

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Socialist conference is gathering place for workers

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Reactionary 'strike' aids drive toward coup in Venezuela

BY RÓGER CALERO

A reactionary bosses' "strike" in the state oil company has escalated the U.S.-backed drive toward a military coup against the government of Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez. The action has disrupted production of oil, the country's key industry and export product. Venezuela's oil industry is the third-largest supplier to the United States, and is organized in close collaboration with imperialist interests.

Top officials and executives of Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) have organized street protests and rallies to condemn the government. Their actions build on a series of protests called by the bosses' federation, Fedecámaras, and statements by several active and retired military officers calling for Chávez to step down.

Washington and the capitalist class in Venezuela have been aided in their efforts by the officials of the Venezuelan Workers Federation (CTV), who have called workers out on strike to support the bosses' reactionary drive. In the current action, the CTV's call for a one-day walkout both curtailed oil production and gave the big-business media an opportunity to make the situation appear as a conflict between workers and the government. Officials of the CTV have aligned the federation with the Democratic Action Party, a capitalist opposition party.

Despite the stated grievances of the capi-
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10-week subscription drive poised for a strong beginning

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Socialist workers, young socialists, and supporters of the communist movement are launching an international 10-week sales drive as tens of thousands around the world have hit the streets protesting the Israeli regime's brutal military assault against the Palestinian people. Many people are becoming more open to discussing broader political questions as support grows around the world for the Palestinian people who are resisting the Israeli onslaught.

Partisans of the *Militant* and *PM* are selling more copies of the two publications and more Pathfinder titles in response to other political developments as well, such as strikes, other labor actions, and rallies in defense of immigrants detained by the U.S. government under the banner of fighting a war against terrorism.

The *Militant* circulation drive starts April 13 and goes until June 23, a change from eight weeks to 10. This will enable the communist movement to use a longer period of campaigning with the socialist press to respond to the resistance among workers to the bosses' offensive against our rights and living standards. The *Militant* urges parti-
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Washington: End all aid to colonial-settler Israel!

Back the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine!

In their hundreds of thousands working people, students, and youth are pouring into the streets across north Africa and the Middle East to condemn the murderous onslaught by the Israeli regime and Washington's aid and support to Tel Aviv. Many have stood up to tear gas and assaults by the police to march on U.S. and Israeli offices from Egypt to Bahrain. The Palestinian people, through tenacious resistance and heroic sacrifice, are winning the broadest solidarity in many years, catching Washington and the pro-imperialist regimes across the Mideast by surprise.

U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell, the butcher of the Iraqi people as head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under an earlier Bush administration, has been greeted with protests of up to half a million as he has moved from capital to capital while Israeli military forces have unleashed a reign of terror across Palestinian towns, villages, and refugee camps in the West Bank. Having tried to demonize and write off Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir Arafat just months ago, the Bush administration has now been forced to send a top official to meet with the representative of the dispossessed people.

Through their resistance the Palestinian people have dealt the biggest blow to Washington's war preparations against the people of Iraq, and strengthened possibilities for future anti-imperialist mobilizations in face of new aggressions by the imperialist powers.

These developments give working people
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Top, protest in Miami April 9 against Israeli assault, and (bottom left) in Beirut on March 29. Bottom right: Israeli soldiers left trail of destruction in West Bank town of Nablus.

Anniversary celebration of youth in Cuba shows strengthening of the revolution

BY ROMINA GREEN AND OLYMPIA NEWTON

HAVANA—"To understand what is happening in Cuba, you must look at it in the context of what is happening in the world," José Ramón Balaguer, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba, said here April 3. Balaguer addressed delegates attending activities

celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the UJC—the Union of Young Communists of Cuba. Fifty representatives of 30 organizations in 21 countries participated in the week-long celebration.

In the world today, said Balaguer, there is "more poverty and concentration of wealth. Scientific and technological developments, more productive factories, or other

advances will not solve the problems of the world" without a transformation of society. "The potential for struggles all over the world is becoming evident," he said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and World Trade Organization "are three organizations that are set up to impose the specific economic interests of the great industrialized powers," Balaguer said. "Argentina is an example of the result of these policies. In Argentina, the government tried to do what was imposed on it by the IMF."

NATO "is a political and military tool of
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1,000 march in Cincinnati: bring killer cops to justice!

BY MIKE FITZSIMMONS

CINCINNATI—More than 1,000 people turned out here for a spirited demonstration against police brutality, one year after a Cincinnati cop gunned down Black youth Timothy Thomas, igniting weeks of protest by working people in the city.

The march was an answer to an announcement by city officials that they had reached an agreement to address anger at police brutality and racial profiling. Three days earlier Blacks in Cincinnati had witnessed the spectacle of newly appointed City Manager Valerie Lemmie—now the city's highest-ranking Black administrator—bounding down the steps at city hall hand-in-hand with Police Chief Thomas Streicher in celebration at the deal, which purportedly involves a "revamp" of police procedures.

Mayor Charles Luken, who in 2001 had declared a curfew for large sections of the

Black community as protests exploded against the brutal killing of Thomas, described the deal as a "historic moment for Cincinnati."

The turnout indicated otherwise. Many youth participated in the rally and march, including more than two dozen students from Northern Kentucky University, several of whom are members of Students Together Against Racism. "This action is very positive and necessary," said Tom Fontova, a leader of the anti-racism group. "We have to recognize the injustice of Thomas's killing. It was also important that veterans of the fight against racism like Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth participated."

Cheers rang out as speakers demanded amnesty for hundreds of people arrested during the state of emergency declared by Luken in response to protests last year. The
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Reactionary bosses' 'strike' in Venezuela prepares military coup

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talist bosses, who accuse Chávez of turning PDVSA into a "political fiefdom" by appointing his allies to run the oil company, underneath the conflict lie a series of measures passed by the government that threaten the interests of imperialism and the Venezuelan capitalists and landowners.

Four months ago the Chávez government pushed through a law increasing production royalties on both PDVSA and international companies. The act required PDVSA to own a majority stake in all joint ventures with foreign firms.

The state-owned company is the largest oil firm and the fourth largest company in Latin America. When he took office Chávez scuttled a PDVSA plan, in line with the needs of U.S. imperialism, to increase revenue by doubling production. Chávez instead worked with other members of OPEC to curtail production and drive up prices.

The government also passed a law allowing for the takeover of unused land for the use of peasants, a measure that brought howls of protest from the wealthy classes.

"PDVSA has long been the hen that lays the golden egg, but today it is eating more than half of the eggs it is producing," said Venezuelan foreign minister Luis Davila, "We are trying to bring some order to this company."

PDVSA "has always been managed by a political elite," said Chávez during a radio program. "The plan is to return the oil industry to Venezuelans."

In response to the bosses' protest Chávez fired seven oil executives and forced 12 more into retirement April 7, warning that a "subversive movement in neckties" was trying to destabilize the country.

Rafael Sandra, the president of Fedecámara's oil division, said that with the firings Chávez had closed the door on reconciliation and opened the door to war. "That is what this is now, war between the people of PDVSA and the government," he said.

"This can only end with the president resigning," said Humberto Calderón, a former

minister of energy and mines, to a demonstration of bosses and administrators April 9 in Caracas, the Venezuelan capital. "All Venezuelans from all walks of life, from all social strata, from all the political and ideological sectors, must take part in the stoppage. This is about him or us. It is a choice between democracy or dictatorship."

CTV president Carlos Ortega announced April 9 that the strike would be extended by 24 hours "because there was a feeling that nothing had been resolved" by the end of the first day of the action. Representatives from the different bourgeois associations and union officials claim that more than 75 percent of private businesses, schools, and industries had been shut down.

A disruption to the flow of oil has raised some concerns among foreign capitalists, who also face uncertainty in the Middle East



Oil company managers demonstrate March 8 to bolster previous work stoppage aimed at undermining government and preparing way for coup.

and the decision by the government of Iraq to suspend oil shipments for 30 days.

Press reports indicate that the combination of the bosses' action and CTV strike has cut production at the country's largest oil refinery by 50 percent, while some other refineries

have shut down. But this has been little effect on extraction operations at oil wells. A *New York Times* article reported that two oil workers were killed at one drilling site when fighting broke out between government supporters and opposition party members.

Canadian man faces jail for sales to Cuba

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

In a first in Washington's war against the Cuban Revolution, a U.S. federal grand jury in Philadelphia convicted a Canadian citizen under the U.S. Trading with the Enemy Act.

James Sabzali, a salesman from Ontario, Canada, could face up to life in prison and more than \$5 million in fines for selling water purification supplies to Cuba while employed by a Canadian subsidiary of a U.S. company.

Sabzali, the first Canadian citizen charged with violating the U.S. embargo laws against Cuba, worked for the U.S.-based Bro-Tech Corporation, which also operates as Purolite in Canada. As an employee of Purolite Sabzali traveled to Cuba numerous times between 1991 and 1995 and sold \$2 million worth of water purification chemicals to Cuban hospitals and factories. In 1996 he moved to Philadelphia after being promoted to director of marketing at Bro-Tech.

After a five-year investigation, the U.S. Justice Department filed a 76-count indictment

against him and two other company executives. Sabzali was convicted on 20 counts and Stefan Brodie, the company president, was convicted on 33 of the 76 counts. Both men, along with company vice president Donald Brodie were convicted of conspiracy to violate the Cuban trade embargo.

Sabzali was convicted on seven of 34 charges for actions taken in Canada. He was also convicted on 13 counts of violating the embargo in his capacity as marketing director at the Philadelphia office for approving reimbursements to Canadian salesman Claude Gauthier for travel expenses to Cuba.

'Extraterritorial' claims

The extraterritorial character of the U.S. embargo laws against Cuba has added to the trade frictions between the imperialist governments of Washington and Ottawa. While hostile to the Cuban Revolution, Ottawa maintains diplomatic and trade relations with the Cuban government.

The Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, known as the Torricelli law, prohibits foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies from trading with Cuba. The 1996 Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act, or "Helms-Burton" law, allows U.S. businessmen whose properties on the island were confiscated to sue companies abroad that invest in those properties.

Sabzali explains that while in Canada he was legally prohibited from complying with the U.S. embargo under Canada's Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act.

The Canadian government has folded its arms in the case. "There has been no contact, official, or unofficial, with the Canadian government," Sabzali said the day before his trial ended.

"Mr. Sabzali knew pretty well when he

moved to the U.S. that he might run the risk of being indicted," said Canadian foreign affairs spokesman Reynald Dourin.

"That's ridiculous," said Sharon Moss, Sabzali's wife, during the trial. "That means that nobody [from Canada] who's traveled to Cuba can cross the U.S. border."

Sabzali has been barred from traveling more than an hour from his home in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, without written permission. The U.S. government holds the passports of his entire family and the deed to his house.

Cuban foreign minister Felipe Pérez Roque condemned the court verdict against Sabzali. "They have found him guilty in the U.S., put him on trial for selling Cuba resins to purify the water which goes to our schools and homes, and now he could face a sentence of up to 205 years in prison," he said.

Defense attorney Robert Welsh said that Sabzali and the two other Bro-Tech officials plan to appeal their convictions.

THE MILITANT

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Black lung benefits walk gains support

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania—"We're closing in on the last 100 miles," report Linda Chapman and Phyllis Tipton, the two women walking from Charleston, West Virginia, to Washington, D.C., to highlight the plight of widows of black lung victims who are denied federal compensation due spouses of coal miners who contract the disease.

Chapman reports that by April 8 the two will be crossing into Virginia and that by the time they reach the nation's capital on April 15 they will have walked 525 miles, 125 miles more than originally estimated.

Chapman's husband Carson died from black lung in January 2001. The Chapmans fought for eight years to be qualified to receive benefits, an ordeal that included the denial of compensation at both the state and federal level. Tipton, who has been active in the National Black Lung Association (NBLA), joined Chapman in her walk. Her husband Dick has black lung. A disabled member of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), he has been providing support for the walkers.

In Washington Chapman and Tipton will meet first with leaders of the UMWA and NBLA, the two organizations that have backed their walk. A rally is planned on April 16.

Black lung is a preventable disease caused by the inhalation of coal dust. A vigorous fight by coal miners led the federal government to implement regulations that, if followed, would mean the coal bosses carrying out measures to cut down on dust levels in mines. The struggle also won benefits for miners who contracted black lung. But changes to the black lung law in 1981 made it much harder for miners and their dependents to win benefits, and the employers are widely known to be flouting coal dust standards.

The walk, which started out from UMWA District 17 offices in Charleston on March 15, has wound its way north through rural West Virginia and the coal towns of Clarksburg, Fairmont, and Morgantown, and then on to Uniontown, one of the main towns in the southwestern Pennsylvania coalfield. UMWA rallies and press conferences to greet and support the walkers were held in Fairmont and Uniontown. The walkers received considerable news coverage in local newspapers and on television and radio stations, particularly in northern West Virginia.

Financial support for the walk has been coming in from locals of the UMWA. Local 1248 at the Maple Creek mine based in Bentleville, Pennsylvania, sent \$200, and a similar amount was contributed by Local 1948 members in Rangely, Colorado. The president of the Colorado union, Vincent Conkle, sent a letter of solidarity to Chapman and Tipton. Several UMWA lo-

cals from southern West Virginia have sent checks to the NBLA in support of the walk. Individual contributions have come from working people across the coal fields, including several in Alabama.

Days before the walk started, Chapman joined another black lung widow, Kathryn South, whose husband Mike was a former president of the NBLA, in presenting testimony before a Senate committee in Kentucky that reviewed a bill to reform state black lung laws. A final version of the reform package was approved by the Kentucky House April 1 by a vote of 96 to 0.

The efforts to reform the state law had been promoted by Democratic governor Paul Patton, the architect in 1996 of drastic cuts in the state's black lung benefits. Under the 1996 bill, payouts to coal miners plunged from \$100 million to less than \$100,000. Fewer than 2 percent of miners who filed claims received any benefits.

Under the new law more miners will qualify for retraining benefits and cash benefits, and payment levels will increase. Those whose claims were rejected under the old law can now reapply for coverage.

A focus of the law is job retraining for

miners. Miners with initial evidence of black lung but no breathing impairment, for example, can qualify for retraining benefits. The push toward retraining covers up the fact that the coal bosses have no intention of cutting down on dust levels in the mines. With safety precautions, including proper air ventilation, curtains, and water sprays, miners should be able to work a lifetime without getting the disease.

A Louisville *Courier-Journal* series in 1998 pointed to the real culprit: cheating by mine operators on federal coal dust sampling, with the result that miners work in dust at many times the acceptable federal level.

Previous efforts to reform the Kentucky law stalled before the Senate. This year, after a reform law passed the House without opposition, a revised version also unanimously passed the Senate. The Senate version sailed through after the coal operators were able to gain the removal of the measure's presumption that if a miner has 15 years of experience in the mine and has evidence of either black lung or impaired breathing, the problem is caused by coal dust and benefits should be awarded.

The coal bosses use the claim that smok-

ing could be the cause of the miner's breathing problems to drag out and deny benefits, and cover up their own culpability for the disease. State Sen. Katie Stine chimed in on the side of the coal companies, stating that the presumption clause would make the law "come awful close to an entitlement program."

At rallying points along the 525-mile walk to Washington, Chapman has emphasized the need to put the "presumptive clause" back into the law. The restoration of a similar provision in the federal law, axed as part of the 1981 changes, is one of the aims of the widows' walk.

Lobbyists for the coal bosses and the insurance industry estimate the cost of the Kentucky bill to be between \$18 to \$30 million, most of which would be for retroactive benefits for those whose claims were denied over the past six years. It is also reported that \$13 million is already available from taxes and fees paid by coal operators. This fund was slashed because so few claims were awarded and so little paid out under the 1996 law.

Tony Lane is a member of UMWA Local 1248 in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Forums send off SWP delegation to Korea

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

NEW YORK—Militant Labor Forums in four cities hosted send-off events for the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists leadership delegation to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) the weekend of April 5-7. The meetings were organized under the heading, "Oppose Washington's war threats against north Korea; Support the fight for national reunification."

Jack Willey spoke at the forum in New York's Garment District, and Steve Clark was the featured speaker in Brooklyn, New York; Newark, New Jersey; and Los Angeles. Willey and Clark are members of the SWP Political Committee. Forum supporters from San Francisco joined the audience at the Los Angeles event.

The delegation, which includes YS representative Olympia Newton, will be in north Korea for two weeks to participate in events marking two national holidays, and is part of the communist movement's response to Washington's bellicose actions and barrage of lies aimed at the DPRK.

Solidarity with north Korea is vitally needed at this time, said Jack Willey in his talk, because Washington has intensified its military threats and propaganda war against Pyongyang and the Korean working people. The U.S. rulers, he said, seek to deal blows to north Korea as an example to all those



A U.S. military policeman scans the Demilitarized Zone between south and north Korea. The visit to north Korea by the SWP and YS leaders is part of the communist movement's response to Washington's war threats and lies aimed at the DPRK.

who dare to stand up to capitalist brutality and imperialist war.

"The U.S. government takes this stance because of the long and proud history of resistance by the Korean people," first to Japanese colonial rule and then to U.S. im-

perialism, he said. The Korean workers and peasants dealt Washington its first military defeat as an imperialist power in the 1950-53 Korean War. Part of the "untold story of that war," Willey said, "was the depth of opposition to the aggression among working people in the United States."

In response to imperialist threats, he said, "communists support north Korea's preparation to defend itself by whatever means they deem necessary," including the development of missile technology and nuclear weapons. At the same time, said Willey, working people should call on Washington to normalize relations between the two countries.

The intransigent stand on the part of the DPRK in face of Washington's threats led to high-level talks between the governments in the north and south in early April. Officials announced afterward their intention to rapidly restore rail and road links between the divided parts of the peninsula, and scheduled a further round of talks.

In response to a questioner in New Jersey, Clark noted the mass support across the Korean peninsula for national reunification. The imperialists and the rulers in south Korea fear this demand, he said, noting that union battles in the south tend to become intertwined with the unification struggle. The working class has substantial weight across the peninsula, said Clark, owing to a significant degree of industrialization. Such development was originally given a boost by the Japanese capitalists as they sought to exploit the plentiful supply of labor to be found in their Korean colony.

Clark and Willey emphasized that the delegation to the DPRK will help expand the opportunities for the party and Young Socialists to bring the truth to workers, farmers, and youth in the United States about the Korean people's century-long resistance to imperialist domination and the country's bloody partition.

