

THE MILITANT

LESSONS FROM REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY
1962: Cubans urged USSR
to make defense pact public

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 66/NO. 38 OCTOBER 14, 2002

West Coast dockworkers resist employers' lockout

'We will not be intimidated,' say longshore union pickets

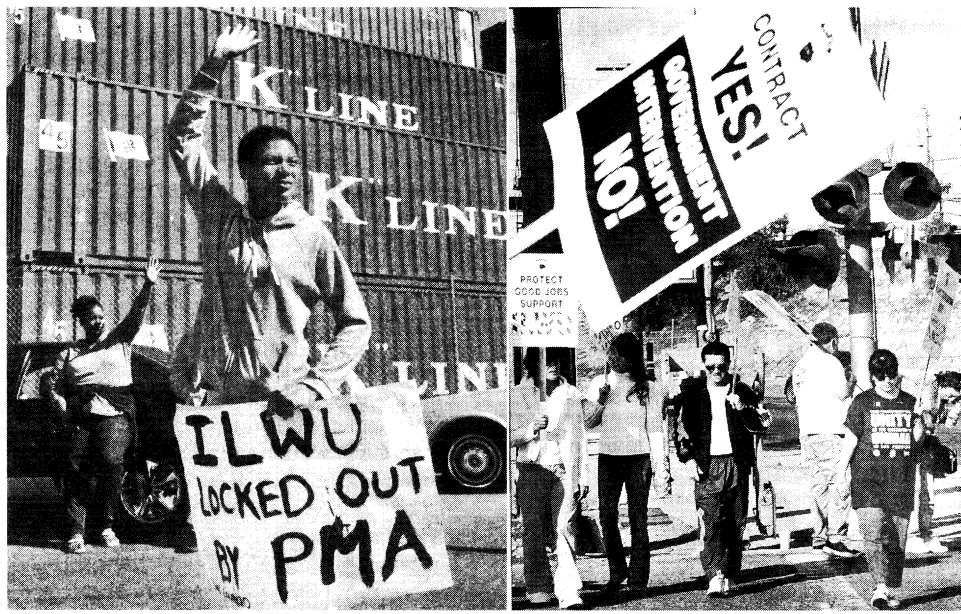
BY FRANK FORRESTAL

WILMINGTON, California—In face of an industry lockout, thousands of dockworkers from San Diego to Seattle are picketing port entrances to protest the latest move by the bosses' organization, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), to pressure the union into accepting a contract. The unionists are fighting the PMA's drive to cut jobs and undermine safety. Five dockworkers have been killed on the job so far this year.

Following the PMA's lockout announcement September 29, hundreds of longshore workers rallied at the dispatch center here. Reflecting the sentiment of the assembled workers, the president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), James Spinosa, told the crowd, "The union will not be intimidated by the lockout. We will not extend the contract."

The conflict has been escalating for weeks. On October 1, PMA officials brought two armed guards to a negotiations meeting in Oakland with union representatives and Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service director Peter Hurtgen. In response, the ILWU officials walked out. Spinosa asked, "If it was government policy to allow employers to bring weapons to mediation talks."

Over Labor Day weekend the union



Across the West Coast, dockworkers picketed port entrances to protest shipping bosses' lockout. Left, unionists in Oakland, California; right, in Los Angeles.

stopped approving rolling extensions of the contract, which expired July 1. The PMA is demanding that the union continue to extend the agreement until a settlement is reached.

A feeling of determined resistance marked

the mood of workers on the picket lines. At each location this reporter visited, passing cars and trucks honked in solidarity.

Claiming the ILWU had organized work

Continued on Page 8

North American command is launched

BY RÓGER CALERO

On October 1 the new U.S. Northern Command (Northcom) was activated in a ceremony at its headquarters, the Peterson Air Force base in Colorado. For the first time since soon after the Civil War, a U.S. command is now charged with carrying out military operations within the United States.

Northcom's inauguration was not covered by major U.S. dailies or TV. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz officiated at the launching, with Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Ralph Eberhart, head of the new operation.

Wolfowitz called the occasion "historic." From passage of the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 until this step, the U.S. armed forces have been barred from domestic operations, except in specific, limited circumstances.

Northcom's immediate predecessor, the Joint Task Force—Civil Support, based in Virginia, was established by the Clinton administration in October 1999 as a "homeland defense command." The latest move expands the powers of this command and elevates it to one of nine making up the Unified Combat Command, directly responsible to the president of the United States.

Last April, in announcing plans to establish the new command, U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld said that "the establishment of Northcom is part of the greatest transformation of the Unified Command Plan since its inception in 1947."

Northcom, said Eberhart at the October 1 ceremony, "will coordinate, liaison and communicate with all federal agencies and local responders that have an interest in the homeland security of this great nation."

The command will be in charge of flying military patrols over cities in the United States, and of the deployment of U.S. forces in support of police agencies and other government institutions. Its sweeping responsibilities were listed in one summary as the "preparation for, prevention of, deterrence of, preemption of, defense against, and response to threats and aggression directed

towards U.S. territory, sovereignty, domestic population, and infrastructure."

Northcom's area of operations will also include Canada, Mexico, parts of the Caribbean and the oceans around North

America out to 500 miles offshore. General Eberhart will have under his command the North American Aerospace Defense Command (Norad), which has the power to as-

Continued on Page 12

New York City, Saturday, November 2

Communists and the World Struggle against Imperialism Today

Speakers

Jack Barnes

National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

Jason Alessio

UMWA miner, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Colorado

Arrin Hawkins

Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor in New York

Olympia Newton

Young Socialists National Leadership Council, Socialist Workers candidate for secretary of state in California

Mary-Alice Waters

Editor of *New International*

Martín Koppel

Editor of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*

Ma'mud Shirvani

Farsi editor, Pathfinder Press

• Iraq and the Arabian peninsula: Washington's drive to redivide the region and dominate oil

• A world depression is unfolding

• Deepening contradictions in U.S. labor: opportunities and dangers

• Campaigning for communism, responding to political openings

Buffet meal 1:00 p.m., program 2:00 p.m. sharp

Frank Altschul Auditorium, 4th Floor, 420 W. 118th St. at Amsterdam Ave. (on the Columbia University campus)

Hosted by New York/New Jersey SWP: (212) 695-7358; (212) 740-4611; (973) 481-0077

Sponsors:

**Socialist Workers Party National Committee
 Young Socialists National Leadership Council**

U.S., UK warplanes step up bombing in Iraq's south

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

In the last week of September U.S. and British warplanes carried out 10 bombing attacks on Iraq. Of the 50 such raids launched this year, more than half were in August and September, representing a sharp escalation of these lightning attacks, many conducted at night.

An Iraqi military spokesman described one bombing on September 25. "Hostile American and British planes violated our airspace at 9:30 p.m. local time, flying from air bases in Kuwait," he said. "The enemy attacked our civilian and service installations in Dhi Qar and Meisan provinces, injuring one civilian." The Pentagon reported that the strikes had hit surface-to-air missile sites near Tallil and Al Amarah, around 170 miles and 165 miles southeast of Baghdad, respectively.

U.S. and British warplanes attacked again just after midnight the next day, hitting an air defense communications center at al Kufah, a town in south-central Iraq. Other jets bombed a mobile air defense radar system at an airport in the southern port city of Basra. Iraqi authorities condemned the attack, pointing out that the airport is a civil-

Continued on Page 6

Youth from Americas to meet in Guadalajara

BY JACK WILLEY

The Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students (OCLAE) is holding its 13th congress in Guadalajara, Mexico, from November 29 to December 2. The event is expected to draw hundreds of youth from student organizations in South, Central, and North America. They will be gathering to discuss the struggles taking place across the Americas against the effects

Continued on Page 12

Also Inside:

Thousands of independence fighters rally in Puerto Rico 2

Workers in New Caledonia face effects of colonial rule 3

NAACP condemns voting rights abuses in Florida 7

FBI frame-up in North Carolina sparks protests 8

Washington, Paris send troops to intervene in Ivory Coast 9

3,000 independence fighters rally in Lares, Puerto Rico

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL
AND PAUL PEDERSON

LARES, Puerto Rico—Some 3,000 people gathered September 23 in this town's Plaza of the Revolution to affirm their support to the fight for independence of Puerto Rico and the ongoing battle to get the U.S. Navy off the island of Vieques. Those were the two central themes of the Grito de Lares celebration.

Marking the anniversary of an 1868 uprising here that launched the struggle against Spanish colonialism, this annual event has become a rallying point for those fighting to end U.S. colonial rule over Puerto Rico. The two dominant political parties, which advocate either the "Commonwealth" status quo or statehood, are embarrassed by this heroic chapter in Puerto Rican history because it is a reminder that today Puerto Rico remains a classic colony—no longer of Spain but of U.S. imperialism—and that this Latin American nation has a legacy of revolutionary struggle.

The U.S. government's refusal to abide by the overwhelming majority sentiment in Puerto Rico for stopping the U.S. Navy's bombing practice on Vieques is a graphic illustration of the colonial relationship between Washington and Puerto Rico. Several speakers at this year's Grito de Lares rally condemned the governor of Puerto Rico, Sila Calderón of the pro-Commonwealth Popular Democratic Party (PPD), because she has proved incapable of delivering on her electoral promise to end the bombing exercises.

María de Lourdes Santiago, vice president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP), said that Calderón had shown herself to be "weak-kneed" in face of Washington's pressure to remain in Vieques. In contrast, she noted that the independence movement has gained broader popular respect for its role in leading the fight against the U.S. military's occupation of this Puerto Rican island.

"The Lares of 1868 is embodied in Vieques, shamefully, by what it means to live in a colony. But we are here honoring

the heroes of 1868 and we will fulfill our pledge that, if by May 2003 the Navy doesn't leave Vieques, we'll make it leave." Santiago said that the PIP would organize mass protests in Vieques if the U.S. Navy did not stop bombing by then, as U.S. president George Bush has verbally promised.

Speaking along similar lines were Carlos Zenón, a leader of the Vieques fishermen; Héctor Pesquera, co-chair of the pro-independence Hostos National Congress (CNH); and Juan Mari Bras, a longtime independence advocate.

Mari Bras noted that over the past few years, the pro-independence forces have united in action at the Grito de Lares and other events, unlike in the past, where different organizations would hold competing September 23 actions. A joint statement by the Nationalist Party, PIP, CNH, New Independence Movement (NMIP), Socialist Front, and Pro-Independence University Student Federation (FUPI) affirmed their goal of "joining forces in seeking a common effort to initiate a true decolonization process that can only culminate in our independence."

Many speakers spoke in defense of several independence fighters who today continue to serve long years in U.S. prisons for their pro-independence activities.

A number of speakers condemned the U.S. moves toward war in the Mideast. Rafael Bernabe of the Socialist Front said that while the U.S. government had used the September 11 events to justify launching aggression abroad, one year later it was carrying out a broader war in the Mideast.

"Many Puerto Ricans have refused to fight in the U.S. government's wars, from World War II to Vietnam and the Gulf War," said José Torres, a university student at the rally. "Being cannon fodder for the empire is another reason we need independence from the United States."

FUPI was one organization that had a visible presence at the rally, with a large and attractive booth. FUPI members spoke with pride of how, when the fall semester began, they had once again forced the ROTC (Re-



Above, Ismael Guadalupe (standing), a leader of the movement to force the U.S. Navy out of Vieques, speaks to visitors at a protest camp set up across from the the U.S. Navy's Camp García in Vieques. Right, Plaza of the Revolution in town of Lares, Puerto Rico, filled with independence supporters for the annual September 23 Grito de Lares commemoration.



serve Officers' Training Corps) recruiters to leave the University of Puerto Rico campus. They also passed out their newsletter, *Patria Nueva* (New Homeland), which urges youth to participate in the Puerto Rican delegation to the Latin American and Caribbean Students Congress (OCLAE), which will take place in late November and early December.

Ongoing anti-Navy fight in Vieques

Capitalist politicians here have used Washington's accelerated war drive in the Middle East to try to dampen political protests, claiming that "now is not the time." Despite a slower pace of activity, the fight against the U.S. Navy in Vieques continues in many different ways. They range from weekly picket lines in front of the U.S. federal prison, where several Vieques protesters are serving six-month terms, to a hunger strike at an ecumenical chapel in San Juan to protest the recent U.S. military exercises on the island.

Ismael Guadalupe and other leaders of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques invited *Militant* reporters to Vieques on September 22. The committee has established a permanent protest camp in front of the main entrance to the U.S. base, Camp García.

Guadalupe explained that since World War II, when U.S. officials forced farmers and other residents of Vieques off their land and handed it to the Navy for bombing and other military training exercises, there has been an uninterrupted struggle to remove the U.S. military.

Why is the U.S. government so insistent on keeping its control over Vieques? "Here they have trained for invasions of Grenada and Nicaragua in the 1980s, and for the wars on Yugoslavia and Iraq in the 1990s," said Emilio García, one of those staffing the protest camp. "They used the island to train for

the invasion of Afghanistan, and now they are using it to prepare for an invasion of Iraq. After completing their training in Vieques, many of the ships go off to the Mideast."

In addition to using the island as a springboard for imperialist aggression abroad, the U.S. military has contaminated the land and water of Vieques with typical colonial disregard for the health of its residents.

The bombing has disrupted the daily lives of fishermen and others. "Kids sometimes have to stop classes when the bombing is taking place nearby. It traumatizes them," said García.

Jaime Peralta, another member of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, previously worked as a civilian guard on the U.S. base. He was a co-worker of David Sanes, who in May 1999 was killed when a U.S. plane on training exercises dropped a bomb described by the Navy as "errant."

"We would often talk about the danger of a U.S. plane dropping a bomb on us," said Peralta, "and it finally happened."

"They talk about the war on terrorism," he added, "but the U.S. government is responsible for terror in the world"—a reference to ongoing war moves against Iraq.

Vieques women's association

Carmen Valencia, a leader of the Vieques Women's Alliance, explained that her organization had been formed three years ago in response to the growing campaign against the Navy's presence. "Our purpose is to educate about our struggle—we've traveled throughout Puerto Rico, to New York, Massachusetts, and even to Asia and Africa." Members of the women's alliance have been some of the most active fighters to get the Navy out of the island.

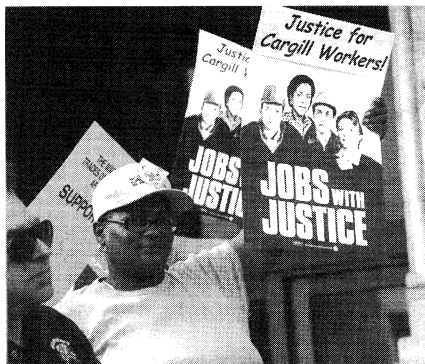
The women's association also offers vol-

Continued on page 12

THE MILITANT

Salt miners fight union busting

In face of Cargill's moves to drive out their union, salt miners in Cleveland are fighting back. The 'Militant' tells the truth about the resistance by working people to the bosses in the United States, and the place of their struggles worldwide. Don't miss a single issue.



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$10 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$15 for 12 weeks

☐ \$27 for 6 months

☐ \$45 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

PHONE

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,
410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, NY 10014.

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia and the Pacific, \$A20 • Britain, £7 • Canada, Can\$15 • Caribbean and Latin America, \$15 • Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, £8 • France, 12 Euros • Iceland, Kr1,800 • New Zealand, NZ\$20 • Sweden, Kr75 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 66/No. 38

Closing news date: Oct 2, 2002

Editor: MARTÍN KOPPEL

Business Manager: JACK WILLEY

Editorial Staff: Róger Calero, Paul Pederson, Jack Willey, Brian Williams, and Maurice Williams. Young Socialists column editor: ROMINA GREEN

Published weekly except for one week in June, August and December.

The *Militant* (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax (212) 924-6040.

E-mail: TheMilitant@compuserve.com

The *Militant* website is: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The *Militant* Business Office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Subscriptions: **United States:** for one-year subscription send \$45 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: for one-year subscription send \$65, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80.

Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: Send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to *Militant*, 1237 Jean-Talon est, Montréal, QC. Postal Code: H2R 1W1.

Britain, Ireland: £36 for one year by check or international money order made out to *Militant* Distribution, 47The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England.

Continental Europe, Africa, Middle East: £40 for one year by check or international money order made out to *Militant* Distribution at above address.

France: Send 65 euros for one-year subscription to *Militant*, Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe, 75015 Paris; chèque postale: 40 134 34 U.

Iceland: Send 6,500 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to *Militant*, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. **Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark:** 550 Swedish kronor for one year. Pay to *Militant* Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9.

New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. **Australia:** Send Australian \$90 to P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 1240, Australia. **Pacific Islands:** Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

New Caledonia workers confront colonial rule

BY ARLENE TATE

NOUMÉA, New Caledonia—A large union banner greets visitors to the former Club Med hotel Chateau Royale in Anse Vata, the heart of the tourist area here. Inside, workers have entered their 10th month of occupation. They began the extended sit-in when Club Med—a French-based resort company—closed the hotel last December. The workers are members of the Union of Kanak and Exploited Workers (USTKE), a union forged in the course of independence struggles against French colonialism, in which the indigenous Kanak people have played the leading part.

The company had given them no advance warning of the closure. "It appeared that business was going well at the hotel—we were full," said one worker to *Militant* reporters during a visit on September 6.

The fight for an improved redundancy package (severance pay) is at the center of their occupation, explained the workers. Many have accumulated more than 10 years' seniority, they said. Company representatives tried to pressure them into immediately accepting the company's offer; otherwise, the bosses said, the workers would face delays in receiving their payments, as there would be no Club Med representatives remaining in Nouméa after the hotel closed. While some workers accepted this offer, a number did not, and commenced their occupation. Club Med does not own the hotel, but its equipment and supplies remain there.

The workers invited the *Militant* reporters to join them for dinner, prepared and served in the hotel's facilities. "We used to prepare food for the guests—now we prepare it for ourselves," said one worker. After nine months they have made the occupied hotel as comfortable as possible. Some have been joined by children and grandchildren.

The workers emphasized how difficult it is to find jobs in New Caledonia today. The official unemployment rate stands at 18 percent. However, the reality for Kanaks and immigrants from Wallis and Futuna Islands—a French colonial territory not far from New Caledonia that is used as a reserve of cheap labor—is much worse.

