

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Locked out Kaiser workers
join Louisiana labor protest

— PAGE 7

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Toll rises among workers in assault on Yugoslavia

U.S. bombing of Chinese embassy sparks wide protests

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

"I can hear warplanes flying over again as we speak," said Duci Petrovic in a telephone interview from his home in Nis, southern Serbia, May 11. "They've been dropping cluster bombs and missiles for the last five days. About 40 people have been killed and more than 100 seriously wounded here since May 7."

That's when U.S.-NATO bombers attacked the central market in Nis — the country's second largest city and among Yugoslavia's most important industrial centers — as well as a nearby hospital, killing 14 people, all of them

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Hundreds of thousands demonstrated in Beijing and other cities across China, protesting May 7 bombing of Chinese embassy in Belgrade by U.S. warplanes. Earlier that day, U.S.-NATO forces bombed the central market and a hospital in Nis, the second largest city in Yugoslavia and one of the country's most important industrial centers, killing 14 civilians. Above, protesters outside U.S. embassy in Beijing, May 9. At left, aftermath of bombing of market in Nis.

Shipyard strikers are 'prepared to stay out'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS AND MARY MARTIN

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia — Six weeks into their strike against Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS), thousands of members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8888 are determined to stay out until their just demands are met. "This started as a strike over wages and benefits, but everyone knows it's really about respect," stated Delano Harrison, a rigger with 22 years. "That's why everyone walked out." "This strike remains solid," stated striker George Hightower. "We can't work for free. I'm prepared to stay out as long as it takes, that's the bottom line."

Some 9,000 members of USWA Local 8888 struck April 5. The union is demanding a \$3.95 an hour raise over three years, \$900-a-month pensions after 30 years, and restoration of the holidays and vacation time given up in 1995. The company's "final offer" was \$1.50 in raises over four years, plus a pay-for-performance package that could add up to another dollar for some of the workers. The last raise at the shipyard was in 1993. Since then workers have lost more than 12 percent of their paychecks' purchasing power.

"It's ridiculous what they want us to retire on," said Douglas Turner, who has two years' seniority and also worked in the yard

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Cop racism, brutality embroil N.J. gov't in crisis

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS AND BROCK SATTER

NEWARK, New Jersey — New Jersey governor Christine Whitman has been engulfed in a political crisis as her administration attempts to head off mounting outrage and protests against police brutality and racism. A debate over "racial profiling" — police targeting drivers who are Black and Latino to stop and search on the highway — has been heating up for months. The death of one innocent man in police custody and the six-day jailing of another in Orange in April sparked protests numbering in the hundreds. Protests across the Hudson River against the killing of Amadou Diallo by New York City cops have also had an impact.

On April 19, State Attorney General Peter Verniero announced the indictment of two highway patrol cops on 19 misdemeanor charges, including lying on public documents and conducting illegal searches. James Kenna and John Hogan are accused of reporting the race of Blacks they pulled over on the turnpike as white on their daily patrol logs in an attempt to cover up the "racial profiling."

Kenna and Hogan are the same cops who fired 11 shots into a van of Black and Latino youth on the New Jersey Turnpike a year ago. They are awaiting a grand jury's ruling on possible criminal charges in connection with that shooting. Last month two State Superior Court judges in Mercer County dis-

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Workers in struggle buy 'Capitalism's World Disorder'

BY NAOMI CRAINE

"Get to places where workers are, especially workers who are going through struggles, and follow up with those who are interested. Get their phone numbers and call them back." That's the recipe Salm Kolis, a steelworker in Pittsburgh, gave for getting *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* and the *Militant* into the hands of others.

That is the key to meeting goals socialist workers have taken to sell 1,500 copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder* by Jack Barnes, as well as the drive that has just begun to win 1,100 new subscribers to the *Militant*, 350 subscribers to the Spanish monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and sell 600 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*. After launching the campaign on April 1, supporters have sold 437 copies of the book internationally. So there's a lot of work ahead.

Kolis gave an example of how fighting workers get convinced to buy *Capitalism's World Disorder*. "Last week socialist workers from Pittsburgh drove out to Newark,

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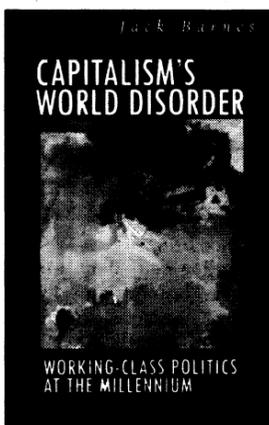
Jack Barnes

"We have watched the first large-scale war take place in Europe in almost half a century. There has been massive, sustained artillery shelling. Air power has been used to bomb civilian populations in Europe for the first time

since the bombing of Dresden, London, and other cities during World War II....

All this has been taking place in Yugoslavia. It is a war that has

brought to the surface the deepest conflicts among the imperialist powers in Europe and North America since the collapse of the Stalinist apparatuses at the opening of the 1990s. It is a war that has exposed the increasing contradictions in what continues to be called the NATO alliance."



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—December 31, 1994

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Killer cops walk in California

District Attorney Grover Trask ruled May 6 that four cops who discharged a shower of 23 bullets that killed 19-year-old Tyisha Miller in Riverside, California, last December, did not commit criminal acts. Miller pulled into a gas station that fatal night with a flat tire. Relatives arrived on the scene to help and found Miller behind locked doors, foaming at the mouth in an apparent seizure. They called the police for help. When cops got there they banged on the car windows, shook the car, and flashed lights in the middle of the night at the sleeping woman, who they claim had a gun on her lap. When she reacted to this ruckus, cops opened fire, hitting her 12 times.

Public protests joined by civil rights activists, trade unionists, religious groups, angry Riverside residents, and others followed the brutal killing. "We thought we were going to get justice but we just got the same old thing," said Bernell Butler, Miller's cousin. "Police officers are able to murder and get away with it."

Cyclones rip through Midwest, U.S. gov't aid package pitiful

Vortical wind blasts from 76 tornadoes hit Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Nebraska, and South Dakota May 3, reducing neighborhoods to rubble and killing more than 50 people. The myriad of twisters, some gusting up to 300 miles per hour, caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages, as well as leaving tens of thousands of working people homeless. In the small town of Stroud, Oklahoma, for example, 107 homes and buildings were destroyed and damaged, and hundreds of workers are out of a job. Three days later 95 percent of homes and businesses still lacked electricity. At least one major employer there is considering moving out and not rebuilding. Insured losses alone in the five states hit by the tornadoes are as high as \$1 billion, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

In this context U.S. vice president Albert Gore toured some of the devastated areas in Kansas May 6 and announced a wee \$5.7 million from the Labor Department to help clean up in that state. Other disaster relief programs are similarly inadequate, includ-



Hundreds of people rallied in Riverside, California, May 10 to protest the city's decision not to prosecute four white cops who killed Tyisha Miller, a young Black woman.

ing payments for temporary housing, minor home repair, and low-interest loans for some businesses. According to one telephone operator at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Office of Emergency Information and Public Affairs, for an uninhabitable home it takes at least 7-10 days before a person could even get help, and there are no guarantees.

EU won't lift beef ban on U.S.

Taking the trade conflict between Washington and its competitors in the European Union (EU) another step, the European Commission, the EU's executive body, decided unanimously May 4 to uphold its 10-year-old ban on hormone-treated beef. The EU asserts growth hormones often given to cattle in the United States are carcinogenic. U.S. rulers are threatening to impose a \$300 million sanction on EU exports if the ban is

not lifted by May 13. If the EU statement "reflects the sentiment in the EU," warned Peter Scher, chief agriculture negotiator for U.S. trade, "there is clearly not a serious intention to resolve the dispute, and we will be forced to exercise our rights in the WTO [World Trade Organization] to retaliate."

Russian coal miners strike

A thousand coal miners on Sakhalin Island in Russia, began a 10-day strike May 6 to demand 10 months of unpaid wages. The strip miners provide coal to the power station in the Far East region. Although the action is declared through May 16, a number of miners say they want to strike until they are paid back in full. Miners waged strikes throughout last summer and fall, pressuring Moscow to pay part of the wage arrears.

IMF tells Moscow: squeeze workers tighter to get loan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is demanding the Russian government step up austerity measures in order to get a new \$4.5 billion loan package over the next 18 months. "Pushing the controversial reforms through parliament by July will be no small feat," cautioned an April 30 article from London's *Financial Times*. The IMF is pushing for five steps: a new law to open banks wider to capitalist investors, changes in laws on bank bankruptcies, raising taxes for liquor and fuel, raising the regressive value-added tax to 20 percent, and relaxing foreign exchange restrictions. The new IMF funds won't actually be remitted to Moscow, but instead go directly to pay interest payments

on a previous \$4.9 billion loan.

Meanwhile, some 30 million people — one-fifth of Russia's population — will be in "extreme poverty" by next year if the economic crisis continues. "Extreme poverty" is defined as those living on less than half of the minimal subsistence income, which was figured at 830 rubles (\$33) per month in February. The World Bank projects an 8.3 percent drop in the Russian economy this year.

Facing discrimination charges, Kodak agrees to pay raises

Eastman Kodak agreed to pay 2,000 employees — women, Blacks, and Latinos — \$13 million in retroactive and current pay raises in New York and Colorado. The bulk of recipients are clerks, skilled workers, and factory workers. Individual employees as well as a local Colorado chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People complained Kodak was discriminatory in overlooking wage increases for women and oppressed nationalities by using "performance-based" raises. "Clearly racism is inconsistent with our values," asserted Kodak spokesman Charles Smith, "but there was a discrepancy that appears to be on the basis of gender and race."

S. Africa bus drivers strike

Bus drivers from the Transport and General Workers Union, Transport and Allied Workers Union, Western Cape Omnibus Staff Association, and the Transport Omnibus Workers Union went on strike April 15 demanding higher wages and a maximum 12-hour work shift. The strike by 18,000 workers ended May 3 with an 8.5 percent wage raise agreed to by the companies. Transportation bosses lost 80 million rands (US\$12.8 million). The 12-hour work cap is still being negotiated by union officials and bus bosses. Unionists rejected a government-appointed arbitrator, which they said would hold a pro-company bias.

Zimbabwe Telecom fires strikers

Engineers and technicians on a national strike against the Post and Telecommunications Corporation of Zimbabwe (PTC) were fired April 29, supposedly to "prevent the alleged further destruction of property," wrote the Xinhua news agency. The PTC board accused strikers of sabotage. Workers were demanding a 200 percent wage increase. Acting Postmaster-General Sizo Mhlanga, trying to sow divisions among workers, labeled the strikers unpatriotic, selfish, well-paid trouble makers. The next day union Secretary Peter Manyonda and Chairman Simon Musvosve were arrested and charged with inciting other workers and sabotage.

— BRIAN TAYLOR

THE MILITANT

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Steelworkers at Newport News Shipbuilding are 'prepared to stay out as long as it takes'

Continued from front page for five years in the 1980s. "You work here for 30 years and get only \$500. Some get less. I've got four kids and have to clothe and feed them. It's impossible to do this on \$13.50 an hour."

"I'm not going to cross the line, the way I've been treated all these years," stated Alton Brown, a pipefitter with 39 years' seniority. "You ask for a raise and the supervisors say, 'Sure. I'll raise you from working on the second ship deck up to the third ship deck!'"

A few years back when gas fumes on a ship killed three workers, Brown quickly found his way through a tunnel in the ship to cut off the appropriate valve, preventing further loss of life. "You saved a lot of lives," his boss at the time told him. "You should be rewarded." Brown noted, "Later on I was awarded a plaque for being one of the best pipefitters in the yard and a package of cookies."

Concerns over safety

Jim Keenehan, a nuclear electrician, voiced concern about safety in the yard as the company tries to push through work utilizing insufficiently trained contract workers or supervisors. This work involves replacing the nuclear fuel rods in the nuclear-powered naval aircraft carriers in the yard.

Another worker on the picket line, who requested that his name not be used, elaborated further. "We heard the yard is planning on moving [nuclear] fuel [rods] in the near future with workers who are not trained. All the trained nuclear refuelers are out here on strike. No one in there now is experienced in this work. This means the poten-



Militant/Brian Williams

Members of Steelworkers Local 8888 on strike at Newport News shipyard picket April 11

tial for release of radiation increases greatly. This won't just effect the yard but the whole community."

The company ended health coverage for all striking workers as of May 1. The union on April 23 opened a special office at a nearby shopping center where the strikers can pick up food and request financial assistance to pay bills. Strikers are not receiving regular weekly strike pay, nor can they get unemployment compensation. On any given day, scores of Steelworkers are waiting around for appointments to discuss their financial situation and pick up checks. Some

have had to keep coming back over the course of several days.

In an interview outside the benefits office, maintenance worker Marvin Allbritton commented, "I think that if we get this part organized, we could all be back at the gates on the picket lines. We'd rather be at the gates than in here. It's the solidarity on the picket line that shows the company something."

"Anybody who thinks that our strike has nothing to do with others is living in a fools paradise," stated Steelworker Brian Riblett in an interview on the picket line at the 50th Street gate. Riblett is a veteran of the 1979

strike battle that fought for union recognition here. "Everything is connected. If you're not union, you're at the company's mercy."

The strikers continue to receive strong support from other unionists and throughout the community. Teachers have come by to join the picket lines as well as postal workers and machinists from the Siemens Automotive plant in the city.

International Longshoremen's Association Local 1784, based in Newport News, pledged \$500 and use of a freezer.

A particular bone of contention with many strikers is the huge salary and bonuses being given to William Fricks, the chairman and chief executive officer of Newport News Shipbuilding, while workers' wages remain frozen and the amount they must pay to cover health benefits is rising. In 1998 Fricks received \$4.48 million in salary, stocks, and other perks. "He makes more than \$600 an hour and then says [to us], 'You don't need any more money,'" said Jim Stoecker, a welder at the yard for 18 years, as quoted in the May 4 Newport News Daily Press.

'I'm in it 'til the end'

In an April 25 Daily Press article, staff writer Jim Spencer points to some of the feedback he has been receiving from strikers at his Internet site. One woman who identified herself as "Striking Annie," wrote, "We are sinking now, slowly. With each passing month, we are going a little deeper in debt. I decided it would be less painful to drown now, backing a good cause, and if necessary, relocating and starting fresh, than to work another four years, give my best to a company that obviously could care less about me and my family, and still drown in deep debt. The decision is made, and I am in it 'til the end."

Meanwhile, Litton Industries Inc., has offered to buy Newport News shipyard for \$1.25 billion in stock. They also plan to acquire the New Orleans-based Avondale Industries Inc., which NNS had previously announced plans to buy. This bid comes just a few days after the Pentagon blocked a move by General Dynamics Corp. to take over the shipyard. Upon announcement of Litton's merger proposal, stock values for Newport News and Avondale shipyards rose by 21 percent and 13 percent respectively.

This flurry of merger bids occurs as the Pentagon is demanding further cutbacks at Newport News shipyard — a demand that pits them directly against the Steelworkers' fight for a decent contract. Defense Secretary William Cohen, in a letter to Congress last month, warned of "more far-reaching changes for the shipyard if it fails to cut costs over the next five years." A new agreement between the yard and the Navy commits Newport News to save \$360 million between now and 2003 through cuts in labor costs and materials.

Brian Williams is a member of USWA Local 2609 in Sparrows Point, Maryland. Mary Martin is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1759 in Washington, D.C.

Weekly collection, fund-raising events are key to SWP Party Building Fund

BY ESTELLE DEBATES

Supporters of the 1999 Socialist Workers Party Building Fund in Detroit are helping set the pace for fund organizers in cities throughout the United States. "We now have pledges that exceed our goal by \$200," said fund director Frank Gorton. "We also have begun regular weekly collections and are looking forward to a successful fund meeting on May 29 that can give us the boost we

need to get on target."

The Detroit meeting will feature Jack Willey, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party who has just returned from participating in a Militant sales team in central Illinois. "We're sure we can get some co-workers to attend the event," said Gorton. "It will be a real opportunity to discuss why working people should oppose Washington's war in Yugoslavia and why we need a party like the Socialist Workers."

Pittsburgh supporters will be hosting the first special meeting to build the fund on May 15. Brian Williams, a steelworker from Washington D.C., will give an "Eyewitness Report from Newport News," where thousands of shipyard workers are on strike. Williams and other socialist workers have been active in building solidarity with the strike, including among the many workers in uniform whose naval ships are docked at the struck shipyard.

"We've been building the meeting among our co-workers as we talk to them about subscribing to the Militant and Perspectiva Mundial and about why they should read Capitalism's World Disorder," said Chris Remple, who heads up the Pittsburgh fund drive. "We've also organized special phone calling to build the event. A young woman from South Africa said she and her sister definitely plan to attend."

Remple also reports that top priority is being given to bring workers and farmers in the region who have been involved in struggles to the meeting.

Miami supporters are planning a May 29 event as part of a Memorial Day weekend package of activities. The Saturday evening meeting will feature James Harris, a garment worker from Atlanta who is active in the struggles of working farmers in the South. A Socialist Summer School series will be launched the following day, followed by a party that will raise additional funds toward their local goal.

"We think this meeting will be attractive

to some of the people we've been working with over the past couple of months," said Miami fund director Rachele Fruit. The Miami supporters have been working with farmers located just north of Tampa, including helping organize a recent visit by Augusto Olsson, a leader of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) of Brazil (see article on back page).

Fund supporters in each city needs to map out a plan for the next four weeks that will get the fund on schedule. Every city should hit the scoreboard next week and organize regular weekly collections for the duration of the drive. Plans for special fund meetings like those in Detroit, Pittsburgh, and Miami should be decided over the next week. With a serious effort by supporters throughout the country, we can use the full month ahead to complete a successful drive by June 15.

Contributions can be sent to 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. Please make checks and money orders out to Socialist Workers Party.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY BUILDING FUND

Party Building Fund

City	Goal	Collected	%
Miami	3,000	750	25%
San Francisco	9,000	1,885	21%
Detroit	4,500	785	17%
New York	10,000	764	8%
Pittsburgh	3,250	225	7%
Newark	6,500	375	6%
Chicago	5,000	100	2%
Des Moines	2,600	50	2%
Houston	5,000	50	1%
Twin Cities	5,000	45	1%
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Atlanta	3,000	0	0%
Birmingham	2,250	0	0%
Boston	3,000	0	0%
Cleveland	3,000	0	0%
Philadelphia	3,000	0	0%
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Goal/should be	75,000	28,125	50%

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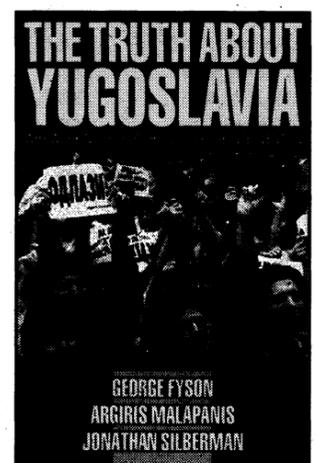
The Truth about Yugoslavia

Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention

GEORGE FYSON, ARGIRIS MALAPANIS, AND JONATHAN SILBERMAN

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'Stop NATO bombing, independence for Kosova'

This column is written and edited by the Young Socialists (YS), an international organization of young workers, students, and other youth fighting for socialism. For more information about the YS write to: Young Socialists, P.O. Box 40393, San Francisco, California, 94140-0393. Tel: (415) 824-1429.

