

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Using and selling
'Capitalism's World Disorder'
— PAGES 6-7

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U.S. hands off Yugoslavia! Independence for Kosova! Open the borders!

Washington is escalating its savage war against Yugoslavia with round-the-clock air strikes, under the pretext of preventing a "major refugee crisis" of Kosovar Albanians. The intensified onslaught comes as a layer of U.S. ruling-class figures are pressing for a deal with Belgrade at the expense of the Albanians.

Working people the world over should reject this criminal maneuvering and demand the NATO war machine stop its murderous bombing of



Protest in Washington, D.C. against bombing of Yugoslavia, for Kosova independence.

EDITORIAL

Yugoslavia. We should demand U.S. and other NATO troops get out of the Balkans, and support the demand of the Albanian majority in Kosova for self-determination, up to and including independence.

The U.S. warmakers are now testing the waters for launching a ground invasion. This military operation would pave the way for partitioning Kosova as the next step towards imperialist occupation of all Yugoslavia.

Washington's war against Yugoslavia has nothing to do with halting "ethnic cleansing." While U.S. capitalist politicians cry crocodile tears about tens of thousands of refugees pouring into neighboring states, not one peep can be heard about opening the borders of United States and other imperialist nations, whose governments are participating in wreaking devastation on Yugoslavia. This illustrates the fact that the ultimate target of the U.S.-led onslaught is

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NATO escalates bombing assault

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

After a week of relentless bombing, Washington and other NATO powers have escalated their military assault on Yugoslavia. At the same time, the regime in Belgrade has intensified its "ethnic cleansing" campaign against the Albanian majority in Kosova, driving tens of thousands of farmers and workers from their homes and setting the stage for the possible partition of Kosova, an outcome that would not displease the

U.S. government.

U.S. and British capitalist politicians are increasingly debating proposals to send ground troops into Kosova. Despite claiming to protect the Albanian population, Washington shares Belgrade's opposition to the independence of Kosova and continues to seek to strike a deal with the regime of Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic that could weaken and defeat the struggle for

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Protests force indictment of N.Y. cops who killed Amadou Diallo

BY ALDUNCAN

NEW YORK — In the face of nearly two months of protests, a grand jury in the Bronx on March 25 indicted the four cops who killed Amadou Diallo, reportedly on charges of second-degree murder. The February 4 shooting of the 22-year-old worker from Guinea has caused a crisis for the city administration of Rudolph Giuliani, with even some of his fellow Republicans trying to dis-

tance themselves from the mayor. But even before the content of the sealed indictments is publicly announced, many of those who claim to lead the struggle for justice have begun working to defuse further protests.

Police officers Kenneth Boss, Sean Carroll, Edward McMellon and Richard Murphy are charged with shooting Diallo 19 times, firing a total of 41 bullets at him. Since Diallo's death there have been numerous demonstrations

and other activities demanding that those responsible be indicted and convicted. Among the most visible have been the daily actions at One Police Plaza, the police headquarters in downtown Manhattan.

When asked what she thought about the indictments, 43-year-old legal assistant Cynthia Davis said, "Anybody can be indicted. You can indict a piece of meat. The grand jury couldn't do anything else."

"I have no faith, none whatsoever, in the judicial system," Davis added. "People will have to show up in the hundreds. Not necessarily for civil disobedience, but to let people know we will not go away. On Tuesday the Bronx and on Wednesday in Brooklyn, at both courthouses," Davis was referring to the call made by the organizers of the protests at One Police Plaza to demonstrate at the courthouse as the next step in the fight.

According to the grand jury, second-degree murder was the highest charge that could have been brought against the cops under New York law. If convicted on these charges they could receive 25 years to life in prison.

"I think this [indictment] is a positive step — a first step if we want to get justice," said a 30-year-old Chinese-American teacher from Brooklyn picketing the police headquarters. "We need a trial so we can know what happened and learn lesson from it." She was among 20 members of the United

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Strikers vow to last 'one day longer' at RMI

BY KEVIN DWIRE

NILES, Ohio — "One day longer!" was the slogan of the day as 750 unionists and supporters rallied to back the 500 Steelworkers on strike at RMI Titanium. That spirit of strength and solidarity was reflected by the fighters who attended the rally. "These people forcing us out on strike made a big mistake," striker Russell Jones told the *Militant*. "It's just made us stronger. What RMI is doing is not going to work in their favor."

"We made RMI \$125 million in the last 18 months and this is how they treat us," Bob Walsh, president United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 2155, told the rally. "We want you to know, RMI, that after six months, 2155 and 2155-7 are strong and solid."

The strikers hit the picket lines Oct. 1, 1998. The company had demanded a two-tier wage structure, take backs on the pension plan and profit sharing, and sweeping work rule changes. If the company had its way, "a new hire would make \$9 an hour, and receive no pension ever. If we let that happen, shame on us," said Theodore Akins, a crane operator.

The rally was held in Waddell Park, across the street from the RMI plant. Several times the crowd turned to wave at the company cameras that constantly monitor the picket line. Strikers are prohibited by a federal restraining order from having still cameras, video cameras, or even a pencil and paper on the picket line to record the arrival and de-

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Bosses' greed kills five in fireworks plant blast

BY JEAN LUC DUVAL
AND JOHN SARGE

DETROIT — An explosion and fire at the Independence Professional Fireworks factory killed five people March 29. The plant, one of the largest U.S. makers of display fireworks shells, is located in the small town of Osseo, Michigan. This is the plant's second deadly blast in less than four months. On Dec. 11, 1998, seven workers were killed.

The most recent blast occurred in a building used to assemble fireworks, a former employee, Walter Adams, told the press. It was less than 100 yards away from the structure leveled less than four months earlier.

Those killed included Leah Dunning, 34-year-old mother of three, who a neighbor reported "wasn't crazy about going back after the explosion in December. But it was a good paying job for around here." Two other workers, one of the owners, and his wife were also killed.

Government inspectors have refused to order the company to stop production even though they claim that they have not isolated the cause of the first explosion. Michigan's Occupational Safety and Health Office, the agency responsible for government enforcement of industrial safety regulations, did not shut the plant down after

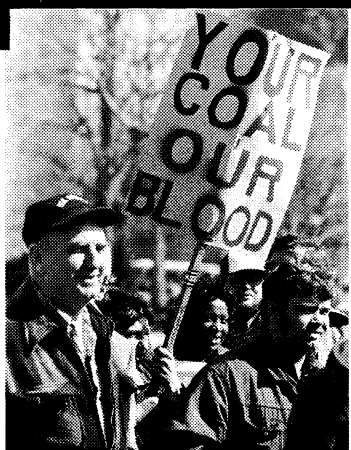
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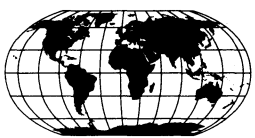
Coal Miners on Strike

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IN BRIEF

Farmers protest EU austerity

Some 4,000 farmers protested March 24 in Berlin during the European Union summit meeting. The farmers from different parts of Germany came on hundreds of tractors from all directions. They rolled up Unter den Linden boulevard and through the Brandenburg Gate to a concert of horn-honking. One of the main subjects of discussion at the summit is Bonn's slashing farm price supports. One banner read, "Ecology and Relief Taxes are Killing Farmers." After taking office last fall, the ruling Social Democratic and Green parties quickly passed taxes, demagogically labeled "ecology taxes," which shift even more of the tax burden onto working people and farmers as well as further cut corporate taxes. In what was called the largest police mobilization since World War II, 4,000 police were mobilized for the summit, sharpshooters posted on nearby rooftops, and water cannons brought up.

Protests in Romania denounce high cost of living

Tens of thousands of workers in Romania took to the streets March 24 in an action called by the unions to demand better living conditions. In the capital, Bucharest, some 15,000 workers filled the main streets. Honks from hundreds of cars in the procession melded with whistles and chants as protesters made their way to the government headquarters. The demonstrators demanded lower taxes, food stamps, and cuts in electricity, water, gas, transportation, and telephone service rates — all of which rose steeply this month. Meanwhile, Bucharest is under the pressure of servicing \$2.8 billion worth of foreign debt. Based on an deal with the World Bank to accelerate the sell-off of state companies and banks, Romanian prime minister Radu Vasile secured a loan for \$300 million March 23.

London moves toward extraditing brutal ex-dictator of Chile

London's top court ruled March 24 that former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet could be extradited to Spain to face some, but not all, of the charges of human rights violations brought against him by a court there. In a flagrant abuse of national sovereignty,



Farmers in Germany rally in Berlin in late March to protest cuts in subsidies

Pinochet was arrested in London last October at the request of two judges in Spain, who issued the warrant for him for the killing of Spanish and British citizens under his 1973-90 regime. Pinochet came to power in a U.S.-backed military coup against social democratic president Salvador Allende, and was responsible for the deaths of thousands. According to the ruling by the House of Lords, Pinochet will not be extradited on charges against him of torture and other brutality that occurred before so-called international human rights laws were established in 1988, but London says there are still ample charges for extradition.

Tokyo seeks to up military might

Officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic and Liberal parties in Tokyo are clamoring for a more aggressive military apparatus. The pretext is a March 23 incident where Japanese naval forces fired more than 1,200 warning shots and dropped more than 10 bombs near two unidentified ships.

Tokyo claims the vessels, which did not stop and left Japanese waters, were probably from the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea and were "disguised" as fishing boats. Some ruling party officials are now pushing for permission to make the first strike against a perceived threat. Currently, Japanese military forces can only fire if attacked first. Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi responded that the government would consider strengthening its ability to respond to such "attacks."

Chinese scientists deny spy claim

Li Deyuan, organizer of a 1986 conference of the Institute for Applied Physics and Computational Mathematics, denied Wash-

ington's claims that Wen Ho Lee, a computer scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, leaked nuclear secrets at that meeting. Li said the conference "was simply and totally a meeting about basic scientific matters," the *Wall Street Journal* reported March 22. Lee, a Taiwan-born researcher, was fired from his job at Los Alamos, New Mexico, after the U.S. big business and capitalist politicians launched a propaganda blitz accusing Beijing of espionage. Continuing the anti-China barrage, U.S. president William Clinton announced March 18 that his Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board would conduct a "review" of security at U.S. nuclear labs. The announcement came on the same day the U.S. House of Representatives voted 317-105 to approve a bill for building a nationwide "shield" against ballistic missiles.

Oil plant in California blows up

The Chevron gasoline and jet fuel plant in Richmond, California, near San Francisco, had a major explosion March 25, spewing thick black smoke over the surrounding area. Some 600 people rushed into three hospitals in the Richmond area complaining of nausea, a metallic taste in their mouths, and burning sensations in their throats. Chevron spokeswoman Terry Swartz claimed, "If the question is, is there a health hazard to our employees or the community, I don't believe there is." Just a month earlier, four workers were killed and one seriously injured in a fire at the Tosco Avon refinery, also in the Bay Area, due to the company's shirking of safety policies.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

Robert Dees contributed to this column.

Pathfinder bookstore in Des Moines is vandalized

BY MAGGIE TROWE

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Pathfinder Bookstore, a center for political books and discussion in Des Moines, was vandalized for the second time in less than two weeks. Around 10:45 p.m. March 24, eggs were thrown at Pathfinder's storefront windows. A similar attack took place March 13. The windows that were pelted with eggs feature a prominent display of a new title from Pathfinder Press, *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-class Politics at the Millennium*, by Jack Barnes.

Weekly public programs sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum take place at Pathfinder Bookstore. The store also provides office space to the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists. Recently, the store has become an organizing center for protests against the U.S. bombing of Yugoslavia; for actions in defense of the rights of all immigrant workers; and

for building support for labor struggles like the United Steelworkers strike against Titan Tire.

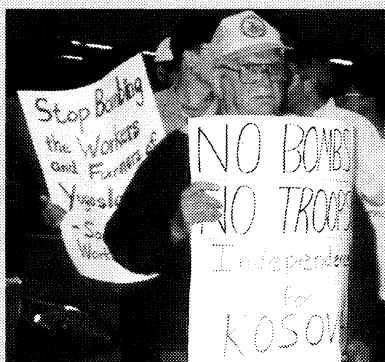
Bookstore manager Ray Parsons said, "We are finding a greater interest among workers, farmers, and youth in the political lessons contained in the books we offer, and events organized by the Militant Labor Forum are drawing a larger attendance. At the same time, we have attracted the 'attention' of right-wing forces who want to intimidate us and our supporters with this cowardly attack."

Parsons added, "We are not going to be intimidated. Working people and youth value the political space we have to discuss and debate solutions to the growing social and economic crisis in the world today. We urge all supporters of democratic rights to join with us in condemning this cowardly vandalism against Pathfinder Bookstore."

THE MILITANT

The truth about Yugoslavia

The big-business press continually reports that what's happening in Yugoslavia is about "age-old ethnic and religious conflicts." But the truth is what's happening there is a product of the crisis and intensifying conflicts of the depression-ridden world capitalist system. The 'Militant' tells the truth. Don't miss a single issue!



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Unionists lead Iowa protest against INS

BY AMANDA ULMAN

MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa — More than 250 people marched in a vigil for immigrants' rights at the Marshall County Courthouse in this central Iowa town.

The March 28 vigil was called by the Ad Hoc Committee for Human Rights and the Hispanic Ministry of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Local 1149 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) endorsed the event. Its purpose was to oppose the "Operation Vanguard" campaign of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), which has just been extended to Iowa. As part of this program, already being carried out in Nebraska, the INS subpoenas copies of packinghouse personnel files to review against national data on INS computers. The immigration cops then demand that companies fire workers who they claim have bad papers.

In addition, the march opposed the "English as the common language" law, which was recently passed by the Iowa State Senate and is now before the Iowa State House. Commonly called the "English only" law, this measure would cut funding for bilingual services. As well, the march opposed the efforts being promoted in many municipalities to deputize local police to arrest and detain those they suspect of being undocumented immigrants. Sen. Charles Grassley, Republican from Iowa, is a major proponent of this process. Recent mobilizations of opposition in Sioux City and Marshalltown, Iowa, pushed back such proposals.