Union and social struggles, like the hotel workers' fight, are part of ongoing efforts by Kanaks and other working people to combat the daily discrimination and brutalities of French colonial rule. While the independence struggle that mushroomed in the 1980s was dealt severe blows by the French rulers, it wasn't defeated, and today we are seeing new generations joining with those from past struggles against the colonial exploiters.

The 86,800 Kanaks make up 44 percent of the territory's total population of 196,800, according to the 1996 census. New Caledonians of European birth or descent form the second largest grouping, with 34 percent of the population. Forty-three percent of the 67,500 people in this category were born overseas. Wallisians, who face similar social conditions to those of the Kanak people, make up 9 percent of the population, or 17,700 people.

Struggles for housing

Equal numbers of Kanaks and Wallisians are today living in the squatter areas in Nouméa, asserting their right to housing. Of the 100,000 people who live in greater Nouméa—more than half New Caledonia's population—up to 7,000 live in 10 squatter communities around the city.

Militant reporters went to one such community, Village Wella. The squatters there have transformed the land they are occupying into pieces of village life. Most have vegetable gardens, places for social gatherings, and a structured leadership with a chief who acts as a spokesperson.

Sylvain Pabouty of the Committee for Defense and Support of Squatters explained that the conditions in such areas have improved in recent years. In the past decade, he said, such communities "have become a more organized force. This was precipitated in 1992 when members of a wealthy local family wanted to develop land that was occupied by squatters," using bulldozers to "clean up the area."

"People demonstrated, set up barricades, and put out a call for everyone to come and help, finally forcing the developer to retreat and allow the squatters to remain on some of the land," said Pabouty.

Following these events the committee was established, he said, with the objectives of



Militant/ Arlene Tate

Members of Union of Kanak and Exploited Workers occupy Club Med hotel in Nouméa, New Caledonia. Workers built the union in struggle against French colonialism.

fighting for "the right to decent housing, to better conditions of life," and a political goal of explaining "that underlying the housing crisis is the whole system in New Caledonia that encourages speculation in land and buildings. At the end of 1995 the squats won the right for water to be supplied by the city," he pointed out.

Village Wella residents explained to the *Militant* how they came to be living there. Anne Marie said that she had been living rent-free in one of the houses owned by a former Chateau Royale. When the company had gone out of business no one was left to collect the rent. In 1994 City Hall moved half the residents out with the promise that it would ensure they were housed. She and her sister are still waiting.

Lionel, another resident, told the *Militant* that "cop harassment is normal," since "we are in a struggle and the developer still wants the land. The police use the pretext of investigating alleged crimes to intimidate people. They also try to create conflicts and provoke people."

A legal association has been formed to act as a coordinating body among the different groups of squatters. At the high point of squatters' organization in the 1990s, noted Pabouty, "the national police had to ask the association if they wanted to enter a squat."

Immigrant workers and Kanak struggle

The nickel boom in the 1960s saw large numbers of immigrant workers from the Pacific Islands come to New Caledonia, including a big wave of people from Wallis and Futuna. The vast majority of such migrants and their descendants settled in Nouméa. Most people in these communities today were born in New Caledonia.

Paris's agents set out to foster divisions among these nationalities, all of whom are subject to French colonial rule. In the past,

for example, the pro-French New Caledonian rulers have promoted gangs of Wallisian youths, many of them unemployed, to act as "militias" to attack independence demonstrators and Kanak youth in general.

With the 1990s came the signs of a breakdown in these tactics. In one significant development, a political organization based among the migrant workers, the Oceania Democratic Assembly (RDO), was formed in 1994. RDO president Aloises Sako explained that they have "moved towards recognizing Kanak independence as a legitimate idea, allowing the people to be free from colonialism." In 1999 the new organization joined the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), a coalition of pro-independence parties supported by the overwhelming majority of Kanaks.

These oppressed nationalities have common interests in opposing French rule, which is founded on their superexploitation and national oppression. According to official statistics, New Caledonia's annual per capita income is among the highest in the Pacific at US\$16,500. The country has a higher Gross Domestic Product than nearby New Zealand, an imperialist country. But the squatter communities reveal the disparities that are hidden under such statistics.

Rents in Nouméa are highly inflated, in part because of the impact of financial transfers from the French government that sustain the large public sector. Of the more than \$500 million transferred in 2001, about half funded public service salaries. The balance was directed to health, education, and special development projects.

Doris Douperé, an independence activist in the Kanak Liberation Party, explained that a typical two-bedroom unit in Nouméa goes for about \$690 a month, almost equal to the minimum wage of \$860. In housing provided with assistance from the provincial govern-

ment the rent can range from \$215 to \$345.

A long history of anticolonial struggle

In waging their day-to-day struggles, many squatters and union fighters—who are often one and the same—are conscious of the long history of struggle against French colonial rule, over the past 150 years.

After annexing New Caledonia in 1853, Paris set up a colonial settler-state there, transplanting a large population from France itself. Until the early 1950s, the indigenous people were confined to small reservations of land, where they carried on subsistence agriculture, hunting, and fishing, and lived in conditions comparable to those endured by the Black population in apartheid South Africa. These "tribal" land reserves were laid out by the colonial authorities in the second half of the 19th century.

Kanaks living on reservations had to perform forced labor on roads and other public works. The right to leave the tribal areas was severely restricted. They were excluded altogether from towns after dusk.

While they made up a clear majority of the population, Kanaks had no right to vote and received no government-provided education. Kanaks were excluded from the colonial economy, either as farmers producing for the market or as wage workers in the mines and plantations.

Within three decades of the foundation of New Caledonia, movements of resistance to such brutal exploitation began to arise, leading to a revolt in 1878. Following World War II, under the impact of anticolonial revolutions that erupted throughout Asia and Africa the first political organization to involve descendants of French settlers as well as Kanaks was formed. This was the origin of the Caledonian Union (UC), which demanded internal autonomy for New Caledonia.

Weakened by this worldwide upsurge and under pressure in New Caledonia itself, Paris began to make some adjustments to its colonial rule in the 1950s. Some fundamental rights were legally recognized for Kanaks, including the right to vote, to receive an education, and to travel freely.

By the late 1960s the demand for independence was beginning to be articulated more clearly. The emergence of a new Kanak nationalism was reflected, for example, in the adoption of the name "Kanak," which had previously been a term of racist abuse.

New political groupings of young Kanaks emerged, demanding immediate independence from France. By the late 1970s their growth and combined pressure had won over the Caledonian Union to demand independence. Under the leadership of Eloi Machoro, the UC combined with other Kanak parties in September 1984 to form the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

Upsurge in independence struggle

In 1984–85 thousands of Kanaks, reacting to the refusal of the French government

Continued on Page 15

U.S. gov't demands extraditions from Colombia

BY RÓGER CALERO

U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft announced September 24 that his government had indicted three leaders of Colombia's ultrarightist death squads, known as the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC). The paramilitary groups are closely tied to the country's drug-growing landlords and to the army.

The U.S. Justice Department is demanding the extradition of the three, including AUC chief Carlos Castaño, on drug-trafficking charges. It has previously secured indictments on similar charges against several leaders of the main antigovernment guerrilla organization, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Washington has justified its demand to extradite individuals from Colombia, together with its increasing military intervention in that South American nation, under the banner of fighting "narcoterrorism." The U.S. State Department has placed the two main antigovernment guerrilla organizations—the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN)—along with the AUC on a list of 31 organizations it labels "terrorist."

Colombian minister of the interior Fernando Londoño assured U.S. officials that the extradition request would be given priority and that other indictments would follow. "The request for the extradition of [top] leaders of FARC was only a matter of paperwork," Londoño said.

Washington has previously used extradition requests and indictments of citizens of other countries as a justification for military intervention abroad. In 1989 U.S. troops invaded Panama and overthrew its government, seizing Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega and putting him on trial in a U.S. court on charges of allowing Colombian drug cartels to ship tons of cocaine through Panama.

The latest indictments followed the approval by the U.S. Congress of \$42 million in military funds to the Colombian regime. The financing was approved after the U.S. State Department "certified" the Colombian government for "addressing" charges that the armed forces are complicit in brutal repression carried out by paramilitary forces.

As Washington has escalated its intervention in Colombia over the past three years,

verbal criticism of human rights violations by U.S. big-business politicians "has far less impact than it did as recently as last summer, when both Republicans and Democrats raised the specter of U.S. involvement in 'another Vietnam,'" a *Washington Post* article said.

The U.S. government has used its Plan Colombia, a program of \$1.3 billion in military funding, to increase its armed presence in Colombia and more broadly in the region. It backed the election of the new Colombian president, Álvaro Uribe, who is now taking steps to further militarize the country and crack down on workers' rights.

When Uribe traveled to see his mentors in Washington in late September, U.S. president George Bush hailed him as "a man who told the people of his country that he would work to eradicate terrorism, drug trafficking."

While asserting the right to extradite individuals from Colombia to the United States, Washington has demanded that Uribe guarantee immunity to U.S. military personnel in Colombia from prosecution by the International Criminal Court for any human rights abuses they may be accused of in that country.

Workers and youth seek out Pathfinder titles at Madrid fair

BY GERARD ARCHER
AND LAURA GARZA

MADRID, Spain—"What's happening in the United States is one of the most important things to know about," said José Ocaña to the volunteer staffers at the Pathfinder stand here at the September 13-15 festival, an annual event sponsored by the Communist Party of Spain. Ocaña, who is a retired laboratory worker, left the stand with a copy of the Spanish-language version of *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions*. That title sold out on the first day of the festival, and people continued to ask about it after looking over the display featuring quotes from the book.

The two-and-a-half-day festival drew thousands of youth and others from around the country to the grounds of Casa del Campo, a major park, where many of the youth attending camped out for their stay. Along with rock concerts, cultural events, arts and crafts displays, meetings, and presentations, a range of bookstores and po-

Pathfinder's top seller, and the title that prompted the most discussion, was *Nueva Internacional* no. 1, which contains the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." Many were interested in the magazine's description of the roots and ramifications of the 1990-91 U.S. war in the Arab-Persian Gulf and the example set by socialist workers in the United States and other countries with their ongoing campaign against imperialism and war. A number of fair goers made up their mind to buy the issue after seeing the article "1945: When U.S. Troops Said No" by Mary-Alice Waters, which tells the hidden history of the mass protests by GIs overseas at the end of World War II demanding to be brought home—a movement that defeated Washington's plans to keep them in the Pacific to protect U.S. imperialist interests from the growing colonial revolutions.

Some came to the festival looking for the Pathfinder stand, having visited it in previous years. Iván José Pires, a university student and *Militant* reader, was one. As he



Visitors browse books at Pathfinder booth during festival in Madrid hosted by Spanish Communist Party. Top seller was title about Washington's 1990-91 assault on Iraq. Militant

litical organizations displayed and sold their literature in stands set up for that purpose. Members of Pathfinder's volunteer team hailed from London and Manchester in the United Kingdom and from Boston in the United States.

renewed his subscription, he said that he appreciates following the "international news, the situation in the United States, the Middle East, and the point of view of U.S. socialists, which is not well-known." A truck driver who also stopped by to renew his sub-

Protesters in Yakima Valley fight cop frame-up

ERNEST MAILHOT

YAKIMA, Washington—On September 21 defenders of Ricardo Jiménez held a third protest to demand the authorities drop charges against the 26-year-old worker and prosecute the cops who assaulted both Jiménez and others at his home on August 31. The charges include felony assault on a police officer, resisting arrest, and forgery. Jiménez is now out on bail. Originally set at \$25,000, bail was lowered to \$5,000 after the first protests.

Several demonstrators said they wanted to respond to a pro-cop rally that was held after their first two protests. Television coverage showed only a handful of individuals demonstrating in support of the police in that action. According to the *Yakima Herald*, the 30-minute-long event was made up mainly of members of the International Footprinters Association, "a national social (group) whose membership is 51 percent former law enforcement workers."

At the time of the cop attack, the Jiménez family was holding a baptism party for their two-year-old son. The cops had come by twice to complain about loud music, although the music had been lowered after the first visit. Gloria Aparicio, who was at the picket line, explained what she witnessed. "Ricardo was handcuffed and the cops were punching him. I tried to talk to the cops but

a woman cop pushed me away. That's when they pepper-sprayed the kids and all of us.... My four-year-old son said, 'Mom, they're pointing a gun at my uncle.'"

Anabel Chávez, 20, who is Ricardo Jiménez's sister-in-law, said, "There was no need for what the police did. There was a woman cop and two other cops punching and kicking Ricardo."

After the picket line some of the protesters went to the Jiménez household and watched a videotape of the cop attack. It shows a cloud of pepper spray engulfing the Jiménez's yard. At one point a young man from the party is seen trying to calm things down. A cop grabs him and shoves him, almost knocking him to the ground. Many of the cops are in full riot gear and some have their guns drawn. In the video one cop, in an embarrassed manner, puts his gun away after the crowd yells at him to do so.

Snokist unionists join protest

Among the protesters were Petra Núñez and three other workers from Snokist Growers who were recently forced to reapply for their jobs through an employment agency that pays several dollars less an hour than Snokist. Núñez, who has been at Snokist for 16 years, said her pay was cut from \$10.12 an hour to \$7.50. Also at the protest was Rogelio Montes, an organizer for the West-



Cleaners from Madrid's Ramón y Cajal hospital picket to protest firing of 10 members of their union leadership committee. A group of them came to Madrid book fair. Militant

scription, which had lapsed a while before, said that he values the paper's reports of workers' resistance in the United States. Many of those coming by the Pathfinder stand for the first time checked out the books offering a Marxist analysis of world politics, and those giving readers an otherwise unavailable picture of the class struggle in the United States. "What do you have on unions in the United States and the struggles of working people there?" asked one worker. He left with a copy of *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* by Jack Barnes and later returned to buy *Lenin's Final Fight*, containing articles by V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the Russian Revolution.

Paqui, a garment worker, traded experiences in the industry with volunteers from London and Boston while picking up a copy of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, also by Barnes.

Two-way political exchanges

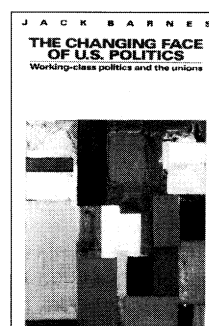
The political exchanges were very much two-way. As the Pathfinder staffers talked about union battles that they had taken part in or helped to build solidarity with in the United Kingdom and the United States, visitors to the booth described their experiences of union battles and other political developments in this country.

As in other imperialist countries, workers in Spain are confronting endemic joblessness and attacks on their rights. While the country's unemployment rate has dipped from its previous high of 20 percent, many noted the growth in part-time work and temporary labor agencies.

Meanwhile, the government is stepping up attempts to pass legislation restricting democratic rights, especially targeting immigrants and those supporting Basque independence.

ern Council of Industrial Workers, which is involved in the unionization effort at Snokist. He has helped organize all three actions in support of Jiménez. With well over 90 percent of the eligible workers having signed union election cards, the vote at Snokist is set for October 11.

Ernest Mailhot is a meat packer and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 81 in Seattle.



From Pathfinder

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics

Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions

Jack Barnes

A handbook for workers, farmers, and youth repelled by the class inequalities, economic instability, racism, women's oppression, cop violence, and wars endemic to capitalism, and who are seeking the road toward effective action to overturn that exploitative system and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations. Also available in Spanish and French. \$23.00.

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 14; write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690; or visit www.pathfinderpress.com. Please include \$3 for shipping and handling.

Socialist campaigners give boost to 'Militant' subscription drive

BY JACK WILLEY

Three weeks into the drive, campaigners for the socialist press continue to keep up a steady pace of selling subscriptions and books on revolutionary politics. This puts them in a good position for the upcoming special target week, now set for October 12-20.

While reaching 28 percent of the international *Militant* goal—slipping only slightly from where we should be—sales of the *New International* series and *Capitalism's World Disorder* have surged as *Militant* supporters have visited West Coast dockworkers and joined protests against police brutality and demonstrations against Israel's war on Palestine. Socialist Workers election campaigns continue to play a crucial role in selling subscriptions and books on communist theory and strategy. The accounts below illustrate these positive results.

At picket lines in Washington State

"I'm glad that you could make it," said Petra Núñez, a worker at Snokist fruit packing in Yakima, Washington, to David Ferguson, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Washington's 7th District. A union election is scheduled for October 11 at Snokist, which recently cut the pay of workers by several dollars per hour by forcing them to go to an employment agency to get their jobs back.

Ferguson met Núñez at a picket outside the Yakima police station. The protest was called to demand dropping all charges against Ricardo Jiménez, who was beaten and framed up by the cops.

"Many people stop and listen when a candidate for congress speaks out against the imperialist war and denounces police brutality," Ferguson told the *Militant*. One person bought a *Militant* subscription at the protest and two people renewed their subscriptions—one each to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The socialist candidate and his supporters have joined rallies and picket lines nearly every day in solidarity with longshore workers, who are now locked out. On a recent visit to a picket line, two locked-out longshore workers bought subscriptions to the paper after talking to Ferguson.

Ferguson has walked the picket line with striking teachers in Issaquah, Washington, who recently approved a contract with a significant pay raise. He has also participated in several meetings initiated by the NAACP to plan protests in Seattle against the police killings of Robert Lee Thomas Sr. and Shawn Maxwell. The initial protest September 29 at-

tracted 200 people and received wide publicity.

William Kalman, the Socialist Workers candidate for Lt. Governor of California, and Deborah Liatos, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in District 8 in San Francisco, campaigned at a demonstration of a few thousand people against Israel's war on the Palestinians and the U.S. war moves against Iraq. Socialist campaigners sold four subscriptions to the *Militant*, and four copies of *New International* no. 7, featuring "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," three other issues from the *New International* series, and *Capitalism's World Disorder*. More than \$200 in Pathfinder books was sold.

"Several high school students liked the fact that our campaign defends Iraq's right to protect its sovereignty and that we reject the imperialist demands for inspections," Kalman reported. "Our view on the role of inspections was in stark contrast to what many speakers at the event put forward. We explained that United Nations inspectors aren't neutral; their sole purpose is to give legitimacy to imperialism's war plans."