Korea power workers call off five-week strike

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After a five-week walkout that involved clashes with the police and government threats, the 4,000 workers employed at the state-run Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO) called off their strike April 2. The workers were demanding a halt to the government's moves to privatize the utility, as well as the planned sell-off of the country's gas and railway systems. Legislation had been passed to split KEPCO into five units, with the sale of the first section

scheduled to begin this year.

The unionists have also been fighting for improved working conditions, including a reduction in the workweek from five-and-a-half days to five days.

According to an April 3 *Financial Times* article, "Terms of the agreement that ended the strike remain sketchy and labour leaders said it could be resumed if a more formal deal was not struck."

The government backed down from their plan to fire the 4,000 striking power work-

ers, reported the *Financial Times*, but vowed to punish some of the unionists who led the walkout.

The government said that the union officials voiced their acceptance of the fact that privatization of key state-owned industries will proceed. "Any further talks between the government and unions will not include any negotiation about privatization," stated a spokesperson for the south Korean labor ministry.

In another development, Lim Dong Won, the south Korean presidential envoy, announced upon returning from a four-day visit to north Korea that the two governments had agreed to resume cross-border visits by families members. He described the new agreement coming out of these discussions with the north Korean leaders as one that would "fully revive the North-South rapprochement."

In a June 2000 summit meeting in Pyongyang, the north Korean capital, President Kim Dae Jung of south Korea and north Korean leader Kim Jong Il agreed to the reconnection of their national railroads, as well as other forms of economic cooperation.

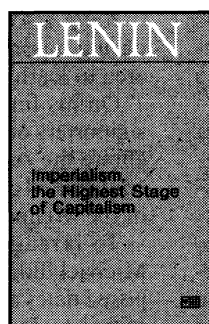
The south Korean envoy also stated that north Korean officials had agreed to resume dialogue with the U.S. government following months of growing tensions after President George Bush labeled north Korea one of the three "axis of evil" states and one of seven countries the U.S. rulers are targeting for possible use of nuclear weapons.

From Pathfinder

by V.I. Lenin

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What Is To Be Done?

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Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

'Militant' sales drive

Continued from front page

pants in the sales effort to rediscuss their goals for selling subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM* as well as *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* to reflect this change, and to send them in by April 21 to be printed in the chart for the next issue.

A central aspect of the circulation drive is building the Militant Labor Forum series. This is a key part of recruiting workers and youth who buy subscriptions and Pathfinder titles off tables in workers districts, on campuses, at plant gates, or at political events.

Socialists who work in the coal mines, at garment and textile factories, or in meatpacking plants have discussed using the sales effort to campaign against the detention of prisoners at the U.S. prison camps in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and Afghanistan, and to build support for the five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in U.S. jails.

Political developments unfolding today provide a "multitude of chances to talk socialism on the job," said socialist coal miner Brian Taylor. "Two of the five Cuban prisoners are incarcerated in coalfield states—Colorado and Pennsylvania. The *Militant* coverage on the fight against the frame-up of these five heroes of the Cuban Revolution will be of interest to miners."

Several areas have mapped out plans for the first week of the drive, which include participating in political events such as forums and protests against the Israeli war machine, joining the upcoming demonstration by widows of coal miners defending black lung benefits, selling the socialist press in workers districts and on the job to co-workers, and setting up literature tables on college campuses.

"There is a hunger among young people and workers for a political explanation on the nature of the Israeli state," said Dan Fein, who joined with some 1,300 people in a march in defense of the Palestinian people April 6. "I sold a subscription to a young Palestinian man who wanted to read the literature we had on the conflict," said Fein. "He agreed that the Israeli government needs to be overthrown, and we discussed the support revolutionaries give to the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine."

Fein said socialist workers and young socialists sold two *Militant* subscriptions, 125 papers, and \$187 worth of Pathfinder literature at the march. At a rally in Times Square the previous day they sold 38 copies of the *Militant* and Pathfinder titles totaling \$55. A hotel worker from Bangladesh who stopped by the rally at Times Square purchased a *Militant* along with a copy of *New International no. 7* that features the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq."

In Pittsburgh a demonstration in defense of the Palestinian struggle attracted 200 people, said Chris Remple, a garment worker and member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. "I sold 12

papers and one *Militant* subscription at the protest," said Remple. "One guy liked the *Militant* headline, 'U.S. must end all aid to murderous Israeli regime,' so much that he bought six copies and went through the crowd passing them out at the rally."

"A Palestinian activist we've been working with bought a *Militant* subscription after having some discussion about the slogan 'for a democratic, secular Palestine.' It takes some discussion to get at what this means, but you get a hearing from people," he said.

Ellen Berman, an auto worker in Detroit, teamed up with socialist workers in Cleveland to participate in a March for Justice April 7 in Cincinnati that commemorated the one-year anniversary of the cop killing of Black youth Timothy Thomas.

"Many people were eager to discuss a range of political questions as they looked over the books and the *Militants* we brought," said Berman. "We sold 13 copies of the *Militant* and four subscriptions. One new subscriber also purchased *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom* and *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*."

Below is a report by socialists in Sweden describing their preparations for the subscription campaign. The *Militant* has yet to receive goals for the drive from a number of areas. Participants in the circulation effort are encouraged to send in reports and pictures of sales activities, especially at plant gates.

BY ANDREAS BERGERHEIM
AND CATHARINA TIRSEN

GOTHENBURG, Sweden—We already started the sales campaign here, setting up several book tables during the week as a way to build a public forum on the Havana International Book Fair and the building of the communist movement. We set up a sales table in Angered, a working-class suburb right outside Gothenburg, where youth and working people from Africa and the Middle East were attracted to the titles we had on



Militant/Greg Rosenberg
Militant campaigners tune up for subscription drive by selling revolutionary literature to participants in Palestinian Land Day rally in Washington, D.C., March 30.

the speeches of African revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara as well as the books and pamphlets on the Palestinian struggle.

At one school in Angered, many Palestinian youth and others went on a school strike April 3 in response to the Israeli regime's brutal offensive in the West Bank. Many of them joined with other students and went to another school in central Gothenburg to confront Swedish prime minister Göran Persson who was giving an election campaign speech. Persson has stated his support for Tel Aviv many times and refused to accept the Palestinian scarf these youth wanted to give to him.

Their actions reflect the growing opposition in this country and elsewhere to the Israeli military occupation. Some 5,000 people demonstrated in Sweden in support of the Palestinian people April 7.

We sold 12 copies of the *Militant*, two *Militant* subscriptions, and three copies of

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution through our participation in the demonstration and building the Militant Labor Forum on Cuba and the communist movement. We also sold \$160 worth of Pathfinder books.

For the first week of the drive we have mapped out a plan for several days of political activity, including going door-to-door in a working-class area near Angered and a visit to Gislaved, 150 kilometers from here, where workers at the Continental tire factory have been fired. Their fight against the layoffs has included traveling to Germany where more than 100 workers protested outside Continental's main offices. Austrian workers facing the same situation also participated in the demonstration.

We will also set up a literature table at a high school where a student has asked us to come, in different working-class districts in Gothenburg, and outside the university here during the week.

Fired garment worker takes his fight for workers' rights to unionists in Pennsylvania

BY OMARI MUSA

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania—Michael Italie brought his fight for workers' rights to union members and students in Pennsylvania during a tour of the eastern part of the state in early April. Italie was fired last October from his job as a sewing machine operator at Goodwill Industries in Miami for political statements he made while running for mayor of the city on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

On the first day of the tour Italie addressed an impromptu gathering at Edinboro

State University, near Erie, hosted by the Young Socialist Organization on campus.

"My fight is one part of the fight for workers' rights today," he told the dozen participants. "The capitalists are driving to squeeze more profits out of our labor through speedup, cuts in wages and benefits, and assaults on our very dignity as human beings," he said.

The socialist worker explained that during a televised candidates' debate just days before being fired, he stated the campaign's positions against the U.S. war on Afghanistan and in defense of the Cuban Revolution. Goodwill bosses, he said, fired him explicitly for the views he expressed in the debate.

One student told Italie that she supported his fight against Goodwill, "but I'm not so sure about why we should make a revolution in this country. Why should I be a communist?"

"It is the capitalist system that produces all the horrors in society—from the bombing of civilian populations in Afghanistan to police brutality and bigotry," Italie said. "The capitalists are the source of violence, not working people. The only way to be rid of this system is for working people to construct a revolutionary party that can lead us in establishing a workers and farmers government that will disarm the capitalists and begin to build a society based on human solidarity. That's why I became a communist, and that's why you should too," he said.

At the end of the event one participant suggested passing the hat to help raise funds for Italie's fight. Those at the meeting contributed \$75 to Italie's defense committee in Miami.

The following day the socialist worker joined an April 1 rally in Uniontown demanding black lung benefits for coal miners and their spouses. The featured speakers were Linda Chapman and Phyllis Tipton, who are walking from Charleston, West Virginia, to Washington, D.C., to publicize the fight for federal benefits, and United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) president Cecil Roberts. Italie spoke with several miners and retirees about his fight.

One who had supported Socialist Workers candidate Frank Forrester in his recent run for mayor of Pittsburgh listened to Italie explain his case, including his fight to receive unemployment benefits, which Goodwill recently contested.

"These are the kinds of things the companies do when you speak out," the mine worker said. "I'm glad to hear you stood up to the company and they backed down from trying to take away your unemployment benefits."

Italie also got a chance to discuss the Israeli government's escalating attacks on the Palestinian struggle with an auto worker who used to work in the coal mines. The worker began to organize support for Italie as soon as he heard about the firing. "The media and government are trying to get us to support the Israeli attack on these fighters. We need some protests to show opposition to the war on Palestinians, just like we need protests against what's done to miners."

Italie said that coal miners' decades-long struggles for safety in the mines, health and pension benefits, and in defense of their union, were the kind of battles that pushed back the employers and expanded workers' rights in the United States. Today, he noted, the fight against political firings by the bosses and the struggle for black lung benefits "have a lot in common. Both demonstrate the attacks on workers' rights by the bosses and show that when you stand up for yourself you can score some victories."

Italie also joined Chapman and Tipton during a portion of their walk through the area to learn more about the struggle.

On his final night in the Pittsburgh area supporters organized a turkey dinner to celebrate the success of the tour. Participants contributed another \$250 toward the efforts of the Miami committee.

To arrange speaking engagements for Michael Italie in your area, please send proposed dates and events planned to the Committee to Defend Freedom of Speech and the Bill of Rights, P.O. Box 510127, Miami, FL, 33151-0127. Tel: (305) 724-5965 or E-mail: DefendFreeSpeech@yahoo.com.

Cincinnati march against cop brutality

Continued from front page

protesters also called for all police records of those rounded up to be expunged.

"We cannot turn our backs on those who took to the streets last April," said Damon Lynch III, one of the protest leaders, adding, "Police officers must go to jail when they commit crimes."

Nineteen-year-old Thomas was the 15th Black person killed by Cincinnati police since 1995. Officer Stephen Roach was acquitted last September on two misdemeanor charges for shooting the unarmed Thomas in the chest after he was chased by 12 cops to an abandoned building.

The cops claimed they pursued Thomas because he was wanted for failing to appear in court on 14 misdemeanor charges, 12 of them traffic violations, including one for not wearing a seat belt.

A month later a mistrial was declared in the case against Officer Robert Jorg, charged with involuntary manslaughter. Along with other Cincinnati cops, Jorg arrested and asphyxiated Roger Owensby Jr. on November 7. Thomas's mother and Owensby's father spoke at the rally and condemned the lack of justice in the cop killings.

Many actions, including one of 2,000 people, have demanded the prosecution of killer cops and an end to racist harassment and brutality, politely named "racial profiling" by government officials. The protests have called on the city to provide funds for

jobs, education, and housing and other improvements in majority Black neighborhoods like Over-the-Rhine where Thomas was killed.

Several Cincinnati groups have organized a boycott of entertainment facilities in the city until these demands are won. Stephen Scott, one of the boycott leaders, reminded the crowd that "the boycott continues," answering city officials who say that the highly publicized agreement—which is cast as a tentative settlement of a lawsuit against police racial profiling brought by the Black United Front and the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio—settles the matter.

The settlement, which was approved by majority votes of the Cincinnati cops and the City Council, outlines ways to monitor cop activities and communication between the police department and city residents. The U.S. Department of Justice sat in on the negotiations.

The mood of the crowd indicated, however, that people are not taken in by the settlement. Many cheered Scott's statement that the boycott will continue, and chanted and waved placards saying, "No Justice, No Peace," during the rally and march.

Echoing the fighting spirit expressed by the crowd, Charlie Hansen, one of several students who came to the action from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, said, "The turnout is great. It's creating greater solidarity in the movement for justice in Cincinnati."

Socialist miners discuss emerging movement

BY TONY LANE

ATLANTA—"In the coalfields today, socialists who are mine workers have more experience in fights that are part of an emerging social movement," said Alyson Kennedy in opening a meeting of socialist coal miners here March 23-24. The meeting was held in conjunction with a southeast regional socialist conference in Atlanta.

Kennedy, who works at an underground mine in Colorado, noted that "every month or so, there is some new development that socialist miners are a part of, as working people resist and fight back against the devastating conditions imposed by the employers. These struggles are going to continue."

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists employed at mines in the western coalfields; the southern Appalachian region in Alabama; the northeast Pennsylvania anthracite region; and the southwestern Pennsylvania bituminous underground mines participated in the meeting. They are either members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) or work at nonunion mines where they seek to build the union.

This geographic spread, Kennedy said, is a result of the communist movement reaching out to and becoming part of the working-class resistance. It means the movement "is there when vanguard workers go into action and start looking for answers to what's happening in the world," she said.

Kennedy reported that the work of the SWP branches and YS chapters in the coalfields helps show the opportunities before the movement today. "What the party does will be noticed by the fighters who will be attracted to the party. They will begin to see that we are not only effective co-fighters, but have a program and strategy for the entire labor movement—one that points to the need for a revolutionary struggle to take power out of the hands of the capitalists and replace it with a government of workers and farmers."

Among working people involved in these struggles today are many who are open to discussing revolutionary perspectives, in part because their actions already point in such a direction. "This underscores the importance of our timely response to these unfolding battles and of introducing the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, Pathfinder books, and *New Internationalist* as widely as possible," she said.

The fights discussed at the meeting included a range of actions demanding that the federal government provide benefits to coal miners who have black lung disease, along with their spouses and widows. Socialist workers at the meeting have been building support for the widows' walk from Charleston, West Virginia, to Washington, D.C., spearheaded by two women who have been involved in this struggle for many years.

Fight for black lung benefits

At the meeting, miners from Pennsylvania reported on their progress in building the April 1 rally in Uniontown to defend black lung benefits. They are talking up the walk in their union local and collaborating with co-workers to publicize the action. United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) locals in the area have voted to send funds to the march. Socialist workers at a garment shop in the area have also helped spread news of the action, including in their Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) local. Through sales of the *Militant* on the job, at portals and plant gates, and in the coalfield communities, socialist workers have broadened their knowledge of how the roots of this struggle extend into the battles by coal miners over the decades.

Frank Forrestal, a miner from Pennsylvania, explained that the widows' walk helps supporters of the fight explain the offensive by the coal bosses and "the conditions that are fueling the social movement." Widows and disabled workers have always been a part of the struggles of mine workers in the coalfields, he said, a fact that is registered



United Mine Workers Journal/Doug Gibson

UMWA striking miners at Jeddo Coal Co., near Hazleton, Pennsylvania, May 1998. Socialist miners heard descriptions of the impact of the history of mining and miners' battles in the anthracite coal mining region of eastern Pennsylvania.

in the name of the organization that was forged—the Black Lung and Disabled Workers' Association.

Kennedy reported that socialist miners in western Colorado helped build a *Militant* Labor Forum in Craig, Colorado, that discussed the widows' walk. The forum was widely publicized, including in an article in the Craig and Steamboat Springs newspaper. "It opened up discussion at work, where co-workers had read the article and asked questions about the forum," she said. A retired miner who wanted to bring information to his retirees' local meeting came into the bookstore seeking information on the widows' walk and the recent attacks on the Coal Act.

Jason Alessio, a member of UMWA Local 1984, reported on efforts he had undertaken with a co-worker to build the widows' walk. They had organized to get publicity out to their fellow miners through the union local and had also discussed how to build the walk more widely in the western coalfields.

The forum on the widows' walk was among the first events in the newly opened Pathfinder book store in Craig, Kennedy reported. The bookstore is part of expanding efforts to get revolutionary and communist literature into the hands of working people in the region. At a forum on Argentina's social and economic crisis, a former UMWA member and worker at a nearby mine—closed by the owners—asked if "similar things could happen here, and what we could do about it."

Responding to world events

Forrestal said that with the exhaustion of the war momentum built up by the U.S. rulers in the months following September 11, responsiveness is growing among coal miners and other working people in coal mining regions to what socialists have to say about world events. He pointed to the resistance of the Palestinian people against the onslaught of the Israeli regime, and Washington's frame-up and imprisonment of five Cuban revolutionaries, as two examples of questions that can be brought to co-fighters. Two of the Cuban patriots, he noted, are being held in prisons in Colorado and Pennsylvania, both coalfield states.

Other participants in the meeting noted the openings for broader political discussions with co-workers. Alessio reported how a discussion with one person about the widows' walk turned into a 45-minute exchange on questions like the U.S. assault on Afghanistan and how to strengthen the UMWA. Betsy Farley, a surface miner from the anthracite region in Pennsylvania, reported on discussions she had with co-workers. After discussing the U.S. war in Afghanistan, one asked, "Who are they still trying to kill over there?" Another bought a *Militant* after a discussion on the Iranian revolution and Bush's belligerent remarks about that country, which he named, along with Iraq and north Korea, as a member of an "axis of evil."

Farley described progress in establishing an SWP organizing committee in the anthracite coal mining region of eastern Pennsylvania. The committee was set up following a strike by workers at the Jeddo mine. Socialist workers are also employed at several garment plants in the area, where there is a history of union struggle. "The entire area

is informed and impacted by the history of mining and miners' battles," Fineas said. The organizing committee has decided to open a bookstore as a next step in its party-building work.