Marchers carried candles and signs in English and Spanish that read "We want justice so we can live in peace," "Stop Operation Vanguard," "Today the immigrants; tomorrow who?" and "Don't panic, we are only Hispanic." Many placards had been made the night before on the dining room table of an activist in the Ad Hoc Committee for Human Rights. A dozen or so people contributed ideas on what to write, and added their artistic and spelling advice. They also made armbands for security monitors, called co-workers and friends to sign them up for the security team, and punched holes in plastic cups to convert them into candle shields.

The march began as more than 100 people gathered outside St. Mary's Catholic Church after the Spanish-language mass and walked to the courthouse a few blocks away. As marchers walked around the courthouse, they were joined by others. Many of the participants were workers from the Swift and Company packinghouse that employs 1,950 production workers in a pork cut and kill operation in Marshalltown. Most of these workers are members of UFCW Local 1149. Other packinghouse workers came from Perry, Iowa, where there is an IBP slaughterhouse, and a few who work at the Des Moines, Iowa, packing plant.

Ramón Pérez, a participant in the vigil who has worked at Swift for four years, said, "We are workers, not criminals."

Another Swift worker, José Ortiz, said, "If they pass this law [giving the cops INS powers], the police could come to your house and check everybody." He added that although he is a U.S. citizen and his four children were born in the United States, "to immigration and the police, if you look Hispanic, they pull you over. When you're walking in the street you feel nervous."

While most participants were Latinos, there were others there, including clergy from local churches, U.S.-born workers from the Swift plant, and others. Farmer activist Larry Ginter, from nearby Rhodes, Iowa, marched in the vigil and spoke at the rally afterwards. Ginter, who was well-received by the crowd, said, "To call someone illegal is an attempt by those who sit in seats of power and wealth to divide all workers whether they are naturalized citizens or immigrant workers.... From where I am sitting, it is the harsh working conditions in U.S. packing plants, in the underground sweat shops, and in the fields of America that are illegal."

Workers from the Swift plant carried the UFCW Local 1149 banner at the head of the procession. Union secretary-treasurer Ross Boyer marched and spoke as well. "Our union is opposed to Operation Vanguard," Boyer said. "I am really pleased to see so many people here today."

The rally was chaired by José Luis Avalos, 22, and Gladys Grimaldo, 19, both leaders

of the Ad Hoc Committee for Human Rights. Speakers included Sandra Sánchez, director of the American Friends Service Committee's Immigrant Rights Project, several workers from the Swift and IBP plants, as well as Father Bernard Grady of St. Mary's.

Maggie Trowe, a member of Local 1149 and of the Ad Hoc Committee for Human Rights, said, "If those of us born here are deluded into thinking that the economic and social problems we face come from Mexican workers who leave a ravaged economy looking for a way to feed their families, then we are not just deceived — we are diverted from seeing the real problem is the dog-eat-dog capitalist system that in its crisis tries to blame its victims. But today we are saying we refuse to be deceived.... We will not be victims of divide-and-conquer tactics." Trowe was the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from Iowa in 1998.

Alberto Guzmán, a member of Local 1149 who works at the IBP plant in Perry, 60 miles away, greeted the crowd, saying, "I've come to support you here. We also have the same problems in Perry. By supporting each other, all together, we can begin to move ahead."

Ramona Chávez, a member of Local 1149 in Marshalltown and a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Human Rights said,



Militant/ Joe Swanson

Some 250 rallied March 28 in Marshalltown, Iowa, in defense of immigrant rights.

"This isn't the end here today. This is very positive, but it is just a beginning." The Ad Hoc Committee on Human Rights is preparing a public meeting on immigrant rights in Marshalltown in mid-April. It is also building the State-wide Meeting for Immigrant Rights in Perry, Iowa, on April 24. The

meeting is sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee.

Amanda Ulman is a member of UFCW Local 1149 in Marshalltown, Iowa. Joanne Murphy and Mark Weddleton contributed to this article.

Shipyard workers prepare for contract fight

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia — With about a week to go before the expiration of their 50-month contract on April 4, members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8888 here are girding up for what could be one of the biggest battles since the union first won its first contract in 1979. "I'm ready to walk for what I believe in," stated Henry Waters, a sheet-metal worker with 35 years' seniority at the yard.

This sentiment was expressed by many workers leaving and entering the shipyard at the afternoon shift change on March 26. "We need better benefits and retirement. We're tired of working for peanuts. We don't need any bonuses. We want a wage increase," continued Waters.

Workers at the shipyard have not had a raise since 1993. Some have been waiting a lot longer. Roy Smallwood, who works on the *Nimitz* aircraft carrier, said he hasn't had a raise since February 1988, prior to the birth of his 10-year-old son. "If there has to be a strike, let it be," stated Smallwood. "I'm willing to go out and not look back."

Joseph Ledbetter, a pipefitter who has been with the company for 27 years, hasn't had a raise in 16 years, ever since he reached the highest pay level of \$14.53 an hour. "The union is stronger now to stand up against the company," commented Ledbetter.

Many workers expressed pride and grow-

ing confidence in the union after the successful solidarity march and rally past the shipyard gates by 4,000 workers on March 18.

Virginia is a so-called right-to-work state, so workers are not obligated to join the union. Yet every day more workers are signing up. USWA Local 8888, which represents 9,200 hourly workers at the yard, now has more than 6,700 members. It is numerically stronger today than at any time since the union won recognition in 1978. "After the rally a lot more workers are signing up to join the union," stated Arthur Keyes, the local's vice president.

In addition to a hefty wage increase, the union is demanding a clause in the contract that forbids the company from selling the shipyard unless the buyer agrees to recognize the Steelworkers and honor the union's contract or negotiate a new one. Military contractor General Dynamics recently put in a bid to buy the Newport News shipyard. The union also wants to impose restrictions on the hiring of outside contractors, which has been on the rise over the past few years. Some of these recently hired contract workers also solidarize with Local 8888's fight.

The workers are demanding a \$6 an hour increase in the first year and a \$2 per hour increase in each of the subsequent two years of a new contract. This would put them at the same wage rates as workers employed at the Anheuser-Busch plant in Williamsburg,

Virginia. The company responded with an offer of a 47-month contract with three raises totaling just 11 percent. This was promptly rejected by the union negotiators. A Solidarity Alert newsletter, distributed by the union at the yard declared, "The company's proposal is an insult. We will treat it accordingly. We must prepare ourselves, for the company has moved us to the brink." The company for its part in a March 26 flyer given out at the plantgate argued, "We know our people work hard and want to be paid fairly — we agree. But what is fair? Fair has to be determined within the framework of the industry in which you compete and the geographic area in which you live." The flyer then went on to warn, "If wages and benefits are too high, we obviously will not get work and will lose jobs." Many workers this reporter spoke to rejected the company's arguments in no uncertain terms and vowed to keep fighting for a decent contract.

In response to a question about what he thought about the bombing of Yugoslavia, Howard Hunt, a painter for 25 years, commented, "It's a rich man's war. It doesn't help us. We've got a war going on in here."

Brian Williams is a member of USWA Local 2609 in Sparrows Point, Maryland. Mary Martin, a member of the International Association of Machinists, and Olympia Newton contributed to this article.

Maori fight for land, language in New Zealand

BY FELICITY COGGAN

OPOTIKI, New Zealand — Members of the Maori protest group Te Tatau Pounamu o Mataatua ended their five-week occupation of the vacant post office in this small Bay of Plenty town March 17 in order to negotiate with the government for the use of the building. The post office and other town buildings, including the police station, stand on land claimed by the Whakatohea tribe for compensation from the government.

A proposed \$40 million (NZ\$1.00 = US\$0.53) "full and final" settlement of their claim was voted down by the tribe in 1997. Hinehau Campbell, a leader of the group, said the settlement would have obliged the tribe to buy back some of the properties at today's value and deduct the amount sent from the \$40 million. "How many times do I have to buy it back? Just give it back," she said.

The Opotiki protest was one of four organized by Te Tatau Pounamu o Mataatua since January, beginning with a two-week occupation at Ohiwa Harbour (see February 8 *Militant*). On March 10 the group ended a four-week occupation at nearby Whakatane that had protested dredging of the harbor mouth and dumping of waste on an adjacent burial ground. In February they

set up an overnight camp at nearby Matahina Dam to protest lack of progress on the local subtribe's claim to the dam.

The television news program *Holmes* reported March 17 on a protest by another group of Maori at Te Kaha, east of Opotiki. In the presence of 200 supporters, they fenced off the whole beach, part of their ancestral land, in protest at the local council's continuing encroachment on their land. "We began to wonder when they were going to stop," spokesperson Reuben Parkinson told the reporter. "The only possible way we could see to counteract it was to stick a fence up, put a gate on it, and then see who was going to come to the meeting."

Meanwhile, Maori farther south at Wanganui commemorated the fourth anniversary of their 79-day occupation of the city's Moutoa Gardens (Pakaitore). They reoccupied it for three days in late March, again to highlight their claim to ownership of the gardens, the Whanganui River, and other lands. The group was outraged when a memorial statue they had just erected to a young boy drowned during the 1995 occupation was removed by the council.

And school students in Auckland have been demanding their right to be taught in

the Maori language. Thirteen teenagers who have spent the early years of their education in the Maori-language unit at Finlayson Park began a sit-in at their classrooms in late January to press for a Maori-language secondary school where they can continue studying.

These protest actions come on the heels of the government's promotion of a "dawn of reconciliation" between Maori and the government and the "end of an era" of protest at the official Waitangi Day celebrations February 6. On that date in 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed between the British Crown and a number of Maori chiefs.

The day's events this year at Waitangi saw a prominent leader of past protests, Titewhai Harawira, perform the role of official escort for Prime Minister Jennifer Shipley, whom she praised for her willingness to listen to Maori people. Te Kawariki, a group that has organized annual marches and protests at Waitangi for the past 12 years, announced it would not organize any further actions.

Shipley then ended the day on her return to Wellington with a speech ruling out demands for Maori sovereignty.

Felicity Coggan is a member of the Engineers Union.

War in Yugoslavia

Continued from front page
national self-determination there. The U.S. rulers' ultimate goal is to overthrow the workers state in Yugoslavia as a whole and restore capitalism throughout the region.

Military escalation

The U.S.-led military forces have been raining cruise missiles daily on sites throughout Yugoslavia since March 24. U.S. officials said they have expanded their scope of attack from the Serbian regime's air defense facilities to military targets closer to Serbian ground forces — including threatening to bomb targets in downtown Belgrade. They have begun deploying warplanes that can target tanks and field artillery.

U.S. and British commanders are adding more warplanes to their assault force, including B-18 bombers with antitank cluster bombs. The NATO force has 400 aircraft, half of which are U.S. warplanes, and the rest from the United Kingdom, France, and 10 other countries. It includes a fleet of four warships and three submarines in the Adriatic Sea. German warplanes are taking part in the bombardment — the first battle deployment of German troops since World War II.

Almost 10,000 heavily equipped U.S. troops are stationed in Bosnia. A force of 12,000 British, German, French, and U.S. troops is based in Macedonia. And some 2,200 U.S. Marines are in the Adriatic.

Meanwhile, the Milosevic regime, which presides over the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia, made up of Serbia and Montenegro, has stepped up its campaign of terror against Albanians in Kosova, who make up 90 percent of the territory's 2 million inhabitants. Serbian army troops and paramilitary units have torched homes and driven tens of thousands from their towns. Albanians fleeing their homes have begun pouring across the borders into neighboring countries.

Tens of thousands of Kosovar Albanians have crossed into Albania. Others have sought refuge in neighboring Macedonia or Montenegro.

To cover up its brutal assault, Belgrade proclaims it is fighting Albanian "terrorists" in the Kosova Liberation Army (UCK), who are supposedly directed and financed by the CIA. In reality, the UCK comes out of the struggle for self-determination of the Albanian majority and enjoys mass support.

Governments in Italy, Greece, and elsewhere in the region have not responded by welcoming the fleeing Kosovar Albanians into their countries. Instead, Italian officials have expressed "alarm" at a possible influx of Albanian workers and farmers, and have sent two Italian navy ships with supplies to Albania, to try to stem a flow of refugees to Italy. In a March 30 op-ed piece, senior *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman demanded that, as part of a deal with the Milosevic regime, "the Serbs will have to permit the return of all the refugees."

Promoters of the NATO bombing campaign have seized on Belgrade's "ethnic cleansing" drive in Kosova. "The New Adolf Hitler?" was a typical headline in *Time* magazine, which juxtaposed a picture of Milosevic with one of the Nazi leader. President William Clinton and other U.S. officials have accused Milosevic of "genocide." British defense secretary George Robertson renewed his call for a "war crimes" trial against Serbian leaders March 28, saying "evidence" was being assembled for such a trial.

The U.S. big-business media has also tried to spur a patriotic fervor around the March 27 downing of a U.S. stealth fighter north of Belgrade and the "daring rescue" of its pilot.

The Serbian media reported that dozens of people have been killed in NATO raids. It also said on March 29 that Serbian forces shot down a second NATO warplane, a report Pentagon officials denied.

Jubilant villagers danced on the wreckage of the U.S. stealth warplane. Asked about NATO, a local resident said, "What can I feel except hatred? Why are they bombing us?" As he spoke, air raid alerts sounded in several Serbian towns including Belgrade.

In downtown Belgrade, after four nights of cruise missile attacks near the city, 10,000 people turned out March 28 for an impromptu "music against the bombs" rock concert held to protest the NATO bombings.

Marching down the capital's main boulevard, dozens of antiwar demonstrators carried an enormous white sheet with a bull's-eye, a logo that many Belgrade residents have

begun to wear in protest against the imperialist bombing campaign. They carried a banner calling NATO the "New American Terrorist Organization."

The assault has produced contradictory reactions. It has rallied many in Serbia around opposing the invading bombers. But Milosevic, who poses as a defender of Serbia against foreign attackers, has been strength-



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

ened, winning support even from many who two years ago protested in the streets against him. As a result, the Milosevic regime has been able to whip up prejudices against the Albanian population, who face second-class status in Kosova.