The candidates have taken their message to the ILWU hiring hall in San Francisco and to the Oakland docks. They handed out 100 copies of their campaign statement outside a dockworkers union meeting. One worker, who offered a \$10 contribution to the campaign, decided to get a subscription instead after campaign supporters encouraged him to check it out.

The Socialist Workers campaign will go to Fresno during the October 12-20 target week to visit raisin farmers.

From Auckland to Iowa

The *Militant's* truthful reporting received a wide hearing at a protest in Auckland, New Zealand, against the escalating assault on Iraq. Two people at the September 28 demonstration bought subscriptions to the paper and 18 picked up a single copy. Two days later at Auckland University 15 people bought the paper and a student originally from Iraq subscribed. Nine Pathfinder books were

Rico. Two other socialist candidates, Chessie Molano, candidate for lieutenant governor of Illinois, and Paul Pederson, candidate for U.S. Congress in New York, joined Koppel on the trip.

The two-hour discussion was attended by about 30 students. In a brief presentation, Koppel spoke about the imperialist war drive in the Mideast and the capitalist depression unfolding worldwide, and pointed to the example of how workers and farmers in Cuba have made a socialist revolution. A discussion and debate followed, mostly around the Cuban Revolution. Koppel spoke about Pathfinder's newest title "October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba" and examples found in other Pathfinder books that show the popular character of Cuba's socialist revolution and its leadership.

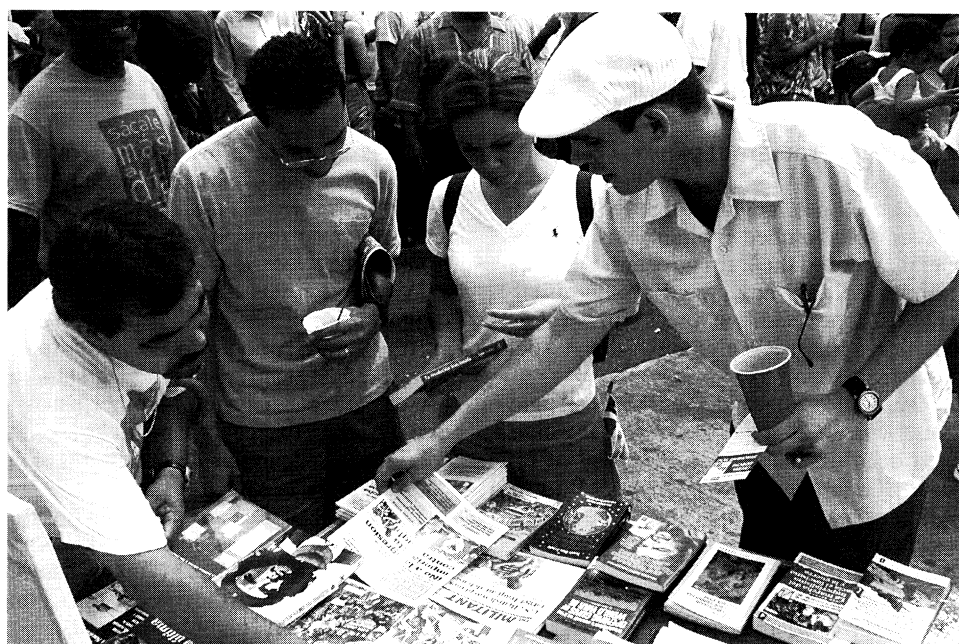
"Our campaign encourages working people and young people to read and study, to draw our own conclusions about how to understand and change the world," Koppel said. "The big-business candidates from the Democratic and Republican parties don't want us to study. Their system of education is designed to train us to be obedient workers accepting the bosses' prerogatives."

The literature table that the socialist candidates set up at the university was constantly surrounded. In a couple of hours students bought 12 books, 2 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 2 subscriptions to the *Militant*. A number of those who attended the forum came after visiting the table and buying books and newspapers.

Before visiting the university, the campaign tour made a stop at the San Juan docks to talk to stevedores. The socialist candidates brought with them the coverage in *Perspectiva Mundial* on the dockworkers struggle on the Pacific Coast. Several workers bought copies of that issue and two signed up for subscriptions.

In all, the team of socialist campaigners sold more than \$350 worth of Pathfinder books, 22 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 2 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 24 single copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 5 copies of the *Militant*, through campaign tables and at political events during four days.

AMIEU-Australasian Meat Industry Employee's Union; MWU-Meat Workers Union; NDU-National Distribution Union; UFCW-United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA-United Mine Workers of America; UNITE-Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees.



Militant Chessie Molano

Campaign table at Grito de Lares commemoration in Puerto Rico. Socialist Workers election campaigns are playing a crucial role in selling subscriptions and books.

sold in the course of the two days.

In Des Moines, *Militant* supporters took the September 30 issue of the paper—with the article, "Iowa cops' grilling of women violates privacy"—to Storm Lake, Iowa, the center of a controversy where cops, after finding an infant's discarded remains, have interrogated women throughout the area about their private lives. During their visit, supporters sold four papers and five copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* outside the IBP meatpacking plant and another two *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions in town.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Drive Sept. 7-Nov. 17: Week 3

Country	Militant			PM			Book	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold
Australia	28	3	11%	6	0		15	0
Canada								
Vancouver	30	13	43%	5	1		15	2
Montreal	15	4	27%	10	2		20	8
Toronto	30	7	23%	5	0		25	2
Canada total	75	24	32%	20	3		60	12
Iceland	9	5	56%	1	0		25	1
New Zealand								
Christchurch	12	5	42%	1	0		7	6
Auckland	20	8	40%	1	0		7	3
N.Z. total	32	13	41%	2	0		14	9
Sweden								
Stockholm	12	8	67%	3	2		5	6
Gothenburg	15	5	33%	3	1		10	4
Sweden Total	27	13	48%	6	3		15	10
United Kingdom								
London	45	14	31%	15	5		20	49
Dundee	10	0	0%	0	0		8	2
UK total	55	14	25%	15	5		28	51
United States								
Tucson	5	4	80%	1	1		5	0
Western Colorado	20	15	75%	10	5		12	8
Brownsville	8	4	50%	2	2		6	0
Seattle	40	17	43%	12	5		30	6
Des Moines	25	10	40%	12	4		12	12
Atlanta	35	13	37%	15	2		25	2
Washington	30	11	37%	12	5		25	13
Houston	35	12	34%	15	3		30	19
Upper Manhattan	50	17	34%	35	11		30	17
Detroit	43	13	30%	12	6		25	11
Cleveland	28	8	29%	7	5		15	2
Birmingham	22	6	27%	10	3		12	2
Omaha	15	4	27%	23	8		12	14
San Francisco	30	8	27%	20	12		20	16
NY Garment Dist.	65	17	26%	35	14		60	12
Twin Cities	55	13	24%	30	20		25	11
NE Pennsylvania	30	7	23%	7	0		15	3
Chicago	45	9	20%	30	16		25	14
Los Angeles	45	9	20%	30	8		30	1
Pittsburgh	40	8	20%	4	0		15	3
Miami	30	5	17%	10	2		25	7
Newark	55	9	16%	35	11		25	7
Philadelphia	25	4	16%	10	1		15	0
Tampa	25	3	12%	8	1		12	1
Charlotte	20	1	5%	8	2		20	0
Boston	28	1	4%	20	4		25	6
Other	0	7	0%	0	13		0	6
U.S. total	849	235	28%	413	164		551	193
Int'l totals	1075	307	28%	463	175		708	276
Goal/Should be	1100	330	30%	500	150		725	218

IN THE UNIONS

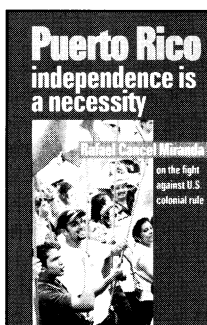
	Militant			PM			Book	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold
Australia								
AMIEU	4	1	25%				2	0
Canada								
UFCW	9	0	0%	1	0		8	0
UNITE	6	1	17%	7	2		7	1
Total	15	1	7%	8	2		15	1
New Zealand								
MWU	3	1	33%				1	0
NDU	2	0	0%				1	0
Total	5	1	20%				2	0
United States								
UFCW	50	13	26%	65	30		60	13
UMWA	25	0	0%	4	0		13	0
UNITE	50	4	8%	40	6		60	9
Total	125	17	14%	109	36		133	22
raised goal*								

From Pathfinder

Puerto Rico: Independence Is a Necessity

Rafael Cancel Miranda

In two interviews, Cancel Miranda — one of five Puerto Rican Nationalists imprisoned by Washington for more than 25 years until 1979 — speaks out on the brutal reality of U.S. colonial domination, the campaign needed to free the Puerto Rican political prisoners, the example of Cuba's socialist revolution, and the resurgence of the independence movement today. In English and Spanish. Booklet \$3



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 14, or from www.pathfinderpress.com

Warplanes bomb Iraq

Continued from front page
ian facility."

In an acknowledgment that the invading forces have bombed civilian areas, U.S. officials accused the Iraqi government of stationing military equipment at nonmilitary sites in "hopes coalition forces will not strike for fear of injuring civilians," the Associated Press reported.

Over the last decade, the frequent Anglo-American air assaults have left many civilians dead or maimed. In February of last year, *Washington Post* columnist William Arkin revealed that the U.S. military had used antipersonnel cluster bombs in its attacks in the imperialist-imposed "no-fly" zones over Iraqi territory. The bombs will "kill and wound innocent civilians for years to come," he wrote.

While U.S. military spokespeople claim that officers order attacks in response to Iraqi antiaircraft fire or to signals that the ground defense radar has locked onto them, U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld disclosed in mid-September that the planes are now concentrating on the destruction of major fixed air defense facilities, "rather than the specific guns and radars used against U.S. and British pilots," reported AP.

The U.S. and British planes have especially targeted sites in an air corridor in the southeast of Iraq, in the region of its border with Kuwait. In public discussions of the invasion by Pentagon and White House officials, Kuwait is regularly mentioned as a possible staging ground for an infantry drive toward Baghdad.

U.S. troop buildup in Kuwait

The number of U.S. troops in Kuwait has grown to 10,000. U.S. amphibious, air, and ground forces are staging "Operation Eagle Mace." Another exercise entitled "Operation Desert Spring" is due to begin soon. Some 4,000 U.S. marines are taking part in these maneuvers, more than double the number involved in similar exercises in the past.

"Such exercises have been common for nearly a decade, giving U.S. forces desert experience and bolstering military ties with gulf allies," reported the San Diego *Union Tribune*.

Since the end of the Gulf War, a decade

that has spanned three administrations, Washington has established a number of new bases in Kuwait and other Gulf states, and organized regular military maneuvers from them.

Washington has also built or extended military facilities in Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates, as reinforcements and alternatives to the long-standing Prince Sultan Air Base and other bases in Saudi Arabia. Prince Sultan still houses the command headquarters for overflights of the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq.

In a survey of the current official position of Iraq's neighbors, the October 1 *Wall Street Journal* listed the regimes in Turkey, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar in the category of willing "help and support" to a U.S.-led war.

Along with Kuwait, the government of Turkey is likely to provide a launching pad for a U.S.-led assault both on the ground and in the air. On September 30, the Turkish government played host separately to U.S. officials and the Iraqi foreign minister Tariq Aziz. Nonetheless, "Turkey knows they can't stop America," said a Turkish journalist, "so they are trying to get some sort of compensation, at least in economic terms, and in political terms, they are trying to get guarantees against a possible Kurdish state."

The north of Iraq and the south of Turkey are home to millions of Kurds, who have waged many struggles for self-determination against the Turkish and other governments in the region. U.S. officials are presently trying to pressure Kurdish capitalist parties to collaborate with Washington in its escalating war moves.

The *Journal* listed the governments of Jordan, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia in the "help but [officially] oppose" category. Only Iran and Syria were placed in the "no help or support" corner at this stage of the U.S. drive to war. Washington has recently criticized both countries for supposedly providing missiles to Hezbollah, an organization based in the south of Lebanon near the border with Israel.

Increase in arms manufactures

The Pentagon has increased its orders of bombs and other weapons for use in the fast-approaching assault. At Raytheon plants in

Tucson, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, "Production of Paveway air-to surface and Tomahawk cruise missiles has tripled in recent months. The Paveway...can carry a new bunker-busting warhead that is designed to kill troops hidden deep inside hardened underground chambers." Boeing has doubled production of electronic bomb-guidance kits.

"War fever has intensified at the Pentagon," remarked the September 29 *Sunday Times* of London. "Planners are fine-tuning what many military experts expect to be a high-speed, high-intensity deployment of forces ready to advance on to Iraqi soil within three weeks of an order from Mr. Bush."

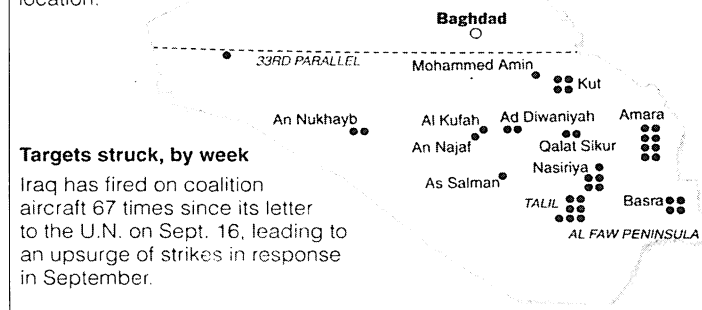
The British paper said, "A growing number of military experts believe the timetable points to Thanksgiving."

Democratic politicians in the U.S. Congress have joined in the war preparations by advocating a U.S. assault "only" after sending U.S.-approved "inspectors" into Iraq under the cover of the United Nations. Edward Kennedy, "the Senate's preeminent liberal," as CNN described him, gave a speech September 27 criticizing Bush along these lines. "Kennedy said the use of force may prove inevitable, should weapons inspections fail," CNN reported.

Kennedy ended the speech by giving a glowing account of the U.S. government's role in the October 1962 "missile crisis." He said his brother "won international support before initiating a blockade around the communist island nation" at that time. In that confrontation, driven by Washington's determination to overthrow the Cuban Revolution, the Kennedy administration brought the world to the brink of a nuclear war but backed

Strikes in the No-Flight Zones

So far this year, American and coalition aircraft have responded to Iraqi antiaircraft firings on 34 days in the southern no-flight zone and on 10 days in the northern no-flight zone. Some of the responses were in more than one location.



Map showing U.S.-British bombing attacks inside Iraq this year. Imperialist justification for these assaults, echoed by the *New York Times* in the above captions, is that invading planes are bombing in self-defense.

down from an invasion after weighing the massive casualties the mobilized Cuban population would inflict on the invaders.

Despite the Democrats' tactical criticisms of the Bush administration, a Congressional resolution backing the White House's course is expected to pass with a comfortable majority. "We're making progress, we are nearing agreement, and soon we will speak with one voice," said Bush on September 29.

Washington is also drumming up backing in the United Nations Security Council. Under a draft resolution sponsored by U.S. representatives and supported by London, UN "inspectors" would be given authority to declare "no-fly, no-drive" zones around alleged weapons-production sites inside Iraq, "enforced by UN security forces or UN member states." Such armed units would be deployed in Baghdad in the center of the country, Basra in the south, Mosul in the north, and elsewhere.

Action will be triggered

Baghdad would be given 30 days to make a declaration about its weapons facilities. If according to Washington the Iraqi authorities "delay, obstruct, or lie about anything they disclosed, then this will trigger action," said one U.S. official.

European diplomats in the United Nations have "complained that the British-U.S. text" of the draft resolution "was so aggressive that it was 'designed to be rejected,'" reported the *Sunday Times*.

Washington's rival powers in Europe have expressed their resentment of Washington's military and political dominance, seeking to promote their own interests in the Mideast.

A representative of the German government, which has just taken up a temporary position on the Security Council, criticized Washington and London for seeking to create a "whole new structure" of inspectors under their control.

"We do not want to give carte blanche to military action, because we want to fully assume our responsibilities," said the French foreign minister.

Meanwhile, an elite Israeli commando unit has been operating inside Western Iraq to "locate" Iraqi missile launchers, reported the September 29 *Jerusalem Post*, citing *Jane's Foreign Report*. An article in the British publication, reported the *Post*, "claimed that Israel had struck a secret agreement with Jordan whereby if necessary Israeli planes will be permitted to used Jordanian air space."

On September 26 Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon laid out his response to Washington's calls on his government to exercise restraint if Iraqi missiles land on Israeli soil. The U.S. government has said it will prioritize knocking out Iraq's missile silos and mobile launchers to make any Israeli air strikes unnecessary.

"If Iraq hits Israel, but does not hit population centers or cause casualties, our interest will be to not make it hard on the Americans," Sharon said. "If on the other hand, harm is done to Israel, if we suffer casualties or if nonconventional weapons of mass destruction are used against us, then definitely Israel will take the proper actions."

Israeli forces have carried out at least two assassination attempts of leading Palestinian figures over the past week, one of them successful. A number of other Palestinians have died in military attacks, as Apache helicopters, bulldozers, tanks, and infantry have carried out raids and fired on protesters.

Pittsburgh rally condemns assault on Palestinians

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PITTSBURGH—Chanting "Free Palestine!" more than 200 youthful demonstrators protested October 1 outside a speech given here by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. They condemned Tel Aviv's assault on the Palestinian people and Washington's support to it.

Backers of the Israeli regime and the U.S. war drive in the Mideast organized a counterdemonstration of similar size.

Netanyahu, invited as part of the Robert Morris University Lecture Series, gave a speech supporting Washington's moves toward war against Iraq. To protest his visit, a Committee for Peace in the Middle East was formed, based on university students, especially those from the Middle East, other opponents of Washington's policies in the Mideast, activists at the local Islamic Center, and the Thomas Merton Center.

The pro-Palestinian demonstrators, joined by a busload from Youngstown, Ohio, sponsored by the Arab Community Center there, marched to Heinz Hall, where Netanyahu was speaking. They carried signs demanding "End U.S. Military Aid to Israel"; "End Israeli Occupation"; and "Self-determination for Palestinians."