Brian Taylor, a UMWA underground coal miner in Alabama, recently took part in an international team of communist workers who represented Pathfinder at the Havana book fair in February. After learning that he had visited Cuba, one co-worker flashed a big smile and said, "Cuba? Socialism? Some people get nervous about that. But Cuba is a place where it's better for workers. That's why the U.S. doesn't like Cuba—they don't like the example."

Taylor reported important progress in building a fraction of coal miners in the Alabama coalfields and in establishing a workers district branch in Birmingham. A bookstore was recently opened in the area, which is directly connected to the mines through the many Black miners who live there.

The meeting discussed the ongoing fight around safety in the Alabama coalfields in the wake of the explosion that took the lives of 13 miners at the Jim Walters no. 5 mine last September. Clay Dennison, who works in a mine in the area, reported that the bosses are preparing the mine to restart production and are hiring new miners. Widows of the workers who were killed in the devastating blasts are protesting the memorial fund allocations, he said. Some have filed lawsuits

May 1 actions called for rights and legalization for undocumented

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In response to the recent Supreme Court decision denying undocumented workers back pay, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) and a host of other groups, including the National Coalition for Dignity and Amnesty for Immigrants, are encouraging May 1 mobilizations to demand "labor rights for all workers and legalization for all undocumented immigrants." The protests will include a 2:30 p.m. speakout and rally for immigrant rights in Washington, D.C., and a number of local actions around the country.

"The battle for immigrant rights has never been at a more critical moment," stated a letter sent out by Baldemar Velasquez, president of FLOC, which is based in Toledo, Ohio. The court's ruling "that employers have impunity to fire undocumented workers with no questions asked for union activity or any other reason [is a] devastating blow to all undocumented workers' ability to organize for their rights," he said.

Among the organizations sponsoring the action are the Asociación Tepeyac of New York; Carpenters Local 1554 in Hialeah, Florida; Comité Latino de Laborers International Union Local 79 in New York; Service Employees International Union; American Friends Service Committee; the Committee for Amnesty and Social Justice in Seattle; and Young Christian Workers of the U.S. in Baltimore.

"I'm really mad about the Supreme Court's decision," commented Juan Mazlymian, who is with the Comité Latino of Laborers Local 79, "It's working fami-

lies who have been attacked."

around the deaths, and one is challenging the company for violations of mine safety procedures.

In her report Kennedy said that "as we participate in struggles, we find ourselves working on an equal basis with co-fighters who act like communists but don't yet see themselves that way." This opens up the opportunity for these determined workers to draw broader conclusions about the role of the bosses' government around the world. That is why socialist workers need to place a premium, she said, on getting the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Pathfinder books into their hands on the job and through mine portal and plant-gate sales, street tables and door-to-door canvassing; building a weekly *Militant* Labor Forum series; and bringing campaigns such as the fight for workers' rights in the case of Michael Itale, the defense of the five Cuban revolutionaries framed up by Washington, and condemnation of the brutal treatment by the U.S. government of prisoners it is holding at its naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Jack Parker, a coal miner from the western coalfields, said, "being a little bit bolder is at the heart of what we need to take out of this meeting. The results will be positive." A *Militant* sales team that helped build the widows' walk forum in Colorado had sold 20 papers at portals in the area in the course of a few days, he said. At the Deserado mine the team put up signs opposing the attacks on the Coal Act and supporting the widows' walk. After driving past the team some miners backed up to find out more information or to buy a paper.

After discussing the upcoming drive to increase the long-term readership of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, the socialist workers in the mining industry voted to sell 15 new *Militant* subscriptions to coal miners, 2 *PM* subscriptions, and 10 copies of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes. They also took a goal of selling 10 copies of *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution* by Víctor Dreke.

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution, several participants pointed out, is a central part of the campaign. In its description of the Cuban Revolution and the evolution of U.S. politics, the book lays out for working people the possibility and necessity of workers and farmers joining together in a common revolutionary struggle in the heart of the U.S. imperialist empire.

The socialists plan to concentrate on selling these periodicals and books in the mines where they work in order to maximize the potential for follow-up and recruitment.

lies who have been attacked."

The coalition sponsoring the Washington action is also seeking passage of the Freedom Act. This bill provides for three-year temporary residency for undocumented immigrants who are working, with a process by which they can eventually become permanent residents; and provisions to demilitarize the border and make it easier for these workers to visit their families in their native country, according to a summary provided by FLOC.

Further information on the May 1 protests can be found on the FLOC web site at www.floc.com

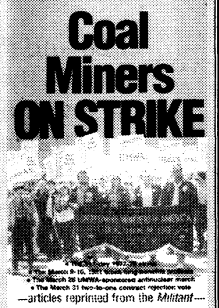
LABOR NEWS IN THE MILITANT

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Coal Miners on Strike

Articles on:
the 111-day 1977-78 strike, the 1981 strike and the contract rejection vote, the United Mine Workers of America and the fight against nuclear power, the fight for health benefits and compensation to black lung victims, and more \$5



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12

Socialist conference is gathering point for workers and youth involved in resistance

BY GREG McCARTAN

CHICAGO—A spirited Midwest Socialist Conference here the weekend of April 6-7 was a gathering point for working people and students involved in struggles against the assaults by the employers and their government. From illegally terminated meat packers at the American Meatpacking Corporation (AMPAC) to young people fresh from protests in solidarity with the Palestinian people, the weekend became a series of workers meetings to assess central world political events and to set a course to collectively act on them to strengthen the international working-class movement.

Joel Britton, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and one of five workers at the meeting who are part of the fight against AMPAC, welcomed the 146 participants to the meeting at the Casa Juan Diego, a youth center in the Pilsen community, a workers district. During a reception and dinner preceding the program participants began discussing and purchasing Pathfinder books and volumes from a special sale of the *Collected Works* of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, as well as the *Collected Works* of Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin.

Britton explained how AMPAC bosses suddenly closed down Chicago's last slaughterhouse in November, claiming they did not have to abide by the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act because they were complying with a U.S. Department of Agriculture order to shut down over unsanitary conditions. Since that time the workers have organized a protest at the plant and meetings to demand severance and vacation pay. Britton said that a press conference is planned at the Federal Building in Chicago April 17 to announce the filing of a lawsuit as part of the fight.

"Workers at AMPAC are part of a social movement against the devastating loss of jobs, pensions, and health and other benefits working people are facing in this country," Britton said. Also attending the event were SWP and Young Socialists members from across the country who are meat packers, most of whom belong to the United Food and Commercial Workers union. They met over the weekend to discuss their work in the union and industry. Members of the Communist League and YS in Canada, Iceland, and the United Kingdom traveled to Chicago for the conference.

Britton announced to cheers and applause that 2,000 people had marched that day in Chicago to condemn the murderous Israeli regime and Washington's aid to Tel Aviv. He pointed to one of the displays lining the walls of the hall on the Palestinians struggle. "One picture there from several decades ago is as true today as it was at that time," Britton explained. "The photo shows Palestinians and the wall of a building where it is written: 'We fight Israel because it occupies our land.'"

Defending their revolution

Socialist Workers Party leader Mary-Alice Waters began her presentation by reading part of a letter received by the *Militant* earlier that day from Ramón Labañino Salazar. Labañino, 38, is one of five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the United States for between 15 years and life after being

framed up on conspiracy charges by the U.S. government (see letter page 11). At their trial the five testified they were in the United States in order to gather information on the activities of counterrevolutionary organizations that have carried out violent attacks against Cuba from U.S. soil in order to know what assaults were being planned and to help defend their country against them.

The names of the five "will become as familiar to you as others in the struggle," Waters said. "Their real crime was to accept their assignment and help defend the revolution wherever that might take them. The five have been named Heroes of the Republic of Cuba," she said, the highest honor for revolutionary fighters in that country. "They are part of and on the front lines of the struggle of working people here in the United States. But their struggle and history is little known. That is where our job lies," she said.

Waters said that the 300 men kept in brutal conditions by the U.S. government at its illegally occupied naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba, are also victims of the U.S. empire. "The greatest terrorist power on the face of the earth has no right to act as judge, jury, and executioner of those in Guantánamo any more than in the case of the five Cubans," said Waters. "In the eyes of the imperialist rulers, we are all German Jews. We are all 'Muslim terrorists.'"

Waters is the editor of the Pathfinder title, *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution* by Victor Dreke. Dreke has for half a century been a leading participant in Cuba's revolutionary movement—from the struggle to overthrow the Batista dictatorship to the battle against the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary bands in the Escambray mountains of central Cuba; to internationalist missions in the Congo and active membership in the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution.

Youth and workers attend conference

BY KAREN RAY
AND JERIMIAH PASSE

CHICAGO—At the end of the two-day Midwest Socialist Educational Conference Rene Trejo was loading up with Pathfinder books. In his stack were *To Speak the Truth, Socialism on Trial*, and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*.

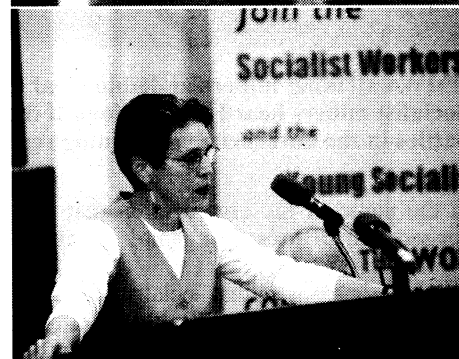
Trejo, a hotel worker, had visited the Chicago Pathfinder Bookstore for the first time the week before.

Following the discussion with socialists there, Trejo decided to come to the conference. "I thought I knew about Cuba before," he said. "I thought it was a bad place that people want to leave. But I now realize how different it is than what I had been told." He said that now he is learning about the politics of the Cuban Revolution and how the revolution made it possible for working people to organize society so that basic needs, such as health care and education, are met. "With these books I'm starting to learn more about the politics of the Cuban Revolution," Trejo said, adding that he would be attending more events in the weeks ahead.



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Speaking at meeting were SWP leaders Jack Barnes (above) and Mary-Alice Waters (left).



Not a story of the past

Dreke's book, said Waters, "is not a story of the past, but of the present and future." Waters and an international team of socialist workers and Young Socialists spent a month in Cuba in February and early March organizing Pathfinder's participation in the Havana International Book Fair. Meetings to present the new book by Dreke were held at the fair and at a subsequent series of events in several provinces.

Dreke would say to audiences, Waters explained, especially addressing the younger

generations: "We have not written this book for ourselves, but for you, who will have to go into the mountains once again to defend the revolution. That time is coming."

There is an intensifying class struggle in Cuba, Waters said, which "takes different shapes and forms than in imperialist countries where our mortal enemy holds state power. In Cuba; workers and farmers hold state power and their most important weapon is that government."

The Battle of Ideas in Cuba is a battle to win a new generation of the working class and working farmers to the side of the revolution and to slow down the inroads of counterrevolutionary forces at work due to the fact that the Cuban Revolution lives in a world dominated by capitalism. There are also growing inequalities arising from the introduction of the U.S. dollar and the "idea that comes from capitalism itself that 'me

A number of workers and young people at the meeting were attending their first socialist event, and the relaxed atmosphere and working-class political caliber of the conference sessions contributed to the extent and quality of the informal discussions throughout the weekend. Fifteen of the 146 attendees were college and high school students, while five were among the illegally terminated meatpacking workers from American Packing (AMPAC) in Chicago.

Nate Swenson, a student at the University of Minnesota, decided to come to the conference after attending a meeting for Fernando Garcia of the Cuban Interests Section on April 5. He had subscribed to the *Militant* earlier when the U.S. government launched its war on Afghanistan. Swenson said that he reads the paper cover-to-cover every week and has gotten some of his friends to start reading it. "I couldn't have done anything better this weekend," he said after the conference.

Young Socialists meeting

On Sunday morning more than 20 young people attended a meeting organized by the Young Socialists. The meeting discussed reports outlining YS campaigns and involvement in struggles such as the opposition to the Israeli war against the Palestinian people and the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine.

YS leaders Romina Green and Olympia Newton arrived at the conference Saturday night straight from Cuba, where they had participated in events commemorating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Union of Young Communists (UJC). Participants at the meeting heard reports from this trip and on plans for the YS to work with students and professors in the months ahead to plan a U.S. tour in the fall of two UJC members.

Brendon Mills-McCabe, a YS member in Seattle, thought that the conference helped him draw the links among the international struggles of working people. "Imperialism is responsible for wars and devastating the lives of workers and farmers around the world," he said. "It can only be stopped through revolution."

Eddie Moreno, one of the illegally ter-

minated AMPAC workers, said that he had never been in a fight such as that being waged by workers at the plant and that it helped him think differently about many political and social questions. Before the AMPAC fight he would not have considered attending a socialist conference, he said. "It really gives you something to think about with what is going on in the world today like with the Palestinians and in Pakistan."

Coming American Revolution

On the second day of the conference Natalie Covington, a YS member in Ohio, and Osborne Hart, the 2001 Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Detroit, presented a class on *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* by Jack Barnes. More than 40 people attended the event.

"To realize the second part of the title—the coming American revolution—youth and workers have to realize the human solidarity that is necessary to stave off the effects of capitalism," Covington said. "Through their own life experiences workers and farmers in the United States are being brought closer to workers and farmers in Cuba. Acts such as the widows' walk, where ordinary people are taking action to defend themselves, are how it starts."

Hart explained that "the Cuban revolution sets an example. As the resistance of working people in the United States grows, vanguard layers of workers and farmers are becoming more confident. By working together to build a revolutionary party today we will be ready for coming class battles."

A series of attractive displays lined the conference facilities, showing the resistance by workers and youth around the world. They depicted the Havana International Book Fair and presentations of the new book. *From the Escambray to the Congo* by Victor Dreke; protests across the United States in solidarity with the Palestinian fight and the rich political legacy contained in Pathfinder books on the anti-imperialist struggle in the Middle East; how the widows' walk for black lung benefits is rooted in decades of struggle by coal miners; and the defense of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and imprisoned by Washington.

CUBA and the Coming American Revolution by Jack Barnes

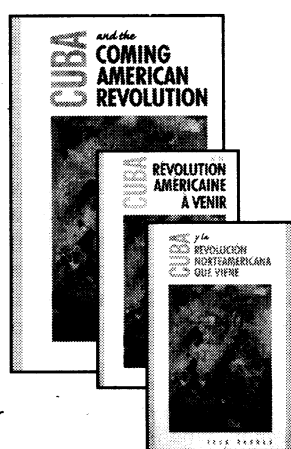
There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba

— Fidel Castro, March 1961

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is about the struggles of working people in the imperialist heartland, the youth who are attracted to them, and the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made.

Preface by Mary-Alice Waters. In English, Spanish, and French.

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and mine' rather than 'us together' can overcome."

Waters pointed to a speech presented by Cuban president Fidel Castro to the 40th anniversary celebration of the Union of Young Communists earlier in the week. Castro said that the Battle of Ideas "is not only about principles, theory, knowledge, culture, arguments, rejoinders and counter-rejoinders. It is to destroy lies and to sow truth. It is about deeds and concrete acts."

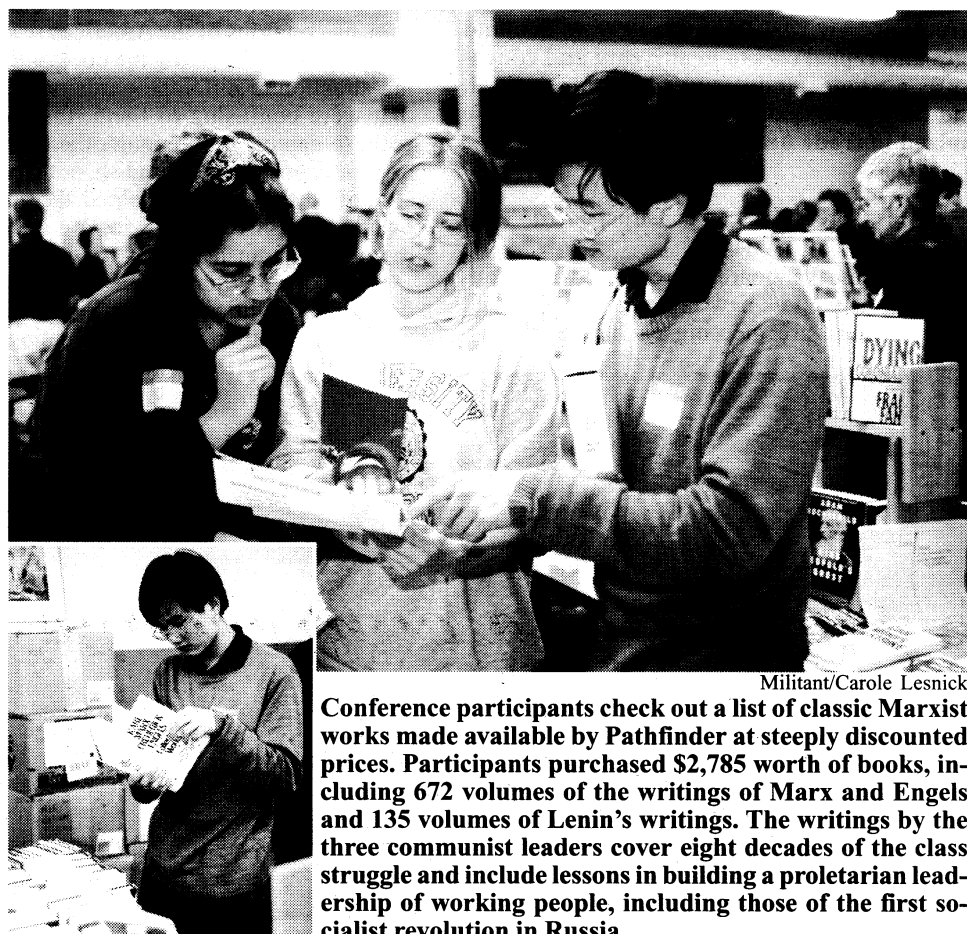
Turning to younger generations

The leadership of the Cuban Revolution, Waters said, is turning to younger generations and youth who have been among the most alienated and suffered the worst under the blows of what is called the Special Period during the 1990s, during which Cuba confronted the devastating collapse of trade and aid from the Soviet Union reinforced by the tightening by Washington of its economic embargo. The Cuban leaders, she said, are challenging the younger genera-

Linda Joyce, a volunteer in the Pathfinder Reprint Project in Atlanta. She said two tourists from Norway who happened to be visiting the La Cabaña Fortress where the book fair was being held came up to the booth to find out what was going on. "When I told them it was an international book fair they said they couldn't believe it! 'Look at how many people are here and how many books everyone is carrying around with them!' the two exclaimed."