"I hate Clinton for what he has done," said Radan, a Belgrade taxi driver. "I don't like Milosevic very much either, but when it comes to Kosovo, we Serbs are united."

"Analysts in Belgrade say the situation is so volatile that it is hard to predict the course of events even a few days ahead," the *Financial Times* reported March 26. Groups of youth trashed the American Center, British Council, Göthe Institute, and French Cultural Center in Belgrade. In Banja Luka, Bosnia, the British mission was burned to the ground. British, German, and U.S. missions were attacked March 25 by pro-Serbian demonstrators in Skopje, Macedonia's capital.

Tensions have grown in Macedonia, where a large Albanian minority lives and where thousands of Albanians fleeing Kosova have sought refuge. Many Albanians there support NATO's bombing campaign against Serbia, believing it will protect them.

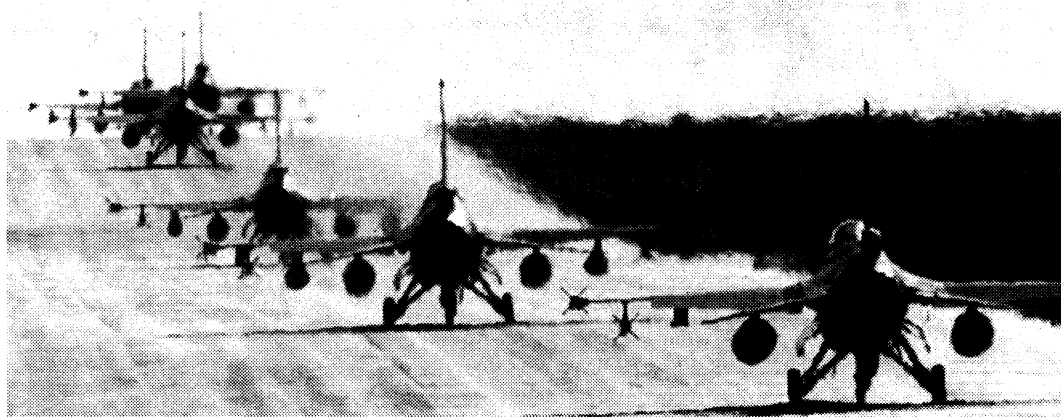
While sentiment against the 12,000 NATO troops stationed there has surged among Macedonians, the pro-imperialist government in Skopje has asked urgently to be admitted to the NATO military alliance. Similarly, the crisis in Kosova is creating further rifts between officials of Montenegro and Serbia, which comprise the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia.

The first day of the bombing, the pro-imperialist government of Montenegro declared it would not recognize the Milosevic regime's declaration of an "imminent state of war." It has taken other steps that have led the pro-Milosevic forces to accuse it of secession. Anti-NATO and pro-Serbian demonstrations have also taken place in Bulgaria and Greece. In Tirana, Albania, 8,000 demonstrators backed by the ruling party came out March 28 in support of the Kosova Albanians and of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia.

Assault sparks anger in Russia

The Russian government has condemned the NATO assault on Yugoslavia, with which it has close ties. Moscow is alarmed at the threat of a widening Balkan war and the fact that the U.S.-led intervention against Yugoslavia is ultimately also aimed at the Russian workers state. Russian prime minister Yevgeny Primakov flew to Belgrade March 29 to seek negotiations between the Milosevic government and officials from the NATO powers.

The bombing of Yugoslavia has sparked widespread anger in Russia, deepening suspicions about NATO's eastward expansion, which is part of the imperialist military encirclement of Russia. "NATO's action is a dress rehearsal. First they bomb Serbia and then they will move on elsewhere," said Olga Ivashova, a pensioner in Moscow interviewed by the *Financial Times* of London.



Above, F-16 warplanes depart March 25 from Italian base for second day of bombing assault on Yugoslavia. Left, village of Prekaz in Drenica region of Kosova in March 1998 after bombardment by Milosevic's forces. Washington seeks deal with Belgrade to defeat Albanian independence fight.

manders" of the bombing campaign.

Washington seeks deal with Belgrade

Despite its feigned concern for the Albanians in Kosova, Washington not only opposes their demand for independence but for years has tried to reach an agreement with the Milosevic regime that would undermine, corrupt, and defeat the Albanian struggle for self-determination in Kosova.

At the talks held in Rambouillet, France, in mid-March, U.S. officials succeeded in excluding from the Albanian negotiating team anyone who did not go along with their dictates. The remaining Albanian delegates signed a U.S.-sponsored proposal that calls for deploying a 28,000-member NATO military force in Kosova for three years.

In carrying out its terror campaign to drive Albanians out of big parts of Kosova, the regime in Belgrade is preparing the way for the partition of the province, a goal that may coincide with the interests of the imperialist powers.

"We do not support independence" for Kosova, U.S. defense secretary William Cohen repeated for the nth time March 28.

Likewise, an editorial in the *Economist* magazine declared that the Albanians in Kosova "should be told that the West is not intervening to give them independence, even though events, if they spin out of control, may well lead ultimately to secession."

In time, NATO may have to declare Kosovo, or at least a large part of it, an area into which the Serb authorities should not venture on pain of retribution, much as parts of Iraq have been declared off-limits to those who do [Iraqi president] Saddam [Hussein's] bidding."

In a March 30 column headlined "Bomb, Talk, Deal," *New York Times* writer Friedman presented a similar position. "Our strategic interest is that Kosovo *not* be independent," he wrote, "because it would send an unrealistic message to Basques, Kurds, and other aggrieved ethnic groups." Friedman argued that the U.S.-led forces should "punish" Yugoslavia and force the Milosevic government to the negotiations table to cut a deal, granting Albanians a limited degree of autonomy and allowing an imperialist occupation force.

Several current and former U.S. military commanders were quoted in the March 30 *Times* calling for NATO forces to partition Kosova, allowing the Serbian regime to control part of the region, while creating "safe havens" for Albanians, enforced by a ground force of 30,000 to 40,000 NATO troops. Various commentators have advocated setting up what they term a "protectorate."

Washington followed a similar course in Bosnia in the mid-1990s. The 1995 NATO bombing and subsequent occupation of Bosnia by imperialist troops followed years of negotiations with the rival gangs in power in the republics of the formerly federated Yugoslavia.

The deals that were struck sought to undermine the foothold that Washington's European competitors had attempted to establish in Yugoslavia. At the same time, the U.S. rulers fueled the war and were complicit with the regimes in Belgrade, Zagreb, and other rival bureaucracies that continued the slaughter and brutal national oppression to maintain their privileges and parasitic way of life.

The problem for Washington and other imperialist powers is that their real target is not the Milosevic regime but the working people of Yugoslavia. It will take bloody class conflict to try to defeat them. Those battles remain ahead, but the U.S. rulers are getting a taste of the uncontrollable forces they have already set in motion throughout the region.

Protests: 'Hands off Yugoslavia, for Kosova independence'

BY RAY PARSONS

DES MOINES, Iowa — On March 24 a protest against the bombing of Yugoslavia sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists at the Federal building in downtown Des Moines drew 10 people.

The action received prominent coverage in local news reports. Four high school students, members of a recently formed Iowa chapter of the group Anti-Racist Action (ARA), participated in the demonstration and joined with other protesters later that evening to discuss organizing further actions.

Another protest was set for March 25. ARA activists posted flyers for the picket line during the day. Fifteen people participated, garnering a significant number of supportive responses from passing motorists.

A Militant Labor Forum held March 26 attracted three students from Iowa State University (ISU) who received e-mail announcements of the event. A lively discussion unfolded there on the importance of supporting the struggle of the Albanian majority in Kosova for independence while opposing the U.S./NATO war.

BY NATHAN CECCKIN

TORONTO — The Communist League and the Young Socialists organized a picket line in front of the federal offices of Liberal Party of Canada here March 27, demanding an end to the NATO bombing raids.

The picket line, called on short notice, had brought out more than 20 people demanding an end to the bombings of Yugoslavia

and supporting Kosovar independence. The pickets shouted slogans such as "Canada, NATO, stop the bombing now" and "Yes for independence for Kosova."

There have been demonstrations in front of the U.S. consulate in Toronto since the bombings of Yugoslavia by NATO began. Between March 25 and 27, demonstrations numbered from 500 to 1,000 protesters. During the first of these demonstrations, some individuals attacked the consulate with Molotov cocktails, and other projectiles. A majority condemned Kosovar independence.

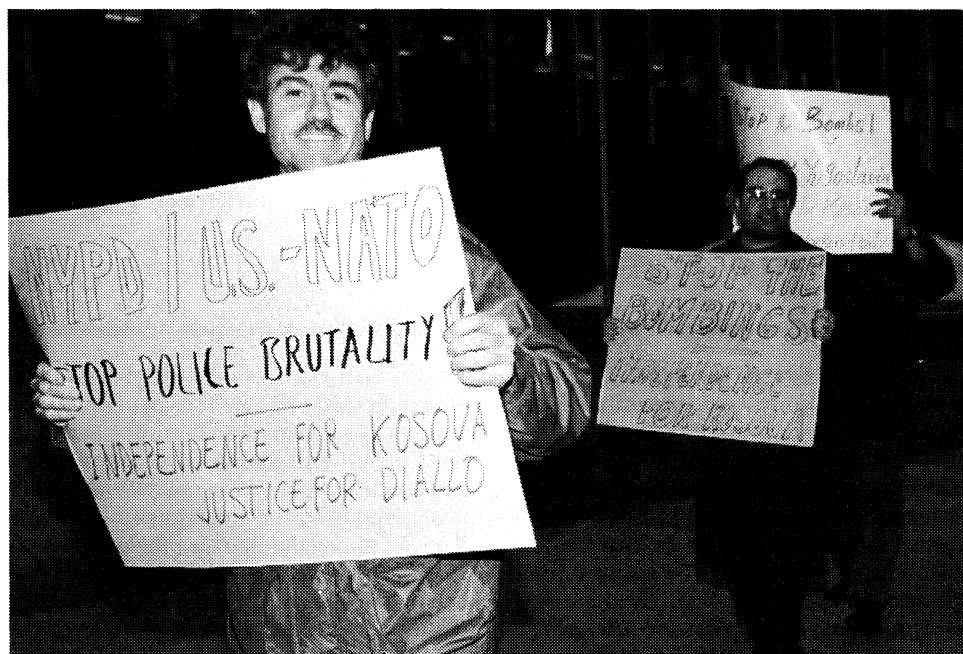
N.Y. 'antiwar' picket becomes reactionary action

BY ROSE ANA BERBEO

NEW YORK — A rally and march called on March 27 to protest the U.S.-led bombing of Yugoslavia turned into an overwhelmingly Serbian nationalist, right-wing action involving about 2,000 people in midtown Manhattan.

The demonstration, called by the leftist International Action Center, was dominated by people carrying signs with slogans like, "Kosova, the Serbian Soul," "Only Unity Saves the Serbs," "Stop Bombing Serbian Holy Lands," "Clinton, Kosova is Serbia's Jerusalem," and "KLA — Terrorist Organization Funded by Heroin, Cocaine, and NATO." The demonstrators also chanted "Yugoslavia!" and "Serbia!"

Across the street, about 400 people, most of them young, waved banners with the Al-



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Picket at Federal Building in New York, March 25, called by Socialist Workers Party.

banian double-headed eagle emblem, and chanted "U-S-A!" and "U-C-K!" (the Albanian initials for the Kosova Liberation Army). Their signs and chants clearly supported the imperialist bombing of Yugoslavia. Several of these protesters engaged in provocative actions like running back and forth to confront the Serbians. Dozens of cops kept people tightly within barricades.

At least a dozen individuals and several groups of people who had come planning to join the rally to protest the bombing were repelled by what was clearly a show of support for the Milosevic regime's slaughter of Albanians in Kosova. Not a single sign in the anti-bombing demonstration called for self-determination or independence for Kosova.

Marching along with the Serbians was a contingent of about 10 middle-aged men, all

wearing suits, hats, and dark glasses who carried signs reading, "Pat Buchanan for President." Buchanan is an ultrarightist demagogue who recently launched his third presidential campaign.

Some would-be demonstrators who were turned off by the display of right-wing nationalism, bought copies of the *Militant* newspaper. Some stopped to have discussions with supporters of the paper who set up a table about a block away from the action.

On March 29 some 2,000 Albanians rallied in front of the United Nations to show support for the U.S.-led NATO bombing and military intervention in Kosova. Similar pro-imperialist demonstrations, organized principally by Albanian students, took place last year as the struggle for the independence of Kosova intensified.

The roots of fight for Kosovar independence

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The fight for national self-determination of the Albanian majority in Kosova is historically progressive, up to supporting the right to separation — independence. The Albanian struggle for national rights it rooted in the struggle against imperialist domination. It is crucial to defending the gains of the Yugoslav revolution of the 1940s and advancing a course that can unite all working people of Yugoslavia.

The Balkans region, which had been held as part of the Ottoman empire, was carved up by the capitalist powers in Europe — Britain, France, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and Russia — in 1912-13.

Following the imperialist slaughter of World War I, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was formed in 1918 by the union of six republics — Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. The country, whose name was changed to Yugoslavia in 1929, was dominated by the Serb monarchy and subservient to imperialist interests, first British and French and by the 1930s increasingly German.

National oppression was enshrined in law. Croats, Slovenes, and Montenegrans were treated as second-class citizens. Albanians in Kosova, which was incorporated as a province of Serbia by the monarchy, had no national rights. Albanian-language schools and publications were forbidden.

During World War II, Yugoslavia was invaded by the German army and its allies in 1941 and chopped up along national lines. Kosova was occupied by Italian soldiers and the rest of Yugoslavia was held by German, Hungarian, and Bulgarian troops.

Armed resistance to the imperialist occupiers soon developed led by the Partisan movement, a national liberation army led by the Communist Party. Its central leader was Josip Broz Tito, who later became head of state. The Partisans drew on workers and peasants of all nationalities and creeds.