Meanwhile, pro-Israel counterdemonstrators rallied beneath a banner declaring, "United We Stand," and waved Israeli and U.S. flags. Pittsburgh mayor Thomas Murphy joined their demonstration and addressed their rally.

The prowar demonstrators then marched to Heinz Hall and attempted to provoke supporters of Palestinian self-determination into a violent confrontation. When they failed, they entered the hall to hear Netanyahu.

Outside, pro-Palestinian demonstrators held a rally, with speakers including historian Staughton Lynd, Edith Bell of Holocaust Survivors, and South African poet Dennis Brutus.

One of the speakers was Omari Musa, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 14th CD, who is active in the



More than 200 supporters of the Palestinian struggle protested October 1 during the visit of former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Pittsburgh.

Committee for Peace in the Middle East. "We need to organize to oppose the war both in Palestine and in Iraq," Musa said. "We don't see the Palestinians as victims; they're fighters."

"The longshore workers on the West Coast are locked out by the bosses now,"

Musa continued. The threat of government strikebreaking against the dockworkers "shows that the war is here as well as abroad. Our main enemy is the U.S. government. We need to replace it with a government of workers and farmers that can end their wars."

NAACP exposes Florida voting rights abuses

BY HENRY HILLENBRAND

TAMPA, Florida—A number of reported violations of the voting rights of working people, particularly Blacks, in the September 10 primary elections in this state have been publicized by the NAACP. Together with People for the American Way (PAW), the civil rights organization has formed an Election Protection coalition to expose these abuses, and to take steps to reduce them at the November 5 Congressional elections in Florida.

On that date, the coalition will station volunteers at voting locations in predominantly Black communities. The volunteers will distribute flyers explaining voting rights, offer help to anyone who requests it, and document any abuses by officials.

Two days after the primary contest, as reports of violations mounted, the NAACP organized a public hearing in Jacksonville. Some 130 attended, a number of whom testified to the panel.

Although the big-business press has concentrated on reporting problems in Miami-Dade and Broward, the two counties with the largest number of registered voters, reports indicated that the violations were much more widespread.

At an Election Protection workshop held by the NAACP, Sharon Lettman-Pacheco, the PAW representative in Tallahassee, told participants that Blacks had encountered problems in 15 counties.

The September 12 panel heard of a wide range of violations. In some cases registered voters were denied their clearly established right to vote by provisional ballot. Others were turned away because they carried no photo identification, which is not required under state law.

One woman said that in the polling station she visited, new voting machines were not ready until 90 minutes after the 7:00 a.m. scheduled opening time. By that time, she pointed out, many people had left to go to work.

In Duval County, "one precinct opened an hour late, others gave out the wrong party's ballots, some didn't extend voting hours as ordered and others went through ballot shortages," reported the *Jacksonville Times-Union*.

In Miami-Dade, reported the *Miami Herald*, at least 10 percent of the election precincts did not open on time. In several the new touch-screen voting machines were not working for most of the morning. At one Liberty City polling place more than 500 people were turned away because no ma-

chines were ready for the first four hours.

The NAACP efforts to expose the obstacles faced by Blacks in the September voting follows the organization's voting rights campaign after the 2000 presidential elections. After collecting numerous accounts of violations at that time, the NAACP demanded a federal investigation into the matter, and joined others in filing a class-action lawsuit in federal court.

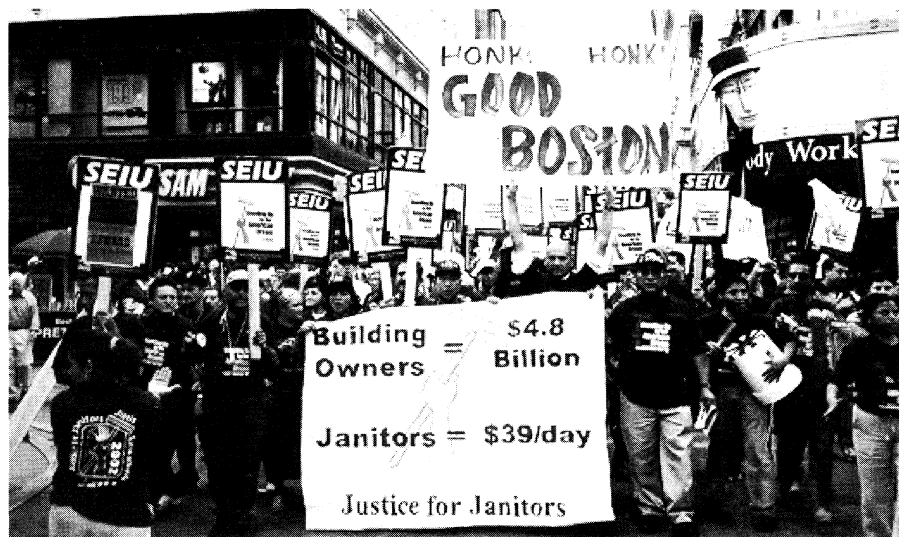
A June 2001 report by the US Commission on Civil Rights found that many Black residents of the state had been wrongfully purged from voter registration lists or turned away from polling places. A heavy state police presence around polling stations in some Black communities intimidated potential voters, and polls were closed in some Black neighborhoods while people were still standing in line. Spanish- and Creole-speaking voters reported that they often could not get access to translators.

"The system is still broke," commented Isaiah Rumlin, a branch president of the NAACP, after the September primary.

At the NAACP convention a closely related issue, the question of voting rights for those in prison or with a criminal record, was given an airing at a session that featured a panel of candidates for state offices.

Florida is one of a number of states that permanently deprives convicted felons of the right to vote. This affects more than 600,000 residents of Florida, where 31 percent of the population denied voting rights consists of Black men. Each year, some 1,000 people succeed in restoring this right

Boston janitors strike for wages, benefits



Militant/Sarah Ullman

Some 1,200 janitors in the Boston area went on strike October 1 for higher wages, more full-time jobs, and better health benefits. The janitors, who are members of Local 254 of the Service Employees International Union, have won broad support for their fight. Above, workers march through downtown Boston September 4.

through appeals to the governor, a protracted and difficult process. Approximately 50,000 people who have filed such appeals have been on the waiting list for two or three years. This past July U.S. District Judge James King upheld the Florida law.

One audience participant said that any-

one released from prison after serving time for a felony conviction should regain the right to vote. Panelist Rachele Fruit, the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Florida, responded that the right to vote should apply to all without discrimination, including prisoners.

Contributions to Pathfinder Fund jump

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The contributions from Pathfinder supporters to the \$105,000 international Pathfinder Fund campaign have risen sharply, from around \$13,000 received as of a week ago to \$22,830 over the past seven days. The gain is the result of successful fund-raising meetings, continuing outreach to new contributors, and attention to collecting pledges. By maintaining this momentum, Pathfinder supporters can get the fund campaign on target.

Contributors' checks are needed now, not simply by the end of the drive. The fund allows Pathfinder to continue its month-to-month efforts to publish and reprint its entire arsenal of books and pamphlets on revolutionary working-class politics.

Good news came in recently from Australia. Following a successful Pathfinder fund appeal event in Sydney on September 14, increasing contributions to more than \$850 and boosting pledges. Pathfinder supporters there decided to increase their goal to \$1,500, reports fund director Linda Harris.

The meeting featured Rebecca Williamson, a member of the Young Socialists in the United States. She outlined some of the working-class struggles she has been part of and built solidarity with, from the West Coast longshore workers' fight, to a farm workers' rally in Sacramento, to actions against police brutality.

Boost to fund in San Francisco

Pathfinder supporters from Los Angeles to Seattle have been busy. "The Pathfinder Fund got a boost from an appeal made at the Militant Labor Forum in San Francisco on September 21," writes Deborah Liatos.

Nearly \$1,500 was brought in, bringing the total collected in the Bay Area to nearly 40 percent of the area goal of \$8,500. Participants gave more than \$700 in new pledges. To date, 40 people have contributed or pledged to the Pathfinder Fund in the area, and fund campaigners are working to raise that number as they build an October 19 fund event to celebrate the publication of Pathfinder's new book, *October 1962: The "Missile" Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Cuban author Tomás Díez Acosta.

Pathfinder supporters have encountered a keen interest in the publications at book fairs around the United States. Emily Fitzsimmons reports that at the September 29 New York Is Book Country event, people crowded around the Pathfinder booth throughout the day. By closing time more than \$1,200 in books had been sold, including 14 copies of *October 1962: The "Missile" Crisis as Seen from Cuba* and its Spanish-language counterpart published in Havana.

Gale Shangold, the organizer of the work of volunteer Pathfinder sales representatives in New York, reported that she and others visited the booths of several bookstores and libraries at the New York event. "We were able to drop off catalogs, introduce some people to Pathfinder, and get the names of buyers to follow up on," she said.

In Detroit, Pathfinder sales reps from Chicago and Detroit teamed up to visit 33 buyers at the Great Lakes Trade Book Association event, where they got two orders and the possibility of more, Ilona Gersh reports.

Pathfinder supporters sold more than \$700 worth of books at the Baltimore Book Festival, Janice Lynn writes, and then headed to American University in Washington for a forum titled "Déjà Vu '62: the Cuban Missile Crisis Today," where they featured the new book on the missile crisis.

Contributions to the fund can be sent to the *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014, with checks made out to Pathfinder.

Detroit city workers demand contract

BY DON MACKLE

DETROIT—Hundreds of unionized city workers took part in a protest action here September 21 to demand a new contract with the Detroit municipal government.

More than 18,000 municipal employees have gone without a raise for close to a year and a half because of a wage freeze imposed by the previous mayor, Dennis Archer, and continued by Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

Kilpatrick has asserted that due to a \$75 million budget shortfall the city government is offering a five-year contract with no raises in the first two years, and a 2 percent raise in each of the other three years.

"Zero percent won't pay the rent" was one of the most popular chants at the picket line.

"The mayor just wants us to continue taking these low salaries," said Theresa Brown, a seven-year employee with the municipal health department and member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 457. "It seems like they always want to put the workers on the back burner. They want us to accept working for five years with only a 6 percent increase, and we have already been working for over a year without a raise."

"We just want to be treated fairly," she said.

Following several months of negotiations, at least five of the 18 unions involved have now taken votes approving strike action if an agreement is not reached. In recent months the unions have held several actions at city council meetings to press their demands.

After union officials called for the September 21 action to be held in front of the mayor's official residence, Kilpatrick invited all city workers to a public "information-

sharing" meeting at Cobo Hall, a large convention center in downtown Detroit. The unions then held their action outside the hall, sending some members into the meeting, while keeping up a picket line outside.

In a letter to the mayor, AFSCME Council 25 president Albert Garrett wrote, "We question whether your proposed meeting as described violates the Michigan Public Employees Relations Act by attempting to circumvent AFSCME and meet directly with workers as a collection of individuals on issues which are properly subject to collective bargaining."

At Cobo Hall the mayor started his presentation declaring that if the workers didn't go along with the contract proposal, the government would "have to" carry out layoffs.

Then, in an effort to divide the union, he asserted that some of the workers with more seniority had been telling him to go ahead and lay off those with less seniority so they could get pay raises. Kilpatrick said joint "labor-management" committees might be able to collaborate to find other "cost-cutting" measures.

After the meeting many of the city workers expressed anger at the mayor's arrogant posture. Dano Chappell, a welder with 16 years seniority at the city department of public works, stated, "One of the people who spoke reminded the mayor of when city workers took a pay cut some years back and asked 'why don't you take a 10 percent pay cut?' Kwame [Kilpatrick] said, 'I'm not taking a pay cut.' The way I see it, he's forcing the city employees into taking economic sanctions. The unions are always making concessions. It's about time the mayor made some concessions."

\$105,000 Pathfinder Fund Sept. 1—Nov. 17. Week 4

	Goal	Paid	%
Tucson	150	100	67%
NY Garment District	5,000	2,585	52%
Charlotte	3,500	1,750	50%
Western Colorado	2,600	1,225	47%
Newark	3,600	1,612	45%
San Francisco	8,500	3,340	39%
Seattle	7,500	2,165	29%
Philadelphia	5,000	1,427	29%
Brooklyn	3,200	885	28%
Pittsburgh	4,200	1,150	27%
Des Moines	1,200	315	26%
Boston	3,500	690	20%
Northeast PA	1,200	235	20%
Los Angeles	9,500	1,635	17%
Omaha	900	145	16%
Chicago	5,500	750	14%
Washington DC	3,000	350	12%
Upper Manhattan	3,600	367	10%
Twin Cities	5,000	400	8%
Cleveland	1,700	130	8%
Atlanta	4,250	310	7%
Miami	2,100	120	6%
Houston	4,500	210	5%
Birmingham	3,100	100	3%
Tampa	2,000	20	1%
Detroit	3,000	20	1%
Other		634	
U.S. total	97,300	22,670	23%
Sweden	1,400	100	7%
France	350	20	6%
New Zealand	1,200	40	3%
Australia	1,300	0	0%
Canada	4,500	0	0%
Iceland	150	0	0%
United Kingdom	1,200	0	0%
International total	107,400	22,830	21%
Int'l goal/should be	105,000	37,800	36%

Longshore workers resist bosses' lockout

continued from front page

slowdowns, the bosses' organization asserted, it would cost more to run the ports at "diminished productivity" than it would to shut them down. "Work slowdowns are how this union strikes, and they want to be paid for it," said Joseph Miniace, president of the PMA. The labor fight is taking place during the busiest time of the year on the waterfront.

In Washington, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the Bush administration was "monitoring" the situation "closely." In recent weeks the federal government has weighed in on the side of the bosses by threatening to invoke strikebreaking Taft-Hartley legislation, militarize the ports by using the Navy, end coast-wide bargaining, and impose other legislation to attempt to break the strike.

The employer class is using the threat of direct government strikebreaking to step up the pressure on the labor movement. Robin Lanier of the West Coast Waterfront Coalition (WCWC), an employer group that includes large retailers like Wal-Mart, Home Depot, and Target, said that if there is not a settlement soon, the Bush administration should do "whatever it needs to reopen the ports, and that means invoking Taft-Hartley." Talks with federal mediators were scheduled to take place as the *Militant* went to press.

The lockout announced September 27 was dubbed a "cooling-off" period by the PMA. When workers reported back to work the morning of September 29, they were told the shipping companies were locking them out again. Miniace called the decision a "defensive shutdown."

The 10,500 dockworkers have been without a contract since July 1. The 29 ports along the West Coast handle about half of the oceangoing cargo in the country, estimated at more than \$300 billion a year.

Union resists job cuts

The introduction of new technology—scanners and sensors—is at the center of the

confrontation. The union has agreed to give up some control over information documentation inside the port, which would result in job cuts. At the same time, the union wants to maintain coverage over some clerical jobs that have been outsourced to companies in Utah and Arizona, and to set minimum staffing levels for clerks. The PMA has rejected the union's proposal.

Another major issue in the labor fight is job safety. "They don't care about safety. They don't care about our accident record being the worst in 10 years. All they care about is profits," said one dockworker. There have been three fatalities alone at the Port of Long Beach this year.

"Look at the guy who got killed earlier this month," said an ILWU member, referring to the September 3 death of a 25-year veteran who was crushed by a 90,000 pound "top handler," a vehicle similar to a giant forklift. This worker was killed at the Stevedoring Services of America (SSA) facility. Longshoremen point out that the companies are taking short cuts on training. The number of workers who are not adequately trained has grown throughout the industry.

In response to a series of industrial accidents, including the September 3 fatality, the ILWU is demanding that "SSA comply with an arbitration decision issued by the West Coast Arbitrator mandating that only industry-trained and fully registered workers operate massive 'top handler' machinery, which has been the source



Militant/Bill Hovland

Locked-out dockworkers picket outside Port of Los Angeles October 1.

of recent deaths and injuries on the waterfront."

With growing concern over speedup-related safety incidents, many workers have refused to work overtime or work two shifts in a row. Union members are also wary of accepting company speedups when they are working without a contract.

Retailers, manufacturers nervous

Large retailers have expressed nervousness over the labor dispute, even though many of them prepared ahead of time by ordering extra inventory. "It's one thing if those two sides want to play brinkmanship," said Lanier of the West Coast Waterfront

Coalition. "But it's another thing if they jump off the cliff, because they take us with them."

Auto plants and other manufacturers will be hit within a matter of days, since many depend on a just-in-time parts delivery system.

He said, "Everybody's terrified of what this does to the stock market tomorrow." Employer groups claim that a five-day shutdown "would cost the national economy an estimated \$4.7 billion in lost wages and other costs."

The conflict could also have repercussions on businesses in Asia and Latin America that export to the United States.

N. Carolina: FBI arrest sparks protest

BY STEVE WOLF

GREENSBORO, North Carolina—Mekki Hamed, a driver for the United Yellow Taxi Association here and a part-time student at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, was arrested

September 11 by FBI cops, who, according to the Associated Press, said they were "trying to determine if he is an al Qaeda operative." The arrest was not made public until September 19. Mekki, 30, was born in the Sudan, where he trained as a pilot.

At a federal hearing on the case in Winston-Salem, Mekki was charged only with falsifying U.S. visa applications. About 40 supporters attended the September 23 hearing. The federal magistrate refused to release him on bail.

"We know he is innocent. We know him very well. He's a young guy, very kind and very decent," Jamal Omer told the press. Omer has worked as a taxi driver with Mekki for the past two years.

Co-workers, friends, and political activists organized "Friends of Mekki" as soon as they found out about the arrest. According to Badi Ali, a member of the group and president of the Islamic Center of the Triad, where Mekki attends Friday services, "We knew we had to act quickly." The group has raised money for his defense.

"The situation is worse now," Ali said in an interview. "But we cannot let this intimidate us. We must defend our civil rights."

In an attempt to smear Mekki, two U.S. government officials told AP, on condition of anonymity, that the federal government is investigating whether Mekki was plotting to use a plane as a weapon.

Omer explained that although Mekki had

been a pilot in the Sudan, "after September 11, he said it would be very unpopular for a Muslim to become a pilot here. He gave up on being a pilot."

Abdul Hamed, a coworker at United Yellow Taxi, said, "Mekki was mostly interested in his family, his wife. He made less than \$100 a day driving a cab. The charge that he is al Qaeda is not true."