The success of the book fair and three separate presentations of Pathfinder titles, Joyce said, added to her appreciation of Pathfinder reprint project. "These meetings were full of fighters in the revolutionary armed forces of Cuba. There was real history in the room," she said. "It drives home why the lessons of the revolutionary battles of the Cuban people of this era need to be put in print while they can still be told in first person."

In addition to turning Pathfinder books into digital files ready for printing in the



Militant/Carole Lesnick

Conference participants check out a list of classic Marxist works made available by Pathfinder at steeply discounted prices. Participants purchased \$2,785 worth of books, including 672 volumes of the writings of Marx and Engels and 135 volumes of Lenin's writings. The writings by the three communist leaders cover eight decades of the class struggle and include lessons in building a proletarian leadership of working people, including those of the first socialist revolution in Russia.

tions to help lead in finding solutions to the social and economic problems the revolution faces today.

The strengthening of the working class and increased political discussion is helping to put a spotlight on and to celebrate the real history of blacks in Cuba, the SWP leader said, which reinforces the foundation upon which the unity of the working class is based.

This campaign brings out how it was only the socialist revolution that made possible the dramatic strides forward over the past 40 years in combating institutionalized discrimination and racism. These include affirmative action measures in health care, education, and employment. They are at the center of what socialist revolution is all about, she said, and have benefited workers and farmers who are black the most.

Prior to the revolution, in the 1950s, racist discrimination in Cuba was similar to that in the United States—and more like the U.S. south. The enormous strides towards leaving behind racism and national oppression in Cuba since the revolution, Waters said, can be seen in the wide interest among working people in the country in books such as *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X Speaks) and the identification with revolutionary leaders such as Victor Dreke.

"If much of this is coming to the fore today," Waters concluded "it is a registration of the fact that Cuban revolution is moving forward and is advancing."

Central place of Pathfinder titles

"At the book fair in Havana many Cubans were drawn to the Pathfinder booth by the international character of the team and the internationalism of the books," said

printshop of the publishing house, a number of reprint volunteers work with SWP members in local areas to help distribute books to libraries, bookstores, and other outlets across the United States, Joyce explained. The increasing interest in Pathfinder titles can be seen in the results of these efforts so far this year in Atlanta. Joyce said that nearly \$4,200 worth of books have been ordered by various stores in the area since the beginning of the year.

Arrin Hawkins, a leader of the Young Socialists from Chicago who is an illegally terminated AMPAC worker, also spoke at the evening event. As part of the team at the Havana book fair, Hawkins said she was able to talk to young people from around the Americas and Africa who are studying in Cuba. "We were able to describe developments in the class struggle in the United States," she said, "and what we do as communists among working people and students. I found a lot of young people interested in the situation in Venezuela today. And I met a person who had read books by Malcolm X and identified with him as a world revolutionary leader."

The YS leader said that one young woman who visited the booth said she was "not political," but ended up staying around and carefully looking over the books. Hawkins described to her the conditions facing women in the United States, including discrimination and lack of child care. In turn, the woman explained the accomplishments of the revolution in organizing child care and the enormous difference it made in her ability to hold a job and organize her life.

Since her return from Cuba Hawkins has spoken on several college campuses and at other meetings about her experiences.



Militant/Cappy Kidd

UFCW members picket American Meat Packing Corp. in Chicago in December. Young Socialists leader Arrin Hawkins, in front, spoke at the conference.

"Many young people I talk with agree that there needs to be a revolution in the United States and are looking for a disciplined organization to join," she said.

Giving their lives to not be dispossessed

Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary, was the final speaker of the evening. He said he rose to speak on behalf of the party in response to the April 4 presentation on Israel by U.S. president Bush, who said he spoke on behalf of the people of the United States.

"Praise and honor to those who give their lives and continue to give their lives to say they will not be dispossessed and their nation will not be absorbed in the 21st century," Barnes said of the Palestinians.

Responding to Bush's assertion that "when an 18-year-old Palestinian girl is induced to blow herself up...the future itself is dying," Barnes said that when 16-, 17-, and 18-year-olds stop giving their lives in the struggle, the future of Palestine will die. "It is when the oppressed stop being willing to offer their lives—to get up every day as the Cubans say and kiss your family good-bye not knowing whether or not you will return that night—that is when the future will die. It will die with the murder by imperialism of everything that is beautiful and that is human in the world."

The Palestinian fighters are not the terrorists, Barnes said. The goal of the Palestinians is the liberation of their people. They are a people that live in the daily horror of being dispossessed of their land and homes. And then they are called upon to "negotiate" their future after the fact. The goal of the Israeli state is the death of the Palestinian people, the SWP leader said, just as the

goal of French imperialism was the death of Algerians as they held the country in colonial bondage. The death of Blacks in the United States was the goal of the racist lynchers as well.

"The president also rises in fear and in confusion," Barnes said. He pointed to the fact that several years ago the ratio of Palestinians killed to Israelis killed was 36 to 1. Today it is 3 to 1. Several years ago no Israeli armored vehicles had been blown up. Today a half track and two tanks have been destroyed, he said.

In his speech Bush urged the Israeli government to "distinguish between the terrorists and ordinary Palestinians seeking to provide for their own families." Barnes pointed out that "there is no distinction to make any more. For first time we are told that Israeli armed forces are taking stashes of water and food from Palestinians" who had stored up some supplies to maintain their families during the military occupations.

Bush urged Israeli officials to "be compassionate at checkpoints and border crossings," Barnes said, "but it is impossible for cops to be compassionate at border checkpoints of imperialist oppressors."

In Israel, for the first time, one of the best armed forces in the world of an oppressor nation is being transformed by the capitalist rulers into a repressive police force, bringing with it corruption, a breakdown in morale, and fissures within the oppressor nation. The blows already dealt to the Israeli army, he said, are destroying its fiber as a professional fighting force.

"Israel must be defeated, removed, and replaced with a democratic and secular Pal-

Continued on Page 14

Brisk sales of books that workers need

BY MARY MARTIN

CHICAGO—"I need these books because of the political activity I am carrying out with workers and farmers and youth," explained a member of the Young Socialists in Chicago. She had just purchased several volumes of the writings of communist leaders Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V.I. Lenin from a Pathfinder sales table at the Midwest Socialist Conference held in Chicago April 6 and 7.

Over the weekend Pathfinder made available to conference participants at steeply discounted prices the *Collected Works* of Marx and Engels, and the *Collected Works* of Russian revolutionary Lenin. A useful sheet listing which major works of these communist leaders was contained in each volume helped many of those attending the weekend events to pick out selected titles. Others chose to purchase the entire set of writings.

The writings by the three communist leaders cover eight decades of the class struggle and lessons in building a proletarian leadership of working people, including those of the first socialist revolution in Russia led by the Bolshevik party.

The books were rescued by a team of socialist workers in the early 1990s who happened to be in Russia. Ending any pretense at representing the continuity of the Russian Revolution after the collapse of the

bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, the publishing house that owned the volumes had begun selling them off to a pulp mill for the price of scrap paper.

Jeremiah, a young socialist member from the Twin Cities, was enthusiastic about the opportunity to purchase political books he has wanted for a long time. "I'm studying *State and Revolution* right now with other socialists," he said, referring to Lenin's pamphlet explaining the need for workers and farmers to overthrow the capitalist state and replace it with one of their own. "We will be doing many more classes in the future," he said. "So I thought, why buy just one Lenin pamphlet when I can get all the writings?" Jeremiah also purchased *Socialism on Trial* by James P. Cannon, as well as all the volumes that were available of the *Collected Works* of Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

Dozens of students and workers who participated in the conference took advantage of special sales at the Pathfinder table, which was busy from afternoon registration on Saturday through the closing class and discussion on *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* on Sunday afternoon.

By the end of the weekend participants had purchased \$2,785 in books, including 672 volumes of the writings of Marx and Engels and 135 volumes of Lenin's writings. Sixteen people purchased multi-volume sets of these Marxist classics.

'Workers underestimate what the

Preface to new edition of 'Changing Face of U.S. Politics' points to emergi

Printed below is the preface to the third edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* and the preface to the second Spanish-language edition of the Pathfinder title.

Preface to the Third Edition, 2002

A "new pattern is being woven in struggle as working people emerge from a period of retreat," author Jack Barnes pointed out in a December 1998 talk at the closing session of a conference in Los Angeles, California, jointly sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists. Working people are resisting the consequences of capitalist "globalization"—the rulers' "grandiloquent term that displays their imperial arrogance while it masks their brutal assaults on human dignity the world over." This new pattern is made up of numerous—and initially unconnected—proletarian vanguard acts, he noted. Their result is an emerging vanguard "whose ranks increase with every single worker or farmer who reaches out to others with the hand of solidarity and offers to fight together."

Under the title "A Sea Change in Working-Class Politics," that talk is the opening chapter of this book's companion volume, *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*, also by Jack Barnes. The chapter bridges the two books. The political course it lays out was discussed and adopted by the SWP's April 1999 convention in San Francisco, California.

Reading *Capitalism's World Disorder* together with this new edition of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics* will help readers see the class dynamics and political shifts that underlie this volume and make it even more valuable and irreplaceable as a handbook for revolutionary working-class organizers.

Mary-Alice Waters
April 2002

Preface to the Second Spanish-language Edition, 1999

This second edition of *El rostro cambiante de la política en Estados Unidos: la política obrera y los sindicatos* is the product of many hundreds of hours of work by numerous collaborators around the world. Their efforts have revised and improved the translation into Spanish of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Jack Barnes, published in 1994 in English, the original language in which the talks that make up this book were given.

The political changes that have marked the class struggle in the United States in



Above: more than 30,000 transit workers, teachers, construction workers, nurses' aides and other unionists march in the streets of New York May 12, 1999, to demand that city and state governments raise wages and repeal cuts to health care and education. Communists view the working class as a whole—industrial and nonindustrial, employed and unemployed, in the city and the countryside—not in the narrow sense of those industrial workers already organized in trade unions.

the short time since the first printing of the Spanish translation appeared in 1997 make the publication of this new, corrected translation even more important. The evidence continues to mount that the working class in the United States and other imperialist countries except Japan is emerging from the political retreat that followed the short but intense and brutal imperial assault on the people of Iraq in 1990–91. The outcome of that war was politically demoralizing to toilers the world over, and even more so to the soldiers and people in Iraq itself, since the bombardment and invasion went largely uncontested by the Iraqi regime, allowing the U.S. imperialist rulers to pay little price for their slaughter.

Today signs of renewed defensive action are everywhere—strike actions and resistance against employer threats, lockouts, callousness, and thievery, reflecting the tenacity of the embattled ranks; a noticeable growth in the confidence and determination of workers who are women; an increased weight of Black leadership in labor battles and struggles of working farmers; an upswing in the Puerto Rican independence movement; more actions in defense of immigrants' rights; a revival of aspects of the Chicano movement; more insistent responses to rampant police brutality and racist discrimination; youth attracted to the example of workers' and farmers' struggles, willing to link their energy and social protest initiatives to the

class forces that can construct a *livable* future for all humanity.

These vanguard currents and individuals, as well as new layers of workers and farmers, are meeting each other in the



Dockworkers in Charleston, South Carolina, defend their picket line against attack by 600 cops in riot gear Jan. 20, 2000. "Today," notes the new preface, "signs of renewed defensive action are everywhere—strike actions and resistance against employer threats, reflecting the tenacity of the embattled ranks, and an increased weight of Black leadership in labor battles and struggles of working farmers."

course of this resistance, hungry for solidarity and unity in struggle, hungry to march shoulder to shoulder, as together we strengthen and learn from each other's fights against the effects of wage slavery and debt slavery. Through the actions we are involved in, we learn to know and trust each other. We find ways to communicate, even if we don't yet know each other's languages well. We read and discuss explanations for and alternatives to the devastating future working people increasingly anticipate the capitalist system has in store for us all. More and more we become confident that as sizable sections of the massive working class in the United States go into action—as growing numbers of workers become conscious of themselves as a social class that can be an independent political force—this class will have the capacity to unite the toilers in the struggle to establish a workers and farmers government capable of leading humanity out of capitalism's profound social crisis.

The greatest obstacle we face to the realization of this liberating and revolutionary perspective is that working people who are fighting underestimate what we are actually accomplishing and what we are capable of. We don't yet recognize ourselves as the true bearers of culture into the new millennium. But these are things we will learn, together, in the course of battles that are coming.

The work embodied in this corrected translation of *El rostro cambiante de la*

política en Estados Unidos—a collective effort of many dedicated militants—would not have been possible without the economic, social, and political changes that have marked the closing years of the twentieth century. Obstacles have been eliminated that earlier would have made much more difficult, if not impossible, the kind of international collaboration that went into catching imprecise or misleading translations that marred the first printing.

The intensifying imperialist exploitation of Central and South America and the Caribbean has forced millions of workers and peasants whose first language is Spanish to leave their homes and head for the United States in search of jobs and income to sustain their families, and often to escape brutal repression. Hundreds of copies of the first printing of the book have been sold to Spanish-speaking workers not only throughout Latin America but even more so in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and elsewhere in the imperialist world. The mix of workers from more than a dozen countries of the Americas reading, studying, and discussing the book and calling attention to different words or phrases that were confusing to them, that didn't seem to capture well enough the concepts originally presented in English, or that oversimplified the original, helped the editors of the Spanish edition revise a number of the original translations.

The most important is the word *worker-bolshevik*, a political designation that originated in admiration among the fighting toil-

ers of the October 1917 Russian Revolution and was used not infrequently by Lenin. In the first Spanish translation of this book, *worker-bolshevik* was not translated as a noun—a name designating a communist cadre whose integrity and discipline, organizational functioning, class political habits and training, and milieu are proletarian to the core. Instead, it was translated as two separate words—a noun and an adjective, a *bolshevik worker* (a worker who belongs to a bolshevik party). The complexity and *class* sharpness of the Russian and English original, the fundamental political character of the individual worker-bolshevik, was lost.

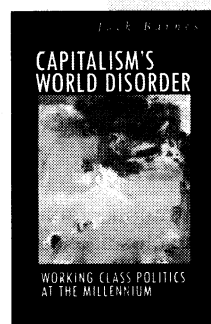
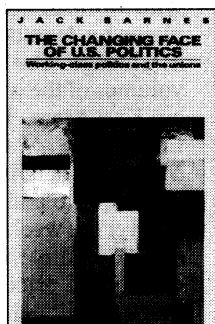
A reader in Cuba helped correct the translation of another of the words central to the politics of the book—the word *turn*, as used in the phrases *turn to industry* and the building of a *turn party*. As explained in the page that follow, the expression *turn party* describes both a party that has made the turn to industry like the one the Socialist Workers Party carried out in the late 1970s as well as one whose rhythm of work, norms of behavior, and political milieu are determined by the fact that the majority of its membership and leadership are workers who are, or who are organizing to move deeper into the proletariat as they become members of industrial trade unions. The expression is largely synonymous with proletarian party, as used historically by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party. The best presentation of

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They are capable of' being proletarian vanguard

what a turn party is, what it does, and its continuity through generations back to the 1919 founding of communism in the United States, is found in Section III of the present book, "Building a Party of Socialist Workers."

In the previous printing, *turn* was translated by the Spanish word *giro*; here it is translated by the word *viraje*, which more clearly indicates a change of direction, as opposed to the connotation carried by *giro*—revolving, turning round and round.

This new Spanish-language edition also corrects the translation of the word *worker*. Unlike in English, in Spanish there are two terms for worker: *trabajador*, which includes industrial workers as well as all others whose livelihood largely depends on selling their labor power in return for a wage; and *obrero*, which generally means only factory or industrial worker. In this corrected printing *trabajador* is generally used to translate the English *worker*, except where the context is clearly referring specifically and solely to industrial workers. The first Spanish edition had generally used *obrero*, a translation that narrowed and distorted the class forces referred to in the reports and resolutions adopted by SWP conventions and leadership bodies that make up the contents of this book.

Spanish grammar itself (or that of French, to take another example of a language into which revolutionary socialists have translated *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*) does not have an ahistorical, antimaterialist, antidialectical, nonproletarian bent substantially different from English. But the political history and traditions of the U.S. working-class movement, including the Socialist Workers Party, have created a different legacy that does have a very real bearing on political vocabulary and unclouded, even if rough-hewn, class terminology.

The English-language political vocabulary of the communist movement in the United States has been established in the struggle of the Socialist Workers Party to speak in clear class terms to working people and to peel away the counterrevolutionary obfuscations of the Stalinist and social democratic forces, as well as to eliminate various centrist pretensions and adaptations. The United States is the only country where, due to historical factors beyond any party's control (such as the fact that the United States escaped the physical destruction World War II wreaked upon the working class in Europe), communist continuity has been organizationally unbroken and comparatively strong for the last eighty years, numbers notwithstanding. The relative



Rally of 25,000 people in Buenos Aires, March 20, 2001, demanding jobs and protesting austerity moves by the government in Argentina. The "intensifying imperialist exploitation of Central and South America and the Caribbean," states the 1999 preface, "has forced millions of workers and peasants whose first language is Spanish to leave their homes and head for the United States in search of jobs to sustain their families."

workers in which they lived, worked, socialized, and practiced politics.

Another historical factor—which may at first seem contradictory—is important. The powerful ups and downs in the class struggle in Europe and Latin America, as compared to the United States, mean the political traditions of the workers movement are in fact stronger there, even if the proletarian vanguard has never been able to carve out a stable nucleus with decades-long communist continuity. So the political language that "sounds right" to workers in these countries, even those newly recruited to the communist movement, is much more heavily weighed down with Stalinist, social democratic, and centrist political content, embodied in a vocabulary that blurs class clarity and distorts historical honesty. It means that workers won to the communist movement in these countries often have more to unlearn than newly radicalized workers elsewhere—just to be able to express dialectical contradictions, materialist concepts, and, above all, revolutionary class-struggle content.

The accentuated unevenness and contradictory social combinations that mark the final historical days of the imperialist epoch are felt in many ways.