The Partisan movement, which grew to a force of 800,000 fighters, spearheaded a struggle by workers and peasants against fascism under a banner that called for equality and mutual respect for all nationalities.

The massive mobilization of working people from every nationality during the struggle against the Nazi occupation led to the overthrow of the landlords and capitalists and the

establishment of a workers and peasants government in 1945. This happened despite the instructions of the Stalin regime — which wished above all to maintain an alliance with London and Washington — and the desires of the Moscow-trained leadership of the Yugoslav Communist Party.

The new government ordered the confiscation of nearly 80 percent of industry, most banks, and almost all large commercial enterprises. Workers and farmers gained from the land reform, which confiscated the property of the big landlords. The people of Kosova won limited autonomy and the Albanians made some gains in language rights and education.

A workers state, deformed by Stalinism

By the late 1940s, the workers and farmers government had distributed land to poor peasants, nationalized the means of production, and established economic planning and a state monopoly of foreign trade — in short establishing a workers state. The mobilizations that advanced these anticapitalist measures, however, did not halt political power from being consolidated in the hands of a privileged bureaucratic layer.

The initial gains of the revolution were soon undermined by the Stalinist misleadership of the Tito regime, which had opened up the country's economy to imperialist loans and investments. An economic crisis developed in Yugoslavia that was provoked by the worldwide capitalist economic crisis in 1974-75 and by the bureaucratic, anti-working-class methods of planning and management of the government. Economic and social inequalities and national prejudices grew once again as a result.

Kosova remained behind in economic development compared to other regions. In 1980 unemployment in Kosova was three times the national average. Albanians, who comprise 90 percent of the 2.1 million people in Kosova, face widespread discrimination.

As the world capitalist crisis widened, economic and social pressures on Yugoslavia led to disintegration of the Stalinist regime as each wing of the bureaucracy sought to gain control over more resources using nationalist demagoguery. The Stalinist rulers in Belgrade launched their chauvinist campaign in Kosova in response to protests by Albanians for better economic conditions and an end to second-class treatment.

Some 500,000 people marched in Pristina for social equality in November 1988. Three months later around 1,300 zinc and lead miners occupied the mines, putting forward similar demands.

Faced with continued mobilizations by workers and students, the government of Slobodan Milosevic revoked Kosova's autonomy status in 1989, which had been won in struggle 15 years earlier. The following year, the regime dissolved the parliament in July and imposed direct rule by Serbian police.

In August 1990 the miners organized an eight-day strike demanding the return of autonomy status. The mines had been nationalized with the victory of the 1945 Yugoslav revolution. In recent years Milosevic government has sought to sell off the substantial mineral wealth of Kosova, which includes coal, silver, bismuth, gold, zinc, and lead.

Since late 1997 the Belgrade regime has

stepped up its repression against the Albanians in Kosova. The crackdown began as a response to protests by students and others demanding the reopening of the Albanian-language University of Pristina, which had been shut in 1991. Finding no alternative to ending the assault by Belgrade, the demand for independence has deepened among the majority of Albanians.

"The denial of national rights... weakens rather than strengthens the defense of a workers state," notes the 1990 Socialist Workers Party resolution "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War," published in *New International* no. 11. "Once Stalinism had transformed the Soviet Union into the opposite of a voluntary federation of workers and peasants republics, its breakup, its disintegration from within, was inevitable. This became a precondition to a new advance of the worldwide struggle for national liberation and socialism." The same holds true in Yugoslavia today.

In New International no. 11

U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

Jack Barnes

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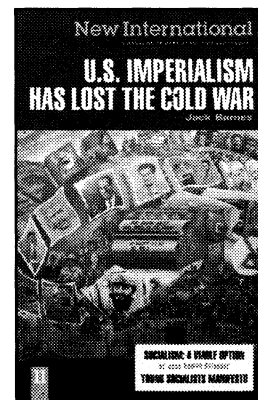
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Capitalist decay, not 'tribal hatred,' causes Yugoslav war

Excerpts from 'Capitalism's World Disorder'

The following selection is from "Youth and the Communist Movement," a report by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. It was adopted by a special fusion congress of the Communist League and Young Socialists groups in the United Kingdom in June 1992. The entire report appears in *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*, copyright © 1999 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY JACK BARNES

If we look at the unfolding slaughter in Yugoslavia, we will see many elements of the world we are describing. The most difficult things to come to grips with in discussing Yugoslavia are not the theoretical questions; we have adopted reports on those questions and written about them well.¹ The most difficult thing is to acknowledge the reality of a murderous war, the scope and horror of which has not been seen in continental Europe for decades. Even more difficult to accept is the fact this war is not an aberration, but instead a foreshadowing of the direction of world politics today.

Most bourgeois commentators would have us believe that the slaughter in Yugoslavia signifies a new rise of nationalism — or as they often prefer saying, a new rise of "tribalism." Outside a few white enclaves in "the West," they imply, world civilization is threatening to break down along lines of "age-old ethnic hatreds." The truth is the opposite. The slaughter in Yugoslavia is the product of the breakdown of the capitalist world order; it is the product of intensifying conflicts among rival capitalist classes in the imperialist countries and would-be capitalists in the deformed workers states. These conflicts, in which exploiting layers demagogically don national garb to defend their narrow class interests, will increasingly mark world politics.

What is happening in Yugoslavia also bloodily demonstrates the fact that Stalinist leaderships cannot unite toilers from different national origins on a lasting basis to open up a broadening federation of soviet republics working together to build socialism. Several years after the October 1917 revolution in Russia, the Bolsheviks under the leadership of Lenin formed the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a voluntary federation of workers and peasants republics. The Bolsheviks in Lenin's time were a

revolutionary workers vanguard that fought uncompromisingly for the right of oppressed nations to self-determination, for the complete equality of nations and nationalities, and against every vestige of national privilege, arrogance, and chauvinism. They took the lead in placing that internationalist perspective at the heart of the program and practice of the Communist International. As part of the political counterrevolution carried out

demonstrate their will to resist the horrors thrust on them by the rival bureaucratic gangs that emerged from the crumbling Stalinist apparatus.

The consequences of the bloodbath in Yugoslavia also provide further confirmation that refugees are increasingly becoming actors in world politics today. Every time



by the petty-bourgeois social caste whose spokesman was Joseph Stalin, however, this proletarian internationalist course gave way to the return of Great Russian chauvinism, now dressed up as the "new Soviet nation" and "Soviet man."²

The federated Yugoslav workers state that the imperialists and rival Stalinist gangs are now trying to tear apart was a gigantic accomplishment of the Yugoslav revolution of 1942–46. Workers and peasants who were Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian, and from other nationalities forged unity to oust the Nazi occupation forces and their local collaborators, carry out a radical land reform, and expropriate the capitalist exploiters. It was truly one of the great revolutions of this century, a proletarian socialist revolution.

The Stalinist leadership of the Yugoslav Communist Party, headed by Josip Broz (known by his *nom de guerre* Tito), however, blocked the toilers of different nationalities from building on their conquests and solidly cementing the federation together. The socialist revolution in Yugoslavia was deformed from birth. Nonetheless, substantial layers of toilers in Yugoslavia — whether Bosnian, Serb, or Croat, whether Christian or Muslim in their current beliefs or family origins — have continued even today to

we hear the word "refugee," in any language, we should always translate it in our minds as "fellow worker." It is not enough for class-conscious workers to reject the chauvinist portrayal of refugees as pariahs. Above all, we must resist turning refugees simply into victims, rather than potential soldiers in the battalions of the international working class. We take communist politics to these fellow workers, and we fight alongside them for their rights, their dignity, and the common interests of working people the world over.

The slaughter in Yugoslavia shows every sign of deepening and drawing in other countries. There is already a United Nations intervention force there — so-called "peace-keeping" troops — for the first time ever in Europe. We cannot predict whether the war will expand, or foresee the forms an escalation might take. Nor do we know how long the current imperialist "peacekeeping" will take; we do know the longer it takes, the more likely it is to turn into "peace-breaking." Our job as communist workers is to demand a halt to the imperialist intervention and fight every attempt to deepen it. We need to keep speaking the truth about the stake workers have in this struggle, and to support the toilers throughout the Yugoslav workers state who are trying to defend their social conquests and bring the butchery to an end.

The war in Yugoslavia sharpens inter-imperialist conflicts. It sharpens the divisions between the United States and Europe, as well as divisions within Europe itself....

The ruling families of Germany and Japan are confronting the need to be able to use their armed forces once again to intervene abroad to defend their class interests against those of their rivals. As they take steps

² The historic communist position on these questions is explained in *The Right of Nations to Self-Determination* and *Questions of National Policy and Proletarian Internationalism*, both by V.I. Lenin (Moscow: Progress Publishers); and *Workers of the World and Oppressed Peoples, Unite!*, the proceedings of the Second Congress of the Communist International (Pathfinder, 1991). Lenin's battle against the first efforts to reverse this communist course are traced in *Lenin's Final Fight: Speeches and Writings, 1922–23* (Pathfinder, 1995). Leon Trotsky, the most prominent Bolshevik active in the leadership of the October revolution who fought to continue Lenin's course, recounted the social and political factors that made possible the Stalinist counterrevolution, including on the national question, in his classic 1936 work, *The Revolution Betrayed: What Is the Soviet Union and Where Is It Going?* All these titles are available from Pathfinder.



Above, U.S. troops enter Bosnia, Yugoslavia, December 1995 as part of NATO occupation force. Left, some 3,000 people march in Sarajevo, Bosnia, December 1995, against the dismantling of the multinational state forged during 1945 Yugoslav revolution.

forward in doing so, however, they are meeting opposition both at home and abroad....

Whether in North America, Europe, or Asia and the Pacific, working people over time will move into action against the devastating consequences of capitalist militarism and the rulers' drive toward World War III. In order to succeed, these struggles cannot be "we in Britain" against "them in Germany" or "we in the United States" against "them in Japan." There is a *we* and a *they* — but it is a *we* of the working class and a *they* of the capitalist class. This *we* and *they*, moreover, have irreconcilable class interests. Either the workers of the world will unite to fight against the oppressive social and political conditions that will increasingly bear down on all of us, or the working class in each country will be torn apart and defeated by our respective capitalist rulers one by one.

It is the outcome of this struggle that will decide whether or not the march toward a third world war and its unthinkable consequences will become inevitable once again — as it had earlier in this century, by 1939 — or will be stopped this time by the advance of the world socialist revolution.

CLASS

The following poem, written by a farmer in Pennsylvania, was inspired by *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*. The *Militant* is publishing it here as the first of a series of brief reviews.

*Toilers at the industrial site,
Keepers of the factory, day and night.
In your hands the future lies,
Without you it falls and dies.*

*Upon your class and iron will,
The world depends for good or ill.
You are the fountain of progress now,
We look to you to show us how.*

*Your unity and solidarity must shine,
To all the workers on the line.
With a purpose true and high,
On which our hopes all fly.*

*As the bosses make you leaner still,
Your resolve will grow until,
You will yourselves transform,
And a new tomorrow will be born.*

*Lead on toilers of the night,
Tomorrow awaits your great insight.
Join the battle for a better way,
Dignity, respect and better pay.*

*The battle is not yours alone,
But every one of blood and bone.
Has a vital stake in the race,
To rearrange the capitalist's face.*

*The road to World War Three,
Lies through the ranks of you and me.
To start the War of the Century,
The bosses must move you and me.*

*Clear your mind, hold up your head,
Workers, we are far from dead.*

*Linn Hamilton, 1999

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Tazewell Workers Anniversary Picket
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Coal Miners Black Lung Conference
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Fri., April 9 – Sat., April 10

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**Fourth Annual African-American
Heritage Buffalo Fish Festival (April 10)**
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For more information call: (601) 247-2694
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Mon. April 12

**Fighting Farmers Gather
at Consent Decree Meeting**
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Sun., April 18

Farm Worker Organizing Rally
Salinas, California

Sat., April 24

**Iowa State-wide Meeting
for Immigrant Rights**

Conference. Perry, Iowa
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Solidarity Rally for Kaiser Workers
Newark, Ohio

Sat., May 1

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Pasadena, Texas
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**Rally for striking United Steel-
workers of America at Titan Tire**

Des Moines, Iowa
For more information call: (515) 262-4935

'I read the book at work, urge others to do the same'

BY SALM KOLIS

PITTSBURGH — Lea Sherman reports that in the week after socialist workers in the industrial unions took on the quota of selling 500 copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* to co-workers and through political work in the unions, she sold her first copy to a Machinist at the aerospace plant where she works in Houston.

"I decided to take the book to work, let other workers see what I'm reading, and talk to them about why they should do the same," Sherman said. "The first worker I showed it to was a guy who has been following discussions about the 'new millennium.' His immediate response was, 'I want this book.'"

The campaign, which runs through May 31, was launched at a national meeting of socialists who are members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), United Auto Workers (UAW), United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), United Steelworkers of America (USWA) and Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) in Chicago March 13-14.

Over the next several days, members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) from across the United States and members of the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers (PACE) in Houston also adopted quotas for the campaign.

Each week over the next two months, weekly sales updates, articles, and reviews of *Capitalism's World Disorder* will be organized by supporters here who are campaign-

ing to sell the book. A team of three — Salm Kolis, a steelworker; Linn Hamilton, a retired dairy farmer; and Frank Forrestal, a rail worker and leader of the Socialist Workers Party's trade union and farm work — have volunteered to oversee this work.

"There are more political openings today, the result of a shift in politics. More workers and farmers are looking for ways to reach each other, for more solidarity," said Forrestal. "The book has the facts and ideas workers and farmers need to become conscious of our power to transform the world."

Discussion on war in Yugoslavia

One reason the book should be read today is because it sheds light on the brutal war unfolding in Yugoslavia. *Capitalism's World Disorder* explains, said Forrestal, that the latest brutal imperialist assault, is not an "aberration, but a foreshadowing of the direction of world politics," as Jack Barnes, the author of the book puts it in the closing chapter of the book.

Ellie Garcia, a member of the UTU in Newark, sent the following note: "Three railworkers at Amtrak have picked up copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder*, however, there are other workers here who have looked through the book, have read portions of it, and are thinking about it."

