Indonesia in 1965 at the hands of military, nationalist, landowners, and their allies.

But that article fails to draw the correct conclusions. The role of Stalinism in leading the masses to a defeat without a battle. Stalinism resulted in the defeat of the working class and the Communist Party of Indonesia was that it did not understand certain theoretical questions.

However, other parts of the pam­phlet do take up the question of Stalinism. For example, an article written by a young member of the Indonesian Communist party who had succeeded in making his way into the bureaucracy. "During the struggle against the Japanese military occupation [during World War II], the PKI [Parti Komunis Indonesia] was instructed or 'advised,' under Stalin's guidance, to cooperate with the Dutch imperial­ist government, to carry out 'joint actions' against 'Japanese imperialism.'"

Thus they sold out political inde­pendence of the working class and its march toward power to the class collaborationist dictates of the Stalinist bureaucracy in Moscow. In his introduction to the pamphlet, Joseph Hansen explains the role of Stalinism in leading the workers in Germany in 1920s and the role of Stalinism in the Spanish revolution in the '30s. Hansen then writes, "In relation to Indonesia, it is a direct comparison to that of Stalin in the German events. Just as Stalin, out of passing diplomatic needs, blocked the German Communist party from developing a revolu­tionary policy that could have stopped the growth of the German working class in power, so Mao out of similar passing diplomatic needs (in al­though in the context of Chinese-Burmanese bourgeoisie) blocked the In­donesian Communist party from de­veloping a revolutionary policy that could have stopped the reactionary nature of the Indonesian working class in power."

The role played by Stalinism in the defeat of the working class in Indonesia is not simply a question of history. Now, mass movements in Indonesia are recovering from the effects of that catastrophic defeat and are building a new generation that is beginning to throw the shackles of backwardness, of capitalist rule that is so necessary to the working class in the struggle against imperialism. This generation is rising up in the face of the traditional conservative parties who are trying to make a common bloc with the National Front. The Maoists in Indonesia have already taken over the secretariat of the RPR. In Indonesia, it is only a matter of time before the Harrison list is voted down in the elections for the Indonesian Diet. And this will be a significant step in the movement toward a new set of international relations.

April 20, 1998 The Militant 15
Puerto Rican youth demand U.S. military leave Vieques island

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD AND RON RICHARDS

MAYAGUEZ, Puerto Rico — About 60 young people briefly blocked the entrance to the U.S. military base on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques April 5, in a protest organized by the Federation of Puerto Rican University Students (FUPU). "This was good," said Ismael Guadalupe Ortiz, an active in Vieques. "It is especially used a naval training center for long distance military maneuvers." Local fishermen, for example, reported that the U.S. military ships would sometimes fire machine guns into the sea as a form of training.

The use of Vieques as a training ground has been a source of conflict between the Puerto Rican government and the U.S. military for decades. The island has been a target of protests and demonstrations against U.S. military activities, including bombing and training exercises. The U.S. military has been based on Vieques since the 1940s, and its presence has been a source of controversy and resistance among island residents.

The protests on April 5 were part of a broader campaign by Puerto Rican activists to remove the U.S. military from the island. The protests have been met with a heavy police presence and occasional clashes with protesters. The U.S. military has defended its use of Vieques as necessary for national security.

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