Like many immigrants, Mekki was hoping to become a permanent U.S. resident by entering government-organized immigration lotteries. According to several co-workers, U.S. authorities charge that Mekki had entered the lottery several times, each time using a slightly different spelling of his name, to increase his chances of winning.

"Everybody has got some little detail wrong with immigration," said another taxi driver who asked to remain anonymous, referring to the bureaucratic and confusing regulations of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "If they charged everybody like they are charging Mekki, there would be no immigrants here."

Connie Allen, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate from North Carolina, denounced the harassment. "Mekki should be released and all charges against him dropped," she said. "This is an attack aimed not just at Arab or Muslim workers in the U.S., but at intimidating any worker from opposing U.S. government actions here and around the world."

San Francisco garment workers rally for \$1 million in unpaid wages



Militant/Bernie Senter

More than 100 garment workers, formerly employed by Wins, protested September 17 outside the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco where U.S. secretary of labor Elaine Chao was scheduled to speak. The workers have been waiting more than a year to receive months of unpaid wages amounting to more than \$1 million. The government closed three Wins factories in August 2001 after owner Anna Wong didn't pay the workers for more than four months. Since then federal officials have collected but not distributed \$420,000 of the workers' wages. "Asian immigrants come to work here and want to be treated fairly," read one of the many signs.

U.S. monopolies in African oilfields

Continued from Page 9

things," he said. "At the moment we have nothing." With the oil companies providing no compensation for environmental damage caused by the pipeline and few job opportunities, workers have organized protests, including strikes.

In mid-September, outside the village of Mpango, Cameroon, 20 young men blocked access to the new oil pipeline from Chad. They said the pipeline project "has failed to bring the social benefits they had expected," the *Financial Times* reported September 11.

"Before we had confidence," said Victor Ayessi, one of the protesters, who said he is unemployed and had hoped for a job on the pipeline. "Now we find our confidence has been abused."

In neighboring Nigeria oil workers orga-

nized a two-day strike on September 23 to protest government plans to sell off the four refineries of the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to private investors, which they insist would raise gas prices and eliminate jobs.

The oil workers' strike followed a series of actions by hundreds of women at oil facilities of ChevronTexaco and Shell in July and August. Toxic spills from the companies have destroyed farm land and crops and killed aquatic life.

"I don't know how [ChevronTexaco] can allow other human beings to live like this," said one of the protesters. "Why do they treat us like animals?" The women demanded the companies provide jobs, build schools, clinics, a town hall, electricity and water systems, and clean up pollution from oil spills.

U.S. monopolies sink roots in African oilfields

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

U.S. oil companies have been sinking their roots deeper into Africa's oilfields, which are projected to provide about 25 percent of all new crude oil outside the Persian Gulf region coming onto the world market over the next five years. An abundance of oil lies beneath the Atlantic Ocean or near the coast of West Africa that is easier to ship to the United States than oil produced either in the Arab-Persian Gulf or the Caspian Sea.

The United States, which consumes about 25 percent of oil produced in the world, receives about 15 percent of its crude imports from Africa. As Washington prepares to go to war to extend U.S. imperialist control over the Mideast and its vast oil resources, it is also pressing for more African oil. "Energy from Africa plays an increasingly important role in our energy security," said U.S. energy secretary Abraham Spencer to the House International Relations Committee in June.

The owners of the imperialist oil monopolies—especially the U.S. oil giants—influence global oil prices more than anyone else. They not only own and operate their own massive oilfields, but dominate refining capacities, transportation, and distribution of oil.

Seeking deeper U.S. economic penetration of Africa's oil-producing countries, Secretary of State Colin Powell toured three



Hundreds of women rally in July at the main dock of ChevronTexaco oil terminal in Escravos, Nigeria, demanding the company hire their sons and provide electricity.

countries in early September, including Angola and Gabon, both of which are major oil exporters to the United States. He also traveled to Cape Verde islands off the coast of West Africa, where it is estimated that recently discovered offshore reserves will enable the region to produce more oil than

that drilled out of the North Sea. The State Department has announced plans to reopen a consulate in Equatorial Guinea, where U.S. oil companies have been expanding their operations.

U.S. president Bush has said that he plans to travel to Africa early next year, with a

possible stop in Nigeria, the fifth-largest oil exporter to the United States and the biggest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa. According to the Petroleum Finance Company, Nigeria is expected to increase its daily oil production from 2.2 million to more than 3 million barrels by 2007.

Oil pipeline from Chad to the Atlantic

Washington has pressed the Nigerian government and other oil-producing states in Africa to increase their output. Angola is expected to double its daily oil production to nearly 2 million barrels, while Equatorial Guinea is projected to raise its daily total by to a similar extent to almost 350,000 barrels by 2005.

Some 225,000 barrels a day will be pumped from oilfields in Chad once construction of a \$3.7 billion pipeline through Cameroon to the Atlantic Coast is completed in 2004. Two U.S. oil giants, ExxonMobil and ChevronTexaco, along with Petronas of Malaysia, began building the pipeline in this former French colony last year. Oil, discovered in Chad in 1973, is becoming the country's largest source of export earnings and will also ensure handsome profits for the U.S.-led oil consortium.

To protect U.S. oil interests, officials in Congress and the Pentagon have held discussions on stepping up military exchanges with West African countries and on possibly establishing a military base on Sao Tome or elsewhere in the region.

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), to which Washington has sent hundreds of troops under the guise of protecting U.S. citizens, has potentially large reserves of oil and natural gas off its coast (see accompanying article).

The potential for military confrontation with workers and peasants is increased with rising expectations among toilers for economic development from the oil wealth. Some 80 percent of Chad's 8.4 million people live on less than \$1 a day and similar conditions exist in Cameroon.

The pipeline construction was touted as a source of employment for workers in Chad and Cameroon, but most will be laid off when it is completed next year. Africans who got hired labored under harsh conditions and received low wages.

Many peasants in Cameroon are angry because they were forced off their land to make way for construction of the pipeline and were offered meager compensation. The \$225 payment for each mango tree chopped down was paltry compared with income over years from fruit production, said Narcisse Savah, a leader in the village of Mpango, Cameroon. "We have asked for the construction of a classroom and other small

Continued on Page 8

U.S., Paris troops intervene in Côte d'Ivoire

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Under the guise of protecting U.S. and French citizens, Washington and Paris have intervened in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) with hundreds of troops.

The invading forces have taken advantage of fighting between rebel soldiers and troops loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo.

Since a September 19 failed coup attempt by about 700 soldiers, antigovernment troops in this West African country captured several towns, giving them nearly full control over the northern region of the country, which borders neighboring Burkina Faso and Mali. At least 270 people have been killed in the confrontation.

Washington dispatched some 200 U.S. Special Forces in C-130 cargo planes to Ghana, from where they were deployed to Yamoussoukro, the capital of Côte d'Ivoire September 25. The U.S. troops set up a post at an airfield in the city and cleared the way for Humvees that rolled out of the cargo planes.

A Pentagon spokesperson in Washington, Lt. Commander Don Sewell, stated that "the U.S. European Command is moving forces to assure the safety of American citizens." He said the troops were preparing "for all contingencies."

Paris sent 100 French troops to Abidjan to reinforce 600 soldiers already based in its former colony. London also dispatched a small detachment of troops to Abidjan September 25.

The big-business media showed pictures of U.S. troops "rescuing" American schoolchildren waving U.S. flags. U.S. Peace Corps employees were picked up along with missionaries and children at a Baptist mission near the northern city of Korhogo. French troops evacuated more than 2,000 French, German, U.S., and other foreign citizens from the central town of Bouaké. U.S. and French troops have been carrying out "rescue" operations in areas throughout the north.

The Nigerian government, the dominant regime in West Africa, is also intervening in the conflict, landing three Alpha jet fighters in Abidjan. Nigerian military officials said the jets were sent to "provide cover primarily for thousands of Nigerians trapped in the country."

The government said the coup attempt was led by former military ruler Robert Gueï and accused the regime in Burkina Faso of backing the attack. Gueï, who was killed during the antigovernment attack, assumed power in the country after a military coup in late 1999. Under international pressure Gueï allowed elections in October the following year when he was defeated by Gbagbo.

The revolt was apparently sparked by the president's announcement in early September that he was forcing into retirement about 750 soldiers from units that were known for their loyalty to Gueï. On September 19 the troops revolted in Abidjan, the commercial capital, Korhogo, and Bouaké, the country's second largest city. On September 27 they seized Odiénne, a cotton-producing city in the northwest.

According to the BBC, the mutinous troops are demanding reinstatement into the army and a pay raise. They have won a measure of support among civilians in Bouaké. Thousands of people marched in the city September 22 shouting antigovernment slogans and cheering the rebel troops as they drove by, the *Washington Post* reported. Several days later thousands of residents took to the streets again in support of the insurgents. Hatred of the government had grown as it has deployed police and paramilitary gangs to attack Muslims living in the northern part of the country and immigrants. About 3 million people from Burkina Faso live in Côte d'Ivoire.

Meanwhile, another opponent of the regime, former prime minister Alassane Ouattara, said government forces also tried to kill him. "Simmering tensions have regularly exploded" between forces of president Gbagbo based in the south and west and backers of Ouattara based in the north with hundreds killed in street battles over the past three years, the Associated Press reported. French imperialism, during and since the end of direct colonial rule, has fostered religious and other divisions in Côte d'Ivoire to maintain its dominance.

Côte d'Ivoire, a country of 16 million people that won its independence from France in 1960, is the world largest producer of cocoa. French and U.S. capitalists have substantial investments in the country. French investors include major banks as well as the Total and Elf oil companies.

The major U.S. investors in the country are oil interests, such as Houston-based Ocean Energy consortium. U.S. capitalists are seeking to develop potentially lucrative oil and gas reserves off the shore of Côte d'Ivoire.

Father of Swedish citizen stages 'cage' protest to demand son's release from Guantánamo

BY BJÖRN TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—While the various pro-capitalist candidates were orchestrating a "minute of silence" on the anniversary of September 11 to try to line up working people behind the bosses, socialist campaigners were expressing their support to Mehdi Ghezali, the father of a 23-year-old Swedish citizen, Mehdi-Muhammed Ghezali, who is being detained and deprived of his rights on the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo, Cuban land occupied by Washington.

In the main square of Stockholm, Mehdi Ghezali has built a cage similar in size to those used by the U.S. government to lock up prisoners at "Camp X-Ray" in Guantánamo—2.4 by 1.2 meters (6.5 by 3.3 feet). Since September 3, to show passersby the barbaric conditions the imperialist jailers have subjected their prisoners to, Ghezali has lived in the cage, with his hands and feet chained, blindfolded, and gagged most of the time.

Swedish officials have taken no serious steps to get Mehdi-Muhammed Ghezali out of the Guantánamo prison camp. In January they violated his rights by sending a member of the Swedish secret police together with an official from the Swedish

embassy in the United States to Guantánamo to talk with his son in the presence of U.S. military personnel. The transcript of the "talk" was stamped "secret" by Swedish officials, who argued that its publication might hurt relations with a foreign power, namely, Washington. These actions by the Swedish government reflect the closer relations it has developed with Washington over the past decade in order to strengthen its hand in relation to its imperialist rivals in Europe and the world.

U.S. officials have branded the hundreds of people locked up in Guantánamo as "enemy combatants," claiming the right to hold them indefinitely without guarantees such as access to legal counsel.

In a U.S. military trial, Mehdi-Muhammed Ghezali could face the death penalty, a sentence not in effect in Sweden. He has not yet been charged with any crime, although he has been incarcerated for months under inhuman conditions.

Ghezali invited visiting socialist campaigners into his cage on September 11. He told Daniel Ahl, Communist League candidate for parliament, that while the prime minister, Göran Persson, was visiting the town of Örebro he had a chance to talk briefly to him. Afterward a journalist asked him how

he felt about it. "I'm not satisfied by talking to him, and I won't be satisfied until my son is here," he told the campaigners.

"There were two American women here signing their names to support the release of the detainees. I told them to tell all the mothers and fathers in the United States to demand Rumsfeld bring their children home from Afghanistan," Ghezali said, referring to U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

A person standing by the cage asked Ghezali why he had U.S. flags on his cage. "It is to show that this is being done by the U.S. government, and not by Cuba," he replied.

On September 13 Ghezali submitted a list with 12,000 signatures of people demanding justice for his son. The petition demands the U.S. government "state the nature of the charges against" Mehdi-Muhammed Ghezali and "that he be given a fair trial before a court of law."

In August there were almost 600 prisoners locked in the hellhole on Guantánamo, and Washington has expanded the prison to hold more people. In February, the prisoners held a hunger strike protesting the denials of their rights.

Björn Tirsén works as a meat packer and is a member of the food workers union.

Cuba urged USSR to make public 1962 mutual defense pact

In October 1962, in what is widely known as the Cuban Missile Crisis, Washington pushed the world to the brink of nuclear war. The events brought to a head the drive by the U.S. rulers to invade Cuba and overthrow the revolutionary government there (see box).

Released on the 40th anniversary of these events, the Pathfinder book *October 1962: The "Missile" Crisis as Seen from Cuba*, by Cuban author Tomás Diez Acosta, tells the story of what really happened.

The *Militant* has been printing excerpts from the new book. The one below is the fifth chapter, titled, "The Secret and the Deception."

In July 1962 the Cuban and Soviet governments signed a mutual defense pact that included deployment of Soviet missiles to Cuba. The deployment was code-named Operation Anadyr. This was the third such military agreement signed between the two governments, over the course of 11 months, to provide military equipment and resources to Cuba in response to Washington's invasion plans.

The author describes the disagreements between the Soviet and Cuban leaderships over Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev's insistence on keeping the mutual defense pact secret, and how Washington, after discovering the missiles, sought to take advantage of Moscow's stance to step up its preparations to attack Cuba. The Cuban leadership argued from the beginning for the public announcement of the pact, including the missiles, and the right of the Cuban people to defend themselves against U.S. aggression. Copyright © 2002 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.



BY TOMÁS DIEZ ACOSTA

Due to the nature of Operation Anadyr, Soviet intelligence agencies devised measures of concealment and disinformation to keep secret the deployment of troops, weapons, and other combat and logistical supplies in Cuba. Official documents, public statements, and interviews with Soviet functionaries suggest that the political leadership of the Soviet Union was confident in the effectiveness of its disinformation measures, and did not prepare an adequate response in case the United States discovered the operation—as in fact happened.

Despite repeated warnings from Cuba,

Nikita Khrushchev stubbornly insisted the operation should not be announced until it was an accomplished fact, which the U.S. would then have to accept. This determined two different stances—Cuban and Soviet—toward the news media campaigns and pressure from the United States.

If Khrushchev had proceeded as the Cuban leadership—with a clear view of the problem—repeatedly suggested, the crisis might have been avoided, or at least might have followed a course less dangerous for humanity.

'Why not make the agreement public?'

The Cubans' opinion on the difficulty of concealing Operation Anadyr began to be confirmed in early August. Reports of the arrival of Soviet troops in Cuba circulated in the U.S. press beginning August 8. U.S. authorities discounted those reports as exaggerated, even though they admitted that more Soviet ships were traveling toward Cuba.

The first reports that came to light in the U.S. press were based on correspondence between Cuban émigrés in the United States and their relatives in Cuba, as well as from Western diplomatic personnel and journalists stationed in Havana. They referred to caravans of military vehicles moving in the middle of the night, with large trucks transporting what appeared to be missiles covered with tarps. There were also reports of construction and repair of roads along various routes where the convoys moved, and reports confirming transfer of the civilian population from some of those rural areas.

As already noted, the intelligence services of Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany, which maintained constant surveillance of maritime traffic through the Straits of Gibraltar and the Dardanelles, warned the U.S. government of unusual movements of Soviet ships headed for the Atlantic. So Washington stepped up its surveillance of sea lanes leading toward Cuba, with continuous reconnaissance flights from the Azores.¹

In his book *Presidents' Secret Wars*, John Prados recounts that CIA Director John McCone asked Philippe Thyraud de Vosjoli—the chief of French intelligence in Washington and an expert on this kind of weaponry—to travel to Cuba to verify on-the-ground reports of the presence of Soviet missiles. In August the expert carried out that mission. He found evidence of anti-aircraft missile emplacements, but not of other types of missiles.

Nevertheless, U.S. intelligence services subjected Cuban territory to intensive scrutiny. Kennedy adviser Theodore Sorensen wrote that beginning in August movements of Russian personnel and equipment in or toward Cuba were the subject of secret meetings and reports in the White House. Naval forces and aircraft photographed every Soviet ship headed toward Cuba. Reconnaissance flights covered all of Cuban territory twice a month. According to Sorensen, beginning August 27 the intelligence services prepared special daily reports devoted exclusively to Cuba.

On August 29 aerial photography by U-2s detected anti-aircraft missile sites in western Cuba, which led the intelligence services to pay special attention to that area.

Days before, on August 11, Aleksandr Alekseev had arrived in Havana as the new ambassador, bringing with him the draft of the military agreement. When Fidel Castro examined the draft he found major political lapses in it. Since in Castro's view the problem was fundamentally political, the agreement needed to be, in his words, "clear, precise and concrete." From that standpoint, the top Cuban leader made the corrections he considered necessary.

The first thing he modified was the title of the accord. He proposed three alternatives. The one that in his opinion best fit the essence of the accord was: "Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on military cooperation and mutual defense." Since the



Granma

Above, in anticipation of invasion by U.S. armed forces, thousands of Cuban troops take up positions along the country's coast. Left, Commander Ernesto Che Guevara (right) meets with Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev (left) in late August 1962 to urge Soviet leaders to make public the mutual defense pact that included deployment of missiles in Cuba.



goal was not only "the defense of Cuban territory," as stated in the initial draft, but also "military cooperation and mutual defense" between the two countries, this would express the spirit of solidarity in the agreement.

According to the text of the document, the Soviet military contingent was to be directly subordinated to the Soviet government, and was to cooperate with the Cuban armed forces in the event of external aggression. The USSR was to cover the expenses of its forces and all the supplies its troops required. For its part, the Cuban state would assist the Soviet forces and provide the necessary facilities for their deployment.