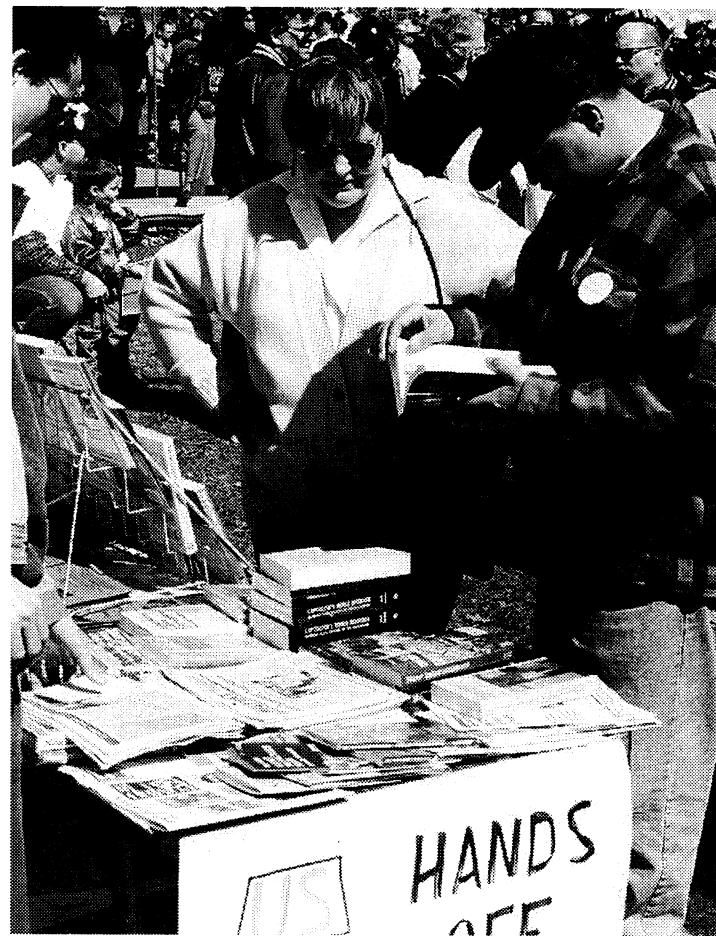
"One such person is a young Polish immigrant who at first was reluctant to say what he thought about the US/NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. When I said working people had to demand U.S. and NATO out of Yugoslavia and

at the same time demand independence for Kosova, he told me it was only a matter of time before a NATO bomber was brought down. He said the Yugoslav defense forces had technical superiority over those in Iraq, that this would not be the same thing that happened in Iraq.

"When I brought out *Capitalism's World Disorder*, he took the book and looked through it for the rest of the trip to Washington. The photos really caught his attention. I explained what some of the struggles captured in the photos were about, which he didn't know too much about such as the protest against racist frame-ups and discrimination. He took the book with him into the Washington station and after a while handed it back to me and said he would think about getting it."

Wider effort to be launched at Socialist Workers Party convention

The SWP's union fractions will focus on sales to co-workers and to workers in their



Having a stack on the table helps promote *Capitalism's World Disorder* at March 28 solidarity rally for RMI strikers in Ohio.

respective unions. As part of this, socialists will include in their quotas books sold through activities connected to broader trade union work that they build on the job, such as at pickets and solidarity rallies, among working farmers, and through other social struggles.

These initiatives will be the backbone of a bigger effort to sell the book that will be launched at the 14th Constitution Convention of the Socialist Workers Party taking place April 1-3 in San Francisco.

Convention delegates and guests who participate in a workshop on the effort will discuss how to immediately launch a broader effort, with every party branch taking quotas. In some areas supporters of the SWP have purchased an extra copy — or two or three — of *Capitalism's World Disorder* to sell to others. "We could have sold more at a meeting of supporters in Pittsburgh, if we hadn't underestimated the response. We sold 15 and had to order 20 more copies from Pathfinder," said Forrestal. One supporter bought five copies.

In order to focus on getting this campaign rolling, the proposal at the convention workshop will be to organize a subscription campaign.

Continued on Page 8

Coal pamphlet back in print; more capital needed

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Nine different books and pamphlets were printed, bound, and shipped from Pathfinder's printshop in the month of March.

The titles include the pamphlet *Coal Miners on Strike* on the 1977-78 miners strike, back in print after many years; the new issue of *Nouvelle Internationale*, the French translation of the Marxist magazine *New International*, featuring "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War"; and the new edition of *El rostro cambiante de la política en Estados Unidos*, the revised and improved Spanish translation of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes.

The others are reprints of *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, *Leon Trotsky Speaks*, *The Last Year of Malcolm X*, *Feminism and the Marxist Movement*, *New International* no. 11, and *Che Guevara et la lutte pour le socialisme aujourd'hui* (Che Guevara and the fight for socialism today). A pipeline of books is now flowing.

The Pathfinder Capital Fund is essential

to building on this progress. Since last July, supporters of Pathfinder have contributed more than \$710,000 in capital contributions that have made it possible to begin transforming the printshop, including installing a computer-to-plate system that greatly reduces the labor time needed to produce each book.

This tremendous response to the fund makes possible the next phase — raising another \$250,000 that is needed to carry out long-postponed reconstruction of the room that houses Pathfinder's three presses. The project includes adding climate control, an air-filtering system that reduces dust and chemicals, new windows, a new floor, and double doors to keep out the drafts.

These steps are essential for productive, high-quality printing and will help advance the collective work of the press crew, by improving working conditions and removing what had been intended as a temporary partition — put up in 1993 — between the sheet-fed presses used to print Pathfinder books and the web press on which the *Militant* is printed. This is key to sustain a smaller shop that is one-third smaller than a year ago, freeing more socialist workers to carry out political work in the unions.

Of the nine titles delivered by the shop in March, six were reprints that had been prepared by an international team of more than 100 volunteers who are putting all 350 Pathfinder books and pamphlets in digital form.

The response to the capital fund so far has come both in contributions of up to a few thousand dollars and in larger donations

from those in a position to give tens of thousands from capital sources. Both will be needed to raise the additional \$250,000 needed in this stage of the fund. A substantial part of the fund so far — \$77,000 since last July — has come from workers in the industrial unions contributing "profit-sharing" and other so-called bonuses.

To find out how to make a capital contribution, write to the Capital Fund Committee, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

\$17

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For members of the Pathfinder Readers Club
Regular price \$23.95

Capitalism's World Disorder

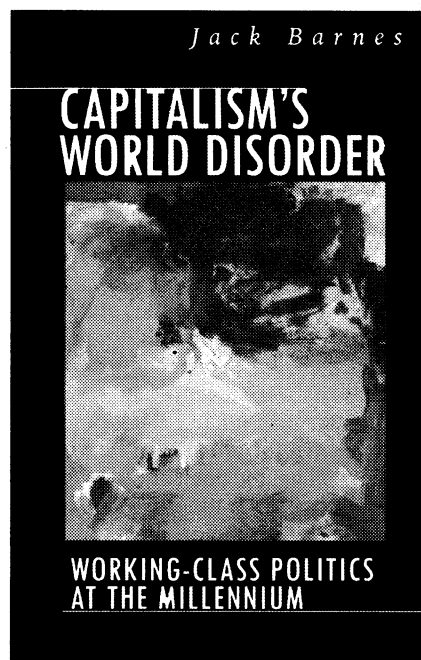
Working-Class Politics at the Millennium

BY JACK BARNES

This may be the only *millennium* title on bookstore shelves today whose purpose is not to mystify and obscure but to reveal and clarify. The social devastation, financial panics, political turmoil, police brutality, and military assaults accelerating all around us are not chaos. They are the inevitable product of lawful and understandable forces unleashed by capitalism.

But the future capitalism has in store for us is not the future that inevitably must be. It can be changed by the timely solidarity, courageous action, and united struggle of workers and farmers conscious of their power to transform the world. That is what this book has been written to bring closer.

Available at bookstores listed on page 8, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



CAMPAIGN TO SELL 'Capitalism's World Disorder' IN THE UNIONS March 15 - May 31

	Goals	Sold
UAW	75	13
IAM	110	13
UTU	80	11
UFCW	80	3
USWA	80	2
UNITE	70	2
PACE	15	1
Total	510	45

IAM—International Association of Machinists; PACE—Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers; UAW—United Auto Workers; UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers; UNITE—Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; USWA—United Steelworkers of America; UTU—United Transportation Union

Spring party-building fund will be launched at SWP convention

A campaign to raise funds to build the Socialist Workers Party will be kicked off at a public rally April 3 in San Francisco, following the close of the party's 40th constitutional convention. The fund drive, which will run to June 15, will help meet the costs of expanded work to reach out to working people in struggle — from workers in central Illinois and southern Minnesota, to farmers across the South, to miners in the West. Look for further coverage in next week's *Militant*.

RMI strike rally

Continued from front page

parture of vehicles into the plant. Federal marshals are also patrolling the picket line as part of the order, issued at the request of the National Labor Relations Board following a police attack on the picket line February 12.

Solidarity plant gate collections

Solidarity donations collected by union locals at plant gates throughout the area were presented to the strikers during the rally. Members of the Teamsters; United Auto Workers; International Union of Electronic Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Service Employees International Union; United Food and Commercial Workers; and others brought money to support the 500 strikers. A big cheer went up when Kerry Flannigan from USWA Local 1375 at WCI Steel in Warren, Ohio, announced they had raised \$4,100 in plant gate donations. Steelworkers at WCI won a strike battle in 1995, and have made their union hall available for social and fund-raising activities for the RMI strikers.

Strikers sold tickets for a 50/50 raffle, with half the proceeds going to the strike fund and half to the holder of the winning ticket. Mark Bayless, vice president of the Columbiana County AFL-CIO, didn't hesitate to return his \$1,100 winnings to the strike, and was warmly applauded by the crowd.

The Youngstown *Vindicator*, a daily paper that has backed RMI during the strike, ran a front page article the day of the rally headlined "RMI strike takes toll on workers." The paper reported the rally would be held to "encourage" workers who "never dreamed that they would go six months without a paycheck" and "didn't realize the strike would become violent and result in a few of their union members being sued, arrested, and fired."

The strikers' attitude, however, is quite

the opposite. "Six months into the strike, we're stronger," said striker Rick Maines. Maines is one of the first strikers scheduled to be deposed in a lawsuit the company has filed against the union. Depositions were scheduled to begin March 29 in Cleveland.

Eleven strikers received letters from the company March 16 saying they were fired because of action "against the company and/or its employees during the ongoing strike." Striker Paul Moore, one of the fired workers, told the *Vindicator*, "The one good thing that has come from this strike is the fact that I have been able to really get to know the other union workers and we have all pulled together." He added, "When word got out that I had been fired, people have come up to me and offered money."

RMI steelworkers and supporters pitched in to ensure the smooth functioning of the event. Squads of strikers in bright orange shirts formed the "Local 2155 Safety Patrol" to direct traffic inside the park. Following the rally participants crossed the park for a cookout hosted by the Spouses Committee. Supporters from local unions pitched in.

Four steelworkers from MSI in Marietta, Ohio, made the trip to bring solidarity to the strike. They recently won a two-year fight for their first contract. "It was nice to get back out since we've been back to work and run into people we met during the strike," said MSI worker Kathy Ward. "We will never forget, and we'll keep going out. It's the right thing to do." Ward is looking forward to the April 24 rally called to support locked-out workers at Kaiser Aluminum in Newark, Ohio.

RMI strikers were eager to meet two fighters from Monarch Rubber in Spencer, West Virginia. Randy Whytsell and James Metheney, members of the Laborers Union, talked about their two-year fight for a contract. The RMI and Monarch strikers swapped



Militant/Tony Lane

March 28 solidarity rally for striking Steelworkers at RMI in Niles, Ohio.

experiences and lessons from their fights, and several RMI strikers immediately began making plans to visit the Monarch picket lines, exchanging phone numbers to stay in touch. "The faces are different, but the stories are the same," said Whytsell following his discussions with the RMI strikers.

Boss, cops attack W. Virginia workers

Johnny Lynch, a retired member of USWA Local 5668 at Century Aluminum in Ravenswood, West Virginia, came with the Monarch strikers. Lynch has been helping to build support for the workers, who receive no strike benefits. He told the *Militant* about a recent attack by Monarch against Ravenswood Steelworkers who traveled to Spencer to visit the strikers March 24.

"We took my motor home and about 100 hot dogs to have a cookout with the strikers," he said. "The police came by and told us we couldn't have the cookout on the picket line, that we had to go to the other side of the street, so we said OK and moved over there." A truck pulling into the Monarch plant swerved close to the Steelworkers, and they responded by banging on it. The plant manager came out and attacked one of the Ravenswood workers, who defended himself. "Two foremen and a scab came out of the plant then and joined in. Two of them grabbed the Steelworker and took him to the side of the building and tried to beat him, but he was able to defend himself."

When the police came, "the manager and four scabs swore that the Steelworker struck first, and the police arrested him," Lynch said. He added the Ravenswood worker was charged with assault and two counts of obstructing justice.

Lynch and the Monarch strikers are already planning to attend the April 24 Kaiser rally. "We want to rent a big trailer and take up a food collection from locals in West Virginia," said Lynch.

WASN radio personality Chris Montgom-

ery, who offers his morning talk show as a forum for the strikers, was joined by 20 strikers and supporters for the start of a march from Niles to the USX headquarters in Pittsburgh on March 29. The steel giant is a part owner of RMI. Strikers previously rallied at the USX headquarters March 10.

The march is planned to cover 20 miles a day, arriving in Pittsburgh April 1.

Kevin Dwire is a member of UAW Local 1196 in Cleveland. Mike Fitzsimmons, Leroy Watson, and Marty Ressler contributed to this article.