E-mail: 105162.605@compuserve.com

BY AARON O'KEEFE

VANCOUVER — About 800 people rallied in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery April 25 to oppose the NATO war against Yugoslavia. After being addressed by a number of speakers, the protesters marched to the U.S. consulate. The protest by the "Antiwar Coalition" was organized around the demands "Stop the bombing of Yugoslavia," "NATO out of the Balkans," and "Canada out of NATO."

After a sharp debate, the coalition, in a close vote, had decided not to take a position for or against the right to self-determination for Kosova. Instead, the coalition called for "No forced expulsions." As a result there were speakers at the rally who took opposite stands on the fight of the Kosovar Albanians for their national self-determination.

The Communist League and the Young Socialists were able to carry a banner in the march and put up a table with demands opposing NATO's war and supporting the fight for an independent Kosova.

A few Serbian chauvinists were openly hostile to the slogan "Independence for Kosova." Many students and workers, however, were interested in discussing how supporting independence for Kosova strengthens the defense of the Yugoslav workers state.

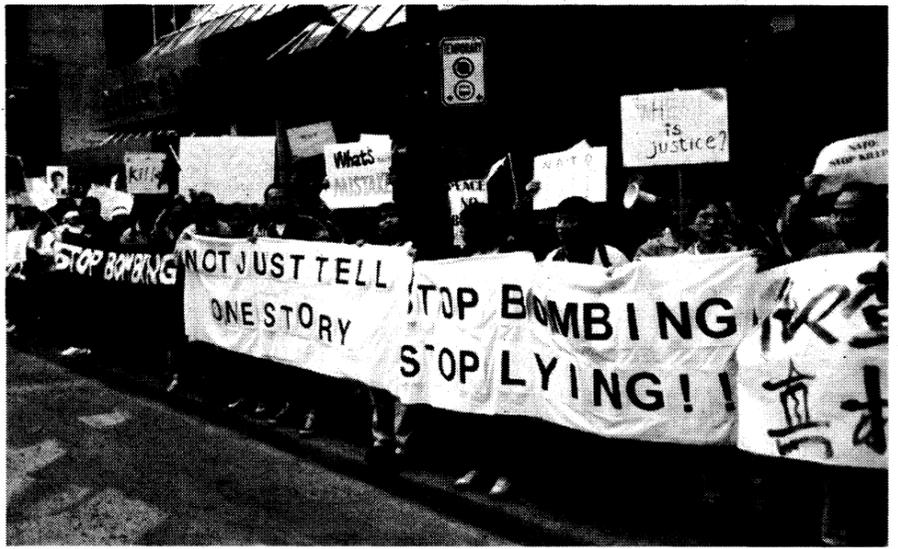
Following the rally, the Young Socialists held an open house at the Pathfinder bookstore. Speaking there, Young Socialist member Aiden Ball explained that among the imperialist countries, "There is a drive towards war, and today the conflicts are becoming sharper and the weapons more devastating."

Dragan Jovanovic, a young worker and a supporter of the *Militant* who is Yugoslav, also spoke. He explained the conflict in Yugoslavia is not an age-old ethnic dispute, as the big-business media presents it. Jovanovic argued that the only way forward was to unite the Yugoslav working class, as had happened during the Yugoslav revolution in the 1940s, on the basis of support for the national rights of all of Yugoslavia's peoples, including the right of the Kosovar Albanians to form an independent country.

A group of five high school students came from the rally to the open house. One of these students, Marjory Ditmars, explained they had talked about the war in a discussion group. Ditmars said that in the group

"most of us came to the conclusion there were two issues involved," support for Kosova's independence and opposing the imperialist war.

Another student, Jesses Winter, explained they had attended a meeting where David Orchard spoke against the war. Orchard, a prominent Canadian nationalist, recently was second in the elections for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party. The students were repelled during Orchard's meeting when people in the crowd shouted down "an Albanian man who asked why he [Orchard] skipped over the issue of the Albanians in Kosova." Orchard is a prominent demagogue in the small section of the Canadian bourgeoisie that opposes the war. He argues that the Serbian dominated government of Yugoslavia is justified in taking military action to prevent Kosova from becoming independent. He insists that Ottawa



Militant/Lynn LeBlanc

Protest in Vancouver against NATO bombing of Chinese embassy

would need to take similar action if Quebec declared its independence from Canada.

Through the rally and open house, members and supporters of the Communist League

and the Young Socialists sold 46 copies of the *Militant*, one subscription, and eight copies of *The Truth About Yugoslavia: Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention*.

Transform unions into tools for struggle

BY CHRIS RAYSON

Union members frustrated with labor officials who continually block militant action by the rank-and-file will find *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working Class Politics at the Millennium* a handbook for understanding the growing opportunities to transform our unions into instruments of struggle against the employers, and in the process replace the current crop of bureaucrats with class-struggle leaders.

One section that addresses this begins on page 132, under the heading "Demise of the 'labor-liberal' coalition." It is part of a talk given by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes at the end of 1994.

The "labor-liberal" coalition was an alli-

other rail union — the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE). They threatened to force a representation election on the Union Pacific railroad through government intervention. Under this pressure, the AFL-CIO arranged negotiations between UTU and BLE officials, resulting in a proposal to merge the two unions into the North American Rail and Transportation Union (NATU) by the end of the year.

The BLE and UTU officials hope their bureaucratic merger will strengthen their hand in pushing through a pact patterned on one rejected by Illinois Central workers several years ago. They have pledged, Frank Wilner reports in an article in the January 18 issue of the employer publication *Traffic World*, to pursue a new multiyear pact with the nation's major freight railroads "in advance of the formal reopening of contracts in November." Wilner says the deal would result in "substantial" cost savings for the rail barons based on replacing the "eight-decade-old mileage-based method of paying train crews with a new formula tied to unique characteristics of individual trips."

UTU Assistant President Byron Boyd is quoted in the *Traffic World* article saying, "Today, the art of making a deal is to be up front and quick. You are better off being the first guy to make a deal. One stable voice in dealing with carriers would be even better."

Mergers like the UTU-BLE are meant to protect the bureaucracy, not to strengthen us against the rail barons. While the officials argue that "a new, more effective bargaining strategy is required" to counter the employers as they cut crews and erode safety to cut their costs, *Capitalism's World Disorder* explains that it is the increasing confidence of the ranks as they fight employer attacks, including eroding safety conditions, that points the way forward.

The union officialdom's stance encourages cynicism among a few workers who begin to say, "I don't give a damn" about safety. "But class-conscious workers must take questions such as safety seriously," Barnes argues. "Labor must convince broad layers of the population as a whole that it is the working-class movement above all that cares about these questions.... This is a fundamental matter of class pride, of self-respect, of the

morale of the working class. It is a question of the working class taking the moral high ground in the battle against the exploiting class and for human solidarity."

Chris Rayson is a member of the UTU.

IN REVIEW

ance — "under", as Barnes puts it, "the politicalawning of the Democratic Party" — of the top officials of the AFL-CIO, the NAACP and other major civil rights groups, and the executive officers of various public and private welfare agencies. "It was a coalition," Barnes says, "of apparatuses and officialdoms who derived their authority from the concessions" wrung from government by the powerful social movement that built the industrial unions in the 1930s and advanced the Black rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

In return for wage gains that the bosses found possible to grant due to the long post-World War II capitalist economic expansion, these officials blocked any independent political activity that threatened the Democratic Party. So long as the expansion continued, "the class-collaborationist illusion could be portrayed by the labor officialdom as having some basis in reality." But under today's depression conditions worldwide, this "labor-liberal coalition" dwindles fast.

"Since at least the end of World War II, there has never been a time in the United States when the employing class thought they needed the trade union bureaucracy less than they do today," Barnes notes. "The top AFL-CIO officialdom has less leverage in the Democratic Party and the capitalist two-party system.... Never has less attention been paid to their wish list of 'labor legislation.'"

The weakened labor bureaucracy, with a lifestyle closer to the bosses than the ranks, tries to draw in union militants and youth to give a progressive varnish to the structures they dominate.

Barnes emphasizes, "We need to be working together in whatever ways possible with others in the ranks. That is where the power and determination will come to make real changes in the labor movement as struggles pick up — changes that go well beyond the plans of the more left-talking officials."

The weakening labor officials "more and more try to merge their unions, capable of doing little else," Barnes says.

I am a member of the United Transportation Union (UTU), working on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. In what has become typical, the top UTU officials mounted a raiding operation against an-

MILITANT PERSPECTIVA MUNDIAL Subscription drive						
M A Y 1 - J U N E 2 7						
	Militant		PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%
Sweden	16	3	19%	6	2	8
Australia	14	2	14%	3	0	12
New Zealand						
Christchurch	16	3	19%	1	0	6
Auckland	30	3	10%	1	0	5
N.Z. total	46	6	13%	2	0	11
United Kingdom						
London	35	4	11%	8	0	30
Manchester						
UK total	35	4	11%	8	0	30
Canada						
Montreal	20	4	20%	10	1	30
Vancouver	30	3	10%	3	0	15
Toronto	35	1	3%	5	0	25
Canada total	85	8	9%	18	1	70
United States						
Houston	35	6	17%	15	1	20
Atlanta	28	4	14%	7	1	16
Birmingham, AL	35	5	14%	5	0	10
Cleveland	40	5	13%	8	0	10
Miami	35	4	11%	15	2	20
Seattle	45	5	11%	15	1	15
Los Angeles	65	7	11%	30	9	40
Pittsburgh	30	3	10%	5	0	20
Washington, D.C.	50	5	10%	15	0	30
Detroit	35	3	9%	8	1	15
Twin Cities, MN	50	4	8%	12	0	15
Newark, NJ	125	9	7%	50	7	60
Philadelphia	32	2	6%	6	1	15
New York	120	7	6%	50	11	75
Boston	35	2	6%	15	2	25
Des Moines	40	2	5%	20	10	20
Central Illinois	20	1	5%	4	0	7
Chicago	50	2	4%	15	1	30
San Francisco	90	1	1%	40	0	40
So. Minnesota	8	0	0%			
U.S. total	968	77	8%	335	47	483
France	5	0	0%	3	0	25
Iceland	8		0%			2
Int'l totals	1177	100	9%	375	50	641
Goal/Should be	1100	138	13%	350	44	600

Young Socialists Fund Drive

April 3—June 13

City	Goal	Paid	%
Seattle	150	118	79%
Santa Cruz	300	75	25%
San Francisco	1,000	75	8%
Atlanta	300		0%
Austin, MN	150		0%
Boston	200		0%
Chicago	500		0%
Detroit	200		0%
Houston	100		0%
Los Angeles	1,000		0%
New York	1,000		0%
Newark	200		0%
Philadelphia	50		0%
Salt Lake City	100		0%
Springfield, IL	75		0%
Twin Cities	400		0%
Washington, D.C.	200		0%
Other		500	
Total	5,925	768	13%

The YS has launched a \$9,000 fund drive to be completed by June 13. The funds are needed for the expenses in building a proletarian youth organization that is financially independent and can respond rapidly to political developments and maintain its national office.

Sell book to workers involved in struggles

Continued from front page

Ohio, to meet with Annette, who is on strike against Kaiser Aluminum. We met her at the April 24 strike support rally. Annette recognized the *Militant* newspaper from seeing it in California, where she traveled as part of the strikers' campaign exposing the role of the owners of Kaiser, Maxxam, and CEO Charles Hurwitz, in cutting down the redwood trees in Headwaters Forest. 'I want one of those papers. I want to subscribe,' she said upon seeing the *Militant*.

"As soon as we got to her house, we showed her a copy of *Capitalism's World Disorder*. She immediately decided to take advantage of the special \$30 offer for a subscription and the book. After putting away her checkbook, Annette got down to some of her questions. 'What are communists? I always heard they were bad people, where did they get that name and what do they stand for?' she asked. We spent quite a while discussing what communists stand for and the program that is laid out in the Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.

"Our discussions ranged over a broad spectrum of subjects — from the state of the labor movement, to the question of abortion rights, to the environment. When we were preparing to leave, Annette took down the phone number of the Pathfinder bookstore in San Francisco, as she was headed back to California in a few days."

Take the book everywhere

More copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder* have been sold in San Francisco than anywhere else. Asked how they're doing it, Deborah Liatos writes, "We take at least two copies of the book with us on every table we set up in working-class communities, on campuses, and at political events. Going door-to-door in neighborhoods where workers live and selling at plant gates, we make sure we have a copy with us.

"We have found that no matter what political question we are raising — from what's behind the U.S. war in Yugoslavia, to the growing resistance in the working class or the example of the Cuban revolution, we can

point to the book as an essential source for workers and youth.

"There are displays of multiple copies of the book in various parts of the bookstore, making it as easy as possible to reach for the book while you are talking with some-

starting May 15 to visit mine portals in West Virginia and Ohio. "We're calling miners who subscribe to the *Militant* or have read it in the past in advance to set up visits to show them *Capitalism's World Disorder*," said Kolis. "We also plan to visit places where there's been struggles, like the Inco Alloys plant where workers were recently on strike."

Socialist workers in United Food and Commercial Workers union are initiating efforts to meet packinghouse workers at the plant gates and in working-class communities. To join any of these teams, contact the *Militant* supporters nearest you (see listing on page 12).

Sales on the job

Kay Sedam, a member of the United Transportation Union (UTU) from Miami, sold two copies of the book to co-workers on the railroad this week. "The first was to a Black van driver who has been involved in a fight to get a union contact with the UTU. The drivers won the vote to have the UTU represent them but have not gotten a contract yet. I showed him the sections about

the resistance that is taking place among other unionists — the coal miners, oil workers, catfish workers, and farmers. Alfred bought a subscription to the *Militant* to follow the coverage of the discrimination suit by farmers who are Black against the U.S. Department of Agriculture. After looking through the book he said that his son was doing a paper for a political science class and that this book would be just what he needed for the class. He had also bought a catalog from Pathfinder Books and said many of the books by Lenin would be very helpful also.

"The second book was sold to a conductor who is also a *Militant* subscriber. I had just returned from the Cuba vs. Baltimore baseball

game and was showing the pictures I had taken. My co-workers wanted to know all about the protest and the referee's slam dunk of the right winger who the cops failed to stop in a timely way from disrupting the game.

There was another *Militant* subscriber in the crew room who wanted to know my opinion about the recent bombing of the Chinese embassy. This was the easiest opportunity I've had to introduce this whole crew to *Capitalism's World Disorder*. I opened to the index and pointed out the many places these two topics are discussed. The pictures were an added sales point."

In all the areas where socialist workers are close to being on target in their goals, selling the book to co-workers and other fellow unionists has been an important part. In Washington, D.C., this amounts for 15 of the 29 copies sold so far. Rail worker Tom Headley has sold 10 himself.

Sam Manuel reports that in Washington they are also calling *Militant* subscribers about the book. Nine have bought copies since April 1 as a result. "We have pointed out the sections in the book that deal with Yugoslavia as well as the descriptions of new changes in the labor movement and the increased resistance of working people. One subscriber was particularly interested in the section on education," Manuel said.



Selling *Capitalism's World Disorder* and the *Militant* at protest in Minnesota against U.S.-led NATO assault on Yugoslavia, April 17.

one. There is also a very large wall display with quotes and pictures from the book. Speakers at *Militant* Labor Forums often use the book in raising political points.

"Some of the sales include seven sold by members of the United Transportation Union, three sold by members of the International Association of Machinists, and one sold by a member of the United Steelworkers union.

"During the week of the tour of two Cuban youth in the Bay Area, members of the Socialist Workers Party here took a goal of selling 20 copies of the book. We sold 18 during that week, which included the April 24 demonstration to free Mumia Abu-Jamal. At the demonstration alone, distributors from Los Angeles and San Francisco sold 12 books." Members of the Young Socialists from throughout California were among the most active in selling the book and the *Militant*.

Emulate teams to mines, packinghouses

Another initiative to emulate has been the teams socialist workers and young socialists have been organizing in the coalfields. Over the last few weeks hundreds of miners have bought copies of the *Militant* at coal portals in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Wyoming, and Utah. A few miners have also decided to subscribe to the paper, or bought *Capitalism's World Disorder* or the recently reprinted Pathfinder pamphlet *Coal Miners on Strike* — especially when supporters of the campaign are able to talk with workers who are interested in more discussion after they leave the portal.

Over a 10-day period, teams of socialist workers visited mine portals in Alabama and Kentucky, selling a total of 144 *Militants*. While concentrating on talking to workers during shift changes at the portals, the effort included door-to-door sales in the coal communities of Brookwood and Northport, both near Tuscaloosa, Alabama. These netted three *Militant* subscriptions and 13 copies of the paper.

Over the last week, three other teams have been on the road in Illinois and in the western coalfields.

Socialist workers in Pittsburgh are planning a team

CAMPAIGN TO SELL 'Capitalism's World Disorder'

April 1 - June 14

Country	Goal	Sold	%
New Zealand			
Christchurch	14	9	64%
Auckland	12	7	58%
N.Z. Total	26	16	62%
United Kingdom			
London	41	27	66%
Manchester	17	5	29%
UK Total	58	32	55%
Sweden	6	3	50%
Canada			
Vancouver	21	12	57%
Montreal	7	3	43%
Toronto	50	18	36%
Canada Total	78	33	42%

United States	Goal	Sold	%
Atlanta	40	21	53%
Washington, D.C.	60	29	48%
San Francisco	136	57	42%
Los Angeles	82	32	39%
C. Illinois	17	6	35%
Pittsburgh	40	12	30%
Des Moines	55	16	29%
Detroit	78	21	27%
Seattle	50	13	26%
New York	120	27	23%
Miami	45	10	22%
Boston	50	11	22%
Houston	70	15	21%
Philadelphia	50	10	20%
Twin Cities, MN	50	10	20%
Newark	150	26	17%
Birmingham	60	10	17%
Cleveland	60	10	17%
Chicago	75	11	15%
S. Minnesota	14	1	7%
U.S. Total	1302	348	27%
U.S. Goal/Should be	1500	840	56%
Australia	20	5	25%
Iceland	4	0	0%
International total	1494	437	29%

MILITANT SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE In the unions

	Militant Goal	PM Goal	NI Goal
United States			
UAW	40	4	15
IAM	50	12	20
UFCW	35	25	20
UTU	50	5	20
UNITE	15	20	12
USWA	35	4	20
PACE (Houston)			
U.S. total	225	70	107
Australia			
AMWU	3		2
MUA	2		1
Australia total	5		3
Canada			
AIM	4		4
UNITE	4	1	6
USWA	7	1	6
Canada total	15	2	16
New Zealand			
EU	3		
MWU	2		
SFWU	2		
N.Z. total	7		

CAMPAIGN TO SELL 'Capitalism's World Disorder' IN THE UNIONS

	Goals	Sold	%
United States			
PACE (Houston)	15	7	47%
UAW	75	31	41%
UTU	80	33	41%
IAM	110	36	33%
USWA	80	18	23%
UFCW	80	14	18%
UNITE	70	8	11%
Total	510	147	29%
Should be	500	320	64%
Australia			
AMWU	5	2	40%
MUA	4	0	0%
Total	9	2	22%
Canada			
AIM	7	2	29%
USWA	7	1	14%
UFCW	3	0	0%
Canada total	17	3	18%
United Kingdom			
RMT	4	2	50%
TGWU	7	1	14%
AEU	2	0	0%
Total	9	1	11%

AEU—Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AMWU—Amalgamated Manufacturers Union; CAW—Canadian Autoworkers Union; EU—Engineers Union; MUA—Maritime Union of Australia; MWU—Meat Workers Union; IAM—International Association of Machinists; PACE—Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers; RMT—National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; SFWU—Service & Food Workers Union; TGWU—Transport and General Workers Union; 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

Lenc-Smith strikers return to work

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

CICERO, Illinois — After eight months on the picket lines, strikers at Lenc-Smith here returned to work over the course of March. At a March 2 meeting, officials of the International Union of Electronics Workers (IUE) told the strikers they had accepted the company's wage demands and called off the strike. The officials told workers the bosses had agreed to call them all back by April 5 and remove the many strikebreakers then working in the plant.