The agreement also established that the Soviet armed forces had to respect Cuban sovereignty and Cuban law. They thus had no rights to occupy territory or do anything aside from their assigned functions. The agreement was to be valid for five years, although either side could terminate it giving one year's notice. The agreement also stipulated that the installations built would be turned over to the Cuban government when the troops withdrew.

Fierce U.S. propaganda against Cuba

Meanwhile, in the United States, rumors of the presence of Soviet missiles touched off a fierce media campaign against Cuba and the Soviet Union, which was manipulated by the inner circles of power in that country for their own political interests. There were more and more public statements about the military buildup in Cuba by high officials of the government, Congress, and political parties, as well as by leaders of the counterrevolutionary groups based in the United States.

The top Cuban leadership considered this political atmosphere to be quite dangerous, and thought it necessary to make an immediate, strong response. In late August, the Secretariat of the ORI National Directorate analyzed the situation and concluded that the propaganda campaign unleashed in the United States was an unmistakable sign of a new crisis brewing. Faced with that reality, the Secretariat thought it best to take the initiative by making public the military accord.

The Secretariat decided to send two of its members—Commander Ernesto Che Guevara and Captain Emilio Aragonés Navarro—to Moscow with the corrected draft of the military agreement, in order to propose personally to Khrushchev that it be made public. The final decision, however, was to be up to the Soviet side.

Aragonés and Guevara were in the Soviet Union from August 26 to September 1. According to Aragonés, during their exchange of ideas Khrushchev agreed with the corrections Fidel had made to the military agreement, but he did not think it was yet time to make it public. "Be calm," he recommended. "For the Americans a rumor is not the same as real proof of the missiles' existence."

Che repeated their concern that the missiles might be discovered before they were operational, and that the United States might take advantage of the situation to attack. Khrushchev asserted with great assurance,

Continued on Page 15

¹ In August, U.S. air and naval reconnaissance registered the arrival of fifty-five Soviet ships in Cuba, compared to twelve in the same period a year earlier.

Background to 1962 'missile' crisis in Cuba

After Cuban workers and farmers overthrew a U.S.-backed dictatorship and began a deep-going revolution in 1959, Washington took increasingly aggressive actions to try to overthrow the new revolutionary power. In April 1961, Cuba's revolutionary militias and armed forces crushed a U.S.-organized mercenary invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

In the spring and summer of 1962, in face of escalating preparations by Washington for a full-scale invasion of Cuba, the revolutionary government signed a mutual defense pact with the Soviet Union. In October U.S. president John Kennedy demanded removal of Soviet nuclear missiles installed on the island. Washington imposed a naval blockade of Cuba, stepped up preparations for an armed assault, and placed its armed forces on nuclear alert.

In face of the mobilization of Cuban workers and farmers to defend their national sovereignty and revolutionary gains, the U.S. government backed off its invasion plans. Following an exchange of communications between Washington and Moscow, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, without consulting Cuba, announced his decision to remove the missiles on October 28.

Get your copy today!

October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba

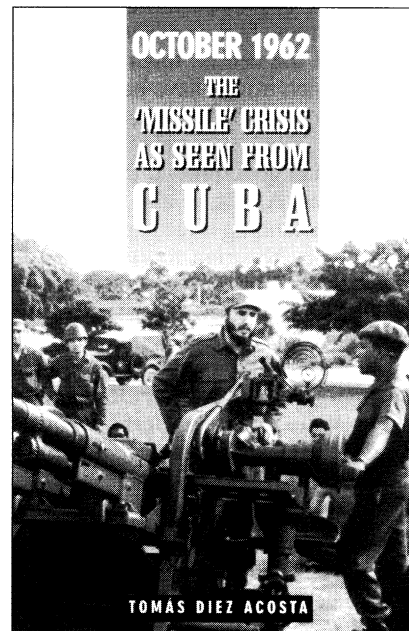
By Tomás Diez Acosta

"We possess moral long-range missiles that cannot be dismantled and will never be dismantled. This is our strongest strategic weapon."

Fidel Castro, November 1, 1962

Special: \$21 (\$3 off cover price) prepublication offer through November 1. \$19 for members of Pathfinder Readers Club.

Order now from Pathfinder or from bookstores listed on page 14, or visit www.pathfinderpress.com



Jailed miner in Canada fights to reopen case

BY JOE YOUNG

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Efforts are under way to reopen the case of gold miner Roger Warren, who in 1995 was framed up on murder charges during a strike at the Giant Mine in Yellowknife, in Canada's far north.

An explosion in the gold mine on Sept. 18, 1992, killed nine replacement workers. The government accused Warren, one of the strikers, of the deaths. He was convicted on Jan. 19, 1995.

At the time, the bosses together with the government, cops, and courts carried out a concerted drive to try to defeat the Yellowknife gold miners and break their union, whose strike was Canada's most important labor fight in several years. The workers, however, succeeded in winning back their jobs and keeping their union intact. The employers and the government sought to use the frame-up of Warren to undercut that victory.

The strike began as a lockout on May 22, 1992, and lasted 18 months. At the center of the strike was safety in the mine. Between January and April of that year there were 81 accidents in the mine. In 1991, compensation payments were 10 times higher than at the other gold mine in Yellowknife. The company stepped up its harassment of the workers, firing 13 miners between November 1990 and the beginning of the strike.

Locking out the workers a day before the strike began, the owner, Margaret Witte, brought in replacement workers to run the mine and hired security guards. On May 26, a 58-member Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) "tactical team" was flown up from Edmonton, Alberta.

Government frame-up targeted union

Throughout the strike, the police continually harassed the 240 members of Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers Local 4. Police and security guards carried out attacks on the picket line. Around 100 miners were charged and some went to jail.

The employers used the deaths of the nine replacement workers to attack the strikers.

Government agents conducted more than 500 interrogations, often without lawyers being present. Some 30 to 40 undercover RCMP operated throughout the strike. The strike became an important cause for the union movement across Canada and won support internationally. It finally ended in December 1993 with the union intact and a contract.

Warren was interrogated 12 times. In October 1993, under this intense pressure, he confessed to the crime and was charged for the nine deaths. But at his trial he pleaded not guilty and has maintained his innocence ever since.

The jury at the trial was forbidden to hear expert testimony on Warren's state of mind. He was sentenced to life in prison and is now imprisoned in the Stony Mountain Penitentiary near Winnipeg, Manitoba.

In an interview broadcast on CBC television on September 18, Warren said of his confession, "It's words. It is not forensic proof." He was convicted solely on the basis of his confession, which included leading police into the mine and showing them how the bomb was supposedly set.

No trace of a timing device or trip wire was found at the scene of the explosion.

When police fabricated a bomb according to Warren's specifications, they had great difficulty making it work.

Warren was in failing health at the time of the explosion. For experienced miners it is hard to imagine how someone in his health could have done what he described in the four hours that were available.

At the time the explosion took place, it was common knowledge that explosives were often transported on the mine cars along with miners. An inspection the day after the explosion found dynamite with firing caps improperly stored in 20 locations in the mine. The day of the explosion, the mine owners took one and a half hours to inform the police that it had taken place.

The Association in Defense of the Wrongfully Convicted (AIDWYC) is considering adopting Warren's case. AIDWYC has been involved in overturning 10 wrongful convictions in Canada. They have sent lawyers up to Yellowknife to gather testimony.

On August 14, James Lockyer, a founding director of AIDWYC, spoke at a benefit supper in Yellowknife to raise funds for the investigation. Sixty people paid \$50 each to attend. The Steelworkers local at the Con

gold mine in Yellowknife has donated \$1,000 to the effort.

The Roger Warren Appeal Fund Committee has been established to help raise funds for an expected appeal of Warren's 1995 conviction. Al Shearing, a former striker and participant in the committee, stated, "We know it is an injustice. It's got to be brought to the public. It's not going to go away."

Commenting on how Warren's conviction was used against the unions, Shearing said, "They were always saying it was a union guy who did it. We always say miners don't kill miners, which they don't." Shearing himself spent two-and-a-half years in jail convicted of doing damage to mine property.

Funds raised will be disbursed for travel expenses, expert witness fees, and investigations into evidence only. Lawyers for AIDWYC do not charge legal fees. Contributions to help in the defense of Roger Warren can be sent to Roger Warren Appeal Fund Committee Treasurer, Kathy Hrynczuk, Union of Northern Workers Local 11, Box 422, Yellowknife NT X1A 2N2.

Joe Young is a meat packer in the Vancouver area.

New Caledonia workers confront French rule

Continued from Page 3

of François Mitterand to sanction moves toward independence, and in response to a boycott call by the FLNKS, mobilized against the Territorial Assembly elections. The mobilizations continued after the vote. In Nouméa and elsewhere, independence fighters led mass demonstrations. Towns and villages were occupied, and roadblocks set up. This upsurge of Kanak resistance brought the independence struggle to world attention.

Paris unleashes wave of repression

In response, Paris brought in thousands of troops and unleashed a wave of repression. Dozens of independence activists were arrested and jailed, and a number were murdered by the military and right-wing thugs. In 1985 such forces attempted to behead the independence movement by assassinating Eloi Machoro and his aide Marcel Nonaro. Machoro's assassination marked the beginning of a counteroffensive mounted by the French government that for a period succeeded in reversing the momentum of the anticolonial struggle.

The impact of this reactionary, brutal effort was reflected in a 1987 independence referendum. The FLNKS call for a boycott was heeded by 83 percent of registered Kanak voters. Of the 59 percent of the total registered voters who participated, 98 percent voted for New Caledonia to remain part of France—a demonstration of the fact that Paris still commanded majority support among the non-Kanak population.

The French imperialists had not pushed the Kanak struggle off the stage, however. With the right-wing Rally for Caledonia within the Republic (RPCR) at their side, they entered negotiations with the FLNKS, resulting in the 1988 Matignon Accord. The agreement provided for greater local autonomy, including the election of provincial governments, and substantial aid demanded by Kanaks as a way of beginning to redress the deep inequalities between French settlers and Kanak communities. A referendum was supposed to have been held 10 years later.

Today the territory is divided into three provinces: the Northern Province and Loyalty Islands, which are governed by the FLNKS, and the much wealthier Southern Province, headed by the RPCR, which includes Nouméa. In the 54-strong national Congress the Northern Province holds 15



Militant Arlene Tate

Residents of the squat Village Wella cleaning up the area they are occupying. Thousands of Kanaks and Wallisians are living today in squatter areas in Nouméa.

seats, the Loyalty Islands 7, and the Southern Province 32.

Ten years later the same parties signed the Nouméa accord. Among other provisions, the new accord postponed the referendum until sometime between 2014 and 2018. New Caledonia was granted enhanced autonomy and special status under the French constitution. Paris retains responsibility for military spending, courts and cops, currency, and some areas of external affairs.

Paris has much at stake in resisting the efforts of independence supporters. New Caledonia is the world's third largest producer of nickel, and holds an estimated quarter of the world's reserves. The French military holds three bases in New Caledonia, which along with Tahiti and the nuclear test-

ing facilities at Moruroa atoll are an important part of its operations in the Pacific.

Kanaks have made important strides in overcoming the French-imposed marginalization that they endured for so long. Land is being returned to the traditional tribal owners under the direction of a state agency. Kanaks are more a part of the territory's economic life, from mining, to agriculture, to tourism.

Deep inequalities remain, however. For example, there is only one Kanak doctor practicing medicine on the islands.

On a range of battlefronts, from disputes over nickel resources, to housing, to employment, Kanaks are utilizing the political space that exists today to continue to press toward independence.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW YORK

Upper Manhattan

Why Independence for Puerto Rico is a Necessity Speakers: Paul Pederson, staff writer for the Militant and Bobbi Negrón, member of Young Socialists Fri., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. 599 W. 187th Street, 2nd Floor. Donation: \$5. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

OHIO

Cleveland

The 'Missile' Crisis' as Seen from Cuba. Speaker: Eva Braiman: Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Ohio. Fri., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. 11018 Lorain Ave. Tel: (216) 688-1190.

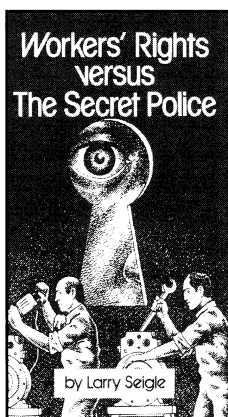
From Pathfinder

Workers' Rights versus The Secret Police

by Larry Seigle

How, since the inception of the modern revolutionary movement in 1848, the ruling classes have responded with police spies, agents provocateurs, and political frame-ups.

\$3



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 14.

—CALENDAR—

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

What Cuba Thinks An evening with Dagoberto Rodriguez, Chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington. Monday, Oct. 7, 7:00 p.m. University of Pennsylvania, Houston Hall 3417 Spruce St. Philadelphia Tel: (610) 667-5334. Sponsored by La Casa Latina, the Department of Romance Languages of the University of Pennsylvania, and the Philadelphia Cuba Solidarity Coalition. Reception will follow the event

—LETTERS—

Enjoys the paper

Just a message of support from one of your UK subscribers to say how much I enjoy your newspaper. It keeps me well informed as to what's going on on your side of the water. I follow with keen interest your coverage of South America.

It is refreshing to know that the cause of international solidarity of labor is still advancing towards the goal of international socialism and a peaceful future for all mankind. By the way I'm also a member of the Pathfinder Readers Club. Reading these titles from Pathfinder is an absolute must for the working class activist. Keep up the good work.

Leo Thomson
West Calder, Scotland

Israel and war against Iraq

The article "U.S., Israel set stage for two-front Mideast War" in *Militant* issue no. 32 states, "There is no reason to believe that with the evolution of the fighting Washington will oppose an Israeli military response if threatened by Iraq or another country."

The article also gives a lot of space to the

opinions of those in the Israeli government who would like to take advantage of the assault on Iraq to drive all the Palestinians into Jordan.

I don't think I really agree that a likely outcome of the assault on Iraq will be a free hand to Israel to retaliate if the country is attacked, or that they will feel strong enough to drive the Palestinians into Jordan. I noticed that since that article the *Militant* hasn't returned to the "two-front" theme.

In a speech published in *New International* no. 7 "Opening Guns of World War III," Jack Barnes speaks of a divergence of interests between Washington and Tel Aviv. If there is now a reconvergence can the *Militant* please explain what the causes are?

Candace Wagner
Bronx, New York

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.

Support the dockworkers fight

The stakes in the struggle between the shipping bosses and the longshore workers' union on the West Coast have climbed with the companies' lockout of 10,500 dockworkers. These workers face both the shipping magnates' antiunion drive and the heavy hand of the U.S. government.

The ruling class has thrown its support behind the bosses' assault on the dockworkers. While the government keeps up the pressure by threatening to intervene with a "task force" that includes representatives of the Office of Homeland Security, the rulers hope the shipping companies themselves can deal a blow to the union.

This fight takes place as Washington presses towards one more war in a series of offensives in the Middle East and Near East for domination of the massive reserves there of oil and natural gas. The assaults on workers' social gains and working conditions at home and Washington's accelerating war moves abroad have a common goal: to boost the declining profit rates of the ruling rich—particularly as a depression unfolds in this country—and to strengthen the billionaire U.S. rulers' position in relation to their European and Japanese rivals.

The assault on the longshore workers and their union is accompanied by increasing moves against workers' rights, such as the October 1 activation of the Northern Command, which, in contrast to other military commands deployed abroad, is designed to put military forces on U.S.

streets. The Maritime Security Bill now working its way through Congress is just one example of the government's steps to militarize the ports and restrict who it allows to work on the waterfront.

Like other bosses, however, the shipping companies keep underestimating the union fighters. Their attempt to intimidate the union by bringing two armed thugs into contract negotiations blew up in their faces. Dockworkers are outraged by the companies' violent overtures and have resolved to fight even harder. "Open the Gates" has become a popular slogan among longshore workers demanding an end to the lockout.

The Bush administration's threats to invoke the notorious Taft-Hartley Act, as it tries to put added pressure on union members to settle, should be denounced by the entire labor movement. The last time the law was used was during the 110-day strike by the United Mine Workers of America in 1977–78. The miners stood up to this threat and forced the government to back down.

The dockworkers' determined struggle to defend their union is part of the broader pattern of resistance by working people to the unrelenting assaults by the bosses and their government. A victory for the longshore unionists will be a victory for all workers resisting the bosses' austerity drive. Now is the time to mobilize solidarity, to join with union-organized pickets and protests, and to tell the truth about this fight.

Two-sided assault on Palestinians

In face of the escalating assaults unleashed by the Israeli regime, the Palestinian people remain undefeated and determined to stand up to the occupying forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On September 28, for example, thousands of youth and other Palestinians poured into the streets to celebrate the second anniversary of the latest wave of Palestinian resistance. This courageous stance has won them the respect and solidarity of millions of working people and youth around the world.

Today the Israeli rulers are emboldened in their brutality and arrogance by Washington's moves toward war in the region. Under the cover of a massive U.S.-led imperialist assault on Iraq, Israeli cabinet ministers speak of breaking the stalemate and imposing a "new order" on the occupied territories. One option that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has vocally supported is to force a new Palestinian exodus into Jordan, where the population is already majority Palestinian.

The colonial-settler state of Israel, established five decades ago under British and U.S. imperialist sponsorship, remains Washington's strongest bulwark in the Middle East. Despite tactical differences, the U.S. rulers support and finance Tel Aviv's war on the Palestinians. Both oppose the Palestinian struggle for a homeland because it represents an obstacle to their own interests. In the case of the Israeli rulers, those interests lie in maintaining a state that is based on the dispossession of an entire people, while depending on superexploited Palestinian labor power to keep much of its economy running. Washington's overriding interest is to expand its dominance over the entire Mideast and its oil, and the Palestinian struggle for national self-determination remains the focal point of resistance to imperialist domination throughout the region.

A U.S. invasion and military occupation of Iraq will be a deadly threat to the Palestinian struggle. In that sense, the Palestinians face a two-sided offensive against them—from an emboldened Israeli assault and from a U.S. military force in Iraq and neighboring countries.

While hostile to the Palestinians' aspirations, the Israeli and U.S. rulers' interests are not the same, and in fact conflict. For example, while Tel Aviv may be willing

to take part in a military assault on Iraq—or on other countries in the area if it deems them a threat—Washington knows that Israel's full and open involvement would inflame and deepen opposition to the imperialist war among millions of working people throughout the area, placing immense pressure on the governments of their countries to take their distance from Tel Aviv.