**No to U.S., NATO
bombing of Yugoslavia
FOR KOSOVA SELF-DETERMINATION**

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Sat., April 10, 3:00 p.m. Held at Codman Square Library, 690 Washington St., Dorchester, Massachusetts. Admission free. For more information: (617) 427-6066. Sponsored by supporters of the *Militant* newspaper.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Sat., April 10, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

CANADA

Vancouver

Fri., April 9, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. Donation: \$4/2. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

Fri., April 9, 7 p.m. 199 High St. Donation: \$3. Tel: 365-6055.

Auspices: Militant Labor Forum

Selling 'Capitalism's World Disorder'

Continued from Page 7

paign for the *Militant* and its Spanish-language sister magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* in May and June — later in the year than usual.

Linn Hamilton, a retired dairy farmer from Washington, Pennsylvania, first saw *Capitalism's World Disorder* at the March 2 protest at the Federal Court Building in Washington, D.C., where farmers came to speak out against an unfair proposal to settle the claims of farmers who are Black who have lost or are losing their land as a result of government discrimination.

During a recess in the hearing, Hamilton looked through the book carefully. "I definitely want to get this book, but first I have to finish 'U.S. Imperialism Has Lost The Cold War,'" in the magazine *New International*. A few days later, Hamilton picked up his copy and joined the Pathfinder Readers' Club at the same time. (At \$10 a year, the Readers' Club allows for a 15 percent discount on all Pathfinder titles.)

At a March 26 Militant Labor Forum in Pittsburgh opposing the bombing of Yugoslavia, he said he had been reading the book. "I'm beginning to understand that when you look at things from the working-class point of view, it really helps you understand what's going on and what to do about it."

After the forum, Hamilton talked to an auto worker who has been thinking about getting the book for several weeks. Hamilton convinced him not to postpone the purchase any longer. "This is the book you need to get, it lays it all out there, how fascism, Stalinism, and imperialism are all enemies of the worldwide working class. It also shows how capitalism will use fascism in periods of economic and social crisis. It's the most important book in the store. You ought to get it tonight." The bookstore director chimed in that the auto worker could get the book and join the readers club at the same time. He left with the book and a reader's club membership that night.

Hamilton participated in staffing a socialist literature table at the March 28 solidarity rally in Niles, Ohio, to support steelworkers who are on strike against RMI Corp.

On the way back from the solidarity rally, Tony Prince, a member of UNITE from Cleveland, sold a copy of the book to a leader of a union struggle at a UNITE-organized plant in Cleveland who came to the rally with him. "We went through the book on the drive back to Cleveland and discussed what all the pictures were about," explained Prince.

Participants at the RMI rally bought five

Pathfinder pamphlets, three catalogs, close to 50 copies of the *Militant*, and a subscription.

In Atlanta, eight people bought *Capitalism's World Disorder* during the tour of two young Cubans (see articles on page 12). Arlene Rubenstein, a member of UNITE, reports, "Selling the books wasn't hard. It naturally flowed out of the discussions about how Cuba fits into the world." All but one of the people who bought the book attended more than one of the meetings for the Cuban youth, because the political discussions at the meetings were so interesting.

Reports on sales of the books should be sent care of the Pathfinder bookstore in Pittsburgh, Fax: (412) 381-9785; E-mail 103122.720@compuserve.com

— IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP —

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, *Nueva Internacional* and *Ny International*.

UNITED STATES

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CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. Compuserve: 74642,326 **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255, 285-5323. Compuserve: 75604,556

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WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Compuserve: 74461,2544.

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101515,2702

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Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055. Compuserve: 100250,1511

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. Compuserve: 100416,2362

The ultimate liberal — At the Oscar ceremony, where a lifetime award was bestowed on Elia Kazan, a majority of the audience refused



Harry Ring

to stand and applaud the odious witch-hunter. But director Steven Spielberg came up with what he apparently considered a neat dodge of the issue — he remained seated and applauded.

What an astonishing idea — “In a sharp departure from traditional attitudes, a scientific committee will recommend to the U.S. Forest Service that its ‘first priority’ in managing America’s 175 natural forests and grasslands should be preserving them for use by future generations.” — News item.

Makes ya proud — There are now more than 1.8 million people behind bars in U.S. prisons and jails — more than double what it was 12 years ago. Proportionate to population, only Russia has more prisoners. A spokesperson for a prisoners’ rights group said that could make the United States the world’s

leading jailer “in a year or two.”

‘That cheap?’ we said — Scanning the headlines in *USA Today*, we were surprised to read: “Gephardt endorses Gore for 2000.” But the article explained that the Congressional minority leader had endorsed the bid of the vice prez for the democratic presidential nomination 2000.

Can-do capitalism — “Hundreds of urgently needed specialist doctors who cost the National Health Service millions of pounds to train, face dismissal because there is no money to provide them with jobs.” — London

news item.

Ol’ Big Eye — Nineteen locomotive engineers filed suit in Michigan against their employer for illegally hiding a camera in a locker room exit sign. Their employer, Grand Trunk Western Railroad, a unit of Canadian National Railways, has refused to explain why they did it.

Don’t leave home without it? — In San Francisco, Mayor Willie Brown is considering a proposal to provide the homeless with a mini-credit card machine. Of each donation obtained this way, 80 percent will assertedly go to homeless community projects and the remain-

der to the lucky solicitors.

Help Wanted — If you agree that clippings from various parts of the U.S. — and the world — help make this column more readable, and, occasionally, humorous, do your part to make it more so. Send clippings to Great Society c/o Pathfinder Books, 2546 W. Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA. 90006. Fax to (213) 380-1268. Thanks.

Thought for the week — “We are not waging war. We have been called on to impose a peaceful solution on Kosovo, even if by military means.” — German chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

‘Jail four cops who killed Amadou Diallo!’

N.Y. SWP, YS statement urges continued protests until police are convicted

The following statement was issued by the New York Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists.

Thousands of workers, youth, and others have been demonstrating in the streets of New York for nearly two months demanding the arrest and prosecution of the four cops who killed Amadou Diallo February 4. These actions are an important part of the resistance by workers and farmers to the attacks by the capitalist class on the work and living conditions of those who toil for a living and on our democratic rights.

The N.Y. Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists join with the thousands who are protesting this brutal and racist killing. We urge all working people and youth to turn out to these actions, and organize other speak outs, to demand: “Justice for Amadou Diallo! Jail the guilty cops now!” With the March 25 indictment of the four cops, now is a critical time to keep the picket lines up, demanding their conviction. The most consistent demonstrations have been taking place outside NY police headquarters at One Police Plaza everyday beginning at 11:30 a.m. Construction workers, United Auto Workers members, UPS drivers, nurses, and other working people have been meeting each other, and other fighters, in these actions. Join them!

The determination by thousands to stand in solidarity with the Diallo family and other victims of police brutality — from Anthony Baez to Abner Louima — have made it harder for the city administration of Rudolph Giuliani, the New York city council that’s dominated by the Democratic Party, and other capitalist politicians to cover up this crime by the N.Y. police. The indictment of the four cops on March 25 marks an initial victory in the struggle and makes it all the more important to continue the mobilizations. The space for such actions has been widened by differences among the rulers on how to handle this crisis and shore up the image of the NYPD (New York Police Department). Let’s use it!

Giuliani, city council Republican minority leader Thomas Ognibene, and other bourgeois politicians have been trying to justify and defend the course of the city administration, and its predecessors, of enlarging the NYPD and giving the cops more powers and more lethal weapons to use against working people. They credit Giuliani for so-called lower crime rates and “safer” neighborhoods — that is, safer for the middle class and the superrich from those they describe as the “underclass.” Giuliani and Co. have in fact made the blunder of their life. Giuliani’s political days are now numbered because tens of thousands of working people have refused to accept another brutal killing by the cops of a Black man.

Many liberals are trying to confuse working people by saying the solution is ridding the police of “bad apples” and calling for federal investigations and a “reformed” police department with more Black and Latino cops.

There are no “good” and “bad” cops. The duty of cops is to take orders from their capitalist masters, which means breaking strikes, smashing demonstrations, and beating particularly Black, Puerto Rican, and Chicano heads. That was the case with the cop attacks on demonstrations of construction workers and taxi drivers last year.



Militant/ Paco Sánchez

More than 500 people in New York picketed at One Police Plaza March 24 to demand that the four cops who killed Amadou Diallo be jailed. Banner demanding justice for Diallo is carried by New York municipal hospital workers in the AFSME union.

The picketing of the offices of the *New Yorker* magazine by hundreds of N.Y. cops demanding an apology for a cartoon that dramatized the normalcy with which the cops empty their weapons on working people — just like the hail of 41 bullets they shot against Diallo — show the police are not asking for an end to these duties. That would mean the end of their jobs. They want more leeway to flout constitutionally guaranteed liberties. The police force is in fact a breeding ground for fascist goons, whom the bosses will use to put down any challenge to their privileges and power by the labor movement.

There is no law that says a person must be a cop. They willingly choose to be cops. They ask to serve as armed protectors of the ruling class and rapidly become corrupted. It is well known that the mercenary wages cops receive are supplemented by bribes and payoffs, often received from the very racketeers they are supposedly protecting the people from. Their privileged status gives them considerable immunity from legal action. A cop is a cop is a cop!

The killing of Diallo is symptomatic of an acceleration in police brutality, which is a piece of other measures taken by the city and federal governments to use the repressive agencies of their state and narrow democratic rights. These include:

- Use of semiautomatic weapons by the police (originally introduced by the Democratic Party administration of former New York City mayor David Dinkins), lifting restrictions on the amount of bullets in each clip and use of more deadly hollow-tip bullets (under Republican Giuliani);
- Confiscating people’s cars — taking away one’s property, which is detrimental for many workers who have no other way to get to their jobs — just if a cop accuses you of having a drop of alcohol in your blood above the legal limit;
- Wider use of the “street crime” unit of the NYPD who boast of “owning the night”; cop Kenneth Boss, a member of this unit, was one of the four involved in the Diallo killing and is currently under investigation for the shooting death of Patrick Bailey.

This is part of a wider crackdown on sections of the working class whom the bosses try to scapegoat for the crisis of their system and turn them into pariahs, in order to divide and rule. That’s why a Virginia federal court outlawed the Supreme Court Miranda ruling recently, why the Clinton administration has turned *la migra* into the most heavily armed federal cop agency and has deported a record 300,000 immigrant workers in the last two years, and why the bourgeoisie is using the death penalty more and more.

The Clinton administration’s plans for a North American command — that would allow the military to carry out police functions inside the U.S. — shows how these steps are part of Washington’s attempts to buy up, police, and dominate the world — from Iraq to Yugoslavia to China.

What the capitalist class has in store for toilers in Yugoslavia and Iraq is the same the cops did in the Diallo killing. Fighters against cop brutality have a big stake in including in their demands opposition to the frequent U.S. bombings of Iraq and the brutal NATO assault on Yugoslavia.

The capitalists are doing this because they anticipate a social crisis that could spin out of their control — a crisis that has already

swept southeast Asia, Russia, and is spreading in Latin America. In the middle of what they describe as the longest U.S. economic upswing in decades, they are talking about privatizing Social Security and have already thrown millions of working people off welfare and onto the streets without jobs. In New York, the state has put in place more stringent requirements for accepting people into public shelter who don’t have a roof over their heads. Unemployment, counting those who are no longer looking for a job, is a staggering 50 percent for youth who are Black.

When they talk about lower “crime rates” they fail to mention these have been accomplished not by improving social conditions for working people but by toughening their laws, which by definition creates more “criminals,” and by locking up record numbers of people.

Today, 1 in every 150 U.S. residents is behind bars, the highest incarceration rate in any country. The rulers try to get assent among the middle classes and better-off layers of workers for wider use of police violence, more arrests of anyone who fits the “profile” of a potential “criminal,” and longer sentences to “protect the quality of life” of those who are rich from the “underclass” — that is, working people and youth without jobs and decent living conditions.

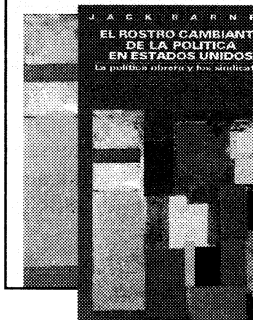
An increasing number of militant workers and farmers, however — from miners who struck Freeman Coal in Illinois last year to oil workers in Texas fighting a three-year-long lockout by Crown Petroleum to farmers fighting USDA discrimination — are gaining experience in confronting the repressive powers of the state, from the FBI, to the INS and local police, as they struggle against cutbacks in wages, speedup, racist discrimination, and loss of their land. It is among these toilers that all those demanding justice for Diallo will find their best allies.

In the process many will discover that the only way to get rid of police brutality and racism once and for all is to end the system of class exploitation — capitalism — and replace it with one that puts human needs and solidarity above profits — socialism.

For these reasons it’s important to explain that working people don’t need a “reformed” police department or more cops who are Black. We need to join the street mobilizations and demand: Arrest, prosecute, and jail the cops who killed Amadou Diallo now!

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Hands off Yugoslavia! Independence for Kosova!

Continued from front page

not the Milosevic regime, but the workers and farmers of all Yugoslavia.

The war is sharpening conflicts between the imperialist powers in Washington, London, Paris, Bonn, and Tokyo and setting more uncontrolled forces in motion throughout the region. Washington's growing dependency on its military might reflects mounting weaknesses, as the world's "almighty superpower," shows a declining capacity for sustaining economic expansion.

One way the big-business class will attempt to reverse the decline in their profits system is by trying to reestablish capitalist wage slavery in places where it has been abolished. But they will have to use military force to inflict a decisive defeat on the workers and farmers in workers states such as Yugoslavia, where the capitalists and landlords were overthrown. This is true even despite the murderous bloodshed of the last decade, by warring bureaucratic gangs in Belgrade, Zagreb, and other parts of Yugoslavia.

This is the logic behind the expansion of the North Atlantic military alliance up to the borders of Russia. The Clinton administration's campaign for establishing a NATO occupation force in Kosova marks another move toward tightening its military noose around the southern flank of Russia.

The U.S. rulers and other imperialist powers are on a collision course with the workers states of Yugoslavia, Russia, and elsewhere. They will confront resistance from the toilers who are hindered by a lack of working-class leadership.