Given the growing social weight of Spanish-speaking workers, including within the imperialist countries of North America, and the fact that they compose a significant and increasing proportion of the cadre and leadership of communist parties in those countries, clarity and accuracy in translation between English and Spanish especially become a crucial part of the fight for the political homogeneity and revolutionary centralism necessary to forge a proletarian leadership powerful enough and broad enough to lead the toilers through storm and victory.

It is in that spirit that this second edition of *El rostro cambiante de la política en Estados Unidos* is published. While the translation changes affect only a small percentage of the words and phrases in these pages, readers of the earlier edition will find

that this reads like a new book. And we hope they will purchase it as readily as the new readers together with whom they will be discussing and using it as a common guide to work in the mass movement.

For the work that made possible this new translation, we express special appreciation and thanks to editors Martin Koppel and Luis Madrid, as well as to Michel Prairie, whose parallel effort on the French-language *Le*



Members of UNITE who went on strike against Hollander Home Fashions in Los Angeles last year picket in front of plant. "The growing social weight of Spanish-speaking workers," writes Waters, makes "clarity and accuracy in translation between Spanish and English a crucial part of the fight for political homogeneity and revolutionary centralism necessary to forge proletarian leadership powerful enough to lead workers to victory."

This correction breaks from a tendency, in fact a petty-bourgeois prejudice prevalent in much of the left in Latin America and Europe, to view the working class narrowly as those industrial workers already organized in trade unions, especially better-paid, "skilled" workers, rather than, as in the Bolshevik tradition, the working class as a whole—industrial and nonindustrial, employed and unemployed, in the city and the countryside.

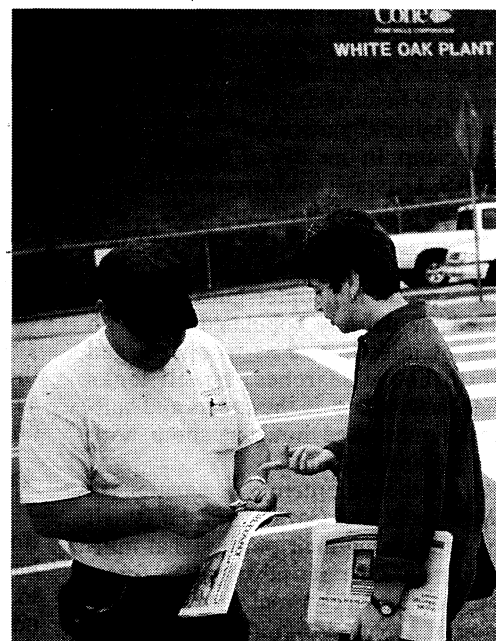
Numerous other words and phrases have also been reviewed and the translation made more politically accurate, as well as more transparent—more usable.

Time and political resources have gone into preparing this corrected translation. The effort contributes to forging a more homogeneous political cadre in which workers whose first language is Spanish can be confident that what they are reading is the same thing fellow workers whose first language is English have read—and, above all, that it furnishes the same guide to action and guide to the selection of leadership, as they work together to apply it in practice in the mass movement.

As anyone who has ever had experience interpreting from one language to another knows, translating clearly and precisely is a challenge. The obstacle, however, is not primarily linguistic. It lies in the variations in politics, history, and habits of political thought from one country to another—in other words, class traditions.

weakness of the organized communist movement throughout Latin America and Europe over that same time period means that the Spanish political terminology of our movement, like the French, has also tended to adapt to the political culture of the Popular Front "left," as mediated through the "far left" fashions in those countries.

There was an opportunity to break the mold of Stalinism, centrism, and social democracy between the early 1960s and the end of the 1970s. A small political vanguard, attracted to communism, emerged in many countries under the impact of the Cuban and Algerian revolutions, the worldwide impact of the Black struggle in the United States, the anti-Vietnam War movement, and popular proletarian explosions that reached prerevolutionary dimensions in France, Portugal, and Spain, as well as across the Southern Cone of Latin America, and then in Central America. But these currents and organizations failed to proletarianize themselves or systematically colonize the industrial unions. Without a working-class foundation and political practice, they began to disintegrate politically under the impact of the retreat of the labor movement and blows dealt by the capitalist rulers in the 1980s and early 1990s. Without being rooted in the broad proletariat, the "far left" was increasingly vulnerable to the nostrums accepted and promoted by the radical milieus of middle-class professionals and academics, union functionaries, and skilled



Socialist worker sells *Militant* at Cone Mills textile plant in Greensboro, North Carolina. Worker-bolshevik is designation of "communist cadre whose integrity, and discipline, organizational functioning, class political habits and training, and milieu are proletarian to the core."

visage changeant de la politique aux Etats-Unis, and whose systematic questioning of the author spotlighted not only translation problems that needed correction but many of the underlying political challenges that are then better addressed. The result, in short, is a better weapon for the fighting proletariat.

In New International no. 11

• U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War

by Jack Barnes

• The Communist Strategy of Party Building Today

by Mary-Alice Waters

• Socialism: A Viable Option

by José Ramón Balaguer

• Young Socialists Manifesto \$14.00

In New International no. 10

• Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War

by Jack Barnes

• What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold

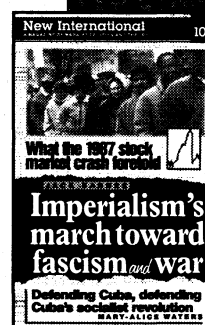
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Mass protests greet Powell in Mideast

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

From Morocco to Yemen, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets to condemn the Israeli government's murderous assault against the Palestinian people and Washington's support for the regime in Tel Aviv. Many have greeted U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell as he crisscrossed the region trying to line up leaders of various capitalist regimes in the Mideast to pressure Palestinian Authority leader Yasir Arafat to crack down on the Palestinians' determined resistance.

The public outcry against the Israeli assault by some of Washington's closest allies, including throughout the semicolonial world, has unraveled the U.S. rulers' efforts to build up a war drive against Iraq. After first backing Sharon's military moves during the first few days of the invasion, U.S. president George Bush called for Israel to withdraw its troops from the West Bank. He announced Powell's mission to the Mideast on April 4, but provided Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon with an additional week to extend the slaughter, with the secretary of state not scheduled to arrive in Jerusalem until April 11.

During the intervening week Israeli forces accelerated their assault over the entire West Bank, upping the total killed since the invasion was launched March 29 to at least 300 Palestinians, and wounding hundreds more. Some 2,000 people have been detained. Over this time 26 Israeli soldiers are reported to have been killed and many more wounded by fierce resistance put up by Palestinian fighters, particularly in the Jenin refugee camp. In one day of fighting there on April 9, 13 Israeli soldiers were killed as well as 100 Palestinians.

In the Jenin refugee camp, where 15,000 people live in tight quarters, U.S.-supplied AH-64 Apache helicopter gunships have pounded the densely populated area with rounds of missile fire as troops waged house-to-house searches. Israeli tanks crushed cars parked on the streets and bulldozers demolished houses, some with people still inside them.

Through these murderous occupations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Israeli rulers are turning their professional military force into a repressive police force. Washington provides Israel with an annual infusion of about \$3 billion a year in military and economic aid.

"Since 7:00 a.m., I have been counting about 40 rockets being shot on refugee camps," stated Najeh Jarrar, a 60-year-old college professor in a telephone interview with the *New York Times*. He said he was cowering with his wife and child between

their bathroom and kitchen. "We don't know where the bullets will fall."

Muhammad Saadi, 22, told the *Times* that he and his family were in their two-room house when an Israeli bulldozer smashed into one room. "The ceiling fell half a yard from us and we shouted to the soldiers that we were inside," he said. "They told us to come out, and destroyed the house. The house across from us was also demolished."

A 51-year-old Palestinian metalworker who was arrested April 7 and held for 24 hours at an Israeli army base reported that 25 Israeli troops using sledgehammers smashed through the wall into his brother's apartment.

Women and children who have managed to flee the camp suffer from dehydration. These residents "reported corpses collecting on the streets and water supplies running so short that some mothers were mixing baby formula with sewer water to feed their children," stated an April 10 *Washington Post* article. Similar atrocities are happening in a number of other cities in the West Bank, which have been declared war zones. Though reporters are barred from these areas, photos have appeared in the capitalist media showing the destruction of entire neighborhoods.

Israeli army officials are not allowing ambulances into the areas where they're conducting military operations, which include the Palestinian towns of Bethlehem, Nablus, Ramallah, and Salfit. "There is always a fear of terrorists being brought in and out in ambulances," stated an Israeli army official.

"I think there are no injured," said Ziad Isa, a doctor at Razi Hospital in Jenin, "after six or seven days, the injured on the street have died."

Water and food supplies are running low as Israeli troops have imposed shoot-to-kill curfews on the population. The *Financial Times* reports that some 400,000 people in the West Bank are without running water as a result of the destruction of equipment and pipes by Israeli tanks and bulldozers.

Prisoners as human shields

The young Palestinian men being rounded up by the Israeli forces are stripped, handcuffed, and blindfolded as they're taken to detention centers for interrogation. A number are being used as human shields for the Israeli troops. An article in the *New York Times* describes the example of Kamal Taleb, 43, who together with other residents was ordered at gunpoint to walk in front of soldiers as they moved from house to house, and to enter several homes as a protective shield for the troops.



Blindfolded Palestinian men are rounded up by Israeli soldiers for interrogation in Nablus. Some 2,000 have been detained, and 300 killed, during the brutal Israeli assault.

In response to a lawsuit filed by B'Tselem and three other Israeli human rights groups, Israel's Supreme Court April 7 upheld an army order denying any legal rights to Palestinians being held as prisoners. According to a *Financial Times* article, the court threw out the group's petition, which "quoted an Israeli source at the Ofer detention center as saying detainees were being subjected to torture during interrogation, including repeated instances of them having their toes broken."

The army issued an order April 5 extending the time that those detained will not have access to lawyers from eight to 18 days. "One detainee," reported the *Financial Times*, "a doctor who questioned why he had been arrested, was allegedly told: 'We don't know who is a terrorist. That's why we're arresting everybody.'"

This brutal, inhuman treatment of the Palestinian population by the Israeli military forces occurs in the midst of a hypocritical campaign by the U.S. rulers, which is hyped up in the capitalist media, that seeks to blame "suicide bombers" for the violence occurring in the region.

Powell's trip met with protests

Powell's trip to the Mideast region has been met by massive protests against Israel's occupation and Washington's complicity with it. Hundreds of thousands marched through the streets of Rabat, the capital of Morocco April 7. Their chants included, "Sharon assassin, Bush his dog."

The action, reflecting the deeply-felt sentiment of the masses of working people in the country, has forced usually pliant and pro-imperialist allies like Moroccan King Mohammad to somewhat take their public distance from Powell. Morocco was the first stop on Powell's trip, which also included Egypt, Spain, and Jordan before finally arriving in Israel. At a joint news conference,

the king posed the question to Powell, "Don't you think it would be more important to go to Jerusalem first?"

The secretary of state also met with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, whose vacation in Morocco happened to coincide with Powell's visit. According to a *New York Times* article, the Saudi monarch told Powell that "the U.S. must restrain Sharon," and that "American prestige and credibility are collapsing very quickly."

Of deep concern to the U.S. capitalist class and their pro-imperialist backers in the region is their fear that the very moves undertaken by Israel to crush the Palestinian resistance will instead result in deeper protests and radicalization throughout the area. The operation undertaken by Israel, Powell told NBC's "Meet the Press" before embarking on his mission, "opens us up to new instabilities and new insecurities and new threats in the long term for Israel and the region."

Adnan Abu-Odeh, a former adviser to the king of Jordan, more specifically pinpointed the rulers' problem. "You don't know what will happen," he stated. "There is an accumulation of grievances, one against Israel and America and one against the Arab regimes."

In Jordan, where the majority of the population is Palestinian, there have been a growing number of demonstrations in solidarity with the Palestinians' fight. Reflecting the pressures they're under, Queen Rania and two other princesses felt the need to place themselves in the front of one such action of 2,000 people in the streets of Amman. During the first week of April about 200 demonstrations took place in Jordan.

Some 300,000 people participated in a demonstration in Yemen, in the capital city of Sana. Another sizable action took place in the port city of Aden where the local authorities killed one of the protesters.

Coinciding with Powell's visit to Egypt, demonstrations erupted in Cairo, Alexandria, and Tanta. At the University of Alexandria, a march by some 7,000 students was attacked by the police, who fired buckshot, tear gas, and water cannons. At least one student was killed and more than 100 others injured.

Even in Bahrain, where the U.S. Fifth Fleet has its headquarters, protests have erupted. A 24-year-old hospital worker was killed with a shot to the head during one such demonstration by the U.S. embassy there. Demonstrators also took to the streets in Kuwait over the course of several days to protest Israeli military action in the Palestinian territories. Even the government in Turkey, one of Israel's strongest allies, felt compelled to issue a statement demanding that "the tanks should turn back now."

In a gesture toward the Bush administration's call for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian towns, Sharon announced a pullback April 8 from the West Bank towns of Qalqilya and Tulkarm. Israeli tanks and armored vehicles, however, continue to maintain a tight blockade around both towns. Powell said that this withdrawal was not enough. He also announced that he plans to meet with Arafat in Ramallah, with or without Sharon's consent.

Sharon has informed the Israeli parliament that his plan is for the military to withdraw to "buffer zones" between Israel and the West Bank. These zones, the planning of which has been in the works for awhile, will involve Israel annexing areas that include dozens of Palestinian hamlets. According to one estimate, about 400,000 Palestinians would fall under permanent Israeli jurisdiction if this plan is implemented.

U.S. protests demand 'end the occupation!'

BY PATRICK O'NEILL
AND SARAH KATZ

NEW YORK—"Free free Palestine, end the occupation now," chanted some 1,300 protesters in New York April 6 as they marched across the Brooklyn Bridge. The march and rally, which were sponsored by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and a number of other organizations, called for an end to Israeli occupation and to all U.S. aid to Israel.

Two thousand people mobilized in Chicago the same day, marching to the Federal Building to condemn the Israeli brutality against the Palestinians and Washington's support for the regime in Tel Aviv.

Across the country, on college campuses, at street protests, and during sidewalk picket lines, these and similar actions drew the largest participation of supporters of the Palestinian struggle in many years. Young and spirited, they reflected the determination of the fight for Palestinian self-determination.

At the New York action a number of people said they decided to participate in the march after learning about it from television and radio; others joined as they saw it go by. Shah Jahn, a hotel worker in New York who was born in Bangladesh, was one of those who helped bolster the demonstration. He printed a sign that read, "Israel should give them back the land, Palestine should have peace," and told *Militant* reporters that "the Palestinian struggle is a struggle

for land and they live in such humiliation and fear every day, they have nothing else to lose." Many others also carried their own placards. One read, "One country with equal rights for all."

Around 1,000 people held another protest on the same day at Union Square in midtown Manhattan. The previous day, thousands turned out for protests in Manhattan and Brooklyn. "Israel, you should know, Palestine will never go," chanted protesters in Times Square. "We don't have anything against Jews as Jews, only the Zionists who kill Palestinians," said Abdul Ali, a 22-year student who joined the rally at Brooklyn's Borough Hall.

The protests sparked discussions among participants and observers. The *New York Times* reported that workers "leaving Midtown office towers lingered in Times Square longer than usual" during the April 5 rally there. "I came to see what the message was and to see who was participating," said Sattara Lenz. "I would like to see people stop killing each other, and I need to know more."

While many motorists honked their support and pedestrians waved encouragement to the protesters, others made their disagreement known.

Hundreds and sometimes thousands of people have turned out for actions in Atlanta; Dearborn, Michigan; Houston; Los Angeles; San Francisco; northern New Jersey;

Columbus, Ohio; Philadelphia; Seattle; Washington, D.C.; and elsewhere to express their solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. As in New York, Palestinian immigrants, many of them young, have frequently played a leading role in the protests.

On April 5, 500 people rallied in front of the Bricker Federal Building in Columbus, Ohio, in an action organized by the Muslim Student Association and the Committee for Justice in Palestine. The day before, more than 500 people gathered outside the Israeli embassy in Washington carrying signs and banners reading, "Israel out of the occupied territories." The protest followed by less than a week a solidarity march of 3,000 people in the capital.

According to the New Jersey *Star-Ledger*, a coalition of mosques and Muslim groups coordinated protests involving hundreds of people in the northern New Jersey cities of Paterson, Jersey City, and Teaneck. The paper described the police presence as "heavy, with Passaic County sheriff's officers filming the protest from a rooftop and black-clad federal security agents watching from atop the federal building." Participants in the New York protests noted a large and aggressive police presence as well.

Laura Anderson in New York, Janice Lynn in Washington, D.C., and Paul Coltrin in Columbus, Ohio, contributed to this article.

Palestinian struggle for self-determination

Reprinted below are excerpts from "Israel and the Arab Revolution," a resolution adopted by the Socialist Workers Party at its 1971 national convention. The complete text can be found in the Education for Socialists booklet entitled "Israel and the Arab Revolution: Fundamental Principles of Revolutionary Marxism." Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*. Footnotes are in original.

1. The Socialist Workers Party gives unconditional support to the national liberation struggles of the Arab peoples against imperialism, that is, we support all these struggles regardless of their current leaderships. Our foremost task in implementing such support is to educate and mobilize the American people against U.S. imperialist actions in the Mideast.

2. Israel, created in accordance with the Zionist goal of establishing a Jewish state, could be set up in the Arab East only at the expense of the indigenous peoples of the area. Such a state could come into existence and maintain itself only by relying upon imperialism. Israel is a settler-colonialist and expansionist capitalist state maintained principally by American imperialism, hostile to the surrounding Arab peoples. It is an imperialist beachhead in the Arab world that serves as the spearhead of imperialism's fight against the Arab revolution. We unconditionally support the struggles of the Arab peoples against the state of Israel.

3. The principal victims of the creation of Israel were the Palestinians—i.e., the Arabs who inhabited the region where Israel was established, who have been driven from their homes or placed in subjugation within Israel and the newly occupied territories. The Palestinians are a part of the Arab peoples, but they also form a distinct national grouping, with its own history of struggle against imperialism.