Workers at the plant, however, said in mid-April that less than half the former strikers are now working and a majority of the plant's workforce is made up of former strikebreakers.

"Some of us decided not to come back because they had found other jobs," said Reyes Flores. "But I know of some who were never called back by the company. And they ignored seniority when they did call the people back."

Lenc-Smith workers faced a tough employer determined to undermine the union and slash wages by up to \$3 per hour. Three years ago they accepted a 17 percent pay cut. Workers at a nearby plant owned by the same company accepted the deeper cuts without a fight in early 1998.

Lenc-Smith manufactures big cabinets used for video games for arcades and game rooms. Many strikers had 20 or more years at the company. Many are women and most are Mexican or Black. Laborers faced the biggest pay cuts: those who over many years had worked up to a wage of \$8-9 per hour before the strike faced a cut to as little as \$6.25 per hour.

When the workers voted to strike and walked out July 1, 1998, the bosses quickly started hiring scabs and turned to the Cicero police for help. Off-duty cops served as Lenc-Smith security guards, escorting the strikebreakers in and out of the plant. On several occasions cops arrested strikers on trumped-up charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

One day before a negotiating meeting last December, a convoy of six police cars and a

fire truck swooped down on the picket line. The cops extinguished the strikers' fire barrel and threatened to arrest them if they lit one again.

The strikers responded with determination, maintaining their picket lines and beginning to reach out to other fighting workers for mutual solidarity. Only three crossed the picket line over the course of the strike. On December 19 they rejected a proposal from IUE officials to end the strike on the company's terms by a vote of 72-9. They kept their fire barrels going and held impromptu picnics on the picket line as bitter winter weather settled in.

On three occasions in February Lenc-Smith strikers traveled to Peoria and Pekin, Illinois, to support striking auto workers at Tazewell Machine Works. A group of 10 Lenc-Smith strikers also joined a picket line cookout and rally of striking Steelworkers at the Tool and Engineering Company in Chicago in late-February.

Company lockout

On January 13 union officials called a meeting and told strikers they had called off the strike and had an agreement with the bosses to return to work under the old contract while negotiations continued. The next day, however, IUE officials made an offer of an unconditional return to work. It was an offer the bosses rejected, instead locking out the strikers.

"Our union representative then told us that since we were on lockout and not on strike, we could no longer picket or yell at the strikebreakers," said Alex Gonzalez. "They said we would be arrested if we did." Union officials removed all the signs workers had put up outside Lenc-Smith, and told strikers to just sit in their cars outside the plant.

The IUE did organize a strike rally in downtown Chicago February 3 when Lenc-Smith shareholders held their annual meeting. Strikers made dozens of picket signs that they and supporters carried in the noisy and enthusiastic rally.

Regular picketing at the plant did not re-



Militant/Betsy Stone

Striking IUE members at Lenc-Smith on picket line near Chicago, November 1998.

sume until mid-February, however, after a half dozen strikers traveled to Pekin to join a rally of striking auto workers. The next day one of them went to the IUE office, picked up a stack of picket signs, and encouraged others to get out of their cars and resume picketing in front of the plant.

"The strikers in Pekin told us we had a right to keep on picketing," Angela Garcia said at the time. "And if we don't, Woody [the plant manager] will think we are just giving up."

Return to work

Strikers at the picket line initially reacted angrily March 1 when they heard IUE officials had agreed to end the walkout and that the workers would have no right to vote on the decision. The union meeting the next day was more somber, however. "It was very sad, not like the other meetings we had had," said striker Lupe Sertuche. "The picket lines had been getting smaller during the last few weeks. Some people were just glad to be going back to work at all."

"There was nothing else to do," said Miguel Mora, after returning to work a few days later. "I think we could have held out longer, but the union officials pressured us to go back. I don't think they wanted to pay the strike benefits any longer."

Strikers who have gone back to work say the bosses have stepped up the pace of production demanded of them, and some say they face harassment from the bosses and some of the former strikebreakers.

"They probably want to make us quit," said Angela Garcia, "especially those with lots of seniority at the company."

"I think the company is breaking the agreement with the union, but we have never seen anything in writing," she said. Union officials have not called a meeting since the return to work, "and we don't know what the contract says. The officials recently closed their office early so when we tried to go there after work to get information there was nobody there."

Workers at the plant report that some are circulating a petition demanding IUE officials call a meeting to explain the contract and to help them stand up to company harassment on the job.

And a few say they continue to seek to join other workers on their picket lines. "We had never been on strike before," notes Garcia. "But we've learned a lot, we've become different people."

Harvey McArthur is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 100A.

Washington State officials chip away at right of SWP campaign to protect names of contributors

BY SCOTT BREEN

OLYMPIA, Washington — At its April 27 meeting, the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) rejected an appeal from the Socialist Workers 1998 State Campaign Committee, refusing to eliminate an audit provision included in the 1998 disclosure exemption order it had granted the campaign. The campaign committee had appealed the audit provision because it undermines the right to keep the names of contributors and vendors confidential.

The PDC had granted the Socialist Workers campaign an exemption from disclosing this information last year, but included language that would allow a "third party" to review the Campaign's financial books, including the names, addresses, and occupations of its contributors and vendors, if the PDC declared it necessary. This is the first time, anywhere in the country, that an audit

provision has been included in a disclosure exemption granted to a Socialist Workers election campaign committee. The provision says "if the PDC determines a review of the applicant's books of account is necessary, the records shall be made available to an independent third party mutually agreed to by the applicant and the PDC."

The PDC first heard the Campaign's appeal on Jan. 26, 1999.

At that hearing, the commission decided to table a decision after several commissioners said they had voted for the provision thinking that an auditor would only review the coded books the campaign keeps for the purpose of filing the required forms with the PDC, not the actual names, addresses, and occupations. They instructed the PDC staff and the campaign's attorney to explore a possible compromise.

The PDC reconsidered this issue at its April 27 meeting. It rejected a motion made by Commissioner Ron Meyers to "strike the language from this order" regarding the third party review, as requested by the Socialist Workers 1998 State Campaign. At the hearing, the PDC staff reiterated its stance that the campaign's books should be subject to a full audit, including access to the names of its contributors.

Representing the Socialist Workers Campaign, attorney Mark Eide explained there was "no way we could agree to common language" with the PDC staff regarding an independent audit of campaign records.

Eide recounted the constitutional issues at the heart of the Campaign's appeal, and reviewed the legal rulings upholding the Socialist Workers Campaign's right to privacy, free speech, and voluntary association. This included the U.S. Supreme Court's 1982 decision

in *Brown v. Ohio* where the Court explicitly "ruled that the state government [of Ohio] did not have the right to see the socialists' books," Eide told the Commission.

Eide explained the U.S. Constitution requires that the commission not allow any disclosure of these names, because "of the chilling effect on party-building" that other court rulings have underlined in granting exemption status to minor parties like the Socialist Workers Party. He wanted to know why, in the four or more years that he has represented the Socialist Workers Party before the PDC, this was the first time an audit had ever been brought up, yet there had been no changes in the state laws or statutes.

In the discussion, Commissioner Ronda Cahill expressed her support for keeping the language intact, pointing to the exemption order that included the same audit provision that they granted the Freedom Socialist Party (FSP) candidate for Washington State representative last year, without being appealed. "We want to keep all the reporting modifications granted third parties in conformity" she explained.

Meyers added a dissent to the record. He said the audit provision, in his view, "was at odds with Washington State Supreme Court rulings" as well as the FEC and federal court orders. This provision, he continued, should have been rescinded because it "carved out new legal precedents" without legislation.

Several supporters of the Socialist Workers' appeal attended the public hearing. Steve Sanders, president of United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 324, said afterwards he saw no difference between seeking an exemption from disclosure of campaign contributors and "trying to organize a nonunion job site. I have talked with workers who are very afraid of losing their jobs if they sign up on union representation cards

and don't want the boss to find out."

Prior to the hearing, more than 50 supporters of the Campaign's right to an exemption had written letters to the PDC opposing the audit provision. Thirty-two workers at Alaska Airlines, mechanics represented by AMFA (Airline Mechanics Fraternal Association) and ramp workers in the IAM (International Association of Machinists), sent letters of protest to the PDC.

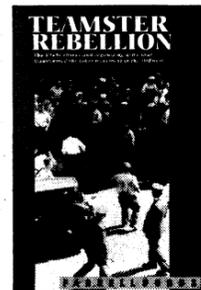
Norma Kelsey, president of OPEIU (Office and Professional Employees International Union) no. 8, told the PDC, "To have someone outside the Campaign examine the names, addresses, and occupations of its contributors is a violation of the rights to privacy, free speech, and voluntary association which previous PDC rulings have upheld."

American Civil Liberties Union member John Gear wrote, "Cases such as the SWP's (where supporters have been subject to retribution and abuse by public officials) require that you grant them unqualified exemptions to the public reporting rules." In a cover letter to his e-mail list of friends and associates, Gear urged them to send their own fax messages to the PDC, "The right to free association is hollow if disclosure laws open you to covert investigation and not-so-covert retribution for its exercise."

After the hearing, Scott Breen, representing the Socialist Workers Campaign told supporters of the fight for democratic rights, "We believe that it is more necessary than ever to defend these First Amendment rights. We will continue to fight every attempt, no matter how small it may seem, to erode our exemption and the rights of our contributors and vendors, and oppose any intervention by government bodies — city, state, or federal — into the internal affairs of working-class organizations like the Socialist Workers Party."

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Louisiana: Kaiser workers join protest at Avondale shipyard

BY TONY DUTROW

BRIDGE CITY, Louisiana — More than 1,000 workers, including two busloads of locked-out Kaiser Aluminum workers from nearby Gramercy, Louisiana, attended a rally here April 28 to demand "Justice at Avondale." About 6,000 workers build and repair ships for the U.S. Navy at the huge Avondale shipyard in this New Orleans suburb. The rally took place in a local church school yard within sight of the Navy ships docked at Avondale.

Six years ago, Avondale workers voted to be represented by the New Orleans Metal Trades Council, which is composed of several craft unions. Avondale Industries refuses to recognize the union vote or negotiate a contract.

Speakers at the rally included AFL-CIO president John Sweeney, Louisiana State AFL-CIO president John Bourg, and others. Jesse Jackson spoke to the rally via phone hook up.

Hundreds of workers from the shipyard attended, many wearing colorful T-shirts identifying them as Avondale union supporters. Workers provided cold water to help brave the sweltering heat and greeted supporters as they joined the rally.

Some shipyard workers came right from work, still wearing welding caps, boots, and hard hats.

Ellery Bridges has worked at Avondale for two years and just started getting active in the union drive. He was hired in as an electrician coming right out of the Navy.

"It's time for all of us to stand up. The company keeps saying, 'We have to look after our shareholders.' But what about the workers in the shipyards?" Bridges explained he knows people who keep working with 30 or 40 years in the shipyard "because if they retired now they would only get \$900 a month retirement, even with Social Security."

Protesting on-the-job deaths

Part of the rally was a Workers Memorial Day ceremony, which was dedicated to the 34 workers who have died at the shipyard since 1974. A shipyard worker sang the gospel song *Amazing Grace*, while a procession of workers brought 34 white crosses inscribed with a worker's name up to the platform reading out each, one by one.

April 28 was set as Workers Memorial Day by the AFL-CIO, to note the inauguration into law of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) in 1970.

Avondale Industries has had \$3.2 billion worth of contracts with the Navy since 1993 and is one of the state's largest employers.

Meanwhile, Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) announced April 14 it would go ahead with the purchase of Avondale Shipyard. Some 9,000 workers are currently on strike at NNS's giant yard in Newport News, Virginia.

Kaiser workers handed out black ribbons to all who attended the Avondale rally. Harold Miller, who helped organize the effort to get Kaiser workers to the rally, explained that he and other workers at the Gramercy plant had handed out black ribbons there every April 28 for eight years before the strike. "Everyone in the plant wore a black ribbon. We would all observe a minute of silence throughout the mill," Miller said.

Battle at Kaiser Aluminum

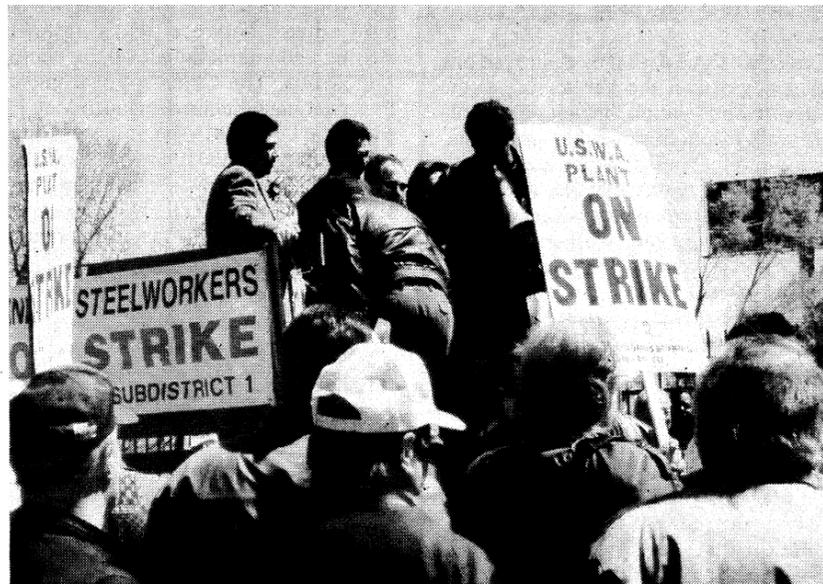
Last October 3,000 Kaiser Aluminum workers went on strike in Gramercy; Tacoma and Spokane, Washington; and Newark, Ohio. They are fighting company plans to impose steep job cuts and are demanding restoration of pay and benefits lost over previous contracts. On January 14 the bosses refused the union's offer to return to work and officially declared a lockout.

When the buses returned to Gramercy from Bridge City, Kaiser workers gathered at the gate. Stanley Folsie asked for a moment of silence and rang a bell nine times to honor those who have been killed on the job at the Gramercy Aluminum plant. Folsie then asked everyone to tie their black ribbons to the company's chain link fence. The black ribbons flapped in the wind while Vance security thugs video taped the workers from the other side of the company property line.

Following the plant gate event, everyone was invited to the Lutch park pavilion next to the union hall for a jambalaya feast prepared in a huge kettle by one of the strikers.

On May 3 the company tried to press for an injunction against the union to stop mass picketing at the gate. Wayne Stafford, president of USWA Local 5702, explained in a phone interview that the union turned back this attack. "I think this was a victory. The

Striking Steelworkers rally for contract in Chicago



Militant/John Studer

Striking Steelworkers rally at Tool & Engineering plant in Chicago

BY JOHN STUDER

CHICAGO — Seventy-five members of United Steelworkers of America Local 15271 and their supporters rallied April 30 outside Tool & Engineering Company in the Pilsen neighborhood here to show their determination to continue their strike until they win.

About 130 Steelworkers have been on strike at the plant since last November, fighting against deep concession demands by the company. They include what the union calculates would amount to a cut of \$14,000 per worker per year.

Twenty workers have crossed the picket lines and the company has hired a handful of additional "temporary" workers since the strike began.

The company's owner, William Farley, is the highest-paid corporate officer in Chicago.

After hearing from a number of local political figures and union officials, strikers chanted "Scabs out! Union in!"

John Studer is a member of United Steelworkers local 1011 at LTV Steel in East Chicago.

company tried to stop our mass picketing, and cited as evidence the hundreds who turned out April 1 at a rally at the gate."

The USWA civil rights and women's conference meeting in New Orleans at the time sent several busloads to rally at the Kaiser gate on that day. Gramercy workers were featured guests at that meeting.

Stafford said that St. James Parish Judge Turner, who issued the current rulings relating to the strike, refused to charge the union with picket line misconduct or to end the court approved right of the pickets at the gate to halt vehicles for 45 seconds.

Hamilton Steib was one of the 25 workers who attended the all-day hearing. Steib said the company brought in someone with

his arm in a sling. "Their lawyers claimed a picketer reached inside his vehicle and jerked his shoulder out of joint."

They even charged the union with sexual harassment. "The judge warned both sides he will enforce the injunction but throw out all charges lodged by the company since the beginning of the strike in October," Steib said.

In a related setback for the company, Steib reported two weeks ago the company removed its guard tower at the main gate. "They took that tower down because it hurt their cause. It looked like a concentration camp." Earlier, the company lost its bid to have the picket shack removed. It is now located in the middle of the front entrance.

The Louisiana State Highway Department ruled pickets had a right to maintain their shack on state road property. The sign "Welcome to Camp Creole" hangs from the side of the well-outfitted shack that has become a symbol of their fight. Kaiser workers in this area look proudly to their Cajun and Creole heritage, in this region just 40 miles upriver on the Mississippi from New Orleans.

Bob Bruce contributed to this article.

U.S. federal court threatens deportation of Irish nationalist in Cleveland, Ohio

BY STEVE WARSHHELL

CLEVELAND — Former Irish political prisoner Noel Cassidy was denied an adjustment of his immigration status on April 22 in Federal Court. Cassidy, who has been living in the United States for 17 years, is threatened with deportation. The case has been remanded to the Bureau of Immigration Appeals and combined with a separate petition filed previously.

In spite of facts submitted to the court concerning his arrest and conviction in Ireland, immigration judge Elizabeth Hacker denied Cassidy's petition for adjustment solely on the grounds that his marriage to a U.S. citizen ended in divorce several months ago. Supporters of Cassidy's fight came from Cleveland, Akron, Lorain, Columbus, and Youngstown in Ohio and Erie, Pennsylvania to show their support at the hearing.