That is why Washington has called on the Sharon government to exercise "restraint" in the coming war—pledging, in its turn, to send special forces to take out Iraq's Scud missiles that might be fired at Israel. While the Israeli armed forces have themselves stationed commando units inside Iraq, Tel Aviv has said it will not retaliate against Scud firings—unless they hit population centers.

Because of the political costs that accompany Washington's open association with Israel, the U.S. government has increasingly relied on the collaboration of other regimes in the region, from Turkey to Kuwait and other Gulf states. It has used these countries to carry out a steady construction of bases and other military facilities, and today plans on using several of them as staging grounds for the assault on Iraq.

The assistance that governments such as Saudi Arabia provide to the U.S.-British war effort, however, does not make their future more secure. The drive to war on Iraq sets the stage for broader assaults by Washington to grab oil and natural resources throughout the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf.

The struggle of the Palestinians remains in the forefront of the fight against the imperialist war moves. Because of the increasingly bourgeois outlook of the current Palestinian leadership, however, it will take time—as well as revolutionary advances elsewhere in the world—for a revolutionary leadership to emerge, one that can lead a successful fight for a democratic, secular Palestine.

Despite these obstacles, generation after generation of Palestinian liberation fighters continues to show it is possible to stand up to the oppressors. For working people in the United States, joining with the Palestinian struggle against Israeli brutality and for self-determination is part of carrying out a working-class campaign against imperialism and its wars.

Youth to meet in Guadalajara

Continued from front page

of the worldwide economic depression and the drives by governments in many countries of the region to slash jobs, wages, and social benefits.

Washington's drive to war for control over the Mideast, as well as its increasing military intervention in Latin America, will be among the questions discussed at the congress.

In an article in the Cuban newspaper *Granma*, OCLAE president Yanelis Martínez reported that a broad Cuban delegation will be attending the event "to explain the truth about the revolution and take part in the worldwide movement against economic policies that damage the interests of the peoples of the region." She pointed out that the congress will include participants not only from Latin America and the Caribbean, but from the United States and Canada who are also involved in social struggles.

One of the student organizations that is actively promoting participation in the international gathering is the Pro-independence University Federation (FUPI) of Puerto Rico. At the event they will be explaining their involvement in the fight for independence from U.S. colonial rule, the campaign to free pro-independence political prison-

ers in U.S. jails, and the movement to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques. In the September issue of the group's newsletter, *Patria Nueva* (New Homeland), FUPI president Carlos Torres says participation in the congress will help develop "an internationalist and anti-imperialist student movement that is aware of the common problems facing the youth of the Americas."

OCLAE is a member of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and many affiliates participated in the anti-imperialist youth festival held last year in Algeria.

The congress will coincide with the Guadalajara Book Fair, the largest such event in Latin America. This year Cuba is the country of honor at the fair. More than 600 Cubans are expected to attend the fair with some 2,500 titles from the island. Organizers of the OCLAE congress and the Cuban delegation at the book fair are working together on joint efforts during the two events.

Those interested in attending the congress can get more information from OCLAE at its e-mail address, oclae@jccc.org.cu, or at a Spanish-language website hosted by the Uruguayan Federation of University Students, <http://www.feuu.edu.uy/documentos/otros/oclae/oclae.html>

Northcom

Continued from front page

sert command over the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The new structure also places under U.S. Joint Forces Command the Joint Forces Headquarters Homeland Security, currently operating out of Norfolk, Virginia, as well as Joint Task Force 6, based in Fort Bliss, Texas.

Breaks with Posse Comitatus law

The new structure breaks with 120 years of official observance of a constitutional ban on the domestic deployment of the armed forces. The Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, enacted after the withdrawal of federal troops from the South at the end of Radical Reconstruction, placed that ban on the use of the armed forces for policing operations at home.

Past amendments to the act have given the president authority to use troops when, in the words of the *New York Times*, "law enforcement has broken down or where America is under enemy attack."

Following the September 11 attacks, the White House—intent on deploying National Guard in airports across the country and on the streets of New York and other cities—got around the act by calling on state governors to call up the troops.

Meanwhile, a congressionally mandated "No Fly" list has been used to detain a group of antiwar activists at San Francisco airport, reported the September 27 *San Francisco Chronicle*. The 20 people, who were questioned because their names were flagged, were forced to miss their flight. Federal officials told the newspaper that the activists were stopped not because their names are on the list, but because their names resemble those of "suspected" criminals or terrorists. The list was established as part of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act approved last year.

Rally in Lares

Continued from Page 2

unteer help with outpatient clinics in Vieques, which have historically been denied adequate medical facilities. "Until recently, women giving birth had to travel to the main island by ferry or plane. The government opened maternity facilities only a few weeks ago," Valencia said. "We still don't have medical specialists in Vieques. All the doctors are general practitioners, and you have to go to the main island to go to a specialist."

The U.S. military's refusal to leave Vieques in defiance of the will of most Puerto Ricans, explained Guadalupe, is an illustration that "there is no democracy here. We Puerto Ricans are not the ones who decide things. They are decided in Washington."

He noted that today, with the growing U.S. war moves against Iraq, it is likely that Washington will decide to keep the Navy in Vieques. "We are preparing for May 2003, when the Navy is supposed to leave. We will be organizing big mobilizations of people to cross into the occupied lands if the Navy doesn't leave." Protests are planned in San Juan and other Puerto Rican cities, as well as in other countries.

Martin Koppel and Paul Pederson are the Socialist Workers candidates for governor of New York and for U.S. Congress in the 12th District, respectively. Chessie Molano, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor of Illinois, contributed to this article.

CUBA and the Coming American Revolution

by Jack Barnes

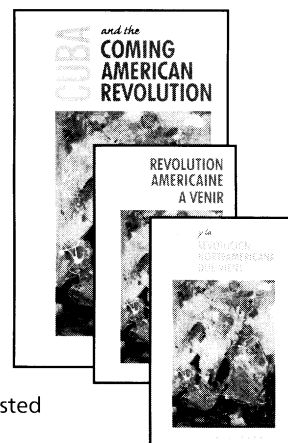
There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba

— 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. \$13

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 14.



Speak Sisters—With more than 30 armed federal agents standing by, Bureau of Land Management goons seized 227 head of cattle,



Harry Ring

which they claimed were being illegally grazed on government land in Nevada. The cattle belong to two sisters—Mary and Carrie Dann, members of the Western Shoshone people, who have long fought to reclaim land they legally own and for which they have grazing rights. “It’s domestic terrorism,” declared Carrie Dann. “Our homelands are

threatened by the mightiest and most powerful nation in the world. To do this and take away our livelihood is morally and ethically wrong. We are trying to make a living off Western Shoshone land.”

An omen?—One part of the New York 9/11 ceremony didn’t make the media until a week later. Along with Prez Bush beating the drums for Washington’s war on Iraq, there was to be a ceremonial release of doves. But, as WWII GIs used to say, it was SNAFU (Situation Normal, All F...ed Up). There were no doves available. So a poultry merchant sold them 80 pigeons, some of which couldn’t fly. Others fell into the Hudson River or smacked into skyscraper windows. Some dropped into the audience, with people swatting to keep them from sitting on their heads.

Especially New Yorkers—An arrangements committee member who apparently works in the area said he later saw several of the pigeons, including one who lives by a hot dog stand. “I tried to catch him but he flew away,” he said. “Pigeons are natural survivors.”

Tough situation for both—Jack Welch, retired top dog at General Electric, is pocketing retirement money by the bushel. GE pays the \$80,000 rent on his New York pad and picks up expense tabs from groceries to stamps and toilet paper. Currently his spouse is suing for divorce and he’s paying \$35,000 a month support money, which she is accepting “under protest” as “patently inadequate.”

Meanwhile—“A large majority of workers over 45 plan to stay on

the job into their retirement years, with 80 percent saying most people can’t afford to quit work altogether, according to a survey by the American Association of Retired Persons.”—Associated Press.

Sliding-door closet—The Gay Softball Hall of Fame convened in Portland, Oregon, last month and held its world series there—all without incident until the arrival of another guest at the Hilton where many of the players were staying. An amateur drag night was held at the Grand Ballroom and placards in the hotel lobby welcomed folks to the event.

Meanwhile, protesters and Secret Service agents were on hand to welcome Prez Bush, scheduled for a rap at the hotel. How was all this dealt with? The placards in the lobby were taken down just before

his arrival and reposted after he left.

Things can get sticky—Dennis Kozlowski, recently top dog at Tyco Intl., has to raise \$100 million cash bail, or \$10 million bail bond, or go behind bars while being tried for larceny. His ex-wife offered to post the \$10 million bond, but the prosecution says Kozlowski gave her the money and it may have been “improperly” lifted from the cash box.

See, they always exaggerate—With the mass hunger summit in Soweto, South Africa, last month, comfortably situated delegates and visitors didn’t know what to expect in the harshly impoverished nation. But, observed a cheerful U.S. visitor, “Soweto is not as bad as I thought it would be. We’ve been through the middle- and upper-class areas and they seemed fine.”

Interview with socialist candidate in Colorado daily

The following front-page article appeared in the September 19 issue of the *Herald Times*, a daily published in Rio Blanc County, western Colorado. The article is titled, “Socialists Workers Party announces write-in candidate.”

BY STEVE CORNIER

The Socialists Workers Party (SWP) recently announced that Jason Alessio, a resident of Meeker and a coal miner is their selection as a write-in candidate for the third congressional district seat now held by Scott Mains.

Twenty-five-year-old Alessio is a member of the United Mine Workers Local 1984, a leader in the Young Socialist and a member of the SWP National Committee.

The SWP stated that the reason they nominated Alessio is “To present a working class alternative to Democrats and Republicans--the candidates of the twin parties of big business and imperialist war.”

In addition to the SWP, there are a number of other socialist parties within the United States. These include the Democratic Socialist of America, the New Socialists, the Freedom Party Socialist, the Socialist Party U.S.A., the Worker’s Revolutionary Party, and the International Socialist. A number of these parties have ties to international groups.

In addressing the issue of “imperialist war” Alessio stated, “We (SWP) explain that the United States along with France, the United Kingdom, and others of the First World are imperialist countries. The economic system we live under is capitalism. In higher states of capitalism, imperialism develops which means that it no longer functions as capitalism within one country but reaches its roots into the rest of the world. It then can no longer have a neutral position about the politics and economics in these Third World countries.”

The term “first world” is usually associated with the United States and other industrialized and technologically advanced capitalist countries. The term “third world” references the developing nations of Africa, South America, and others. Additionally, the term “second world” referenced the old Soviet Bloc of countries created after World War II.

“Today the most powerful imperialist

country in the world is the United States with its military and political representatives throughout the world influencing different governments and different people for their self-interests,” said Alessio.

“The norms of how capitalism works is that there will always be a working class and the rulers exploit those workers to maintain their rule, wealth, and power. Whole countries are oppressed,” according to candidate Alessio. Socialists universally believe that those in power exploit the “working class” for economic and political benefit.

When asked if he personally feels exploited by his employer, Alessio replied, “I wouldn’t say that there is a feeling of exploitation but just the factuality of how big business is run—that working people and farmers are exploited. No matter what they pay us we are producing all the wealth in society and that’s the facts, and they live off of us.”

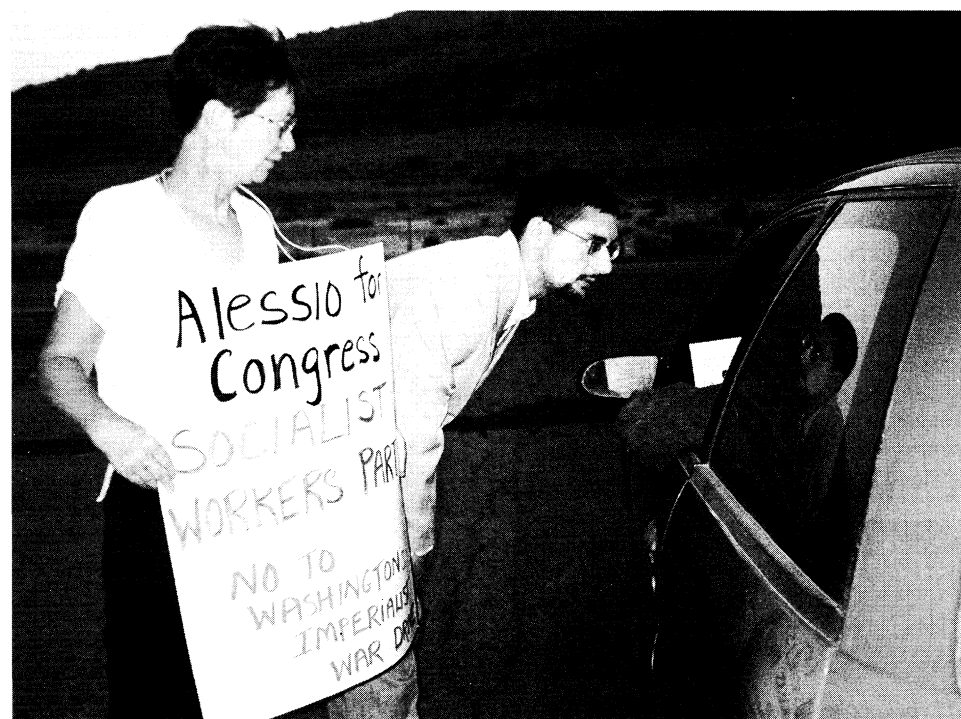
When questioned about his use of capitalist tools such as Hotmail to further his political agenda Alessio responded, “The fact is I live under the rule of capitalism, I have to work. I am pressed for rent and everything. There is no way that someone can function outside of the world of capitalism. If I want to be a competent person organizing myself to explain politics there is no way I can avoid using the internet, phone, or driving a car. That is the world we live under, that is the reality.”

In addressing other areas of his campaign, Alessio said, “I want to tell the truth about how this drought is affecting the working farmer. Farmers are divided into classes as well. There are monopoly farmers, which are huge corporations that run the markets. The small farmers are usually the ones that get the bad end of the stick; the laws and legislation are not set up in their interests. They do not determine any prices...they are the ones that are working in their own fields. The aid that you read about in the newspapers, the small farmer does not receive it for the most part.”

In comparing his party to other socialist parties, Alessio said that the biggest difference is historical. “The party that I’m a member of, the Socialist Workers Party comes out of the Russian Revolution.”

In summing up his political platform Alessio stated, “The main thing that I want to speak out about now, and I think it’s the most important political question that all candidates should be discussing because it is the most serious question is this war (with Iraq) that the U.S. government is talking about. I think that is what should be discussed. Our platform is that we oppose this war and that we want to use this campaign and this seat, if I win it to expand solidarity amongst workers and farmers for their rights in this country. Also to explain why this war like wars in past are waged in the sole interest of the ruling rich in the country.”

Writer’s Footnote: I always try to remain detached and neutral when reporting a story. I believe that I adhered to that principle in reporting this one as well. I neither condemn nor condone the political philosophy of this particular candidate. What I did find refreshing is the passion that Alessio had for his convictions. Currently, the mainstream parties lack that passion, particularly on social issues.



Militant
SWP candidate Jason Alessio talks to miner at Colowyo surface mine outside of Craig, Colorado. Alessio, a coal miner, is a candidate for U.S. Congress.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

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

October 14, 1977

OAKLAND—Some 135 people at a September 23 forum here heard farm labor leader Philip Vera Cruz denounce deportations of immigrants without visas as an attack on all working people.

Vera Cruz, a seventy-two-year-old Filipino, retired as a second vice president of the United Farm Workers at its convention last August.

The forum was organized by the Raza Contra la Migra Committee, a local group organizing support for the national Chicano/Latino Conference to be held in San Antonio October 28–30.

Vera Cruz spoke of his own suffering as a noncitizen worker in the United States. Enthusiastic applause from the mostly Latino audience greeted Vera Cruz when he spoke of the Mexican-American War of 1848.

“The United States was stronger, so it changed the border,” Vera Cruz said. “Today the undocumented workers, when they cross the current border, are just coming home to their own country, to their own land.”

After his talk, Vera Cruz told the *Militant* he opposes Carter’s proposed crackdown on immigrants. “Carter’s plan will cause more problems for Mexican workers than they have now,” he said. He added that the San Antonio conference was a “good way to oppose deportations.”

Although no longer an official of the UFW, Vera Cruz’s stance reflects the position of the union. At the UFW’s convention last August, delegates adopted a resolution denouncing the Carter plan and demanding “total amnesty to undocumented aliens.”

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

October 13, 1952

The wisecracks who claim that Lenin’s theory of imperialism has been “refuted” by American development should read the story on foreign investment in the Sept. 27 issue of *Business Week*. It starts:

“The U.S., greatest creditor nation in history, has to export huge hunks of private risk capital if there’s to be a stable, expanding free world economy. So say most experts on international economic policy. Lately they’ve been bewailing the fact that less than \$1 billion annually in direct new investments (last year: \$963 million) is going abroad—and all investment alone accounts for half of that. A yearly outflow of about \$4 billion, they say, may be more in keeping with U.S. aims and needs.”

American imperialism, like every other before it, is impelled by a profound need to export capital: that is, to obtain ownership of new portions of the world. This need is drastically frustrated by the rising colonial revolution which makes foreign investment ever more risky, and by the growth of the Soviet bloc, in which investment is impossible. Foreign investment possibilities have been made the responsibility of the so-called Point Four officials.

Actually, Point Four is nothing more than capitalist imperialism. Point Four means investment, and investment is not a gift, but the acquisition of ownership over means of production, and such acquisitions abroad are the precise central focus of capitalist imperialism. The fact that Washington tries to cover up with “philanthropic” talk is not at all impressive: all previous British, French, Dutch, Belgian, German, or Japanese imperialism was also rationalized by talk of “white man’s burden.”

From Pathfinder

The Communist Manifesto

by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels



Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Explains why communism is derived not from pre-conceived principles but from facts and proletarian movements springing from the actual class struggle. \$3.95

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 14; write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690; or visit www.pathfinderpress.com.