There were Palestinian uprisings in 1921, 1929, and during the 1930s, reaching a high point in 1936–1939. At the height of the 1936 rebellion, the Palestinians conducted a six-month general strike. Expulsion from their homeland through the creation of Israel greatly intensified national consciousness among the Palestinians. The upsurge of Palestinian nationalism in the recent period, especially after the 1967 war, was particularly marked in the refugee camps and newly occupied territories as a result of the direct oppression these people have suffered at the hands of Israel. The September 1970 civil war in Jordan further intensified Palestinian national consciousness.

A democratic, secular Palestine

The struggle of the Palestinian people against their oppression and for self-deter-

mination has taken the form of a struggle to destroy the state of Israel. The currently expressed goal of this struggle is the establishment of a democratic, secular Palestine. We give unconditional support to this struggle of the Palestinians for self-determination.

An integral part of our program for the Palestinian revolution and the Arab revolution as a whole is support of full civil, cultural, and religious rights for all nationalities in the Mideast, including the Israeli Jews. The major Palestinian liberation organizations also advance this concept and view it as essential to their attempt to win the Israeli Jewish masses away from support to Israel.

4. Our revolutionary socialist opposition to Zionism and the Israeli state has nothing in common with anti-Semitism, as the pro-Zionist propagandists maliciously and falsely assert. Anti-Semitism is anti-Jewish racism used to justify and reinforce oppression of the Jewish people. Marxists have been and remain the most militant and uncompromising fighters against anti-Semitism and the oppression of Jews.

The source of the oppression of the Jewish people in this era is the capitalist system, which in its period of decay carries all forms of racist oppression to the most barbarous extremes. This was horribly illustrated in the holocaust directed against the Jews of Europe by German imperialism under the Nazi regime. Today, anti-Semitism remains widespread in all of the Western imperialist countries. Until the capitalist system is abolished in these countries there is the ever-present danger that a new variety of virulent anti-Semitism can arise.

In the Soviet Union and the workers states of Eastern Europe the privileged Stalinist bureaucracies perpetuate and reinforce many forms of racism and national oppression inherited from the previous capitalist era, including anti-Semitism and oppression of Jews. In these countries a political revolution is needed to sweep away the reactionary bureaucracies and institute the norms of proletarian democracy, equality, and internationalism.

In the colonial and semicolonial countries, including those in the Arab world, the bourgeois regimes perpetuate and foster racism and oppression against national minorities, including the indigenous Jewish population. Only when the colonial and semicolonial countries win complete national liberation, through the process of permanent revolution culminating in a socialist revolution, can the oppression of these national minorities be ended.

The struggle against anti-Semitism and the oppression of Jews is part of the struggle to abolish all forms of racism and national oppression. This struggle can be fully and finally won only in alliance with all the op-

publications.

The worldwide monopoly on news today means that, under the much-touted and hypocritical slogan of "freedom of the press," they impose on everyone only the version of the news that benefits the big corporations and groups in power, rejecting all other kinds of contrary opinions. You are demonstrating the tremendous importance of the beautiful work you are carrying out in face of this news giant that today is attempting to devour the universe and erase from the earth ideas such as truth, dignity, courage, and justice.

It should be known that, wherever we find ourselves and whatever the circumstances, we will continue our battle on behalf of Cuba and the beloved people of the United States for the right of our two sister peoples to live in peace, friendship, and love, to be free from the horrible deaths caused by terrorism, whether from the Cuban extreme right or from a state that seeks to take war to every corner of the world. I raise my voice once again: No to terrorism and no to war!

I am certain that, sooner rather than later—with the solidarity and support of the people of the United States, of the peoples and men and women of good will in the world, to whom we appeal as the only supreme and truly impartial judge—we will win this fight for our freedom, for truth and human dignity, and we will be able to embrace you as an expression of our affection, respect, and admiration.

In solidarity,
s/Ramón Labañino Salazar



Palestinians and Jews demonstrate in Tel Aviv against occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip by Israeli forces.

pressed of the world.

Zionism is not, as it claims, a national liberation movement. Zionism is a political movement that developed for the purpose of establishing a settler-colonialist state in Palestine and that rules the bourgeois society headed by the Israeli state today in alliance with world imperialism.

Zionism does not represent or promote the interests of the Jewish people. Within Israel, the Zionists lead the Jewish masses into the trap of opposing the national liberation struggle of the Arab peoples, a just and democratic struggle that will ultimately be victorious.

The racist oppression of the Israeli state against the Arabs is paralleled by racist oppression within Israel against Jews who come from the Arab countries and other colonial and semicolonial countries. Israeli capitalism exploits the Jewish workers in addition to superexploiting the Arab workers. Police repression against Arabs carries over to increasing repression against those Jews who oppose Zionism. Clerical restrictions on civil liberties affect Jews, and Arabs even more.

The Zionists promulgate the lie that to be Jewish is to be a Zionist, and therefore a supporter of Israel and imperialism. They thus make it easier for racist demagogues in other countries to foster anti-Semitism among the masses. The Zionists and their imperialist allies, who were incapable of fighting for the

salvation of the Jews against Nazism, are incapable today of defending the interests of Jews where they are oppressed.

Cynically utilizing the crimes of the Nazis as a pretext, and with the complicity of the Soviet bureaucracy and the Stalinist movement, the imperialists and Zionists created the state of Israel at the expense of the Palestinians, who had nothing whatsoever to do with the Nazi crimes. Portraying the victim as the criminal, imperialist and Zionist propaganda now attempts to equate the Palestinian goal of national liberation with the barbaric genocidal actions of the Nazis. One of the factors enabling the imperialists and Zionists to make this false comparison is the widespread racism against the Arab peoples that exists in Europe, North America, and Israel.

The imperialists and Zionists to the contrary, the basic interests of the Jewish masses of Israel reside in alliance with the Palestinian liberation struggle and support of the goal of a democratic Palestine. We have incessantly warned Jews throughout the world: Zionism leads you into conflict with your potential allies—the oppressed of the world—and has led you to ally with your worst enemy, imperialism. Imperialism in its death agony has already led to one holocaust against European Jewry; it can inflict similar catastrophes again unless it is overthrown in time by the mass force of the socialist revolution.

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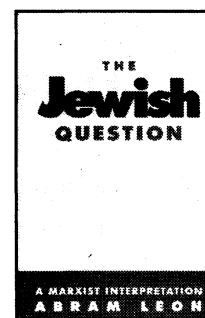
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'We will win this fight for our freedom'

Printed below are excerpts from a letter from Ramón Labañino Salazar one of the five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and convicted last June in a federal court in the United States on a series of conspiracy charges. These included conspiracy to act as an unregistered agent of a foreign power, to commit espionage, and in one case, to commit murder. The other four prisoners are René González, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, and Gerardo Hernández Sanchez.

The five were given draconian sentences from the federal judge ranging from 15 years in prison to a double life sentence. Along with the Cuban government, the five explained they were carrying out a revolutionary mission to defend their country by gathering information on the activities of counterrevolutionary groups that operate on U.S. territory to launch violent attacks on Cuba. These groups have a long record of such activity and do so with complete knowledge and complicity of the U.S. government.

Beaumont, Texas

March 30, 2002

Dear Compañero Martín Koppel,

You honor us greatly not only by sending us subscriptions to the weekly *Militant* and to *Perspectiva Mundial* but by your defense of our cause, the cause of Cuba, and calling for our release.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you as well as compañero Greg McCartan and all our friends, brothers, and sisters who in some way help and make possible such

Founding of UJC is celebrated in Cuba

Continued from front page
the United States," he said. "It has become an instrument of pressure on U.S. allies. The policies of the United Nations Security Council are determined by the nations with veto power. All of these institutions are being manipulated by the U.S. government to reinforce its domination."

Balaguer said that the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, which he condemned, gave Washington "an excuse to carry out its prerogative for military domination. The U.S. government has said that Israel has the right to defend itself. This is a twisted concept of defense. It is a war of an invading army using assassinations, bombs, and tanks," he said of the Israel regime's assault. The Cuban leader expressed the solidarity of the Cuban government with the struggle of the Palestinian people, a stance reiterated by UJC leaders.

In the face of four decades of imperialist aggression, "we in Cuba have the right to defend ourselves," Balaguer said. "Ours is not the war of a professional army, but a

battle of the whole nation, an army of the people. It will be our enemy's greatest nightmare if they try to disembark here," he said, and pointed to the example of the defeat of U.S. imperialism during the 1961 mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

Later that day Otto Rivero Torres, the first secretary of the UJC, addressed a celebration at the palace of the Cuban high school federation, FEEM. Hundreds of youth from every province in Cuba were inducted into membership of the UJC at the event.

Rivero reported that the youth organization recruited 95,000 youth in 2001, a result of the advances being made in the revolution and the political campaign led by the Communist Party and the UJC known as the Battle of Ideas. The campaign includes educational and work programs directed at raising the political consciousness and broadening the cultural horizons of every Cuban, thereby winning more Cuban people to revolutionary activity.

Most of these recruits, Rivero noted, are involved in various programs organized as

part of this battle, such as the new schools for revolutionary social workers, crash training courses for elementary school teachers, and the establishment of local computer clubs across the island. Since the beginning of the year 20,000 youth have joined the UJC, while in March, 93 percent of the members of the organization attended their monthly local membership meetings. This pointed to the increasing seriousness of the UJC, he said.

International sports training program

Participants in the 40th anniversary activities spent several hours at the International Sports School outside Havana. The director of the school said that the institute was founded in response to the fact that at the last Pan-American games, held in Ottawa, Canada, the vast majority of the medals went to athletes from Canada and the United States. The lopsided results reflect the fact that underdeveloped nations do not have access to the training and facilities needed to compete on an equal footing.

The school's mission is to educate young athletes from all over the world to be sports teachers, trainers, and coaches so that they can return to their countries and train others to excel. The rigorous curriculum includes required courses in Spanish, English, history, biological sciences, and any combination of 42 different sports.

Some 1,500 students from 65 different countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean attend the school, which was opened last year. The student body is 60 percent male and 40 percent female, with an upper age limit of 25 years.

Delegates also visited two centers for research on vaccines. Dr. Franklin Sotolongo, the director of applied scientific-technical assistance at the Finlay Institute for research on vaccines, explained how a little over a decade ago scientists at this center developed a vaccine for Meningitis B in the course of 16 months. "Once the vaccines were approved the Cuban government sponsored a massive vaccination campaign for people from the ages of 3 to 24. And once meningitis was controlled in Cuba, we sent the vaccine and hundreds of doctors to 19 different countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, and Syria," he said.

"This campaign could not have been carried out by any other country," Sotolongo said. "We succeeded in developing and using the vaccine so quickly through our po-

litical will and determination, the support of the government, and the level of education that scientific researchers receive in Cuba."

50,000 attend celebration

More than 50,000 young people attended the central activity of the anniversary celebration, which was held at the Karl Marx Theater on April 4. They included delegates from the UJC, FEEM, the Federation of University Students, and the José Martí Pioneers Organization. There were sizable uniformed groups from the armed forces, the national police, and the Cojimar School of Social Work. The families of five Cuban revolutionaries framed up and imprisoned by the United States government were among the guests at the event.

President Fidel Castro addressed the crowd. "The Union of Young Communists was born in the period between the invasion at the Bay of Pigs and the October Crisis of 1962, when the world was on the brink of a nuclear war," he said. "Our heroic people did not vacillate or recede or waver a single millimeter in its ideas and principles during that time. In that tense and glorious epoch, our combative youth rose up as an organized force and a bulwark of patriotism."

Deeds and concrete acts

Castro explained that 40 years ago the discussion among young revolutionaries in Cuba about why to adopt the name Union of Young Communists helped to forge the political character of the UJC as a vanguard proletarian youth organization. The 40th anniversary of the UJC takes place at a time "when our people are involved in the greatest battle of ideas that it can engage in," he said. "But the battle of ideas is not only about principles, theory, knowledge, culture, arguments, rejoinders, and counter-rejoinders. It is to destroy lies and to sow truth. It is about deeds and concrete acts."

The evening was capped off by a party at the José Martí anti-imperialist tribunal, a plaza used for mass mobilizations in Havana that is located in front of the U.S. Interests Section. Several Cuban bands performed music ranging from rap, to rock and roll, to salsa. Thousands of UJC delegates from all over the country, the majority of them wearing the uniforms of their schools, social programs, or branches of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, celebrated the revolutionary anniversary by dancing well into the night.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

From Palestine to the Coalfields of the United States: Working People Resist Imperialism. Speaker: Norton Sandler, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member. Sat., April 13, 5:30 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. program. *Phillips Temple Church, 973 E. 43rd Street. Tel: (323) 233-9372.*

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Free the Five Cuban Revolutionaries Imprisoned in U.S. Jails. Speaker: Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 12, 7:30 p.m. *506 Springfield Ave., 3rd Floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (973) 643-3341.*

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

For a Democratic Secular Palestine; Why Israel is a Death Trap for the Jews. Speaker: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., April 12, 7:30 p.m. *372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) Donation: \$5. Tel: (718) 567-8014.*

Garment District

The Fight against Police Brutality. Speaker: Maurice Williams, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Newark. Fri., April 12, 7:30 p.m. *545 8th Avenue, 14th Floor. Donation: \$4. (212) 695-7358.*

Upper Manhattan

Free the Five Cuban Revolutionaries Imprisoned in U.S. Jails. Fri., April 12, 7:30 p.m. *599 W. 187th Street, 2nd Floor. Donation: \$5. Tel: (212) 740-4611.*

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

End U.S. Aid to the Israeli Regime; For a Democratic, Secular Palestine. Fri., April 19,

7:30 p.m. *5237 N. 5th Street. Tel: (215) 342-7020.*

TEXAS

Houston

The Working-Class Alternative to the Democrats and Republicans: Hear Socialist Workers Congressional Candidate. Speaker: Anthony Dutrow, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress, 18th District. Sat., April 20, 6:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. program. *619 W. 8th St. Tel: (713) 869-6550.*

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Venezuela: Behind Washington and the Bosses' Moves to Oust the Chávez Government. Sun., April 21, 4:00 p.m. *1st floor, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie. Donation: \$4. Tel: (02) 9718-9698.*

CANADA

Vancouver

Oppose Washington's War Threats against North Korea: Support the Fight for National Reunification. Fri., April 19, 7:30 p.m. *2645 East Hastings, 2nd Floor. Tel: (604) 872-8343.*

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SWEDEN

Stockholm: Domargränd 16, S-129 47, Hägersten. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: 100416.2362@compuserve.com

CALENDAR

Widows' Walk to Demand Black Lung Benefits

April 16 — Final protest rally at the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

For more information, contact Kanawha Valley Black Lung and Disabled Workers Association at (304) 595-2280. Funds for the widows' walk can be sent and made out to NBLA c/o Thomas Ellis, P.O. Box 632, Royaltown, IL 62983.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Stop the Bombing: National Vieques Summit for Peace with Justice. Fri., April 12, 8:00 p.m. Fund-raiser and cultural event. *1199 SEIU Martin Luther King Jr Labor Center, 310 W. 43rd Street. Sat., April 13, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street, Bronx. Tel: (212) 348-8004.*

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Public Meetings to Hear Otto Rivero, Cuba's Minister for Youth, First Secretary of the Union of Young Communists Both events Thurs., April 18. 1:00 p.m. *Biomed Lecture Theatre A, University of N.S.W., Kingsford. 7:00 p.m. Room 33, Trades hall, 4 Goulburn St. Tel: (02) 9698-8119.*

No shredders needed—A significant number of U.S. companies are dodging corporate taxes by registering their headquarters in Ber-

pays Bermuda a yearly \$27,000 tax and saves some \$40 million in U.S. taxes.

Fairly plain talk—“Is it the right time to be migrating a corporation’s headquarters to an offshore location? And yet, that said, we’re working through a lot of companies who feel that it is, that just the improvement on earnings is powerful enough that maybe the patriotism issue needs to take a back seat to that.”—Kate Burton, corporate tax wheeler dealer.

Not banging on gates??—“We haven’t installed a ‘take a number’ booth outside our recruiting sta-

tions”—Rear Admiral George Voelker, head of naval recruitment.

Sip slowly—Federal specialists are scratching their heads about the extent and danger of poisonous compounds building up in rivers and other drinking water sources as a result of compounds being flushed down the drain every day.

Makes sense—Federal scientist Kathy Lee acknowledges the amount of contaminants are low, but little is known about their impact. She observes: “You don’t know what low means.”

Got to do his number—“I pray

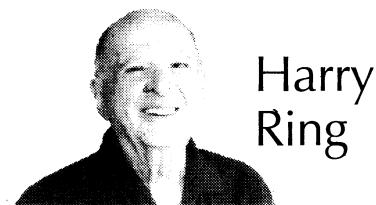
lord, help the great state of Colorado to be a leader. A real leader...even to reverse the *Roe v. Wade* so we can stop the killing and murder of the innocent little babies.”—Rev. David Meek. He was tapped to render the morning prayer at a session of the Colorado state senate.

Well-managed care—“Among 15,578 who sought care in an urban emergency room, Blacks were 1.5 times more likely to be denied authorization by their managed-care providers.”—Institute of Medicine.

Never too late to learn—We

were convinced early on that it takes a lot more than civilian surveillance to curb police abuse and brutality. But we also agree that Virginia Salazar, 73, an activist in Denver’s CopWatch, seems to have gained some good insights. She told a local reporter: “I’m a community activist. I used to be establishment; Now I’m a rebel.”

Book of records—All the above items were based on clippings sent in by readers. The one immediately above was from a steadfast Denver reader. You can do likewise. Send clippings to: Great Society, Pathfinder Books, 4229 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA. 90011.



Harry Ring

muda. The island’s government is notoriously corporate taxpayer friendly. No need for a dummy office. Just someone to accept your mail. Like, Ingersoll-Rand now

‘Revolution shaped young rebel into leader’ Reviewers recommend ‘From the Escambray to the Congo’ by Víctor Dreke

The following review of *From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution*, by Víctor Dreke, was published in the March 10 issue of *Granma Internacional*, the weekly edition of the daily *Granma*, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba.

BY PEDRO A. GARCIA

He joined the Cuban revolutionary movement when he was just a teenager. The streets of the city where Víctor Dreke Cruz was born were the initial scene of his struggles; later the location changed to the Escambray mountain range in central Cuba, when he became a member of the guerrillas belonging to the Revolutionary Directorate who were operating in that area. Later still, he went to Africa to support the continent’s fight for liberation.