Speaking to the supporters after the hearing, Jack Kilroy, Regional Director of Irish Northern Aid, said, "Judge Hacker's decision was anticipated but nonetheless disappointing." Cassidy thanked supporters around the country adding, "We want you to know that we will continue the fight." Cassidy was first arrested by U.S. officials at gun point outside his Maryland home in December 1990 on the charge of illegally entering the United States.

On June 11, 1998, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) added a further charge of "conspiracy to kill a member of

the British Armed Forces." The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) has submitted an affidavit in support of the INS case.

Cassidy was originally arrested in February 1978 and charged with being an intelligence officer for the Irish Republican Army. After spending 13 months in jail awaiting trial he was convicted in one of the infamous "Diplock" courts set up by the British occupation forces in Northern Ireland. These juryless proceedings relied on cop-supplied evidence to convict and imprison thousands of Irish fighters.

In Cassidy's case, the perjured testimony of a British Officer was the basis of his 23-month sentence in Long Kesh Prison. While serving the sentence Cassidy joined with other Irish republicans prisoners in fighting to end brutal prison treatment and win political status and he became one of the hunger strikers, 10 of whom died during the strike.

Released following the end of his sentence in 1981, Cassidy toured the United States explaining the conditions that led to the protest and defending the remaining hunger strikers. He married a U.S. citizen during the tour and both moved back to Ireland to live. Unable to find work due to his arrest and imprisonment, and constantly harassed by police, they decided to return to the United States. Cassidy, however, was denied a visa to enter the country. Eventually the two took up residence in the Washington, D.C. area and lived there until his

arrest in 1990. A year later an immigration judge ordered him deported to Ireland. No dates have been set for further hearings.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Labor and Farm Actions

Tues., May 18

United Steelworkers Labor/ Environmental Conference

Conference, Houston, Texas

9:00 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. Crowne Plaza Tower,

2222 West Loop South;

2:15 p.m. March from Crowne Plaza to Maxxam/

Kaiser Aluminum at 5847 San Felipe.

Other activities planned for May 17 and 19

For more information call: (713) 960-9660 x1038.

Thur., May 20

USWA Rally at Titan Tire Shareholders Meeting

Detroit, Michigan

For more information call (515) 262-4935

Sat-Sun., May 21-22

Second Annual Black

Farmers Convention

New Orleans, Louisiana

Sat., May 29

Support Hotel Workers Union members at Avondale Industries

New Orleans, Louisiana

Fairmont Hotel

Wed., July 7

Protest the frame-up of Dr. José Solís Jordán

Federal Building, Chicago

Committee in Solidarity with Dr. José Solís

Jordán. For more information, call: (312)

409-0801.

Thurs-Sat., July 22-25

All Out to Washington, D.C.

It's time to bring Puerto Rican

Prisoners home!

Washington, D.C.

For more information, call: (773) 278-0885

or (212) 927-9065.

Workers pay for assault

Continued from front page
civilians.

"In the last three days they destroyed one of the bridges over the Varda river — the one near the bus station that a lot of people use to walk to and from work — a fuel station, and several houses. Where are the military targets? It seems that the American government is consistently hitting at civilians, everyday people, workers and students. And they are targeting working-class cities. Two nights ago we had the 'honor' to be the only city bombed."

Nis is a union stronghold. More than 25 percent of the city's 80,000 wage workers, out of a population that exceeds 300,000, are organized by Nezavisnost (Independence), the trade union federation in Serbia independent of government control. The rest are organized by the government-sponsored Confederation of All Trade Unions of Yugoslavia. Nezavisnost was in the forefront of the successful protest movement in 1996-97 that forced the regime of Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic to reverse its anti-democratic annulment of municipal election results, which brought victories to an opposition coalition in 15 of Serbia's 19 largest cities.

Petrovic, a student at the University of Nis who helped organize the mobilizations two years ago in collaboration with Nezavisnost, said most of the bombing raids now take place in mid-day, just like the attack on the market and hospital.

Most of the discussion in Nis about the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, which has been the focus of much of the media coverage worldwide over the last week, has been taking place on TV, said Petrovic. "Ordinary people talk about what's happening in the streets here. People are more angry at NATO, at their arrogance. Many are more frightened."

A U.S. plane, reportedly a B-2 Stealth bomber, dropped at least three bombs that struck China's embassy, located in New Belgrade, about midnight on May 7. Three people in the embassy were killed and many more wounded. Bombs also destroyed the nearby Hotel Yugoslavia in that raid.

The attack, which U.S. officials claimed was a "mistake," sparked huge daily protests in Beijing outside the U.S. and British embassies and elsewhere in China for the

following four days. It accelerated the collision course between Washington and Beijing and internationalized the war over Yugoslavia. The Chinese government of President Jiang Zemin demanded May 11 an end to the U.S.-NATO bombings before any negotiations over the future of Kosova could proceed. Moscow, which had joined representatives of the so-called G-7 countries in signing an agreement for an international

Vojvodina near the border with Hungary. NATO air commanders also announced they plan to use airfields in Hungary and Turkey to attack Yugoslavia, in addition to the Aviano air base in Italy and aircraft carriers in the Adriatic, in an effort to

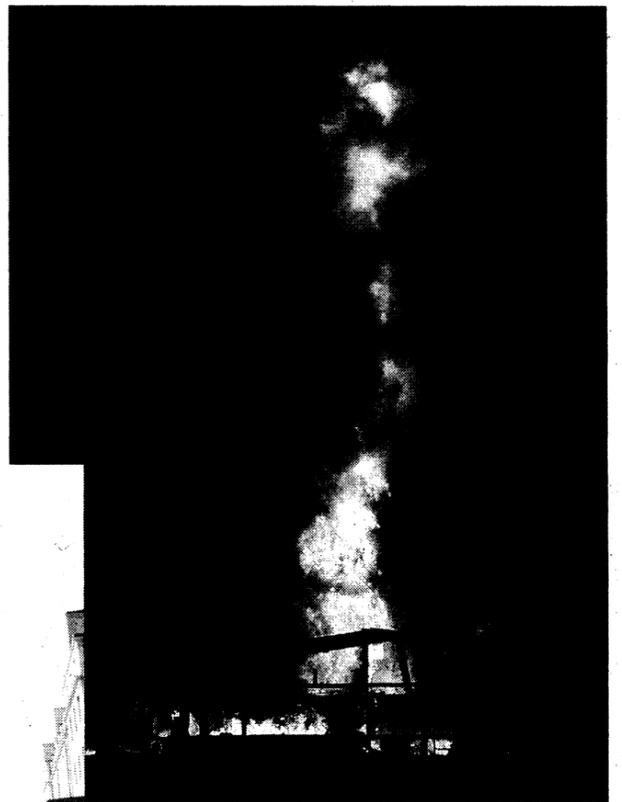


M. Despotovic

"peace" force in Kosova just one day before the assault on the Chinese embassy, sided with Beijing on this demand.

The Clinton administration immediately rejected these proposals. "We are going to continue with prosecuting the air campaign until the NATO conditions are met, and that, and that alone will be the cause of any suspension of the bombing," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart.

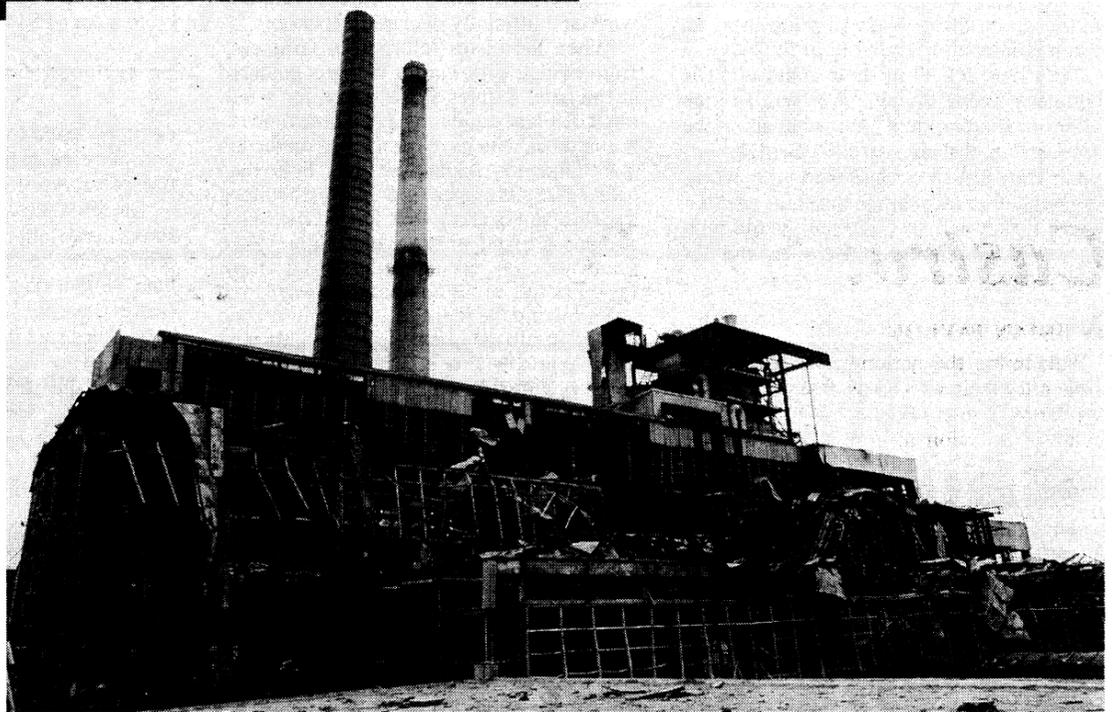
In fact, as the assault passed the 50-day mark May 13, NATO kept escalating its air raids, flying 600 or more sorties per day, striking increasingly in broad daylight, and inflicting more civilian casualties in cities like Cacak and Nis in central and southern Serbia and towns in



Above, Dusan Mitic Cas

Above, part of the Tobaccco Industry of Nis (DIN) complex, the main cigarette factory in Yugoslavia, burns after NATO's April 4 bombing. Right, the plant the day after the imperialist assault. Its destruction has caused a severe cigarette shortage in Serbia. The plant's kindergarten, which was used by many families among the 3,000 employees, was also rendered inoperable.

Below, the Zastava car factory in Kragujevac, Yugoslavia, which was destroyed after repeated U.S.-NATO air raids beginning April 9. The only of its kind in the country, it used to employ 38,000.

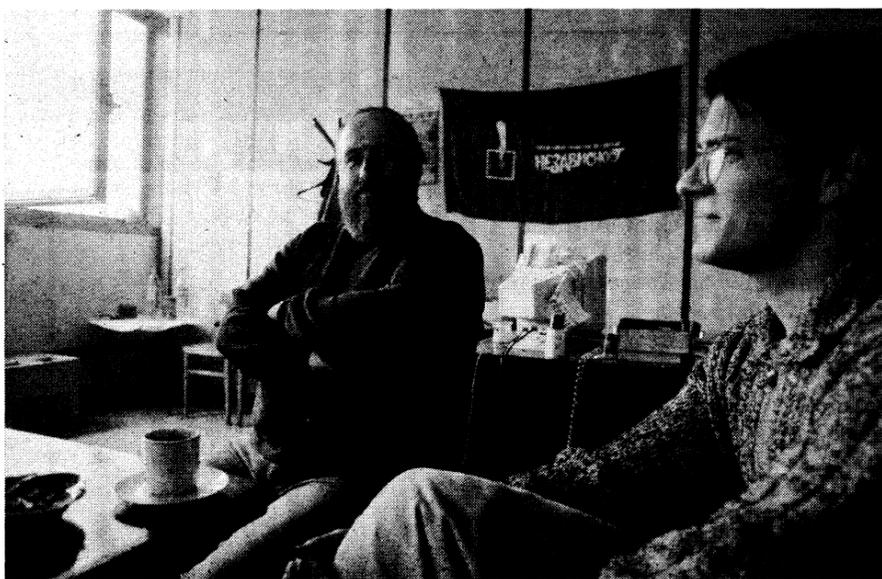


tighten the military encirclement of Yugoslavia and increase its isolation. According to Turkish newspapers, that country's premier, Bulen Ecevit, has ordered military facilities open to NATO flights for logistical support over Yugoslavia but Ankara has not agreed to use its bases for air strikes against Yugoslavia.

The bombings are a major factor in the continuing outflow of Albanians from Ko-

sova, whose numbers now exceed 700,000. The region's pre-war population was 2.1 million people, 90 percent of them Albanian. As many Albanians expelled from Kosova, through the Milosevic regime's "ethnic cleansing" drive, told *Militant* reporters in interviews at camps in Montenegro, Macedonia, and Albania, the escalating NATO assault is largely to blame for this

Continued on Page 10



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

At Nis office of Nezavisnost (Independence), the trade union federation in Serbia independent of government control, April 27. Bojko Vucic (left), a machinist and local president of Nezavisnost, and Milan Cvetkovic (right), economics student at University of Nis who helped translate for *Militant* reporters. "How can any one argue that these factories are military targets?" Vucic asked, referring to DIN, the cigarette-manufacturing complex, and other nearby plants also destroyed by the U.S.-NATO bombing.



Blic/B. Vratnjan

Last of three bridges in Novi Sad, capital of Vojvodina, to be brought down April 26 after eight bombings. "These hits are aimed at demoralizing people and making our daily lives harder and harder," said Dusan, a leader of the Students Union of Yugoslavia in Novi Sad.

Bombing of China's embassy sparks outrage

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

VANCOUVER — Chanting "NATO/Nazi! USA/Killers! CIA/Liars! CNN/Liars!" almost 200 people protested in front of the U.S. consulate here May 10. The demonstration was part of the worldwide reaction by Chinese people to the May 7 NATO bombing of the Chinese embassy in Yugoslavia.

The overwhelmingly Chinese crowd also waved Chinese flags, sang the Chinese national anthem, and chanted in Chinese, "Down with U.S. imperialism" — a chant that became very popular in China during the Korean War in the 1950s. Protesters also signed messages of condolence to send to the families of Ying Zhu, Xinghu Xu, and Yunhuan Shao — the three people confirmed dead in the bombing.

The attack on the embassy, located in a residential area of Belgrade, has been met with outrage and disbelief at Washington's claim that it was an accident because the CIA provided them with an outdated map.

As this *Militant* reporter spoke to a group of demonstrators, they all pointed to the U.S. consulate behind us saying, "Everyone knows where an embassy is. No one can believe the CIA." Many expressed anger at the lack of sincerity in President William Clinton's apology. "He says 'I'm sorry,' and then he says it's [Yugoslav president Slobodan] Milosevic's fault!" said one protester who did not want to give his name.

"Prior to living here in Canada, I thought it was just propaganda by the Chinese regime that the news media was so controlled, but now I see things differently," said Haizi, a young worker.

"The protest could have been a lot bigger, but it was built spontaneously by individuals rather than by any organization," University of British Columbia student Ganxin Liu told the *Militant*.

Three thousand people protested in front of the U.S. consulate in Toronto May 9.

The biggest response has been in China

itself, where hundreds of thousands of people poured into the streets. As a result of the bombing, Beijing has suspended high-level military contacts and "human rights" talks with Washington.

In the capital, Beijing, there have been daily demonstrations involving tens of thousands of people. Demonstrators have marched past the Canadian and German embassies. But protesters' anger is particularly focused on the British and U.S. embassies that have been pelted with rocks, bottles, and paint by students, workers, and others. Demonstrators have surrounded the U.S. embassy around the clock, making virtual hostages of the embassy staff. "It infuriates us that innocent Chinese were killed," said 26-year-old Diana Qu, a worker in a foreign-owned company, while waiting for police to let her and about 1,000 others take their turn in front of the embassy. Cuban diplomats joined in the action and were warmly welcomed by the crowd.

Anti-NATO actions have taken place in at least a dozen cities outside Beijing — from Shanghai on the eastern seaboard to Lanzhou in the far west. In Shanghai, China's business capital, police allowed protesters in small groups of 150 to 200 in the area surrounding the U.S. consulate. According to the official Chinese news agency Xinhua, more than 100,000 people marched in Guangzhou — 150 kilometers northwest of Hong Kong — chanting "Down with NATO!" as they marched past the U.S., British, French, Italian, and Dutch consulates. "NATO has outrageously violated China's sovereignty" read one of the

banners carried in this demonstration.

In Xi'an about 30,000 university students and 10,000 other residents held a march on May 8 shouting "We want peace," "Safeguard national sovereignty and dignity," and other slogans. Protests also took place in Chengdu, Shenyang, Nanjing, Xiamen, and Hangzhou. Actions have also been held outside a number of businesses owned by U.S. companies, including Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonald's, and Goldman Sachs.

The wave of demonstrations protesting the NATO bombings, which are the largest since the pro-democracy actions that culminated in the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing almost exactly a decade ago, have

involved hundreds of thousands of people. The Chinese government has begun to worry that the protests might get out of hand. On May 9 Vice President Hu went on television to both endorse the "keen patriotism" of the demonstrations, but also urge caution against "extremes."

"The Chinese government firmly supports and protects, in accordance with the law, all legal protest activities. But we must prevent overreaction and ensure social stability," said Hu.

Protests have also occurred throughout Asia including in Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, and Pakistan. In Latin America protests have also occurred in Peru, Argentina, and Cuba.



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Thousands of young people in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, April 19, protesting U.S.-NATO bombing at daily rock concert at Republic Square. "No force, as powerful as it may be, can defeat a people prepared to fight," said Cuban president Fidel Castro.

Castro: 'NATO is entangled in a great genocide'

BY BRIAN TAYLOR

Welcoming the national baseball team home after their victorious match with the Baltimore Orioles, President Fidel Castro took the occasion to express the Cuban government's stance on Washington's war against Yugoslavia. His May 4 speech was given on the steps of the University of Havana, at an event celebrating 40 years of the Cuban revolution.

"At this moment in Europe," Castro said, NATO forces "are carrying out brutal air strikes... sowing desolation, death, and terror in a country inhabited by millions."

"Europe — meaning NATO and its mem-

bers, including the United States — is entangled in what you could, like it or not, call genocide. Cutting electricity and heat... to a million people overnight; cutting communications, all sources of energy and transport; destroying civilian centers that provide vital services to the entire population; and bringing ruin to all the means of life built up by a nation. At the same time, in their destructive fury, either by error or irresponsibility, they are directly killing or injuring thousands of civilians.... This is, unquestionably, a great genocide."

The Cuban government believes that "only a political solution, not a military so-

lution, based on respect for all the nations in that region, their religions, their ethnicities and cultures; a solution for Serbs and for Kosovars" is possible, Castro said. "I am most certain that this problem will not be solved by force. I am most certain that all military technology shatters before the will to resist of a people who have decided to fight. I am certain, as is true in our country, that no force, as powerful as it may be, can defeat a people prepared to fight."