The Albanians in Kosova have been resisting national oppression and a decade of martial law imposed by Belgrade. The slaughter organized by the Milosevic regime is an attempt to crush their demands for national

rights. Washington is not only opposed to Kosova independence but has tried for years to strike a deal with Belgrade to derail the fight for national self-determination. But each blow aimed against the Albanian struggle is also a setback for Serbian working people.

The only road to advancing the interests of Serbian and Albanian workers and farmers is through common struggle against imperialism and the reactionary regime in Belgrade. The revolution of the 1940s showed that uniting toilers of all nationalities is not only possible but necessary to advance the interests of working people throughout Yugoslavia.

The Bolsheviks under the leadership Russian revolution leader V.I. Lenin fought uncompromisingly for the right of nations to self-determination, for complete equality of nations and nationalities, and against every vestige of national privilege, arrogance, and chauvinism. Lenin insisted on "the complete emancipation of all oppressed nations, i.e., their complete freedom to secede."

This proletarian stance was crucial to the Russian revolution's ability to survive the massive imperialist invasion and civil war that followed the workers' and peasants' victory in taking power in October 1917. The support from the oppressed peoples constituted the decisive battalions that strengthened the world's first workers and peasants government.

Today, the Albanian demand for independence is similarly intertwined with defending the gains of the Yugoslav workers state against imperialism and other would-be exploiters.

Working people around the world should demand:
Stop the bombing! All imperialist troops out of the Balkans! Open the borders to Albanian refugees! Independence for Kosova!

Cuban youth speak in Atlanta

Continued from back page

ter of survival in which we will continue the socialist revolution, but we have to incorporate some capitalist methods."

At a meeting of 120 people at Morehouse, one student asked, "Will the people remain socialist? Will the capitalist methods benefit the entire people, as socialism does?" Garcia responded that "We use our resources. Tourism brings us fresh foreign currency and allows us to invest in other sectors of society. Just because there are capitalist companies doesn't mean we've given up on our socialist principles. Even during the worst of the special period we increased the percentage of our national budget going to health care. Using capitalist methods is not for all eternity; they are conjunctural measures so we can get out of the special period."

At the Emory University event, a professor who had visited Cuba stated that Cubans had grown tired of the revolution and the shortages. Garcia answered that people are tired of the shortages, and that recently the eggs ration had dropped by one, to seven per person every two weeks. She explained that most Cubans understand this is the result of the U.S. economic embargo. "Cuba is unable to import the necessary feed for chickens to produce sufficient eggs. We also export lobster so we can import powdered milk. The government guarantees to all children up to age seven one liter of milk per day. We can't eat lobster, but I can give milk to my little girl."

Dobbins then joined the discussion, highlighting the damaging consequences of the U.S. embargo for all workers and farmers when he said that he and others being driven off the land would "love to develop relations to provide Cuba with eggs, milk and beef, and to expand our markets as farmers."

In the discussion at the event at Emory University, one participant asked the Cuban youth to respond to the U.S.-led bombing of Yugoslavia. Morejón looked straight ahead and said, "I've never felt so bad as to be in the country that it the author of such events. No country has the right to militarily intervene in another as the United States is doing in Yugoslavia today."

At the Atlanta University campuses there was special interest in the conditions of Afro-Cubans and the rooting out of racism in Cuba. Mack Jones, professor of political science, welcomed Morejón and García to a gathering of 50 students at Clark. Noting that before the revolution the Cuban people "suffered from racism similar to the United States," Jones urged students to learn about Cuba as "a new model for race and politics and living in America," and asked the Cuban youth to discuss Afro-Cuban life today.

García stated that "I can answer that because I am a Black woman. Everyone has the same opportunity regardless of race, sex or religious belief." The students appreci-

ated her recollection of how "my grandfather tells me stories of the racism before 1959. I can't imagine living in a society like that."

Morejón then added that "not all people support the revolution." Some don't accept the goals and values of the society the vast majority of Cuban people are trying to build. He explained that among these layers of society "there remains racism, as well as among some people from generations before the revolution" who held onto the racist beliefs of capitalist society.

During one discussion at Morehouse, applause followed greetings from a leader of the African student organization to the young Cuban revolutionaries. Recalling the hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteers who fought the apartheid army in the 1970s and 1980s, and helped drive the racist invaders out of Angola, she said "The international community at Atlanta University welcomes you, and the peoples of sub-Saharan Africa appreciate the aid and solidarity of Cuba in the fight against white supremacy."

At a Morehouse reception with 20 student activists from several Atlanta colleges, Morejón and García invited the young leaders to the August 15-19, 1999, International Youth and Student Seminar about Neoliberalism in Havana. Morejón stated, "We are convinced that on both sides we've had important experiences that we can benefit from sharing." Many of the students took information about the conference, and Joel Canton, a Haitian student at Morehouse, added, "When I heard you were coming I was ecstatic. My great-grandfather was from Cuba and I hope to go there one day to study."

Julius Coles, Director of Morehouse's Andrew Young Center for International Affairs, welcomed Morejón and García.

The sponsors of the events at AU included the Morehouse Department of Political Science, the Andrew Young Center for International Affairs, Clark Political Science professor Mack Jones, and Spelman professor Harry Lefever, who is active in Pastors for Peace. Morejón and García were invited to Emory University by the Atlanta Network on Cuba and a number of campus groups, among them the International Student and Scholars Programs, Latin America and Caribbean Studies, Latino Student Organization, Office of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Life, and the Office of Student Programming.

Morejón invited youth to come to Cuba to study "the system we have in place, with which we are better prepared to confront the capitalist world system, which is more violent today than it was in 1959."

In his closing remarks at Emory University, he repeated the Cuban youth leaders' invitation to come to the International Youth and Student Seminar in August.

Mike Italie is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees.

New York cops

Continued from front page

Overseas Chinese of Greater New York organization who came to the last of the daily demonstrations at One Police Plaza on March 29. They carried signs and banners denouncing racism and police brutality.

The breadth of these protests underscored the intense pressure that the ruling class in New York was under to return an indictment against the cops accused of killing Diallo. The capitalist media and prominent bourgeois politicians, including Giuliani, have sought to portray the killing of Diallo as a "tragic mistake."

"Mistake?" declared Rafael Ramos, a 43-year-old construction worker. "I can't accept that. A tragic accident would be one shot or something. Here you have them shooting at Diallo 41 times — they intended to do something to him!"

Eric Cordova, a high school student who became involved for the first time in something like this, had a similar reaction. "I've been here four times," Cordova said while picketing at Police Plaza. "I didn't like the fact that the cops shot 41 times. If this had happened to someone else an indictment would have been much quicker. Cops always seem to get away with something like this."

He added, "Protests should not stop. This is not the first time this has occurred, it will happen again. Besides a lot of people are demonstrating not only against this but also against the Street Crime Unit, for Mumia [Abu-Jamal], and a lot of other things." The Street Crime Unit is the special police unit that the cops charged with Diallo's death belonged to at the time of the shooting.

The size of the protests outside of One Police Plaza grew in the days following the indictments, to 1,000 or more each day. More than 1,200 people were arrested as part of the civil disobedience component of these actions; the large, peaceful pickets have involved many times that number. Among the most recent arrestees were Democratic politician Jesse Jackson, actress Susan Sarandon, and Carolyn Goodman, whose son, Andrew Goodman was murdered in Mississippi in 1964 for his involvement in the civil rights movement.

These actions coincided with jury selection in Brooklyn in the trial of four cops charged in the 1997 torture of Abner Louima and the sergeant accused of covering up their actions. This case, like Diallo's, sparked major demonstrations against police brutality.

Giuliani and other capitalist politicians have all sought to put forward programs that they hope will enable them to put a damper on things. For example, the mayor has invited a number of Black elected officials who have opposed him in the past to Gracie Mansion for coffee March 28, something that he hadn't done in years.

He has had his police commissioner announce measures that include assigning 50 Black and Latino officers to the predominantly white Street Crime Unit and placing a Black cop in the number two position in it. Giuliani is also planning to hire dozens more Black and Latino officers.

Nearly all the top leadership in the Democratic Party in New York City have come together to push their own program for reforming the NYPD. This group includes the former mayor of New York David Dinkins, Rep. Charles Rangel, Rev. Alfred Sharpton, Dennis Rivera, president of hospital workers union Local 1199, and many others. They put forward a "10 point program" that includes demands that New York cops live in the city, more hiring of "minority" police, a pay raise for cops, and an outside prosecutor in instances of police corruption or brutality.

In reaction to the indictment of fellow officers, the cops and their supporters have stepped up their campaign to portray the police involved in Diallo's "tragic death" as the victims of a well-organized effort by a bunch of "cop bashers" and "publicity seekers." This includes calling pro-cop rallies outside the Bronx courthouse.

Factory explosion

Continued from front page

the December blast. The day after the second blast, agents of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms refused the demand of area residents for the shutdown of the operation.

Meanwhile, management's continued downsizing and job combinations took the life of another worker at the American Axle Manufacturing auto parts plant in Detroit March 27.

Patrick Hartert, a machine repairman and member of United Auto Workers Union Local 235, was killed when an oversized storage cabinet he and a fork truck driver attempted to move tipped and hit him in the back of his head. While no halt to production occurred, a joint management-union meeting was held several hours later for workers in the plant where Hartert died.

As word of his death spread to other plants on the site, co-workers commented on the increasing number of incidents, where workers are being forced to perform tasks beyond their training and skills, or without the proper equipment. Willie Reid, who works in the adjacent plant, said her co-workers recalled similar unsafe conditions that have taken the lives of two other craftsmen and two outside contractors since 1995.

Jean Luc Duval is a member of UAW Local 235. John Sarge is a member of UAW Local 900.

Toronto school support staff returns to work

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

aware of how much we do in the schools." He was "very pleased" with the contract, since some janitorial jobs in his region of the city have been contracted out for the past 22

number one in profits, lowest in wages," Williams explained to travelers looking to rent cars. Unionists first voted down the company's proposed offer 99-1. Hertz then came back with a little better offer, which was recommended by the union officialdom. Workers voted this proposal down too, 86-9.

Strikers report that only one worker has crossed the picket line, but Hertz has brought in management from other locations to keep the operation open.

ON THE PICKET LINE

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 about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

TORONTO — Some 14,000 members of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 4400 in Toronto ratified a new contract March 20. CUPE members struck February 27 over wages and working conditions.

Picket lines were taken down after union officials announced a tentative agreement March 13. A week later more than 4,000 union members gathered for a meeting and voted 93 percent in favor. Strikers' jobs include everything from janitorial and secretarial work to educational assistance and language or music instruction.

Everyone received a 3 percent lump-sum signing bonus. Educational and physical support staff will receive a 1 percent raise on Jan. 1, 2000. There are to be no layoffs or reduction in hours for educational or physical support staff until Dec. 31, 2000.

As he came out of the ratification meeting, caretaker Andrew McEwan said, "I think the strike made people

years.

A heritage languages instructor said job losses would continue in her sector, and wages remained unchanged. Over the next two years, \$250 million (Can\$1 = US\$0.66) is slated to be cut from Toronto schools. Students and strikers report being warmly welcomed by teachers upon their return to school. "Now I know my cafeteria ladies by name," said student Rachel Dhawan, who had walked the picket line.

Hertz car rental workers strike over wages, dignity

NEWARK, New Jersey — "They said they could train monkeys to do our jobs in 10 minutes," said Steve Williams, a Hertz rental car worker on strike since March 19. "We're going to stay out as long as it takes."

More than 100 Teamsters, including cleaners, mechanics, and reservation agents, walked off the job located at Newark International Airport after voting down the second contract offer by Hertz. Workers were especially incensed at being compared to monkeys. Several workers had taken the blank side of the official union placards and drawn monkeys along with slogans protesting this affront on their dignity.

The company offered a 50-cent an hour raise per year. But workers feel they deserve more. "Hertz,

Canadian Broadcasting strike enters seventh week

TORONTO — The 1,800 technicians and craft workers organized by the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers (CEP) at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) are holding strong in their seventh week on strike. CBC is the state-owned radio and television in Canada.

Unionists almost saw their ranks on the picket lines swell with the planned walkout of 3,300 other CBC workers organized by the Canadian Media Guild, but a tentative agreement was reached the same day.

"Our members have sacrificed jobs and money to keep the CBC afloat during government budget cuts for the past 15 years, it is time for that to stop," said Mike Sullivan, national CEP representative. In that period the CBC board of directors, appointed by the federal government, has cut one-third of the jobs and chopped Can\$414 million from the budget.

Hector Aviles, a painter, said that while there are now about half the technicians there were 10 years ago, the number of supervisors has increased. "When I was with the CBC in Regina," said Aviles, "in one department there was one worker and three supervisors."

The CEP members are seeking a three-year agreement retroactive to 1998 with catch-up wage increases, improvement in job security, and restriction in outsourcing. They are also opposed to the company's demand for overtime averaging. In the case of CEP workers, the CBC wants to average out the overtime over one week, and in the case of the Guild it was asking for an eight-weeks' overtime averaging. This



Militant/Kari Sachs
Teamsters at Hertz, a rental car agency, have been on strike over wages, working conditions, and dignity. Above, a picket at Newark Airport March 28.

means, for example, that a Guild worker may be required to work 80 hours a week for four straight weeks, and then not be called in to work for the next four weeks, and get no overtime pay.

So far, CBC has been forced to cancel some programs and scale down others. It has produced scab broadcasts of Hockey Night in Canada by making use of U.S. feeds and supervisory employees doing the technical work.

Strikers at CBC and Hydro Toronto joined each other's pickets lines while Hydro workers were out.

10,000 service workers in British Columbia strike

VANCOUVER — more than 600 striking social service workers organized a spirited rally in downtown Vancouver March 8 — International Women's Day — to launch a province-wide strike. "Today, 150 years ago, women took to the streets, and today were taking to the streets over the same issues.... This strike is over wages and benefits," explained Hospital Employees Union (HEU) representative Mary Leplant. Some 87 percent of the strikers are women, the *Vancouver Sun* reported.