Víctor Dreke Cruz’s life has encompassed almost 50 years of revolutionary struggles

in different latitudes. His eyewitness account is now being published in a full and insightful interview by Pathfinder publishers in *De la Sierra del Escambray al Congo* (*From the Escambray to the Congo*), and was recently presented at the 11th International Book Fair in Havana.

The pages tell of Dreke’s evolution from a restless student who saw his country once again fall under military dictatorship via a coup d’état which installed the bloody tyranny of Fulgencio Batista, with the blessing of the United States.

Like many young people, he was ready to die “without knowing anything about revolution.” That very same Revolution would soon shape him into a political leader and teacher of revolutionaries.

Those were unprecedented times—it was the first revolution in Latin America that was carried out “against a national army.” In the book, Dreke describes his flight from the

repressive forces inside a wardrobe and a comrade’s rescue from a trial in Santa Clara, one of Cuba’s largest cities.

Other moments also capture the reader’s attention: the guerrillas’ fight in the Escambray; taking cities; being with Che [Guevara] and the others in the Sierra Maestra; the Bay of Pigs and the invaders’ tremendous defeat; returning to the Escambray to prevent those mountains from becoming the bastions of the CIA and the groups it organized and financed.

The book dedicates a chapter to Africa, [including] Dreke’s experiences together with Che in the Congo and Amílcar Cabral in Guinea-Bissau. Readers will find illuminating corrections to the accounts of some people who have tried to distort that history.

De la Sierra del Escambray al Congo is a necessary and timely book and a valuable eyewitness account of Cuba’s most recent history.

Book a ‘must read for African Canadians’

The following review was posted to a Black Radical Congress Internet discussion group.

BY NORMAN (OTIS) RICHMOND

From the Escambray to the Congo: In the Whirlwind of the Cuban Revolution by Víctor Dreke is a must read for African Canadians. This compact volume is chock-full of information about what makes a Cuban a Cuban. This book shows how practical experience and study can change the consciousness of people. It captures the life of Dreke, a veteran African Cuban freedom fighter. Dreke has been a revolutionary for a half century—first as a high school rebel, a cadre of the July 26 Movement to internationalist combatant at the side of Ernesto “Che” Guevara in the Congo, a political leader, an educator, and representative of the Cuban revolution throughout Africa.

Dreke’s story is a tale of a Black Cuban’s rise from being politically “deaf, dumb and blind,” to a Pan-Africanist and internationalist. He ironically explains that his father once told him: “Don’t get involved in anything. My father wasn’t for Batista, (Fulgencio Batista came to power in Cuba on March 10, 1952 in a coup) he was against Batista. But he didn’t believe in anyone. ‘Don’t join anything,’ he’d say. ‘Things will always stay the same. One side wins now, the other side wins later, and the ones with money will always be in power. Study and get an education and don’t mess with strikes or any of that. It won’t get you anywhere. Besides, that stuff’s not for Blacks.’”

Fortunately, Dreke didn’t listen to his father. Dreke chose to ignore his dad and fight against injustice. He confesses in the book, “We were ready to die to bring down Batista, but we didn’t know the first thing about revolution.” The 65-year-old Dreke comes from Escambray, a large mountainous region in the middle of Cuba. In this part of Cuba, Africans were in the minority and this was a politically weak area. It was a stronghold of the counterrevolution. Dreke was recruited to help drive out the CIA-backed bandits.

After helping oust the bandits from his home turf, he made his way to the Congo to help the followers of the democratically elected Patrice Lumumba. International and

local forces, including the CIA, murdered the Congo’s first president on January 17, 1961. From April to November 1965, Dreke was second in command of a company of 128 Cuban volunteer fighters in the eastern Congo. Argentine-born Guevara was in charge of the Cuban delegation. The Cubans were there at the request of liberation forces (including a 26-year old Laurent Kabila) belonging to the movement founded by Lumumba. Cuba’s goal was to help bring down the neocolonial government of Mobutu Sese Seko who came to power after Lumumba’s murder.

Knew little about the Motherland

When Dreke went to the Congo, Guevara gave him the Swahili name Moja (One), another Cuban, Papi, became Mbili (Two) and Guevara himself took the name Tatu (Three). The first fourteen Cubans who arrived in the Congo were given Swahili names. During the course of this interview, Dreke explained how the Cubans arrived thousands of miles away in Africa. He goes to great lengths to explain how Cuba knew little or nothing about the Motherland in 1965.

Says Dreke, “Speaking truthfully, almost nobody here knew anything about Africa. Our image was from Tarzan movies—Tarzan and Cheeta the monkey. That was all we knew about Africa.” Dreke could have been speaking about any group of African people living in the Western Hemisphere. After serving in the Congo, Dreke later went on to volunteer for tours of duty in Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of Guinea (Conakry), Cape Verde and Congo-Brazzaville. He later lived in Ghana, the Republic of Guinea and other African nations. He talks about how Cuban instructors trained the militias that defeated the Portuguese imperialists in November 1970, when they invaded the Republic of Guinea. Kwame Ture (formerly Stokely Carmichael) fought against the invaders.

Today Dreke is no longer singing the Tarzan and Cheeta song. Says Dreke, “We say we have African blood in our veins, and you see this in Cuba every day, with our dance, our music, everything. It doesn’t matter whether your skin is lighter or darker. There’s an African presence in all of us.”

“Fidel Castro and the revolution have

taught us to identify ourselves with our ties to Africa and to appreciate them. The presence of so many of our *compañeros* in Africa has played a big role making it possible for us to internalize this appreciation.”

25 AND 50 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

April 22, 1977

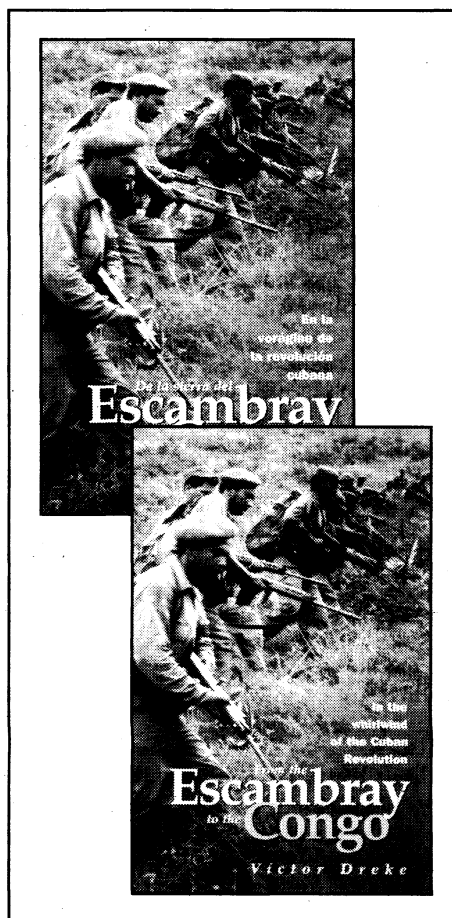
Charging that the Zairian regime was “a victim of armed subversive activities on its territory originating from abroad,” French President Valéry Giscard d’Estaing announced April 10 that a fleet of French transport planes would fly a contingent, expected to number 1,500 troops, of Moroccan forces to Zaire. In reply to a question about the pilots, a government official said, “They are French officers in uniform.”

The move comes in the face of continuing reverses suffered by the Mobutu régime, which admitted March 31 that its military headquarters at the town of Mutshatsha had been taken by antigovernment Katangan troops.

In addition to the aid from France and Morocco, Mobutu’s other international allies—particularly the governments in the United States, Belgium, and China—have rushed in supplies to help bolster his dictatorial regime.

Although there have been no reports of further direct American assistance to Mobutu since president Carter approved an initial shipment of \$2 million worth of supposedly nonlethal supplies March 15, indirect backing has been given in the form of Washington’s approval for the sending of the Moroccan troops.

Although Administration officials were emphatic in saying that Washington had not encouraged the Moroccan decision, they made no secret in private of their hopes that King Hassan’s soldiers could stabilize the military situation in Zaire’s Shaba Province, formerly known as Katanga.



5 CENTS
THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

April 21, 1952

Contrary to the beliefs or hopes of the millions of parents, wives, children and friends of the G.I.’s in Korea, the U.S. troops will not be returned home in the event of a truce. Approximately a half million American personnel will be kept in Korea indefinitely.

This was made plain by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, U.S.-UN Far East war commander, in an exclusive interview published in the *N.Y. Herald-Tribune* of April 13, 14 and 15.

The high-ranking militarist expressed the fear that the American people will demand the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Korea, reports Mac R. Johnson, who interviewed the general.

“He indicated that it would be most unfortunate if an armistice in Korea signaled a ‘bring-my-boy-back-home’ movement such as developed in the United States immediately after Japan’s surrender as World War II ended.”

This is a warning that the Big Brass intend to keep the U.S. forces in Korea despite the great unpopularity of the war and the majority sentiment, shown by repeated nation-wide polls, that the U.S. should never have intervened in Korea to begin with.

But Ridgway’s fear is also an indication to the American people of how they can bring an end to the war and secure the safe return of their conscripted loved ones. There is nothing the generals fear so much as a mighty mass movement, expressing the deepest desires of the GI’s themselves, such as forced the return of the troops at the end of World War II.

Midwest socialist conference

Continued from Page 7

estine with the right of return for every person whose families toiled for centuries on the land," Barnes said. "They must have the right to come back and live where their family lived or was buried. But this is the single most important thing that cannot be tolerated by Israel."

He noted that one commentator recently bemoaned the "problem" that Arab nations did not "absorb" the Palestinians. "But a people is not an absorbable piece of dissolvable suture," he said. "Our goal is the demoralization of the Israeli army and recognition by growing layers in Israel that they are in a death trap, and that Israel is a death trap for other Jews around the world as well."

'There is no war against terrorism'

The SWP leader noted that there is no "war against terrorism," simply an Israeli war against the Palestinians and a war by U.S. imperialism against Afghanistan. The men shackled and caged in Guantánamo "are our brothers," he said, "who were fighting against the imperialist attack on Afghanistan." Washington is trying to turn the prisoners into something less than human to justify the use of torture to "protect America" from future terrorist attacks. Their brutal treatment of the men is an example of what the U.S. rulers will have to do to try to humble, and attempt to defeat, the working class.

And Washington is preparing to wage war time and again to try to impose protectorate regimes wherever the U.S. rulers deem they are needed.

"This is the civilized world," Barnes said. "Israel is a kind of democracy. It simply shows what 'civilization' will do for working people around the world. 'Civilization' is the source of all the horrors of the 21st century. 'Democracy' was the source of the gratuitous use of the dirty nuclear bombs on the civilian population of Japan at the end of World War II," he said, not by a rightist or conservative party, but under the administration of a liberal Democrat in Washington.

It is working people who are the bearers of culture into the 21st century, the SWP leader noted. The civilization and democracy of imperialism "must be replaced by a revolutionary alliance of regimes of working people throughout the world," he said.

The communist movement does not fight for socialism, Barnes said, but battles to guarantee that struggles of working people can finally be successful and open up the social use, not the private domination, of the labor of humanity: Working people and youth join the communist movement when they become convinced that if they don't fight for a revolution, the gains made by workers and farmers will be eroded and taken away as the capitalists use any form of brutality necessary to defend their outmoded social system.

Callous brutality of imperialist rulers

To highlight the callous brutality of the imperialist rulers and the future they hold for humanity, Barnes addressed several developments since the regional socialist conference in Atlanta two weeks prior to the Chicago gathering.

The road ahead, he said, holds great horrors for working people, as well as a long period of heroism as struggles and revolutionary upsurges challenge capitalist rule. The drive toward greater assaults by the employers and their governments is the final consummation of the laws of imperialism and the necessity of deepening its domination of the world in order to prevent a destructive crash of the banking system.

He noted that William McDonough, president of the New York Federal Reserve, remarked optimistically that the devastating default in Argentina caused little turmoil in financial markets and helped make it clear "that there will be situations in which a country will go into default. That lesson had to be established," he said.

The callous disregard by McDonough for the lives of working people in the city and countryside in Argentina, who have seen the peso become worthless and inflation skyrocket, is a good gauge of the views of the superwealthy ruling minority. Barnes said that the experience of Argentina, once held up by Washington as a model for "emerging countries," shows that under the imperialist system semicolonial countries will "always be emerging, and never emerge." The division of the world into a handful of predatory imperialist powers and oppressed nations, has remained unchanged since the early 1900s when Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin explained that there will never be another imperialist country to emerge in the world.

The approach of the U.S. ruling class towards Argentina

shows their determination to "make the bourgeoisie and peoples of country after country carry even more weight of the workings of the capitalist system," Barnes said.

On April 5 the Bush administration announced a new workplace safety "policy" of dropping all mandatory requirements for industry and to instead "rely on" voluntary actions by companies to reduce injuries from repetitive motions on the job. John Henshaw, the director of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said the new "rules" provide the "flexibility needed to reduce these injuries." A *New York Times* reporter noted that such injuries over the last decade "have hurt millions of Americans including seamstresses, secretaries, nursing home aides, journalists, and poultry plant workers."

That same day the *Times* reported that for the first time working people are putting more money into their pension plans than are their employers. The number of retirement plans that have a guaranteed benefit and federal insurance to protect retirees if the company goes under has fallen from almost 40 percent to just over 20 percent. As the recent disaster for workers at Enron showed to millions, seemingly secure 401 (k) and other plans not guaranteed and insured can go up in smoke in a matter of months or weeks.

'This is murder'

Barnes noted that as the federal government chops away at Medicare and HMOs, driving members off the rolls, Veteran Administration hospitals are becoming a provider of last resort for tens of thousands. In St. Petersburg, Florida, 4,429 veterans are scheduled for their first doctor's appointment in October 2005. "This is murder," Barnes said.

The SWP leader pointed to a recent UN report that was met with alarm in capitalist newspapers and bourgeois circles. The study warned that a million people turn 60 every month, "a demographic revolution that will mean older people will outnumber the young for the first time in history." A *Times* article said that "even rich nations have long wondered how they will continue to finance pensions and health care for future generations."

The thousands of years of human labor and the advances in medicine that have increased longevity and decreased infant mortality, Barnes said, have become a horrible crisis for humanity under capitalism, emphasizing its dog-eat-dog character. The capacity of the social labor of human beings to become more productive, more varied generationally, and more energetic for a longer number of years—this becomes the greatest crisis of all for the capitalist rulers.

In these developments over a two-week time period, "We see the future capitalism has to offer," Barnes said. But within these assaults, working people find a way to begin together resisting the employers' drive and demonstrate a growing tendency to reach out and know about other struggles. Many start discussing battles of other sections of working people, and want to seek clarity on questions of crucial importance for the working class. This is one feature of recent demonstrations in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, he noted, where more workers on their way home stop by and pick up a flyer when they see a protest action.

Books not about ideas

Pointing to the wealth of Pathfinder titles and other revolutionary books on the literature tables set up in the meeting room, Barnes said they are not primarily about ideas. Instead, they are a story.

To write *The Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels had to find the "line of march of the working class, and find it out factually, in order to become conscious fighters and start to generalize from their experiences and draw lessons. Communism is not a doctrine or a blueprint," he noted. "Communists are in the forefront of all battles. To the degree communism is a theory it is a generalization of this line of march."

Within the working-class resistance today, the SWP leader said, communists begin being born before they know they are communists. The goal of the communist movement is to hasten the bringing together of an incipient movement that is unconscious of itself and to build a proletarian party capable of leading tens of millions to redeem the struggles of all those toilers who have come before and will come in the future.

Barnes said working people "should judge the SWP by what it does," and encouraged all present "to join the party and Young Socialists in order to build a communist movement that can be worthy of all the heroes we are celebrating tonight."

—EDITORIALS—

End all U.S. aid to Israel!

Continued from front page

and youth the greatest opportunity in years to demand Washington end all aid to the colonial-settler state of Israel, and to back the historic battle for a democratic and secular Palestine. Protests in the United States, France, and other imperialist countries are spreading to numerous cities and drawing large participation. Growing numbers of working people want to learn about the situation and draw their own conclusions independent from official U.S. policy or the pro-Israeli coverage in the big-business media. Working people and youth living in the United States have a special responsibility to get out the truth about the Palestinian struggle, expose Washington's backing for the brutal Israeli regime, and mobilize opposition to the role of U.S. imperialism in the Mideast.

"Israel, created in accordance with the Zionist goal of establishing a Jewish state, could be set up in the Arab East only at the expense of the indigenous peoples of the area," reads a 1971 resolution of the Socialist Workers Party published in part on page 11. "Such a state could come into existence and maintain itself only by relying on imperialism. Israel is a settler-colonialist and expansionist capitalist state maintained principally by American imperialism, hostile to the surrounding Arab peoples. It is an imperialist beachhead in the Arab world that serves as the spearhead of imperialism's fight against the Arab revolution."

As the imperialists encouraged Jewish immigration to Palestine with the goal of having the settlers establish a colonialist outpost, the Palestinian people became the principle victims of the assault. Driven from their homes, expelled from the region, or put in refugee camps, the Palestinians refused to be obliterated as a nation or to submit to



Palestinians march in Ramallah, March 27, to oppose the Israeli assaults.

the rule of the capitalist regime. From the start the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination has taken the form of a battle to destroy the Israeli state. As the unfolding resistance today shows, this struggle will quickly draw in Jordan, which has a majority Palestinian population. As the revolutionary struggle deepens to replace the Israeli state with a democratic, secular Palestine, it will pose the battle to address the needs of working people for land, jobs, health care, housing, and education. It will demand the right of return for all Palestinians pushed out at the point of a gun, and pose the rebuilding of uprooted farms and shattered cities. Such a struggle can help point the road forward for working people who are Jewish, currently caught in the death trap of the Israeli state.

There will be many demonstrations, teach-ins, and picket lines in the United States in the coming weeks. A national action April 20 in Washington will draw thousands who want to join this fight, and two days later another solidarity action is being built in the nation's capital. Helping to get Pathfinder titles, such as *Israel and the Arab Revolution*, *How Can the Jews Survive?* and *The Jewish Question*, along with *Capitalism's World Disorder*, *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, and *New International no. 7*, into the hands of working people and youth is another important contribution to this battle. They not only explain the historic roots of the conflict and the role of imperialism, but point to the possibility of a revolutionary resolution of the brutality and murderous assaults generated by the capitalist system.