"Those who are attacking Serbia thought they were in for a simple stroll, a three-day adventure, and that the Serbs would surrender after the first bombs," Castro continued. "It has been more than 40 days now, they've dropped thousands and thousands of bombs," and Cuban diplomats on the scene "have seen no symptoms of weakening in their will to fight." Castro pointed to the example of the Yugoslav people's victory against heavily armed Nazi invaders in World War II. He also recalled Washington's defeat by the fighting people of Vietnam.

Offers aid for those forced from Kosova

"We are not against the rights of anyone. We support the rights of the Serbs like those of the Kosovars," Castro said.

After all the bombs NATO powers have dropped in the Balkans, they have only taken in a few thousand refugees, "because they don't want Kosovan refugees in their own territories."

"We, who energetically condemn the brutal attacks and genocide that is waged against the Serbian people, also share the suffering of the hundreds of thousands of refugees, resulting from a number of factors, not only historic... but also from the disintegration of Yugoslavia, which lived in peace for 40 years after the second world war," Castro said.

He recounted how U.S. officials informed the Cuban government that they planned to use Guantánamo Naval base — a piece of Cuban territory held by Washington against the will of the Cuban people — to house 20,000 displaced Kosovars. One reason the U.S. rulers initially considered this was to prevent those forced to leave Kosova from

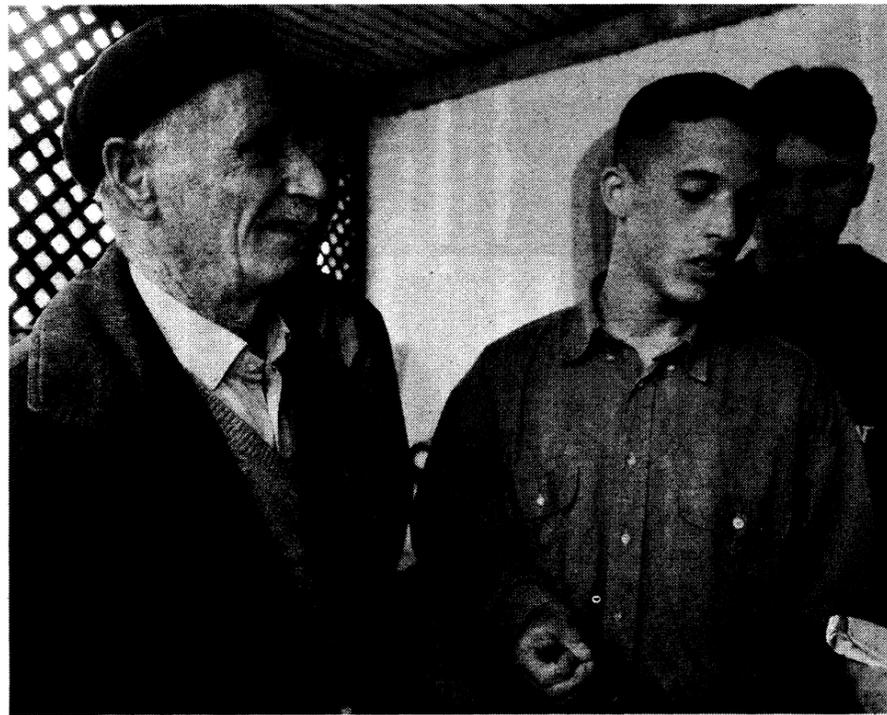
applying for asylum in the United States. When Washington made this declaration, Havana's response was "one they least expected — they don't know this country," Castro said.

"We told them, 'Not only do we agree with lodging 20,000 or more Kosova refugees there, but we are also willing to cooperate on whatever is possible to attend to those refugees, to offer our hospital services if needed, doctors, any cooperation that is within our power.'" In the end, Washington scrapped the use of Guantánamo base for this purpose.

"When we propose solutions, we propose solution for everyone: for refugees, for citizens of Kosova, the Serbs who live there and other nationalities, and for all the nations that today make up what's left of Yugoslavia." Castro said representatives of the San Egidio Community, a relief organization involved in aid for the displaced Kosovars, came to Cuba in early April, after the bombing began, and explained they had only 30 doctors available. "We told them, 'Look, we don't have many resources, but we do have human capital. If you need medical personnel to tend to those hundreds of thousands of refugees that live in those precarious camps, our country is willing to cooperate by contributing 1,000 doctors for absolutely no charge to treat the Kosovar refugees,'" he continued.

The Cuban president pointed to the doctors and other medical personnel from Cuba who are currently volunteering in Central America, Haiti, and Africa. The U.S. government, with so many more resources, couldn't bring together 2,000 doctors to voluntarily work where Cuban doctors work, he said. "When you say to a Cuban, 'Look, there are two places you can go: here or there. There, there is more danger than here, so what would you prefer?' Right away they'll tell you, 'There.' That is the tradition of heroism. And not just men, but something very encouraging: women, as well."

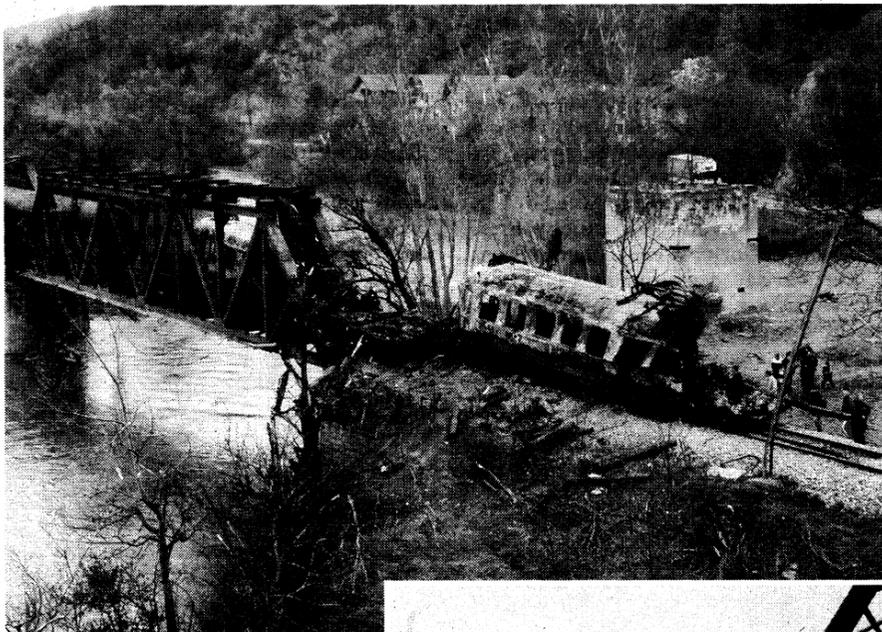
In a final remark regarding Yugoslavia Castro said, when the day comes for Kosovars to return to their country "we will be prepared also to go with them to help" in rebuilding of their territory of Kosova.



Militant/Argiris Malapanis

Halim Mecini (left), an Albanian shopkeeper whose family-owned store sold car parts in Serbica, Kosova, at mosque in center of Ulcinj, Montenegro, near border with Albania, April 25, after being expelled from Kosova. "We didn't want a war, but a peaceful solution," he told *Militant* reporters. "NATO must stop the bombing." To his right is Furthim Rugi, 20, a college student from Pec, Kosova, who said the NATO assault may help stop "ethnic cleansing" by the regime of Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic.

Unionists, farmers, youth are target of



Continued from Page 8
forced exodus.

Chinese embassy bombing

"The Chinese embassy is 500 meters from my house," said Oliver Kokic, a student at the University of Belgrade, in a May 11 phone interview. "We heard and saw it all happening. It was the worst night for Belgrade since the bombing began in March. They hit more than 10 targets. They dropped those new bombs with graphite shreds two and a half hours before they hit China's embassy. Power was cut off. Most of Belgrade was without electricity all night."

Kokic said most people in his neighborhood and others he knows don't believe Washington's claims that the bombing was another "accident" because NATO maps were supposedly outdated and had the wrong address for the Chinese embassy. "I can't say for sure it was done deliberately. But the whole affair has made things more complicated. Most people, including those of us who have criticized the regime here and demanded democratic rights, are less willing to accept what the USA wants. We said from the beginning we didn't want NATO troops in Kosova or other parts of Yugoslavia. People are less willing to accept them now. If you do that they'll reach Belgrade one day."

Kokic said hundreds of Yugoslavs joined about 250 Chinese residents of Belgrade in a spontaneous march to demand the end of the bombing hours after the blasts ripped open the Chinese embassy compound.

In more than a dozen phone interviews May 11-12, other young people and trade unionists made similar points.

"The theory that the CIA had old maps is ridiculous for the largest spying agency in the world," said Dusan, a member of the Students Union of Yugoslavia in Novi Sad, Serbia's third-largest city and the capital of the Vojvodina region.

"I don't understand how people can make 'mistakes' like that," said Branislav Canak, the national president of Nezavisnost, who lives in Belgrade. "I find it hard to believe especially after Clinton's explanations."

"They want to continue the bombing," said Bojan, another member of the Students Union in Novi Sad. "This now looks like it could go on for months, through the summer. Which country has ever been bombed into a democracy? None. It serves the interests of the American government to firm up its upper hand in Europe. It's the new world policeman who feels he can do whatever he pleases." Both Dusan and Bojan, who were leaders of the democratic rights protests two years ago, asked that their last names not be used.

Dusan and others interviewed said the crocodile tears by U.S. officials over the three Chinese killed in Belgrade are particularly insulting when Washington doesn't even mention the more than 1,000 civilians



Top, railway bridge outside Gredelica village near Nis, southern Serbia, bombed by a U.S.-NATO plane April 12, killing 29 passengers on train at that time. It was a commuter train from Skopje, Macedonia, to Belgrade. NATO-provided video from attacking plane showed pilot, who hit train twice, could clearly see the target. Above, a farmer in the village of Pepeljevac, southern Serbia, near Kosova, explains how his house (in background) was destroyed by NATO bombing in early April.

now dead throughout Serbia. There was hardly any mention in the U.S. media of the bombing of the market in Nis, he pointed out. "Contrast that to the worldwide media



blitz when bombs hit a market in Sarajevo five years ago. The U.S. government simply used that to justify the NATO bombing of Bosnia. We opposed Belgrade's war in Bosnia and we worked against it. Now NATO is bombing us."

'We're at war with Serbian nation'

While bombings in and around Belgrade and Novi Sad eased over the last week, they have intensified elsewhere, especially in Nis. "Why did they use cluster bombs when they attacked the market in Nis?" Dusan asked. "They claimed they were targeting an airfield nearby and 'missed.' But they didn't use cluster bombs when they bombed an airfield in Podgorica the other day. Cluster bombs are used to kill as many people as possible. They are going after working people."

Christina Rinic is a member of the metal workers union in Kragujevac who worked in the Zastava plant there. The auto manufacturing complex there, which employed 38,000

workers, was destroyed after repeated air raids about a month ago. Rinic pointed out that the pattern of the recent bombings shows the U.S.-NATO assault is concentrating on destroying factories and infrastructure in cities that have been union strongholds and where working-class resistance to the austerity and anti-democratic policies of the Milosevic regime has been strongest. These have included a May 11 attack at the center of Cacak in western Serbia, where four people died, as well as Kragujevac, Kraljevo, and several other cities. Cacak is a city where Belgrade was unable to shut down the local independent TV station because of overwhelming popular protests. "I am headed down to the basement after we hang up," Rinic said, as air sirens in Kragujevac sounded again the evening of May 11.

Milan Nikolic of the metal workers union

has almost completely collapsed. Even the factories that are not bombed find it nearly too impossible to function because of lack of fuel and raw materials. Transportation is becoming more and more difficult as they bomb more bridges and highways."

What these workers and young people point out is acknowledged bluntly by some bourgeois politicians and pundits in the United States. "I am sorry about the Chinese embassy, but we have no reason to be defensive here," said Thomas Friedman, among the most prominent liberal columnists of the *New York Times*, in a May 11 article. "We are at war with the Serbian nation, and anyone hanging around Belgrade needs to understand that. This notion that we are only at war with one bad guy, Slobodan Milosevic (who was popularly elected three times), is ludicrous." Friedman said most Serbs are ardent nationalists and "hate Albanians" and that "such attitudes cannot be uprooted by simply invading Belgrade and ousting Mr. Milosevic from power." He argued that the Clinton administration should "stay the course: intensify the bombing and intensify diplomacy."

No deal out of G-7 meeting

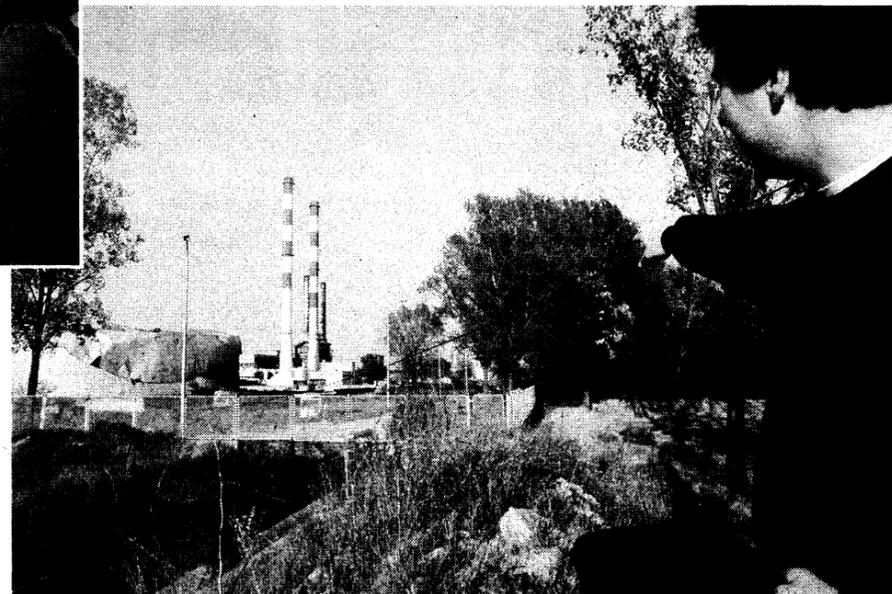
This course has put into question whether the deal signed May 6 in Germany between Moscow and government officials from Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, and the United States — the G-7 countries — will lead to any settlement of the Yugoslav crisis as the big-business media claimed at the time.

The agreement called for "effective international civil and security presences" in Kosova to be endorsed by the United Nations and be well-armed; virtually complete withdrawal of Belgrade's forces from Kosova before return of the refugees; and for keeping the region within the borders of Yugoslavia with its own self-government.

The inter-imperialist conflicts that have fueled the Yugoslavia wars since the opening of the 1990s, and the collision course between Washington and its allies on one hand and Russia, China, and other workers states on the other — were apparent immediately, however.

U.S. president William Clinton said May 7 that the model for any peace settlement must be Bosnia. That republic has been under NATO occupation since 1995, with Washington, London, and Paris having divided its territory in three zones that their troops control. Russian troops are also deployed in the U.S.-run zone. But all the military forces take centralized orders by U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark, the NATO commander. The Clinton administration wants to maintain effective NATO control of any foreign military force that would be

in Belgrade and Branislav Canak pointed out that the ongoing attacks continue to take a tremendous toll on the ability of working people in Serbia to survive economically day-to-day. By the end of April, unemployment in Serbia had exceeded 70 percent. "No one can tell the extent of it now, in the middle of the war," Canak said May 12. "Industrial production



Above, Stanimir, leader of Students Union of Yugoslavia, showing *Militant* reporters on April 21 the boiler plant in New Belgrade, on Sava River bank across from Belgrade city center. It was bombed by U.S.-NATO warplanes April 4. Plant provided heat and hot water to some 400,000 of Belgrade's 2 million residents. "This is the kind of military target they are talking about hitting," Stanimir said. "I sit here and see my country destroyed factory by factory, town by town. About half the bridges don't stand anymore."

Inset, Branislav Canak (left), national president of Nezavisnost (Independence), the trade union federation in Serbia independent of government control, giving interview to *Militant* reporters Natasha Terlexis (right) and Bobbis Misailides (center) at trade union office in Belgrade, April 20.

U.S.-NATO assault

sent into Kosova no matter what its formal name is. French government officials, on the other hand, immediately argued that the Germany accord meant the United Nations Security Council should call the shots. Unlike in NATO, the Security Council's permanent members, including Paris, have veto power.

Washington, which has consolidated its position as the number one military and economic power in Europe on the blood and bones of the Yugoslav people in the 1990s, is not willing to go along with such demands.

This inter-imperialist competition is becoming more apparent both on the economic and military front. "Trade war looms over hormone beef ban as EU reiterates health fees," was the headline of an article in the May 13 *International Herald Tribune*. "The European Union is poised to set off a trade war by ignoring a Thursday deadline set by the World Trade Organization to lift its 10-year ban on foreign beef produced with growth hormones," the article said. "Both the United States and Canada have threatened to retaliate with punitive tariffs on European exports worth hundreds of millions of dollars."

On the military front, Paris and Bonn are continuing to pursue giving the European Union direct military powers. Defense and foreign ministers of the Western European Union (WEU), a nonfunctioning military grouping of 10 European governments who are members of NATO, met in Bremen, Germany, May 11. They discussed merging the WEU with the European Union.

In the meantime, Belgrade has not bowed

also ratcheting up tensions with the governments of Russia and China. In the aftermath of the Chinese embassy bombing, there are indications that neither Moscow or Beijing are about to go along with the May 6 deal signed in Germany. Beijing has suspended cooperation on certain military matters with Washington and is demanding an official apology for the fatal assault on its embassy, severe punishment of those involved in the action, and a halt to the NATO bombing.

"Such impudence! To unleash a war on a



Vjosa Paloca, whose family farmed on the outskirts of Klina, a town of 15,000 near Pec, Kosova, at "Olympia" lake camp at Tirana's central park, May 1. She said at least three of her Serb neighbors asked her to stay and offered help to stop terrorist gangs from driving Albanians out of Kosova. "I don't know what happened to them," she said, after special police forces set large sections of the city on fire to force the majority Albanian residents to leave. A number of other Albanians gave similar accounts, puncturing the myth that the conflict is between all Albanians and all Serbs. "We didn't have problems with most of our Serb neighbors before March 24," when Washington launched the NATO assault, said Eyhrie Sulejmani from the village of Dobrojevo near Pristina, the capital of Kosova. Dobrojevo's population was half and half Serbs and Albanians.

sovereign state. Without the Security Council. Without the United Nations. It could only be done in a time of barbarism," exclaimed Russian president Boris Yeltsin in a May 6 encounter with the press that received little



Shaban Dace, at right, from Pirane village near Prizren, Kosova, at lakeside camp in Tirana, Albania, May 1. "What a lot of people tell you is true," he told the Militant. "From the day the NATO bombing began, the attacks on us by Milosevic intensified to an unimaginable degree. I never expected this kind of 'ethnic cleansing' to happen. I thought I'd die one day, probably sooner than later because of our struggle to end the oppression of the Albanian people. But in Kosova, not in Albania. I never expected to be thrown out of my house like this. What the United States is doing with its bombs is not helping us."