The four unions involved in the strike — the British Columbia Government Service Employees' Union (BCGEU), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the Health Sciences Association, and HEU — voted 90 percent in favor of the work action.

"Ten thousand social service

workers across the province have taken strike action," said Michael Lanier, child-care worker and regional vice president of CUPE. "We've been without a contract since March 31, 1998, and have had no serious offer."

A similar rally was organized in the provincial capital city of Victoria. The vast majority of rally participants were women and young. Eighty-seven percent of social service workers in this province are women, and are paid less than other sectors for doing similar work. We want parity and we want it now," explained Lydia Kenney-Storms, striking social worker and a member of the BCGEU.

The strike has affected day-care centers, preschools, homes for battered women, services for juvenile delinquents, infant development programs, and programs for the developmentally and physically disabled.

On March 9 rallies were organized for other cities across British Columbia including Prince George, Kelowna, Nanaimo, and Nelson.

Katy LeRougetel, a member of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 5338 in Toronto; Kari Sachs, a member of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, and Seth Galinsky in Newark; Tony Di Felice, a member of the USWA in Toronto; and Ned Dmytryshyn, a member of the International Association of Machinists in Delta, British Columbia, and Aiden Ball in Vancouver contributed to this column.

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Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay

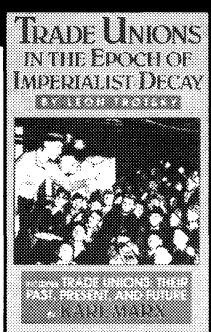
BY LEONTROTSKY

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LETTERS

What are 'crime rates'?

Your March 22 front-page article about New York protests against police brutality included a statement I found confusing:

"What Ognibene [a Republican city council member] and other capitalist politicians don't talk about, however, is that the supposed drop in 'crime rates' has been reached not by changing social conditions but by locking up a record number of U.S. residents."

It sounds like the *Militant* is condemning Ognibene's hypocrisy in covering up this "fact."

I'm not familiar with that individual. But a reduction in "crime rates" is about the only justification I've ever heard from his ilk for the "law-and-order" crackdown that's escalating in New York and other cities — which includes jailing more workers, and for longer periods.

As the *Militant* has often explained, of course, the horrors inflicted during the normal, legal operation of capitalist society —

slaughter in Iraq, shooting of Diallo, starvation of mental patients in Sweden — constitute the real crimes.

But that doesn't seem to be the sense in which the word was used here. In bourgeois society, "crime" is generally taken to mean the anti-social actions of lumpen elements against individual targets, most often working people. Is it the *Militant's* view that jailing more workers has reduced that?

Steve Marshall
Detroit, Michigan

Crime rates II

In the front page article in the *Militant* dated March 22 entitled "Cop Killing in N.Y. sparks sustained protests," the following sentence appears: "What Ognibene and other capitalist politicians don't talk about, however, is that the supposed drop in 'crime rates' has been reached not by changing social conditions but by locking up a record number of U.S. residents."

I feel certain that the authors did not mean what that sentence seems to imply, i.e. that there is some relationship between the supposed drop in crime rates and the increased rate of incarceration that workers in the United States are now facing. It is not credible to believe that increased police brutality, longer jail terms, and more arbitrary imprisonments of people can lead to anything but a greater spirit of rebelliousness in all its forms. Their highly touted drop in crime statistics is most probably as crooked as the judicial system that is filling the jails at a record rate unmatched by any other country in the world.

John Votava
Chicago, Illinois

A correction

There was an error in the article "Capitalism's World Disorder": the book to sell and the book to be seen reading" in issue no. 12. It is in a quote attributed to me in the section subtitled "Scope of resis-

tance." Somehow two contributions by me to that discussion at a March 13-14 meeting of socialist workers in the trade unions got telescoped together, introducing the error.

The quote was around the response of supporters of the *Militant* to the recent protests by United Auto Workers (UAW) members at the Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio. At one point I described a group of Latino workers I met at an immigrant rights protest last fall in Detroit. They came to the street protest from a conference entitled "Latinos in Labor." The next day I attended a protest organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers demanding a contract for supermarket workers in Toledo and saw them again. Six people at that protest, including a couple of the UAW members at Jeep, bought subscriptions.

Last month, while doing calling to win long-term readers to the *Militant*, we called the Jeep workers and learned about the overtime protest. We were unable to get to Toledo

immediately. The *Militant* article in issue no. 10 on those protests made that point clear; it was datelined Detroit because it was based on telephone interviews.

The point the author was trying to make of the openings for fighting workers to link up and learn from each other was correct, but combining the points into one quote is not up to the *Militant's* high standards for accuracy.

Since the meeting in Chicago we have been able meet with a couple of Jeep workers. At least two are reading *Capitalism's World Disorder*. One has been a longtime *Militant* reader, the other is now.

John Sarge
Detroit, Michigan

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.

Cuban youth talk to workers, students in Atlanta about fight for socialism today

BY MIKE ITALIE

ATLANTA — Cuban youth leaders Luis Ernesto Morejón and Itamys García Villar spoke to some 325 students, farmers, and workers during their March 25–27 visit to Georgia. They spoke to students at the historically Black colleges of Morehouse, Clark Atlanta, and Spelman, which are part of Atlanta University (AU); to a city-wide meeting at Emory University; and to farmers in southern Georgia who have been fighting years of U.S. government racist discrimination (see article below).

This was the youths' first stop on a seven-city tour organized by the Los Angeles-based Committee on Cuban Youth and Education. García, 27, is a doctor of veterinary medicine. Morejón, 23, is a professor and general secretary of the Foreign Language School of the Enrique José Varona Teacher Training Institute. Both are members of the Union of Young Communists.

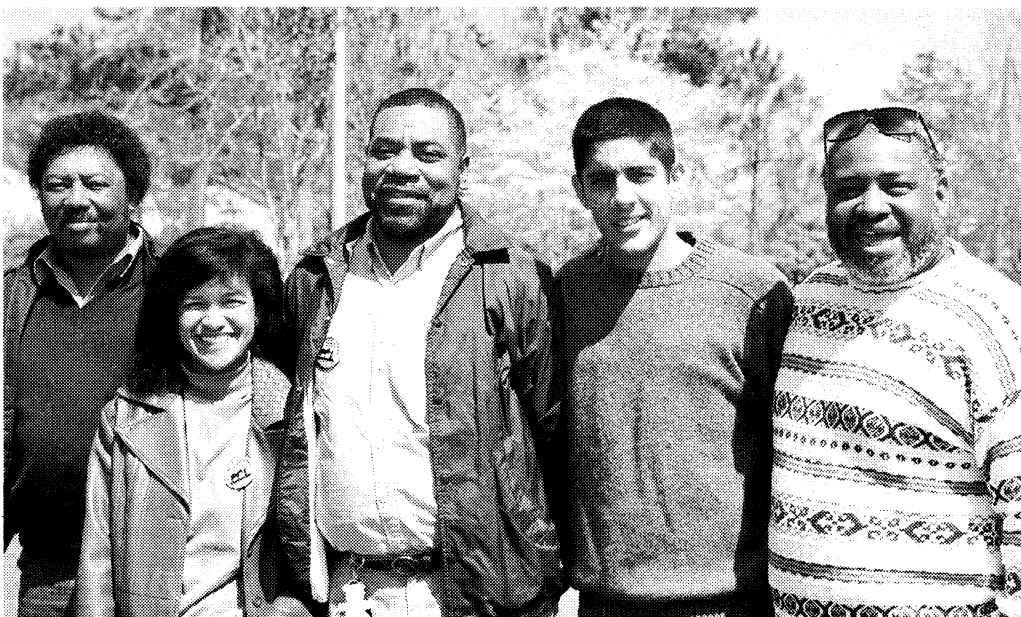
Bernard Gómez of the Atlanta Network on Cuba introduced the Cuban youth leaders to the 75 people gathered at Emory University. Welcoming remarks were presented by Joel Alvarado for Rep. Cynthia McKinney and by Markel Hutchins of the National Youth Connection. Greetings were sent by Rep. John Lewis.

Lee Dobbins, secretary of the Georgia Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association (BFAA) and an activist in the fight of farmers against racist discrimination by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also welcomed Morejón and García. The U.S. government "cannot continue the discrimination, because we are the people of the land," he stated. "We produce the food that feeds the people of the U.S." He declared the Cuban visitors to be honorary members of the BFAA.

Luis Morejón began his remarks by explaining, "Our independence was stolen from us 100 years ago," when U.S. forces invaded Cuba as the Cuban people were about to break free from Spanish colonialism in 1898. Morejón added that "under the neocolonial domination of the U.S., there was hunger, illiteracy, disease, torture, and assassination. They gave us Santa Claus, in Cuba filled with sun, and Superman and a racist Tarzan. Under U.S. occupation, at that time you could ask, 'What here is not Yankee?'"

Morejón emphasized, "By no means do we feel bitterness to Americans, whose veins are filled with African, Latin, and Asian blood, producers of the riches that the wealthy benefit from today."

García pointed to the enormous social gains won by Cuban workers and farmers through the revolution. Contrasting Cuban life today



Cuban youth on Georgia leg of U.S. tour. Above left, Luis Ernesto Morejón speaks at Morehouse campus. Above (from left), farmer Willie Adams, Itamys García Villar, farmer Lee Dobbins, Morejón, and Maceo Dixon, an Atlanta trade unionist, during visit to southern Georgia.

compared to before 1959, García noted that "from 5,000 doctors we now have 60,000. In place of the 40 percent illiteracy, now education is free and there is a minimum of a 9th grade education for all. Forty years ago there were three universities and today there are

47. We have destroyed the institutional basis of racism, and women have the equal right to work and study like never before."

"We accomplished this all in the face of the cruel U.S. blockade and the financing of counterrevolutionary bands," García noted

with pride. "Then in the period after the fall of the Soviet Union, we lost 85 percent of our foreign trade and there was a tremendous drop in the Gross National Product. We call this the 'Special Period.' It is a mat-

Continued on Page 10

Farmers meet Cuban youth in Georgia

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

PAVO, Georgia — Nearly a dozen farmers in southern Georgia had the opportunity to exchange experiences with Cuban youth leaders Itamys García Villar and Luis Ernesto Morejón. Willie Head, a leader of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and the South Georgia Vegetable Producers Cooperative, hosted the all-day visit March 27.

The Cuban youth learned about the history of Black farmers in this region, about 20 miles from the Florida border, from members of the Vegetable Producers Cooperative. They also toured three cooperative members' farms.

Nine people made the 250-mile trip from Atlanta along with García and Morejón, including two translators, several unionists, and two students. Lee Dobbins, secretary of the Georgia Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association, and chicken farmer Willie Adams from Greensboro, Georgia, also drove down. Before the meeting, Adams explained contract farming to García and answered ques-

tions about the use of hormones in chicken production in the United States.

Willie Head and Gladys Williams, who is in charge of the quality control for the cooperative, met the group at a restaurant in Quitman and directed them to the Simmon Hill Community school, where six farmers were already waiting. The Simmon Hill facility was a school for Blacks before desegregation. The farmers bought it and are now restoring the facility as the headquarters for the cooperative.

"We have a strong sense of history," said Head in his introduction to García and Morejón. "Two miles outside of Quitman, land on both sides of the road has been owned by Black farmers for hundreds of years. We have seen difficult times. We have been in a conflict with our government."

Head introduced each farmer by name. Then each told about themselves and what they farm. Among them was Rosa Lee Murphy, 85 years old and an anchor of the cooperative. She currently farms and works on quality control, setting standards for the cooperative. According to the farmers, her policies have led to new markets. She was also the cooperative's first truck driver. "Don't get old 'til you have to," said Murphy. "I've been working since I was nine. I don't feel bad about it at all."

After the presentations, García and Morejón had a lot of questions. "Do you pay taxes? Does the land belong to you? Do the crops give you enough to pay the taxes?" When farmers explained they pay taxes by the acre their whole life, García said that in Cuba, under the 1959 agrarian reform, land was given to the peasants.

"We've had difficult times since the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Our production of sugar is restricted. But we don't want to give up," stated García. "We have a lack of fertilizer from the socialist camp, fuel is very expensive and we get it from far away. We buy products in China when we could get all the rice we need from you at a lower transportation cost."

"Are technical services also included in the blockade?" asked Dobbins.

"Yes," García responded. "We need to assimilate more technology for better yields. The U.S. blockade limits our exchange on this."

"We want to extend our expertise and knowledge," said Dobbins. "Not for the profits we can get from you, but because a food shortage has a terrible effect on kids."

Both García and Morejón were fascinated by the visit to the farm of Ulysses Marable, Sr. The second oldest member of the cooperative, Marable began as a sharecropper and now grows cotton, corn, peanuts, watermelons, and vegetables. "We produce more than we can sell," he told the Cuban youth.

"Cuba has the opposite problem. We can't produce enough for our people," said Morejón.

Marable explained a farm technique of "laying of plastic with drip irrigation" that allows farmers to plant earlier and produce more per acre. The Cubans were unfamiliar with the procedure. At Charles Brooks's farm, they also learned about another technique for growing KY pole beans, where the plant bed is elevated for quicker drying in a moist area.

"We invite you to visit Cuba," said Morejón. Several farmers expressed serious interest in doing so.

At Willie Head's farm a discussion broke out about education. "Are your profits enough to send your children to college?" asked Morejón.

"Oh, no," all the U.S. farmers answered. "That's one reason the peasants of Cuba love the revolution. Education is free," replied Morejón.

"Well, Cuba is much more advanced than the U.S.," responded Head.

At the end of the day Head made some closing comments on behalf of the farmers. "This is only our first exchange with the people from Cuba. We're going to start our work to dismantle the blockade. You work on your end, and we will work with you on ours."

On behalf of himself and García, Morejón thanked the farmers and pledged: "We will go back and tell the youth of Cuba what we learned here. Sometimes we don't understand that there are so many hard-working people like you in the U.S."

"Hard work is all we know," responded Head. "America will experience the same revolution as Cuba, it's just a matter of time. Again our experiences will run parallel."

Arlene Rubinstein is a member of the International Association of Machinists.

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