Sinn Fein leader declines summons from U.S. Congress

BY GREG MCCARTAN

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams has declined a summons to appear before a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives for questioning on the party's relations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a guerrilla organization Washington has put on its terrorist list. Sinn Fein is the political party in Ireland leading the struggle to end the British-imposed division of the country. Adams is an elected member of the British parliament, although Sinn Fein members refuse to take their seats in that body.

Henry Hyde, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, set a date for Adams to appear, April 24. A spokesperson for Hyde's office told the *Financial Times* that the "hearing is not about the Northern Ireland

peace process. It is about the alleged links between international terrorism which are threatening U.S. interests. Mr. Adams should explain to us what three IRA [Irish Republican Army] members were doing last summer in Colombia."

The three, Jim Monaghan, Martin McCauley, and Niall Connolly, have been held in Bogotá's La Picota prison after officials claimed that forensic tests carried out at the U.S. embassy there showed they had traces of explosives on their clothes. They are being held under charges of teaching FARC members how to make bombs.

In an advertisement in the *El Tiempo* newspaper, the three men said that they were framed up and believe they will not receive a fair trial. "Sections of the governments of the United States and Great Britain have used our ar-

rests to damage the peace process in Colombia and Ireland," the three wrote.

The three deny they belong to the Irish Republican Army. Washington and London claim Sinn Fein and the IRA are two wings of the same organization. Both Sinn Fein and the IRA explain they are two separate organizations, both fighting for a united Ireland.

THE MILITANT

online

www.themilitant.com

Capitalism and the 'epidemic of overproduction'

Printed below is an excerpt from *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. This is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. Copyright © 1987 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.

BY KARL MARX
AND FREDERICK ENGELS

The bourgeoisie, during its rule of scarce one hundred years, has created more massive and more colossal productive forces than have all preceding generations together. Subjection of nature's forces to man, machinery, application of chemistry to industry and agriculture, steam navigation, railways, electric telegraphs, clearing of whole continents for cultivation, canalization of rivers, whole populations conjured out of the ground—what earlier century had even



Militant/Bill Estrada

Striking members of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees picket Flex-O-Tex Laundry in Bronx, New York, Dec. 27, 2001. "Not only has the bourgeoisie forged the weapons that will bring death to itself; it has also called into existence the men who are to wield those weapons—the modern working class—the proletarians."

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

a presentiment that such productive forces slumbered in the lap of social labor?

We see then: the means of production and of exchange, on whose foundation the bourgeoisie built itself up, were generated in feudal society. At a certain stage in the development of these means of production and of exchange, the conditions under which the feudal organization of agriculture and manufacturing industry, in one word, the feudal relations of property, became no longer compatible with the already developed productive forces; they became so many fetters. They had to be burst asunder; they were burst asunder.

Into their place stepped free competition, accompanied by a social and political constitution adapted to it and by the economic and political sway of the bourgeois class.

A similar movement is going on before our own eyes. Modern bourgeois society with its relations of production, of exchange, and of property, a society that has conjured up such gigantic means of production and of exchange, is like the sorcerer who is no longer able to control the powers of the

nether world whom he has called up by his spells. For many a decade past, the history of industry and commerce is but the history of the revolt of modern productive forces against modern conditions of production, against the property relations that are the conditions for the existence of the bourgeoisie and of its rule. It is enough to mention the commercial crises that by their periodic return put on trial, each time more threateningly, the existence of the entire bourgeois society. In these crises a great part not only of the existing products, but also of the previously created productive forces are periodically destroyed. In these crises there breaks out an epidemic that, in all earlier epochs, would have seemed an absurdity—the epidemic of over-production. Society suddenly finds itself put back into a state of momentary barbarism; it appears as if a famine, a universal war of devastation, had cut off the supply of every means of subsistence; industry and commerce seem to be destroyed; and why? Because there is too much civilization, too much means of subsistence, too much industry, too much com-

merce. The productive forces at the disposal of society no longer tend to further the development of the conditions of bourgeois property; on the contrary, they have become too powerful for these conditions, by which they are fettered, and so soon as they overcome these fetters, they bring disorder into the whole of bourgeois society, endanger the existence of bourgeois property. The conditions of bourgeois society are too narrow to comprise the wealth created by them. And how does the bourgeoisie get over these crises? On the one hand by enforced destruction of a mass of productive forces; on the other, by the conquest of new markets and by the more thorough exploitation of the old ones. That is to say, by paving the way for more extensive and more destructive crises and by diminishing the means whereby crises are prevented.

The weapons with which the bourgeoisie felled feudalism to the ground are now turned against the bourgeoisie itself.

But not only has the bourgeoisie forged the weapons that bring death to itself; it has also called into existence the men who are to wield those weapons—the modern working class—the proletarians.

In proportion as the bourgeoisie, i.e., capi-

tal, is developed, in the same proportion is the proletariat, the modern working class, developed—a class of laborers, who live only so long as they find work and who find work only so long as their labor increases capital. These laborers, who must sell themselves piecemeal, are a commodity, like every other article of commerce, and are consequently exposed to all the vicissitudes of competition, to all the fluctuations of the market.

Owing to the extensive use of machinery, and to division of labor, the work of the proletarians has lost all individual character and, consequently, all charm for the workman. He becomes an appendage of the machine, and it is only the most simple, most monotonous, and most easily acquired knack that is required of him. Hence, the cost of production of a workman is restricted, almost entirely, to the means of subsistence that he requires for his maintenance and for the propagation of his race. But the price of a commodity, and therefore also of labor,¹ is equal to its cost of production. In proportion, therefore, as the repulsiveness of the work increases, the wage decreases. Nay more, in proportion as the use of machinery and division of labor increases, in the same proportion the burden of toil also increases, whether by prolongation of the working hours, by increase of the work exacted in a given time, or by increased speed of machinery, etc.

Modern industry has converted the little workshop of the patriarchal master into the great factory of the industrial capitalist. Masses of laborers, crowded into the factory, are organized like soldiers. As privates of the industrial army they are placed under the command of a perfect hierarchy of officers and sergeants. Not only are they slaves of the bourgeois class and of the bourgeois state; they are daily and hourly enslaved by the machine, by the overlooker, and, above all, by the individual bourgeois manufacturer himself. The more openly this despotism proclaims gain to be its end and aim, the more petty, the more hateful, and the more embittering it is.

¹In their later works, Marx and Engels used the more exact terms "the value of labor power" and "the price of labor power" introduced by Marx instead of "the value of labor" and "the price of labor." (See in this connection Engels's introduction to Marx's "Wage Labor and Capital," in *Collected Works*, vol. 27, pp. 194–201.)

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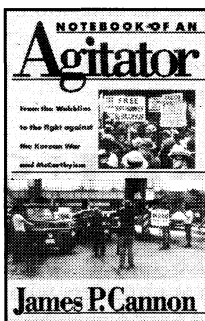
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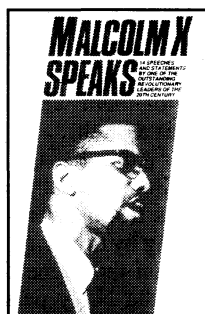
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LETTERS

Freedom fighters

I appreciate the *Militant's* excellent analysis of the Palestinian liberation struggle. More than ever it is clear that the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine where both Israeli Jews and Palestinians can live side by side is the only solution.

I do think that the *Militant* should not use the term "gunman" when referring to Palestinian freedom fighters as you did in the article on the Atlanta socialist conference in the April 8 issue. The article said, "One Palestinian gunman recently shot 10 Israeli soldiers and escaped unscathed."

This term, along with the use of the word "terrorist," used by the Israeli and U.S. governments and their media mouthpieces, is meant to de-legitimize the Palestinian struggle and make working people believe that the Palestinians are lawless terrorists. Much better terms to describe those Palestinians resisting Israel's brutal occupation are fighters or freedom fighters.

Sandi Sherman
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sharon's assaults

Sharon's merciless assault on the Palestinians is an outrage. It is Israel's unceasing repression and indignities against Palestinians that have created people desperate enough to resort to suicide bombings. Few U.S. citizens can imagine the hopelessness and despair that would lead a young person to make such a choice. Perhaps only Native Americans or African Americans can look back to the history of genocide against their people to be able to visualize how certain death might seem a necessary choice against unendurable oppression.

The only chance for peace in the Middle East is for Israel to return the occupied territories and recognize a sovereign Palestin-

ian state with the right of return for all Palestinian refugees. We in the U.S. can help make this happen by forcing our government to stop funding the carnage. Under no circumstances should U.S. armed forces set foot in Palestine.

Helen Gilbert
Seattle, Washington

Palestinian struggle

Would you please explain if the Palestinian suicides are terrorist acts? What are the political differences between Fatah and Hamas? Co-workers at Metro-North are asking these questions, and I would like to be clear when answering.

Wendy Banen
New York, New York

Concert for Palestine

The General Confederation of Greek Workers will organize a benefit concert for Palestine this week. Greece's biggest singers are signed up. A brief anecdote will illustrate the deep support among working people here for the Palestinians. The janitor at work walked up to me yesterday and handed me a 20 euro note. "Look, that's all I can afford," he said, "but I want to do something. Please see to it that it gets to the Palestinians." I plan on giving the money to the Palestinian Community Center, which has been raising funds for the education of refugee children in Lebanon and the West Bank.

Georges Mehraban

Athens, Greece

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people.

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.

U.S. steps up military role in Colombia

BY RÓGER CALERO

In a bipartisan step, the U.S. government is moving to officially allow the Colombian regime to deploy U.S.-supplied attack and transport helicopters and other war matériel in its fight against the opposition rebel forces. Before the Bush administration announced that it would introduce such a measure, the House of Representatives approved a resolution urging the White House to free up the weapons that were officially to be used for drug interdiction.

The U.S. military has been working to make the Colombian armed forces more effective by training army battalions and sending 18 Blackhawk helicopters and 42 Huey military transports to the shaky regime in Bogotá, part of a \$1.3 billion infusion of funds engineered under the Clinton administration. The rule change pending in Congress would also allow the U.S. military to provide additional electronic surveillance to Colombian forces. The Bush administration has requested that Congress authorize another \$1 billion for military equipment and training.

Bush is also providing \$98 million to train an elite rapid response brigade to protect Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum's oil pipeline that runs from the interior of Colombia to the coast.

Colombia is the center of a wider military intervention in Latin America, as U.S. imperialism repositions forces previously stationed at its military base in Panama, which was also the home of the U.S. Southern Command. Other bases and troop concentrations are located in Ecuador, El Salvador, and Honduras. U.S. forces con-

duct hundreds of military maneuvers throughout Latin America every year.

The new moves in Washington came as the government of Colombian president Andrés Pastrana ordered a major military offensive against territories occupied by the opposition guerrilla army, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Prodded by Washington and emboldened by the U.S. government's "war on terrorism," the regime in Bogotá retook major towns in a large swath of the country earlier ceded as part of negotiations with the opposition army.

Right-wing death squads

Press reports indicate that the army occupied the towns "behind a bombing campaign against guerrilla targets," but ran into little resistance as FARC units regrouped in smaller villages. Townspeople told a reporter for the *Washington Post* that as the guerrillas withdrew, members of the right-wing paramilitary United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia moved in and started asking them to identify supporters of the opposition. "Almost at once," the *Post* reported, the rightists "began commandeering motorcycles from local residents, and people began disappearing."

The United Self-Defense Forces, numbering some 15,000, have terrorized peasants in the countryside and targeted trade unionists and supporters of left-wing organizations. Last year paramilitary forces killed 177 trade unionists.

The paramilitaries' kidnapping in February of Gilberto Torres, a leader of the main oil workers union in Colombia, sparked a 14-day strike of some 3,000 oil workers



U.S. general Eric Shinseki (left) and Colombian general Jorge Mora during a joint visit to the Tres Equinas military base in southern Colombia.

against the state-owned Empresa Colombiana de Petróleos.

Paramilitary leaders publicly admitted kidnapping Torres and announced that he would be put through a "paramilitary trial" for aiding the guerrillas. The public protests against the kidnapping forced the paramilitary groups to release Torres on April 7 to a government commission. Earlier, the oil workers had rejected a government proposal to return to work, pledging to continue the protests until the government guarantees the lives of its employees from the threat of the paramilitary groups.

U.S. assistant secretary of state for West-

ern hemisphere affairs Otto Reich gave the regime cover for the offensive by claiming there "is no insurgency in Colombia. What you have is three terrorist groups." Washington has placed the FARC and another smaller guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army, along with the United Self-defense Forces, on its list of terrorist organizations.

Secretary of State Colin Powell told a congressional hearing that with the end of the safe havens, "of course the Colombians have come to us with new requests: increased intelligence-sharing and other support we might be able to provide them."

Despite claims that the Bush administration would not seek a change in current legislation preventing U.S. personnel from assisting military units suspected of human rights abuses, the Pentagon has sought "advice and assist" authorization for Colombian forces on the ground, similar to what is being done in the Philippines. There are officially up to 400 U.S. military personnel and 400 civilians in Colombia providing training and support in the so-called war on drug trafficking.

Laying the groundwork for further U.S. intervention in the region, President Pastrana proposed the establishment of a "joint security effort" among the Andean countries at a meeting in Lima also involving U.S. president Bush and the presidents of Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. The proposal envisions cooperation on military operations, intelligence, and policing.

British Columbia: rallies defend workers' rights

BY ANOUK KENDERGIAN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Hospital workers, teachers, nurses, and students were among the 10,000 people marching here March 23 to protest antiunion attacks and cuts in the social wage under the provincial Liberal government.

Among the unions with contingents were the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the Teamsters, the International Woodworkers of America, and the Communication, Energy and Pulp and Paper. The British Columbia Federation of Labour has called for province-wide actions May 25.

At another protest March 9, hundreds participated in a rally to celebrate International Women's Day here. Speakers pointed out how women are bearing the brunt of the government offensive.

"I'm here because I'm a working person," said one Hospital Employees Union (HEU) member at the March 23 demonstration. "There are so many issues. They are basically setting back the province 50 years. What people have fought for, he's taking away."

High school student Janet Leung said she heard about the march from one of her teachers and came because she opposes cutbacks in programs for people with disabilities.

The British Columbia government, headed by Liberal party premier Gordon Campbell, is leading the attack on workers' rights in Canada. Campbell is carrying out extensive cuts to the social wage, first and foremost in health and education. The government has torn up contracts with hospital workers and has taken away the teachers' right to strike by declaring education an "essential service."

Among other moves, the Liberals have increased tuition fees for post-secondary education and changed labor legislation to make it harder for workers to unionize. Campbell began his term in office by reducing the minimum wage for people new to the labor force, penalizing young people and immigrants. And the Liberals are now campaigning for a province-wide referendum that would erode Native land rights.

As working people respond to these as-

saults, including at a protest of 30,000 February 23, many have begun reaching out to involve as broad a layer of workers and youth as possible. For example, the HEU has published special leaflets to explain the issues, including one in Chinese, and organized street corner distributions of the flyers. One HEU member told the *Militant* that they have organized to leaflet near a rally in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle because of the connection between the two fights.

At the International Women's Day action, several women staffed a table with materials on the struggle of the Palestinian people. "The Palestinians are living under illegal

occupation," said Pat Katagiri. "The women I met there want peace with justice. What I want for women here is what the Palestinian women want."

Many speakers at the rally encouraged participants to oppose the anti-Native referendum, describing it as a tool by the Campbell government to divide working people. "I'm worried about medical care and education cuts," Angela Timmins told the *Vancouver Sun*. "I think that a lot of the people who don't have the means won't be getting an education."

Anouk Kendergian is a meat packer in Vancouver.

Protesters demand U.S. Navy out of Vieques

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Daily protest outside the U.S. naval base on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques have greeted a major U.S. military exercise now underway there. Those participating in the actions are calling for a halt to the bombing and for the U.S. Navy to withdraw from the island.

Supporters of the struggle have also been mounting protests in New York, including an April 9 picket line near Times Square, a National Vieques Summit for Peace with Justice scheduled for Hostos College in the Bronx April 13, and a fund-raising cultural event the day before at the Service Employees International Union Local 1199 Martin Luther King, Jr., Labor Center in Manhattan.

The Navy's bombardment of the island, the first such assault there since last October, began April 1 and is scheduled to run through April 22. The operation involves the nuclear aircraft carrier *USS George Washington*, with its 10 ships, planes, helicopters, and more than 8,000 troops. The maneuvers include ship-to-shore shelling and air-to-ground exercises, and the dropping of inert bombs on the eastern end of the island.

U.S. military police fired tear-gas canisters at protesters who had peacefully gathered April 6 outside the U.S.-occupied navy base. On that day they were joined by 150 members of the National Puerto Rican Coalition who had come to Vieques from the United States to express their solidarity with the fight to get the U.S. Navy off the island. Many of them were also subjected to the tear-gas assault.

Rear Adm. Kevin Green, commander of Naval Forces Southern Command, insisted that his troops were responding to rock-throwing by the demonstrators. But eyewitnesses on the scene denied this claim, accusing the Navy personnel of wanting to provoke an incident.

Puerto Rican governor Sila Calderón condemned the use of tear gas as "an unacceptable action." Adding that "this is a violation of people's civil rights," Calderón dismissed Green's version of what transpired saying it was in contradiction to the report filed by her own police.

Irrked by the colonial arrogance of the U.S. rulers, Calderón stated, "I told the admiral that it is impossible for the U.S. Navy to always be right and the government of Puerto Rico to always be wrong."

The Puerto Rican governor has announced her backing for a plan that was publicly endorsed by President George Bush that the Navy will leave Vieques by May 2003. However, a law passed after September 11 requires the Navy to continue using the Puerto Rican island until it finds a suitable replacement.

A March 27 article in *Hoy* reports that an environmental document sent by the Navy to libraries in Vieques and Ceiba project that U.S. military activities will continue on the island until 2006. The report, dated March 2002, was prepared by the Atlantic Division of the Navy's Marine Engineering Department and was sent to the Commander of the Atlantic Force, according to a publication in a local newspaper.

This document "reaffirms the stance the U.S. military has taken all along and restates their desire to not leave Vieques," stated Ismael Guadalupe, a leader of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques. "They're finding a way for the navy to continue bombing until 2006 and that's why we're fighting against them."

The White House denied having any knowledge of this projected change in the date when the navy will leave the island.