Dace worked in a small factory producing bottled wine and other alcoholic beverages until 1991. He was fired then, like most industrial and other workers of Albanian origin in Kosova, because of his support for the Trepca miners strike. The miners protested austerity measures by Belgrade and demanded national rights for Albanians. Militant reporter Anne Howie from United Kingdom is at center. At left is Kliton Nenaj, a construction engineering student at University of Tirana, who accompanied Militant reporters in Albania and helped translate.

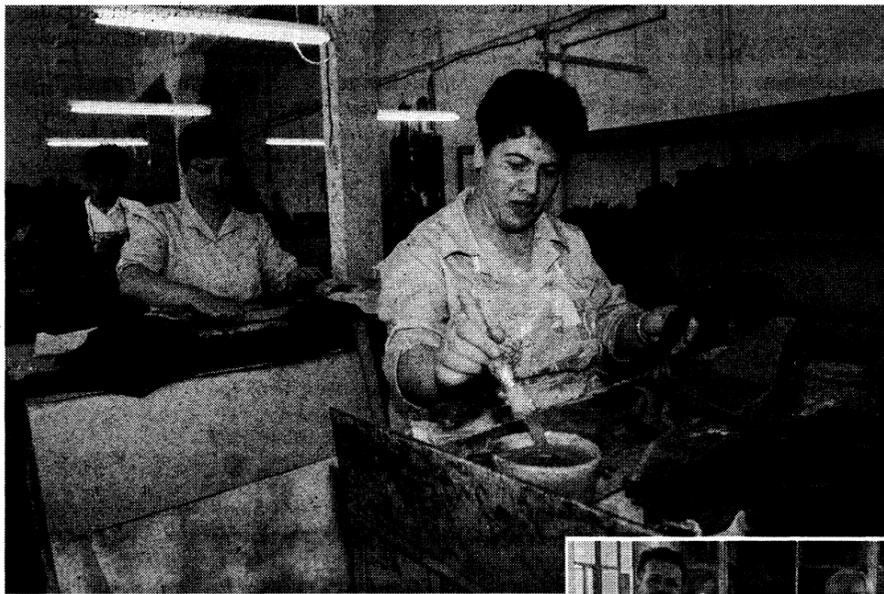
uproar among people in Albania, as it becomes clearer that any deal the U.S. rulers will try to impose excludes independence for Kosova.

"Albania's pro-west euphoria begins to fade," was the headline of an article in the May 12 *Financial Times* of London. "The outline framework agreement announced at last week's G8 summit... has come as a shock to most Albanians and Kosovars, who, perhaps naively, had believed Nato would secure the complete defeat of Mr. Milosevic and *de facto* independence for Kosova."

A significant minority of citizens of Albania, especially working people in the south of the country, and Kosovars expelled by

among trade unionists and students are continuing to pursue alliances with Albanians in Kosova and elsewhere to undercut both what the Milosevic regime is doing with the mass expulsions of Albanians and the justifications for NATO's assault.

In Belgrade, Branislav Canak said that Nezvisnost has been organizing regular meetings with leaders of the Students Union of Yugoslavia, Women in Black, and more than 30 other organizations that have campaigned against Belgrade's course. They are calling for an immediate cessation of the NATO bombing and a repatriation of all the Kosovars who have left the region. "We are trying to rebuild civic bridges, despite the tremendous difficulties in the middle of the war," he said, "though NATO is making communication very difficult with the bombing of roads, bridges, railways, and telecommu-



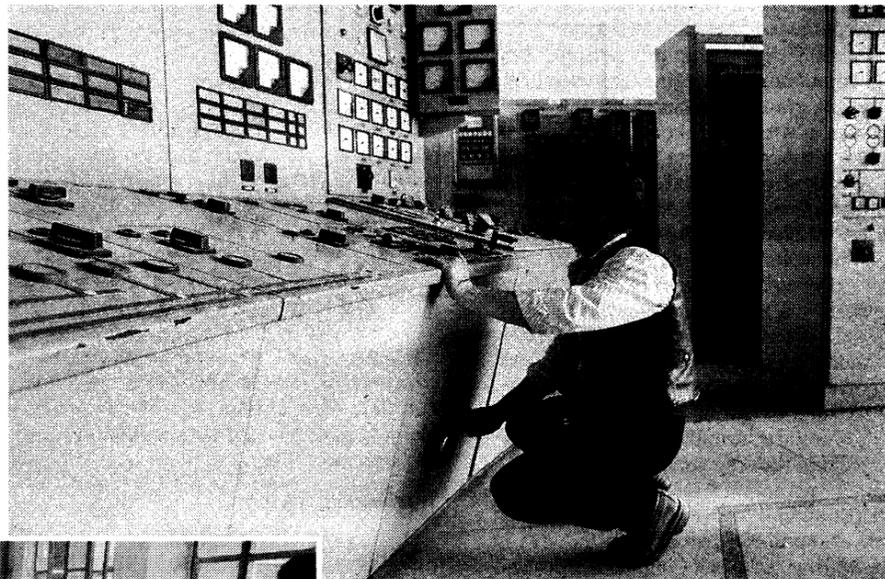
Angelusa Gaba, 33, union steward at boot assembly department at Rekor Albania S.A. shoe company in Gjirokaster, Albania, May 4. Behind her is Melpomeni Dimitraki Vrenja. "I just don't like NATO," Vrenja said. "We didn't have a good experience when the Italian and Greek troops came here two years ago." She was referring to earlier imperialist military interventions in Albania to help government quell rebellion that forced pro-imperialist president Sali Berisha to resign.

to NATO's main demands, insisting it will not accept an armed NATO force in Kosova. A May 10 announcement that the Milosevic regime was carrying out a partial withdrawal of its forces from Kosova was immediately dismissed by Washington. Branislav Canak said May 12 that there are no indications from what's reported in Serbia that any large-scale military withdrawal from Kosova is under way.

Washington's course is sparking opposition among working people in a number of the neighboring countries, such as Macedonia and Bulgaria, where large protests against the NATO bombings have been held. In Macedonia NATO troops have been repeatedly attacked with hand grenades and rocks. The U.S. government's attempts to impose a Dayton-style solution in Kosova are

publicity. He later threatened to withdraw Moscow from any further diplomatic efforts over Kosova if Washington refuses to make any concessions. Russian oil tankers have continued to deliver oil to Montenegro, despite a call for an oil embargo by NATO and the EU, according to reports from a number of trade unionists in Podgorica and elsewhere in that republic.

Washington's course has also caused



Militant photos: above, Argiris Malapanis; left, Bobbis Misailides. Above, Armando Bardo, electrical engineer at TEC thermoelectric plant on outskirts of Fier, Albania, May 3. "Privatization?" he said, laughing, in response to a question on whether he supported plans floated by various politicians to sell facility to foreign investors. "Why? It will only mean layoffs, probably a wage cut and loss of paid holidays." Workers there make \$100-\$180 per month, a relatively high wage in Albania, and have 60 days vacation per year, as well as decent health insurance and paid meals at work. These workers are main obstacle to imperialist attempts to reestablish domination of capitalist property relations in Albania. Among them, especially in south, there is wide questioning of NATO's course.

On left, turbine operators Trifon Tashi (left) and Eduard Velaj (third from left) at TEC plant, with Militant reporter Argiris Malapanis. "You can call me a pacifist but I am against the bombing" of Yugoslavia by NATO, said Tashi.



Belgrade's forces have already opposed the NATO bombing. "Europe and the United States are each pursuing their own interests in Kosova," said Albert Shyti in a May 12 phone interview from Vlore. "They don't give a damn about Albanians or the struggle for self-determination in Kosova. The bombing of the Chinese embassy shows the war will probably go on for a long time."

Within Yugoslavia, vanguard elements

nication centers." The latest initiative of these groups is to issue an appeal "to our Albanian friends" — union, student and other groups in and out of Kosova — for collaboration along these lines. Canak said earlier that the horrible drive to deport nearly half the population of Kosova "makes a strong argument that the Albanian people have a good case for their demand for self-determination."

Cop brutality in New Jersey

Continued from front page

missed charges against Glenford Goodell and Omar Gittens, both of whom were arrested in 1997 highway stops by Hogan and Kenna.

The day after Verniero's announcement, Whitman acknowledged at a news conference that "racial profiling exists," after denying it for years. The attorney general also said the state was dropping its appeal of a 1996 decision by a Superior Court judge to dismiss criminal charges against 17 people in Gloucester County who were stopped by state troopers because they were Black. The judge found that Blacks were nearly five times as likely as whites to be stopped by state troopers.

It's in this context that a conflict erupted over the Republican governor's appointment of Verniero to the State Supreme Court.

Members of the state legislature's Black and Latino Caucus announced May 4 they would oppose confirmation of Verniero to the post because of his lukewarm response to the "racial profiling" controversy. "The Attorney General has done nothing more than stonewall efforts by the caucus to get at the truth behind the allegations of racial profiling in the state police ranks," declared state Sen. Wayne Bryant, a member of the caucus.

The New Jersey Bar Association also refused to support Verniero and Republicans in the state legislature threatened to break an arrangement in which the bar association lends its name to candidates for judicial and prosecutorial positions. An angry Whitman said the bar had conducted a "smear campaign" against her nominee.

The legislature narrowly confirmed Verniero's appointment to the judge's bench May 10 by a vote of 21 to 18.

Rev. Reginald Jackson, executive director of the Black Minister's Council of New Jersey, called the appointment a slap in the face. Jackson, who led a demonstration on April 23 of 200 protesters in Trenton, New Jersey, called for an "outside monitor [to] be appointed to watch the state police."

Whitman dumps top state cop

Whitman had earlier fired the superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, Carl Williams, on February 28 for making racist remarks during an interview with the *New Jersey Star Ledger* published that same day. In it he attempted to justify the cops' blatant targeting of Blacks and Latinos.

"Today with this drug problem, the drug problem is cocaine or marijuana. It's most likely a minority group that's involved with that," Williams told the newspaper. "The president of the United States went to Mexico to talk to the president of Mexico about drugs. He didn't go to Ireland. He didn't go to England."

Another black eye for the Whitman administration came when hotel workers went public to expose the state cops' Hotel-Motel Program — a snoop and snitch operation aimed at Latinos and West Indian immigrants. This trampling of civil liberties involve allowing police to paw through credit card receipts and registration forms of all guests at the hotels along the turnpike, under the pretext of searching for drug smugglers.

Hotel workers were recruited as informers with instructions from the cops alleging "that much of the illegal narcotics in the area is shipped from South and Central America and the Caribbean," the *New York Times* reported April 29. Clo Smith, a front desk clerk at the Holiday Inn near Newark International Airport, said the cops in a 1996 seminar suggested that Spanish-speaking guests should be viewed with more suspicion than English speakers.

The racist discrimination by state troopers is reflected in the results of a study conducted by the attorney general's office. According to the report, from 1994 to 1999 Blacks and Latinos made up 77 percent of people whose vehicles were searched on the turnpike by state cops. Of the 2,871 people arrested, 62 percent were Black.

CALENDAR

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Video showing of "War and Peace in Ireland." From filmmaker Art McCaig. An account of British oppression in occupied Northern Ireland, banned in England. Thur., May 27, 7:30 p.m. McGovern's Tavern, New Street. Sponsored by the New Jersey Irish Northern Aid Committee. For more information call: Mark Sheerin: (201) 784-3573.

Dorothy Cobbs, who was pulled over by a two-time "Trooper of the Year" on New Jersey's Garden State Parkway in 1996, told how the cop "hit me again and again. I was screaming for help and I couldn't see" after being sprayed with Mace. She was testifying at an April 20 public hearing called by the Black and Latino Caucus of the state legislature. The state agreed March 17 this year to pay Cobbs \$225,000 to settle a civil lawsuit she had filed.

"To this day, I still don't know why we got shot," said Leroy Grant, one of the four men shot by highway patrol cops Kenna and Hogan on April 23, 1998. "It's been mentally, physically hard for us. The bullets are still lodged in our bodies."

The youth announced at a press conference last month that they are filing civil lawsuits against the state, the two troopers who shot them, their supervisors, and the New Jersey State Police, charging the cop agency with violating their constitutional rights.

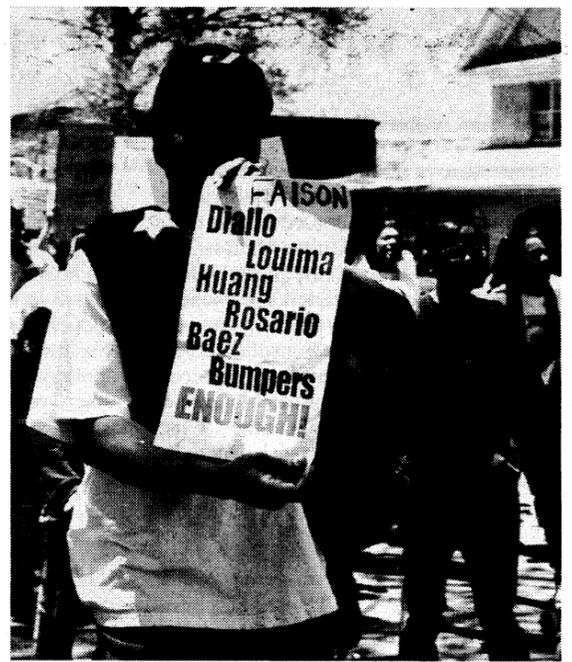
The Whitman administration's admission that state cops targeted Blacks on the New Jersey highway opens the door for a class action lawsuit filed against the state and could lead to the dismissal of possibly thousands of cases. The U.S. Department of Justice has signed consent decrees involving cop brutality with the city administrations of Pittsburgh and Steubenville, Ohio. The agreement entails supposed reforms of the police department, including training guidelines for cops. A spokesman for the Justice Department said New Jersey government officials are working on a similar arrangement. Several other states have pending legislation that proponents claim will address "racial profiling,"

including Massachusetts, Maryland, Florida, Virginia, and Rhode Island.

Pro-cop campaign backfires

In an attempt to regain some lost credibility and stem the political damage caused by the state trooper debacle, New Jersey government officials and the capitalist media whipped up a pro-cop, anticrime barrage after Orange cop Joyce Carnegie was killed April 8. Carnegie was repeatedly described as a "good cop," who "remained engaged with the people." Gov. Whitman, other government officials, and Jackson of the Black Ministers Council attended Carnegie's April 14 wake. Some 5,000 cops attended the funeral the next day.

In this atmosphere, the police went on a rampage. On April 10 masked cops armed with semiautomatic rifles stormed into the house of Terrance Everett, a 24-year-old warehouse worker. They set off smoke bombs, attacked Everett's parents and wife, who is pregnant, and arrested him. The cops came from Orange, East Orange, Newark, the Essex County Sheriff's Department, the State Division of Criminal Justice, New Jersey State Police, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms State Division, the FBI, and New Jersey Transit. Everett, who was also beaten by the cops, was released six days later after a restaurant manager told the news media that the young man had been eating there at the time Carnegie was killed.



Militant/Megan Arney
Earl Williams, father of slain Earl Faison, at protest.

The day after brutalizing Everett, the cops picked up Earl Faison and James Coker. Faison died after an hour in police custody; his relatives say he was beaten to death by Orange police. Coker remains in jail. Several days later, another man, Condell Woodson, was arrested and now faces charges of killing the cop.

Outrage among working people exploded in the face of the cops' offensive. In Orange, two protests of several hundred people protested the death of Faison. The organizers of these demonstrations, People Organized for Progress, have called another action in Newark on May 19 to commemorate Malcolm X's birthday and protest police brutality.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

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Birmingham

New Opportunities in the Fight against the Death Penalty. Speakers: Chris Byrd, Alabama Committee to Abolish the Death Penalty; Frank Page, president Central Alabama Coalition Black Trade Unionists; and Stephen Bloodworth, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 21, 7:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. 111 21st St. Donation: \$4. Dinner: \$5. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Malcolm X. A video selection from his speeches and a panel discussion of the life and work of this revolutionary. Fri., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. (1 1/2 blocks west of Vermont). Donation: \$5. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

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Protest the Escalating War in Yugoslavia and the Bombing of Chinese Embassy. Fri., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (at Mission). Donation: \$4. Tel: (415) 285-5323.

ILLINOIS

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Why Is China Singled Out for Attack? Fri., May 21, 7 p.m. 1223 N. Milwaukee. Donation: \$4. Tel: (773) 235-1780.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Newport News Shipyard Strike: The Stakes for All Working People. Hear an eyewitness account by Mary Martin, member of the International Association of Machinists helping organize strike coverage for the *Militant* newspaper, and others. Fri., May 21, 7:30 p.m. Buffet reception 6 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$10 for buffet and program. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

ception 6 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$10 for buffet and program. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

BRITAIN

London

1979-99, the 20th Anniversary of the Iranian Revolution: An Eyewitness Report from Tehran. Speaker: Tony Hunt, just returned from Tehran. Fri., May 21, 7 p.m. 47 The Cut. Donation: £2. Tel: 0171-928-7993.

NEW ZEALAND

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Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium. Celebrate the publication of Pathfinder's latest book. Speaker: Felicity Coggan, Communist League. Fri., May 21, 7 p.m. 203 Karangahape Road. Donation: \$3. Tel (9) 379-3075.

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A society rotted to the core — "A national study links many health problem in young children to the



Harry Ring

shortage of affordable housing and the skyrocketing number of homeless families. Colorado plays heavily in the report." — Denver Rocky Mountain News, April 8.

On bended knee? — In Chicago, a man was charged with kid-

napping and murdering a girl, 11. Meanwhile, charges were dropped against two boys, 7 and 8, earlier accused of the crime. Cops had said that after six hours grilling, the boys "confessed" they did it. A \$100-million suit as been filed. Mayor Richard Daley says he intends to apologize to the boys.

You don't hate capitalism? — A California appeals court upheld the 25-year-to-life sentence meted out to Gregory Taylor, a homeless ex-convict. It was his third conviction and the sentence was imposed under the state's "three-strikes-and-you're-out" law. Taylor was prosecuted for trying to pry open the

door of a church kitchen for some food.

Maybe it just seems that way? — According to a population research team, people who attend church regularly live 10 percent longer than nonchurchgoers.

Great photo op — The state of Delaware has provided one of its three counties with a \$700,00 decontamination trailer equipped to respond to biological, chemical, and radiological emergencies. The other two are on order. Officials in New Castle County, which has the first trailer, were reluctant to commit medical response people to the

project, but volunteers have stepped forward.

Dacey getting up in the morning — "GENEVA — More than one million people die every year worldwide from work accents, reported the United Nations Int'l Labor Organization.... Several hundreds of millions of workers are injured or exposed to hazardous products." — News item.

Rub it in — "The massage is a health thing, not a pleasure thing," says the co-owner of the New York Dog Spa and Hotel, which offer a day of revitalization. Includes pedi-

ture, hot oil treatment, and full massage. \$150.

No comment — War contractor General Dynamics said its first-quarter earnings rose 20 percent, boosted in part by increased federal spending.

One less killer on the loose — Sydney Gottlieb, a ranking figure in the CIA's "technical services," checked out in March. But, perhaps for security reasons, news of his demise was delayed. Gottlieb, it's warmly noted, personally delivered to the Congo a deadly bacteria used to kill Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba.

Why Trotsky called for independent Ukraine in 1939

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The Albanian struggle for self-determination in Kosova is at the center of the current conflict in Yugoslavia. Brutal suppression of this democratic demand by the bureaucratic regime in Belgrade has led to growing resistance among the Albanians and

BOOK OF THE WEEK

opened the door for imperialist intervention. Apologists for the Belgrade government, such as the *Workers World* newspaper, dismiss the fight for national rights by the Albanians as promoting "national antagonisms in Yugoslavia." They describe those fighting for independence as a U.S.-backed "counter-revolutionary separatist guerrilla insurgency."

In 1939 Communist leader Leon Trotsky took up a similar problem involving the Ukraine in an April 22 article titled "The Ukrainian Question." He elaborated further on this question in reply to a "Marxist" who criticized his earlier document for ignoring the interests of the Soviet Union in a July 22 article called "Independence of the Ukraine and Sectarian Muddleheads." The articles can be found in *Writings of Leon Trotsky (1938-39)* and *Writings of Leon Trotsky (1939-40)*.

On the eve of the imperialist slaughter of World War II, Trotsky called for "A united, free, and independent workers' and peasants' Soviet Ukraine." He drew on the policies advanced by the Bolsheviks under the leadership of V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the Russian revolution. Lenin insisted on estab-

lishing the Soviet Union as a voluntary federation of workers and farmers republics, guaranteeing the rights of national self-determination to all nations and nationalities oppressed under the old czarist empire in Russia.

"Every inclination to evade or postpone the problem of an oppressed nationality," Trotsky wrote, was regarded by Lenin as "a manifestation of Great Russian chauvinism."

Joseph Stalin, who "represented the most centralist and bureaucratic tendency," led the course of reversing the Bolsheviks' policy on national self-determination and voluntary federation, a course that prevailed following Lenin's death. The "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" reemerged as a prison house of nations inherited from tsarism and imperialism. In order to serve the interests of the privileged layer that usurped power in the Soviet Union, the regime of Stalin denied the most legitimate claims of the oppressed nationalities, especially the Georgians and Ukrainians.

"To the totalitarian bureaucracy, Soviet Ukraine became an administrative division of an economic unit and a military base of the USSR," Trotsky explained. The privileged caste strangled and plundered the workers and peasants of the Ukraine, depriving them of any opportunity to express their will.

Under these conditions, "the great masses of the Ukrainian people are dissatisfied with their national fate and wish to change it drastically," said Trotsky. He pointed to the development of separatist tendencies among the Ukrainian people and their hostility to the Soviet bureaucracy. "One of the primary sources of this hostility is the suppression of Ukrainian independence," he noted.

The Ukrainian struggle for national rights exploded in 1917-1919. One of the groups that expressed these nationalist tendencies on the left was the Ukrainian Borotba (Struggle)

Party. Convinced that the Bolshevik revolution offered the way forward for workers and peasants of the Ukraine, the Borotba Party merged with the Ukrainian Communist Party in 1920. "The most important indication of the success of the Leninist policy in the Ukraine was the fusion of the Ukrainian Bolshevik Party with the organization of the Borotbists," said Trotsky.

In the late 1920s Borotbists were driven out of leadership as the emerging bureaucratic caste consolidated its domination over the USSR workers state and gutted soviet democracy. Most of the Borotbists were killed by the Stalinist murder machine in the 1930s. "Nowhere did the purges and repressions assume such a savage character as they did in the Ukraine," Trotsky stated.

It was the reactionary policies of the Stalinists that shifted the leadership of the Ukrainian national movement to "the most reactionary Ukrainian cliques who express their 'nationalism' by seeking to sell the Ukrainian people to one imperialism or another in return for a promise of fictitious independence," Trotsky explained. This pushed the Ukrainian petty-bourgeoisie and even layers of the working-class masses toward the imperialist camp.

Trotsky called for a political revolution to overthrow the Soviet bureaucracy, while preserving the nationalized property relations made possible by the revolutionary victory of 1917. Sweeping away the Bonapartist caste is a central task of the workers and peasants and key to the de-

fense of the workers state. Trotsky declared the USSR "doomed" under the rule of the Stalinist regime — a statement born out by events in the early 1990s with the collapse of the Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union and throughout Eastern Europe.

Far from militarily weakening the Soviet workers state, as "the 'friends' of the Kremlin will howl in horror," said Trotsky, "an independent Ukraine ... would become, if only by virtue of its own interests, a mighty southwestern bulwark of the USSR."

The fight for self-determination of the oppressed is intertwined with advancing the interests of workers and farmers the world over; without this policy no revolutionary victory of the toilers is possible.

"There is every reason to assume that in the event of the triumph of the world revolution the tendencies toward unity will immediately acquire enormous force, and that all Soviet republics will find the suitable forms of ties and collaboration. This goal will be achieved only provided the old and compulsory ties, and in consequences old boundaries, are completely destroyed," Trotsky asserted. "To speed and facilitate this process, to make possible the genuine brotherhood of the peoples in the future, the advanced workers of Great Russia must... without any reservation declare to the Ukrainian people that they are ready to support with all their might the slogan of an independent Ukraine in a joint struggle against the autocratic bureaucracy and against imperialism."

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



May 24, 1974

Lisbon — "The explosion of joy that swept the entire country yesterday has no parallel since the demonstrations at the end of the war marking the liberation of nations occupied by fascism-Nazism." That was the way *Diário de Lisboa*, the first paper to come off the press following the May 1 demonstrations, described the massive outpouring in celebration of the fall of the fascist government of Marcello Caetano.

As in the mass movements that followed the liberation in France and Italy, the Communist Party seemed clearly the politically dominant force in the May Day celebrations. The prevailing chant on the march was "O povo unido, jamais será vencido" (the people united can never be defeated), the same slogan as one used by the Popular Unity government in Chile in the last mass demonstrations before the military coup.

It was put across to the crowd in Lisbon by apparently well-coached CP cadres. The most deeply felt slogan was one word. The packed crowd always concentrated entirely on it when it was chanted: "Victória, vitória!" Thousands upon thousands raised their fingers in sign of victory.

After forty years of fascism, the cozy relationship between the fascist government and big business is obvious to most Portuguese. The demand for an end to capitalism arises as naturally as it did in other European countries after the defeat of fascism. But there is no indication, despite occasional oratorical flights by CP and Socialist Party speakers, that any visible force intends to fight for socialism by calling on

the workers to organize independently on a political basis to fight for their interests, to trust only in their strength and not in any bourgeois savior.



May 23, 1949

LAKE SUCCESS — The Latin-American resolution to restore diplomatic missions to Franco Spain was defeated but not lost in the United Nations session on May 16. If that sounds like double-talk, it is purely intentional — for the entire debate I heard reeked with hypocrisy.

Washington and London pulled the strings for Franco behind the scenes, while U.S. delegate Warren Austin abstained at the Assembly, and British delegate Hector McNeill sanctimoniously voted "no." But the real truth of the situation was exposed in sudden wrath by the Bolivian delegate, infuriated by his lack of support from the big powers.

"Some people here express amazement that four small Latin American countries dare to propose this resolution," he shouted. "But it is not we who have changed. It is you, the great powers, the United States and the United Kingdom, who set the policy.... There is a new political wind blowing in the world, and we have only dared to take notice of it."

Not one of the capitalist papers that I have read, reported this revealing outburst. They pretend that the vote was a "victory" for liberalism. But the facts prove it was only a tactical stage in the cold war against the USSR.

For more reading from Pathfinder

Writings of Leon Trotsky

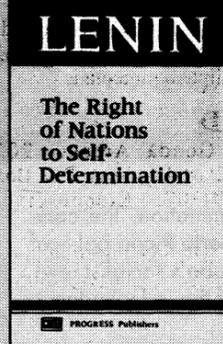
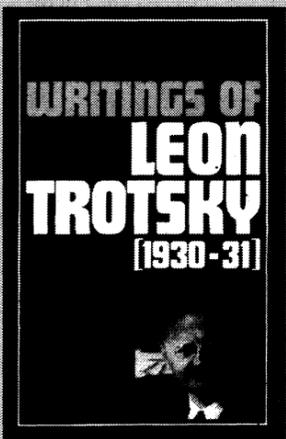
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V.I. LENIN

The working class advances and advocates the right of all nations to secede, Lenin explains, but it "values above all the alliance of the proletariat of all nations, and assesses any national demand from the angle of the workers' class struggle." \$4.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690. Fax: (212) 727-0150. When ordering by mail, please include \$3 to cover shipping.

Tell the truth about Yugoslavia

The U.S.-organized NATO forces bombed the central market and a hospital in Nis, Yugoslavia, in midday May 7, killing 14 civilians. They blasted the Chinese embassy in downtown Belgrade that night, killing three people. As protests erupted around the world over the embassy bombing, Washington stepped up its campaign of destroying factories, infrastructure, and working-class neighborhoods across Yugoslavia. The resulting death toll is rising. These events reveal a bit more of the brutal face of imperialism.

Whether or not the Chinese embassy in Belgrade and the hospital and market in Nis were planned targets for Washington's bombers, the devastating results are no accident. Referring to the systematic destruction of factories that are union strongholds, Branislav Canak, president of the Nezavisnost independent trade union in Yugoslavia, told *Militant* reporters who traveled there in April, "The main target of the bombing is the working class in Serbia and throughout Yugoslavia."

Far from stopping the expulsion of Albanians from Kosova, as the imperialist war makers claim is their aim, the U.S.-NATO assault is making it easier for the regime of Slobodan Milosevic to carry out the chauvinist "ethnic cleansing," which many workers of all nationalities in Yugoslavia vigorously oppose. A growing number of working people in the region are coming to understand this, including among those forced to flee Kosova, most of whom had illusions that NATO intervention could help advance their struggle for self-determination.

"Age-old ethnic rivalries" are not the cause of the carnage in Yugoslavia. The rich legacy of the Yugoslav revolution in 1940s proves the opposite. Workers and farmers of all nationalities fought together in the struggle against fascist occupation during World War II and against the capitalists and landlords, taking power out of their hands.

This continuity can be reknit only on the basis of genuine equality and the right to self-determination — including independence — for oppressed nations such as the Albanian majority in Kosova, who have suffered discrimination and repression from the regime in Belgrade, particularly over the last decade since the Milosevic administration revoked Kosova's autonomy. The U.S. rulers have made clear they completely oppose the just demand for Kosova's independence. Instead, Washington is planning the occupation and possible partition of the region, like in Bosnia before, as a beachhead against the entire Yugoslav workers state.

"America and Europe are each pushing their own interests in Kosova, and they are competing about it. They mean no good for us. They are damaging our cause, the workers' cause," Minella Bela, a retired truck driver who was one of the leaders of the 1997 rebellion in Albania against the pro-imperialist regime of Sali Berisha, told *Mili-*

tant reporters.

Those competing interests become increasingly clear as the military assault continues. The aim of the imperialists' intervention is to put themselves in the strongest possible position to try to reimpose capitalist domination in Yugoslavia and the rest of Eastern Europe. Rivalry over who will dominate that process comes through in debate over the proposed "peacekeeping" occupation force. U.S. officials insist that the NATO alliance, which they dominate, will do it. Paris is pushing for a United Nations-organized force. And the rulers of France and Germany have renewed talk of a "European defense," possibly merging the military Western European Union with the economic European Union bloc.

The war in Yugoslavia is also increasing tensions between Washington and the regimes in China and Russia. This is not just because of the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. The imperialist assault in Yugoslavia is ultimately aimed against these workers states as well. It is another piece of the military ring Washington has been putting in place around Russia, to get in a position to someday attempt to roll back the remaining conquests of the Bolshevik-led revolution there by force. And it goes hand-in-hand with Washington's encirclement of China, including plans to place theater missile defense systems surrounding the country, from Korea to Alaska.

The space to discuss all these questions among working people in the United States and other imperialist countries is wide open today. Many workers and farmers, especially those who have been through struggles against the employers, know from their own experience that the bosses, their government, and the big-business media lie about strikes and fights for justice by working people. Many mistrust what they are told about the war in Yugoslavia, and are hungry to get the workers' side of the story — the side they can only find in the *Militant*, its sister magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish, and books from Pathfinder Press, especially the recently published *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*.

Supporters of the *Militant* should not let up in campaigning to get these and other books that explain the truth about Yugoslavia into as many hands as possible — at plant gates, picket lines, community tables, and social protest actions.

At the same time workers and young people who oppose Washington's slaughter in Yugoslavia should participate in and help initiate forums, teach-ins, and public protests in the streets to demand: Stop the U.S.-NATO bombing of Yugoslavia! Independence for Kosova! Open the borders to those forced to leave Kosova! All imperialist troops out of the Balkans!

Puerto Rico protesters: 'U.S. Navy get out of Vieques!'

BY RON RICHARDS

FAJARDO, Puerto Rico — Anger and demands for the U.S. military to leave the island of Vieques continue here nearly a month after resident David Sanes was killed during bombing practice by the U.S. Navy.

Vieques is a small island east of Puerto Rico with 9,500 residents. Two-thirds of the island is occupied by the U.S. Navy bombing range on the east end and ammunition storage on the west end, part of the Roosevelt Roads Naval Station. Sanes, a civilian security guard, died April 19 when a carrier-based plane practicing for bombing Yugoslavia dropped its load off course and hit his work area.

On May 8, about 1,000 supporters of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) and others rallied on Vieques to demand that the Navy leave. They established a protest camp on Navy territory. The PIP camp is in addition to an earlier protest camp set up by Vieques residents.

"We're trying to make the Navy give us back that land," said Luis Esteban, a fisherman who has been helping the protest camp. "If they would stop bombing, everything would be much better."

"There are only two choices," said PIP President Rubén Berrios, "stop the bombing or arrest us."

The difficulty of transportation to and from Vieques limited the size of the protest. The 18-mile boat trip from the port of Fajardo takes an hour and a half. The western end of Vieques is only seven miles from Puerto Rico, but the U.S. Navy controls both ends and forces civilian boats to take a longer route. After arriving at the north side of Vieques, protesters traveled by van to Esperanza on the south coast, and were ferried to the camp by local fishermen. About 15 people will stay at the camp.

The Puerto Rican government operates the launch between Fajardo and Vieques. According to PIP transportation coordinator Rep. Victor García, the government refused to increase service or rent boats to the PIP after U.S. Navy Secretary Richard Danzig wrote a letter to Gov. Pedro Roselló discouraging the protest.

The PIP bought 400 tickets on the regularly scheduled 9 a.m. run and party supporters were lined up at 6:30 a.m. Others flew in planes organized by PIP supporters. Included on the 9 a.m. sailing were long-time *independentistas* Rafael Cancel Miranda and Lolita Lebrón. Like all government buildings in Puerto Rico, the terminal in Fajardo flies the Puerto Rican and U.S. flags. As the PIP supporters waited to go to Vieques, someone lowered the U.S. flag and left it on the ground at the base of the flagpole. A security guard soon arrived to re-raise the flag and then stood guard to protect it. With fists in the air, the protesters sang the national anthem before they marched onto the launch.

The PIP has led a very visible campaign against the presence of the U.S. Navy in Vieques. It seems like every lamppost from the University of Puerto Rico in Río Piedras to the struck Sun Oil refinery in Yabucoa has a PIP poster that says "Navy out of Vieques." Highway 3, the main road between the Roosevelt Roads and San Juan, has a large mural with the same slogan.

All three political parties with ballot status have in some way objected to the activities of the Navy on Vieques. The pro-statehood Roselló administration is opposed to the use of live ammunition and has talked of using public resources to take the Navy to court. At the same time, it has tried to discourage protests in the restricted area of the Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility.

A discussion has broken out over the possibility of using uninhabited islands for bombing practice instead of Vieques. One island mentioned is Desecheo, a wildlife reserve off the west coast of Puerto Rico.

July actions will demand release of all Puerto Rican political prisoners

BY JOSHUA CARROLL

CHICAGO — Puerto Rican independence activists and defenders of democratic rights will be organizing four days of action in Washington, D.C., July 22-25, centered around the demand to free all Puerto Rican political prisoners.

There are currently 17 Puerto Rican *independentistas* held in U.S. jails. José Solís Jordán, the most recent Puerto Rican nationalist to be framed up by the U.S. government and FBI, was convicted in federal court in Chicago on March 12. He will be sentenced on July 7. The others are serving sentences ranging from 15 to 98 years.

The activities will include a march on Saturday, July 24, to "publicly demand the prisoners' release," explained Marcos Vilar, an organizer of the event. Sunday, July 25, will mark the 101st anniversary of the U.S. military invasion of Puerto Rico. The island has been held as a U.S. colony ever since. Buses and caravans to Washington are being planned from many U.S. cities.

Those organizing the march are also urging people hold protests on July 7 at U.S. federal buildings in their cities to denounce the wrongful conviction of José Solís.

Both the July 7 and July 22-25 demonstrations are being organized by a united coalition, which includes the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners, Pro-LIBERTAD, the Committee in Solidarity with Dr. José Solís Jordán, and the Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project.

Help fund

'Militant' reporting team to Cuba

A *Militant* reporting team headed by Mary-Alice Waters, the editor of *New Internationalist*, has just left for Cuba. Waters, *Perspectiva Mundial* editor Martín Koppel, and *Militant* staff writer Brian Taylor will be reporting on the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the May 17, 1959, agrarian reform, which expropriated large plantations, eliminated the system of rents and mortgages crushing the peasantry, and guaranteed use of the land to those who worked it. Contributions from readers help make this team possible. You can send a donation, earmarked Travel Fund to: **The Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.**

From Pathfinder

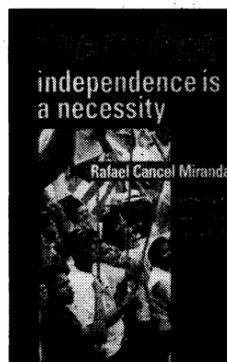
Puerto Rico: independence is a necessity

Rafael Cancel Miranda

In two interviews, Cancel Miranda — one of five Puerto Rican Nationalists imprisoned by Washington for more than 25 years until 1979 — speaks out on the brutal reality of U.S. colonial domination, the campaign needed to free 16 Puerto Rican political prisoners, the example of Cuba's socialist revolution, and the resurgence of the independence movement today."

In English and Spanish. \$3.00

Available from bookstores listed on page 12.



Bell Canada strikers say no to 'divide and rule'

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

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

95 percent of them women. The rest of the strikers are technicians, a similar percentage of whom are men. The CEP had just won a landmark pay equity battle with Bell, which included millions of dollars in back-pay for the operators.

Militant correspondents asked Montreal technicians Fernando DeSilva and Richard Hamel why they were on strike. "It was necessary," DeSilva said. "The com-

pany has refused matching pension funds and retroactive pay, despite the fact that workers here were without a contract for two years.

Stephen Williams, a member of Teamsters Local 723, reported the reaction of workers to the agreement was mixed, though most came back feeling more united and stronger.

Williams explained the diversified workforce made the strike stronger. "They [the company] didn't think we would go on strike. They thought we were too poor. They didn't think the Latinos would go. [The company] said, 'They have 15 children and no papers.' But they were wrong." Williams also added that of all the workers the Latino strikers most often showed up at the picket lines.

Detroit Edison workers protest harassment

Detroit — Chanting "Racism, sexism have got to go. Detroit Edison, we say, 'No!'" some 50 Detroit Edison workers and others picketed the company's shareholders meeting here April 28.

On Dec. 30, 1998, 12 power plant workers filed a class-action lawsuit against the state's largest utility company. Detroit Edison currently has five major class action lawsuits pending for sex harassment, and gender, race, and age discrimination. More than 40 percent of the 8,400 employees in the company today are actively involved in these cases. In July 1998 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found the company guilty of sex discrimination practices and fined Detroit Edison \$500,000.

Examples of harassment at Edison include pornographic drawings, demeaning sexually explicit terms, and a racist cartoon of a man hanging from a noose that was posted on the locker of a Black worker January 4.

Pamela Haddad, a plaintiff in the



Militant/Katy LeRougetel

Bell Canada workers on the picket line in downtown Toronto April 23

lawsuit, said her supervisor told her he "couldn't give me my full raise because he had to take care of the men in the department."

The protest was called by Alicia Prez-Banuet, Michigan Conference president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), and other groups. The 12 current plaintiffs have organized themselves into the Coalition for a Better Work Environment to reach out for support and endorsement. A public forum organized on March 27 attracted about 250 people.

L.A. airport workers rally for union, protest lockout

LOS ANGELES — Some 400 workers and supporters marched here on April 30 as part of the ongoing effort to organize the Los Angeles International Airport workers with a focus on Argenbright Security. Argenbright is the airport's largest contract employer of baggage screeners, wheel chair assistants, and baggage handlers — with more than 800 employees. In recent months, hundreds of airport workers, organized by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union, have won new contracts — some for the first time, others with significant wage and benefits gains.

On April 29 about 45 Argenbright workers carried out a job action and walked off the job for two hours to protest the company's unjust practices, which include threatening and intimidating workers from joining the union. SEIU official Blanca Gallegos told *La Opin-*

ion that Argenbright suspended the workers indefinitely. They made an unconditional offer to return to work but were locked out by management.

"Respect at LAX," and "Argenbright, no — Union, yes!" chanted the protesters the next day. Delegations of workers and union officials from other unions participated — including the Teamsters, United Auto Workers, Steelworkers, Communication Workers, retired groups, and the construction trades.

Ana Lima, an airport worker with eight years, told the *Militant*, "This is a fight for justice for all workers."

Another emergency protest and spirited march of 200 people was held May 4 at the airport demanding the reinstatement of the locked-out workers. It included several dozen Argenbright workers, delegations of other union officials, members of the Flight Attendants union at United, and a group of the recently organized home-care workers who are also members of SEIU.

Argenbright worker Sonia Ramirez added, "We have to keep fighting and not give up. Argenbright broke the law, we are not alone, we have support."

Annette Kouri, a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Montreal; Ellie Garcia, a member of the United Transportation Union in New York; Marty Ressler, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 876 in Detroit; and Mark Friedman, a member of the International Association of Machinists in Los Angeles, contributed to this article.

ON THE PICKET LINE

union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

HULL, Quebec — About 1,500 telephone operators and technicians on strike at Bell Canada rallied here April 28 outside the annual shareholders meeting. The 9,500 members of the Union of Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP) in Ontario and Quebec have been on strike since April 9 for job security and benefits. A tentative agreement between Bell Canada and CEP officials was announced May 10. Workers were voting on the proposal over the following week.

Bell recently signed an agreement with the U.S. company Excell Global Services to create a joint company, Nordia, which would take over the operations presently performed by the operators. Although Bell claims telephone operators will work for the new company, Ann Jones, Cindy Kiezel, Janet Brown, and Linda Govia — telephone operators in the Toronto area — explained this isn't the case. "In the package that [the company wants you] to sign, there is no guarantee of the new jobs," one of them declared.

"They're offering us no union, no benefits, no nothing, no seniority!" The demonstration was important because "it's good to come together like this, to have that kind of camaraderie," another striker added.

The operators are demanding decent compensation for their jobs. Hundreds of unionists attended the meeting; several raised their demands. Operators presented a petition signed by more than 50,000 Bell clients threatening to leave if the company proceeded with the sale.

There are 2,300 operators, about

pany's game is to play one against the other. They offered the technicians slightly better benefits, at the same time they cut the operators' jobs. Bell Canada's strategy is to break up the company into several smaller companies."

On the bus to the event was a group of strikers who worked together to come up with a list of subsidiaries or independent companies that Bell had either set up or sold off to do the jobs that unionized workers at Bell had done up to 1988. The list included Actimedia, which handles the Yellow Pages. Several workers from Actimedia participated in the April 28 demonstration.

Workers came out from all over Ontario and Quebec. Paul Kennedy, a technician at Belleville, said, "Provincial barriers don't matter. Workers in Quebec are the same as us. It's cut, cut, and cut."

Striker Patrick Robertson, a technician from Montreal, added, "Bell has always told us that the stakes are to be competitive. They've always based their arguments with us on that. But this time we say shove it!"

Hertz car rental strikers return to work in Newark

NEWARK, New Jersey — Members of Teamsters Local 723 settled their strike against Hertz car rental agency here April 23. More than 100 Teamsters, including cleaners, mechanics, and reservation agents, walked off the job March 19 over wages, lack of a pension plan, and dignity. Workers turned down two contract offers before accepting the third.

The contract includes wage increases and the union is providing a new pension plan. Hertz will now provide shoes for Teamsters who

and that is what caused the shootings in Colorado. Ultimately, it is only the demise of capitalism that can prevent more Jonesboros, Moses Lakes, Springfields, and Littletons. In the meantime, students' rage can best be mitigated by giving students a greater voice in what happens at school. Another measure that would help would be to provide more counselors in the schools (most counselors are hired to make schedules and enforce school rules). Further repression toward young people is a surefire recipe for disaster. In implementing it, the ruling class is taking up a battle it will never win.

Sue Kawakubo
Seattle, Washington

The bosses' world disorder

I appreciated Maggie Trowe's timely column in the May 10 issue. There is no working class solution to antisocial acts like the Littleton shootings under capitalism; neither are there quick-fixes for the social breakdowns, tensions, and polarization that mark life in capitalist

America today. The new book from Pathfinder, *Capitalism's World Disorder*, explains that "disgruntled middle-class layers, enraged bourgeois youth, thin strata of demoralized workers — these social layers are radicalized by mounting fear, envy, and resentments. They respond to prejudice and demagoguery." (page 145).

It is the job of class-conscious workers to cut through the sensationalized and exaggerated news coverage of events like the shooting in Colorado and explain in clear terms how the toiling classes, and especially young people, can begin to confront the bosses' world disorder. Doing so, as Trowe explains, "gives them confidence and dignity and a feeling of human solidarity." Bill Kalman, Miami, Florida

'Asians for Mumia'

The banner "Asians for Mumia" at the April 24 march to free Mumia Abu-Jamal in Philadelphia was followed by around 150 young people. One of the organizers of the contingent told me that the group included

Vietnamese, Laotian, Hmong, Cambodian, and Chinese-Americans. Later, I met a group of Filipino-American students who had also marched with the group.

At work the Monday following, I talked about the march and this contingent in particular. Black co-workers, supporters of Mumia Abu-Jamal, were stunned and Vietnamese co-workers became more interested in finding out about the case. Candace Wagner Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

NATO's ecology disaster

The April 19 edition of the *Globe and Mail* newspaper in Canada printed a report of the NATO bombing of the factory complex at Pancevo, Yugoslavia, equally shocking to the report you carried in your May 3 issue.

The *Globe and Mail* correspondent, Tom Walker, reported, "An ecological disaster was unfolding yesterday after NATO missiles ripped apart a combined petrochemical, fertilizer, and refinery complex on the banks of the Danube River north of Belgrade." Among

the gases sent billowing over neighboring homes by the missile explosions were chlorine, hydrochloric acid, and phosgene.

Oil and gasoline from the damaged refinery poured into the river, forming slicks up to 20 kilometers long. Workers at the complex decided to release tons of ether dichloride, a powerful carcinogen, into the Danube rather than risk having it blown up.

"This is our worst nightmare," said plant director Miralem Dzindo. He said the plant's production was nonmilitary. "The sickness of the minds that did this to us is enormous. By taking away our fertilizer they stop us growing food, and then they try to poison us as well." Roger Annis Vancouver, Canada

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.

LETTERS

No to more cops in schools

Thank you for printing the insightful article titled "Attacks on rights follow Colorado school killings," by Maggie Trowe (May 10, 1999). I am a teacher in the Seattle area and am very concerned about the occurrence in Littleton and the repercussions that have resulted. At least one suburban school district in our area has banned students from wearing trenchcoats to school. Discussions abound regarding the increased use of cops and security devices. The Littleton episode was even used in our local media to attack teachers fighting for an increase in wages: the *Seattle Times* printed an article stating that our demands for a salary raise imperiled our students' safety, since less money would be available to hire cops for school hallways.

Like Trowe, I don't believe that increasing the presence of cops in the schools and attacking students' civil liberties will improve anything. In fact, the opposite will occur. The Littleton shootings are one of the horrifying outcomes of capitalism in its death throes.

Capitalism creates human misery,

'Don't be quiet, fight for your rights' say Skychefs strikers in London

BY CAROLINE BELLAMY

LONDON — Morale was sky-high as 400 people attended a barbecue and rally at the Skychefs picket line at Heathrow Airport May 3. A few days previous, Lufthansa, the owner of Skychefs, had agreed to hold talks with the strikers' union, the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU). For the past six months, since Lufthansa sacked workers for taking one-day strike action in a dispute over wages and working conditions, the company has refused to have any communication with the union.

"This is a victory," said strike leader Garth King, speaking at an earlier May Day rally. "It is our members' determined stand that has brought results. Most of the strikers are Asian women. The management thought they wouldn't stand up for their rights. They've been proven wrong!"

The strikers have been reaching out to Skychefs workers in other countries. In April, Skychefs workers in France held a one-day strike. "This was because the company wants to introduce the same conditions there that they're trying to do here," Adesh Farmahan, another leader of the strike, reported. "There was also a big element of solidarity with us here at Heathrow in the action." After a group of strikers visited Lufthansa trade unions in Germany, they received a message of support signed by 200 workers. Messages of solidarity and donations have been received from workers all over the world, including Spain, New Zealand, and the United States.

Labour Member of Parliament Kenneth Livingstone attended the picket line in April. Local television news covered the visit.

Piero, a chef who did not give his last name, was determined about the outcome of negotiations. "I go back with the union, not without," he said. "We will only go back if the union accepts the conditions in there. We can see what they're doing at the moment, sacking people whenever they want."

King reported three drivers inside the plant have been sacked for posting notices. The men were supposedly caught on covert cameras, which the company has installed to spy on workers in the factory since the strike. He also said five drivers resigned together because the company is advertising jobs at \$575 per week, but telling new hires they will only get \$325 per week for the first year once they have started the job.

On May 1, a contingent of 60 Skychefs strikers marched with their banner in the front of a May Day march of 3,000 people in London. "Don't be quiet, fight for your rights!" "Victory to the Skychefs workers!" and "Scabs out, workers in!" Next came the Magnet strikers who fought a long battle for union rights against an employer lockout. They lost their battle, but still meet to fight for pension rights and turn out to support other workers in struggle. Behind them were strikers from Critchley Labels in Wales, where workers have been locked out since February 1997. Women from Magnet and Skychefs exchanged experiences as they marched.

King was the first speaker at the rally following the march, held in Trafalgar Square in central London. "Lufthansa Skychefs is the biggest airline catering company in the world," he said. "For months we were involved in negotiations over company proposals for flexible working hours. Finally they broke down. We had no option but to ballot for industrial action. Seventy-five percent of union members voted in favor in a secret ballot, according to the law. But when we went on strike, the sackings started within hours." King concluded with a call for solidarity.

"The company must be going crazy in there!" said Kishur Kerai at the May 3 picket line barbecue and rally. "These people are having a party outside the factory, with no jobs! This is brilliant!" Kerai is a young militant at the Rossi technical plastics plant in Wembley, north-west London. He and his fellow workers have been fighting for union



Militant/Phil Waterhouse

Skychefs strikers' contingent led May Day demonstration in London

recognition at the plant for more than two years. Six of them came to the rally.

Terry Coogan, 23, a post office worker from Manchester came down for the day. "I thought they would all be down after six months on strike," he said. "But there's no weakening, they're all smiling and dancing. It's obvious they're not going to give in.

These Indian women are showing us what anyone can do. I thought I'd come here to cheer them up, but it's the other way round, they're picking me up!"

Two workers from Los Angeles airport, Laura Anderson and César Guerrero, flew to London to attend the event. They brought a card of solidarity with messages of support

Brazil peasant leader meets Florida farmers

BY ANITA LYNNE

MIAMI — "Land in Brazil means power. When you concentrate land you concentrate power. When you distribute land you distribute power. We seek to eliminate the social inequality of land."

Augusto Olsson, a leader of the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST) of Brazil, was speaking with a group of farmers in the central Florida town of Wildwood during a tour of Florida in mid-April. Olsson spoke not only with farmers, but farm workers, students, and other workers during his April 15-19 visit. Previously, he visited with farmers and others in Georgia.

Olsson, 27, is a member of the MST's National Coordinating Committee from the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul. He is a leader of an MST-run cooperative farm involving 28 families in Piratini, near the border with Uruguay.

The MST has organized tens of thousands of landless peasants to take over and occupy land throughout the country and to press for a genuine land reform that will challenge the power of the big landowners and capitalists in the countryside.

Olsson spoke to 35 farmers and political activists at the meeting in Wildwood. The meeting was opened by local watermelon farmers who are Black, who reported on the status of their crops. The farmers noted many have been in a fight to keep their own land and win compensation from the U.S. government for decades of racist discrimination in granting loans and disaster relief.

After the event Frances Sesler, referring to the fight of the MST for land in Brazil and that of farmers in the United States to hold on to their land, said, "I think this meeting shows we are all in a fight together and have to continue. It was very informative to let us know what is happening in Brazil and Augusto appreciated learning about our struggle. We need to do more of these things."

Welcoming Olsson, Irving Forestier, a leader of the Orlando chapter of the National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners re-

marked, "We know what it is like to lose your land, to be landless in your own land," referring to U.S. domination of Puerto Rico.

The next morning Olsson had breakfast with members of the committee. Among other things, they discussed their work in the fight to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners in U.S. jails. There are 17 such prisoners today who are locked up for their involvement in the fight to win Puerto Rico's independence from the U.S. control over their territory.

At a meeting with a dozen farm workers at the offices of the Farmworker Association of Florida in Homestead, Olsson explained that the MST seeks to build a mass organization that links up with the struggles of workers all over the country. To accomplish this the MST also participates in actions with trade unionists and other working people.

"We came to the support of Ford workers who were being laid off a few months ago," Olsson stated. While the auto workers occupied their plant in protest, "we occupied the dealerships for two days to explain what was going on and be in solidarity with the fight of workers at Ford."

Members of the MST also carried out a national day of fasting in 20 cities in April to bring attention to the fight for agrarian reform, while at the same time they have been stepping up their land occupations. MST members occupied 244 sites in the first four months of this year.

Speaking to students and faculty members at Florida International University in Miami, Olsson said the goal of the MST was to fight for true agrarian reform and to "create a more just society in Brazil.... Our goal is to fight for better conditions of life in the countryside in education, health care, and to fight for a more dignified life for workers."

The MST has also had to struggle against repression and attacks from the government and the police.

In an interview with *El Nuevo Herald*, Olsson was asked about the conditions of rural workers under President Fernando Henrique Cardoso regime.

"It's gotten much worse. It's precisely un-

from their co-workers and showing photographs of a demonstration at the Los Angeles airport. "A struggle for one working person is a struggle for all working people," wrote Teresa, a member of the International Association of Machinists. "The fight you have taken on is the same fight since the birth of labor. Good luck." Guerrero and Anderson were enthusiastically received by the strikers, who talked with them all afternoon.

Mark Walker, a guard at South West Trains and a National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers (RMT) member, said, "This has proved to me that you can go on strike and people will stick it out," he said. "It also breaks the myth that Asian workers don't fight." About 85 percent of the Skychefs strikers are immigrants or children of immigrants from the Indian subcontinent.

Danny Burke, a longtime fighter for Irish freedom, came with Jim Redmond. They are both members of the Connolly Association. "I'm here supporting the working class," said Burke. "If they're in the right and we stick together, we'll win. That's why I've been fighting the Brits all my life."

Redmond, a member of the RMT at London Underground, added, "If they get away with sacking people for a one-day strike, they'll get away with it anywhere."

Others who came included airport workers at British Airways, Aer Lingus, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, and a group of musicians from a Kurdish and Turkish youth center, who provided music for the event.

Caroline Bellamy is a RMT member. Jonathan Silberman contributed to this article.

der this government that the largest number of slaughters of rural workers has occurred," Olsson answered. "We had the slaughter in Curumbiará, where 20 people died; also three years ago, we had the massacre at El Dorado dos Carajás when the police and big landowners murdered 19 workers who were walking toward the capital of Pará."

Featured at the Militant Labor Forum in Miami, Olsson explained that Brazil is first in the world in terms of concentration of land in a few hands. "When the country was first colonized, millions of people were slaughtered to acquire the land," he said. While Brazil will soon be celebrating 500 years since the discovery of the country by Europeans, "in all of those 500 years we have not had the right to land," Olsson declared.

"Land should benefit those who work it, and not be the object of speculation," the MST leader maintained.

"Brazil is a country that is extremely rich in resources but has never been able to develop itself as a nation. We are not independent," Olsson stated, pointing to its domination by U.S. imperialism and other powers. "Brazil has the capacity to end poverty and create a society based on solidarity" if fundamental social changes are carried out, he said. "Brazil needs a social transformation, and the fight of workers will determine that transformation."

Noting the \$228 billion debt the Brazilian government owes to the International Monetary Fund and other imperialist interests, Olsson asserted, "Our position is that this debt has been paid many times over because of the massive interest rates we have been charged. The MST believes that by the year 2000 the debt should be pardoned."

Asked about his view of U.S. society at the end of his first visit to the United States, Olsson said, "As I discussed politics with workers and farmers here, I realized everything they raised were also problems in Brazil — that we have the same problems and challenges.

"I go back with a different picture of the United States — with a feeling of respect and solidarity for working people here."