Grenada revolution 'broke with the past'

Printed below is an excerpt from *Maurice Bishop Speaks: The Grenada Revolution, 1979-83*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. The book contains speeches and interviews by Maurice Bishop, the central leader of the revolution. This excerpt is taken from a June 5, 1983, speech given to an overflow audience of 2,500 at Hunter College in New York City.

In March 1979, a revolutionary movement led by the New Jewel Movement overthrew U.S.-backed dictator Eric Gairy, and a workers and farmers government came to power. The new revolutionary government began to take steps to deepen the involvement of working people in governing the

real reason has to do with the fact of the revolution and the benefits that the revolution is bringing to the people of our country. The real reason for all of this hostility is because some perceive that what is happening in Grenada can lay the basis for a new socio-economic and political path of development.

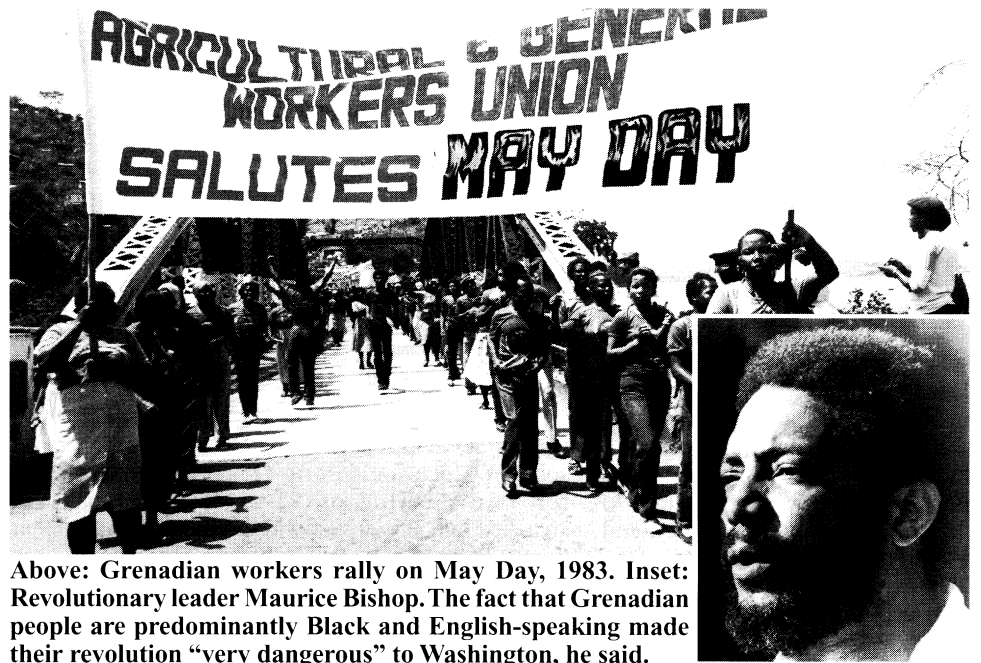
They give all kinds of reasons and excuses—some of them credible, some utter rubbish. We saw an interesting one recently in a secret report to the State Department. I want to tell you about that one, so you can reflect on it. That secret report made this point: that the Grenada revolution is in one sense even worse—I'm using their language—than the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions because the people of Grenada and the leadership of Grenada speak English, and therefore can communicate directly with the people of the United States. [Applause]

I can see from your applause, sisters and brothers, that you agree with the report. But I want to tell you what that same report said that also made us very dangerous. That is that the people of Grenada and the leadership of Grenada are predominantly Black. [Applause] They said that 95 percent of our population is Black—and they had the correct statistic—and if we have 95 percent of predominantly African origin in our country, then we can have a dangerous appeal to 30 million Black people in the United States. [Applause] Now that aspect of the report, clearly, is one of the most sensible.

Imperialists drive against revolution

But, sisters and brothers, how do we evaluate other sides of the report? Like when they say that Grenada violates human rights. When they say to us, how come you have detainees, what about the press, what about elections? When they say to us: Where are your elections?, they don't turn around at the same time and say to their friends in South Africa: Where are your elections? [Applause]

When they say to us that elections must be held, and if you don't have elections you can't expect support, and unless you have elections we can't give you the normal treatment, we say: Salvador Allende of Chile. [Applause] Salvador Allende of Chile was elected in September 1970 by the people of Chile. Allende did not take power through a revolution. Within twenty-four hours of his election, Richard Nixon, [Henry] Kissinger, and [Richard] Helms sat down and devised their plan, "Operation Make the Economy Scream." And even in the first three months



Above: Grenadian workers rally on May Day, 1983. Inset: Revolutionary leader Maurice Bishop. The fact that Grenadian people are predominantly Black and English-speaking made their revolution "very dangerous" to Washington, he said.

after Allende was elected, before he was inaugurated as president, they already tried to kill Allende once. They couldn't even wait for him to be formally inaugurated.

Allende did not form a militia. Allende did not grab any land or property. Allende had no political detainees. Allende did not crush the press. He did not close down the parliament. He did not suspend the constitution. He played by every rule they wrote. But they killed him still.

These people understand very well that a revolution means a new situation. A revolution implies a fracture. It implies a break with the past. It implies disruption of a temporary character. Revolution means that the abuses and excesses of the violent, reactionary, and disruptive minority have to be crushed so that the majority's interests can prevail. [Applause]

No revolution that does not have a dislocation can be called revolution. That is an impossibility. When the British had their revolution in the 1650s, it took them 200 years to call their first election. When the Americans had their revolution in 1776, it took them thirteen years to call their election.

In the first week of the American revolution, 100,000 fled to Canada. Thousands were locked up without charge or trial. Hundreds were shot. And the counterrevolutionaries after the American revolution had no right to vote. They had no right to teach.

They had no right to preach. They had no right to a job. Their land was confiscated without payment.

So when the falsifiers of history try to pretend that the American revolution was a Boston tea party—it was a very bloody tea party.

The fact of the matter is, sisters and brothers—if we are to be honest about this question—whenever revolution comes, the same questions face the leaders of the revolution. One question always is: what do you do with the bloody-minded murderers, the criminals, the ones who propped up the dictatorship. The ones who led to disappearances of our people. The ones who were beating the people, who were killing the people....

And you know it is highly significant that of the 400 to 500 people picked up by our masses on revolution day, on the thirteenth of March, not one of these MongOOSE Gang elements arrived in the jail with even a scratch on them...

Our people also understand that the first law of the revolution is that a revolution must survive, must consolidate so more benefits can come to them.

And because of this fact, the revolution has laid down as a law, that nobody, regardless of who you are, will be allowed to be involved in any activity surrounding the overthrow of the government by the use of armed violence. And anyone who moves in that direction will be ruthlessly crushed. [Applause.]

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

country in the interests of the majority.

In October 1983 the workers and farmers government was overthrown by a Stalinist-inspired coup; Bishop and other revolutionary leaders were murdered. This betrayal opened the door to a U.S. military invasion, which installed a pro-U.S. regime.

Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.



BY MAURICE BISHOP

Our people have a greater and deeper understanding of what the revolution means and what it has brought to them. They certainly understand very, very clearly that when some people attack us on the grounds of human rights, when some people attack us on the grounds of constituting a threat to the national security of other countries, our people understand that is foolishness. They know the

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder Readers Club SPECIALS **25% DISCOUNT**

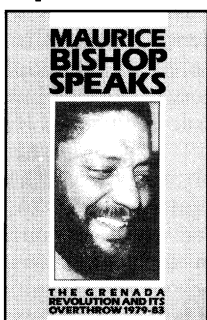
Leon Trotsky on France

An assessment of the social and economic crisis that shook France in the aftermath of Hitler's rise to power in Germany, and a program to unite the working class and exploited peasantry to confront it. \$24.95. Special price: \$18.75

Maurice Bishop Speaks

The Grenada Revolution, 1979-83.

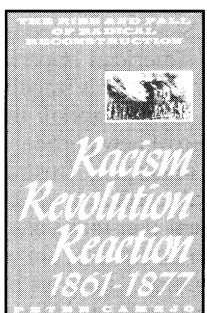
Speeches and interviews by the central leader of the workers and farmers government in the Caribbean island of Grenada. \$24.95. Special price: \$18.75



Racism, Revolution, and Reaction, 1861-1877

The Rise and Fall of Radical Reconstruction

PETER CAMEJO
The challenges—ranging from literacy drives to land reform—confronted by the popular revolutionary governments of Radical Reconstruction that arose in the United States following the Civil War, and the counterrevolution that subsequently overthrew them. \$18.95. Special price: \$14.25.



Join the Pathfinder Readers Club for \$10 and receive discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

—IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

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

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 3029A Bessemer Road. Zip: 35208. Tel: (205) 780-0021. E-mail: bhmSWP@bigfoot.com

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 4229 S. Central Ave. Zip: 90011. Tel: (323) 233-9372. E-mail: 74642.326@compuserve.com
San Francisco: 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: sfswp@hotmail.com

COLORADO: Craig: 6 West Victory Way. Zip: 81625. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1539. Zip: 81626. Tel: (970) 826-0289. E-mail: westerncoloradosp@yahoo.com

FLORIDA: Miami: 8365 NE 2nd Ave. #206 Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 751-7076. E-mail: miamiswp@bellsouth.net; **Tampa:** 1441 E. Fletcher, Suite 421. Zip: 33612. Tel: (813) 910-8507. E-mail: TOC1004@aol.com

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 2791 Lakewood Ave. Zip: 30315. Mailing address: P.O. Box 162515. Zip 30321. Tel: (404) 763-2900. E-mail: atlpathfinder@cs.com

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 1212 N. Ashland Suite 201. Zip: 60622. Tel: (773) 342-1780. E-mail: ChicagoPathfinder@compuserve.com

IOWA: Des Moines: 3720 6th Ave. Zip: 50313. Tel: (515) 288-2970. E-mail: swpdesmoines@cs.com

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 12 Bennington St., 2nd Floor, East Boston. Mailing address: P.O. Box 261. Zip: 02128. Tel: (617) 569-9169. E-mail: 103426.3430@compuserve.com

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 4208 W. Vernor St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 44739.

Zip: 48244-0739. Tel: (313) 554-0504. E-mail: DetroitMISWP@netscape.net

MINNESOTA: St. Paul: 113 Bernard St., West St. Paul. Zip: 55118. Tel: (651) 644-6325. E-mail: tcswp@qwest.net

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 168 Bloomfield Avenue, 2nd Floor. Mailing address: Riverfront Plaza, P.O. Box 200117. Zip: 07102-0302. Tel: (973) 481-0077. E-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com

NEW YORK: Garment District, 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Mailing address: P.O. Box 30. Zip: 10018. Tel: (212) 695-7358. E-mail: swpnycd@attglobal.net; **Upper Manhattan:** 599 W. 187 St. #1A Zip: 10033. Tel: (212) 740-4611. E-mail: swpuptown@usa.net

NORTH CAROLINA: Charlotte Area: 2001A N. Cannon Blvd. Kannapolis Mailing address: P.O. Box 5624, Concord. Zip: 28087. Tel: (704) 932-0821. E-mail: CharlotteSWP@aol.com

OHIO: Cleveland: 11018 Lorain Ave. Zip: 44111. Tel: (216) 688-1190. E-mail: 103253.1111@compuserve.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Hazleton: 69 North Wyoming St. Zip: 18201. Tel: (570) 454-8320. Email: swpnepa@intergrafix.net
Philadelphia: 5237 N. 5th St. Zip: 19120. Tel: (215) 324-7020. E-mail: PhiladelphiaSWP@yahoo.com
Pittsburgh: 5907 Penn Ave. Suite 225. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 365-1090. E-mail: pghswp@bigzoo.net

TEXAS: Houston: 619 West 8th St. Zip: 77007. Tel: (713) 869-6550. E-mail: swphouston@ev1.net

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3437 14th St. NW Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 387-1590. E-mail: dc-swp@starpower.net

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 5418 Rainier Avenue South. Zip: 98118-2439. Tel: (206) 323-1755. E-mail: swpseattle@qwest.net

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St., Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 1240. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl_australia@bigpond.com

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 020-7928-7993. E-mail: cllondon@onetel.net.uk

CANADA

Montreal: 1237 Jean Talon E. Montréal, QC. Postal code: H2R 1W1. Tel: (514) 284-7369. E-mail: Librpath@sympatico.ca

Toronto: 2761 Dundas St. West, Postal code: M6P 1Y4. Tel: (416) 767-3705. E-mail: milpathtoronto@sympatico.ca

Vancouver: 2645 E. Hastings, Room 203. Postal code: V5V 1Z5. Tel: (604) 872-8343. E-mail: clvancouver@cs.com

FRANCE

Paris: Centre MBE 175, 23 rue Lecourbe. Postal code: 75015. Tel: (01) 47-26-58-21. E-mail: 73504.442@compuserve.com

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Skolavordustig 6B. Mailing address: P. Box 0233, IS 121 Reykjavik. Tel: 552 5502. E-mail: milpth@mmedia.is

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Suite 3, 7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu. Postal address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 276-8885. E-mail: milpath.auckland@actrix.gen.nz

Christchurch: Gloucester Arcade, 129 Gloucester St. Postal address: P.O. Box 13-969. Tel: (3) 365-6055. E-mail: pathfinder.militant@paradise.net.nz

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Domargränd 16, S-129 47, Hägersten. Tel: (08) 31 69 33. E-mail: pathfbkh@algonet.se

Cuba urged USSR to make pact public

Continued from Page 10

"Relax, I don't think they will find out. When they do find out, they will have no choice but to accept the situation."

Besides, the Soviet leader thought an announcement of the agreement right then would interfere with Kennedy's political activity in the midst of the off-year election campaign. Khrushchev may also have been influenced by the fact that the missile divisions' main weapons had not yet arrived in Cuba. Perhaps he considered it better to publicize the agreement after the missiles had been installed, and in that way present it as a fait accompli. He concluded by repeating to Che and Aragonés what he had said previously to Raúl Castro: "You can relax. If any problem should occur, if we have to send the Baltic fleet over there, we'll send it."

Those talks resulted only in getting a paragraph included in a joint communiqué on the visit publicly expressing Soviet willingness to contribute to the reinforcement of Cuba's defense against the threats of external aggression. It stated: "As long as threats against Cuba by the above-mentioned circles persist, the Republic of Cuba will be fully entitled to adopt measures to guarantee its security and the defense of its sovereignty and independence, and all sincere friends of Cuba will have the full right to respond to those legitimate requests."

Meanwhile, in the United States, the campaign around Soviet weapons in Cuba was becoming more bellicose. The most reactionary politicians demanded immediate action against Cuba. A group of congressional Republicans headed by Senators Homer E. Capehart, Kenneth Keating, and Barry Goldwater was publicly pressing the Kennedy administration to do something. Those statements were directly linked to the November 1962 off-year elections, which drew numerous congressmen into the debate.

Some Latin American governments joined the campaign. The Venezuelan foreign minister, for example, predicted that if Cuba carried out aggression, his country would be the first target. Argentina and Peru also expressed alarm over what was happening on the island. In Central America other governments supported the idea of an invasion, as well.

On September 4 President Kennedy revealed that a reconnaissance flight over Cuba on August 29 had detected surface-to-air missiles and an increased number of Soviet military personnel. He warned Moscow that he would not tolerate the installation of offensive weapons on the island. On September 7 he requested congressional approval to call up 150,000 reservists to active duty if necessary to be able to respond

quickly and effectively "to challenges in any part of the Free World."

A week later, on September 13, with his government under political pressure, the U.S. president stated in a press conference that if the growth of communism in Cuba should at some point endanger or interfere in any way with the security of the United States and other nations of the Western Hemisphere by turning the island into an important offensive base for the Soviet Union, he would do everything possible to protect their security. He also warned that if he were to take military action against Cuba, all the weaponry and military advisers provided by the communists would not be able to change the outcome.

On September 26 the U.S. Congress adopted Joint Resolution 230, presented by the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees. This resolution authorized the president to take armed action against Cuba over its supposed aggressive and subversive activities in the hemisphere, and also authorized the use of force to prevent the establishment or use of military power on the island that might endanger the security of the United States.²

A meeting of Latin American foreign ministers on October 3 adopted a communiqué, at the request of the U.S. State Department, condemning the secret military buildup in Cuba and calling on OAS member countries to take individual or collective action to prevent the spread of communism in the hemisphere.

Two different positions

In face of the U.S. campaigns, Cuba's stance was to defend the country's sovereign right to take the measures necessary for its defense, while the Soviet Union's position was to turn to deception to keep the operation secret. Compare, for example, statements made by both countries at the time.

Cuban president Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado, in a meeting with workers leaders on September 7, said this about the U.S. campaign against Cuba: "What they are trying to do is deny us the right to defend ourselves.... Cuba has the legitimate right to use all means necessary for its defense, and Cuba's friends have the right to respond to our requests as needed for defense."

That same day in Washington, Soviet ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, speaking on behalf of his government, assured the U.S. representative to the United Nations, Adlai Stevenson, that the Soviets were giving only defensive weapons to Cuba.

Three days later, speaking to the Third National Congress of Municipal Education Councils, Fidel Castro sounded the alarm about pressures on the U.S. administration

Hundreds arrested in protest at Yale for better pay and pension benefits



Some 800 workers and students were arrested September 25 as they blocked a street in New Haven, Connecticut, to back demands by workers employed by Yale and Yale New Haven Hospital for a wage raise and improved pension benefits. The action was called by the Federation of Hospital and University Employees, a coalition of unions and groups of workers seeking to unionize. One of the unions, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees, which represents 4,000 workers, has gone without a contract since January. These workers have authorized their negotiating committee to call a strike if an agreement is not reached by October 31.

to attack the island, and pointed out: "An invasion of Cuba by U.S. military forces would place imperialism outside international law, as vulgar violators of the rights of the peoples, as perpetrators of genocide."

He also warned the U.S. rulers: "We have said on other occasions that we do not want imperialism to commit suicide on our account. We proclaim our desire to live in peace. We proclaim our desire that good judgment and the most elementary common sense should govern the destiny of that country."

On September 11, 1962, the Soviet news agency TASS broadcast a statement by the government of the USSR reaffirming its intention to provide needed military assistance to Cuba in the event of aggression. But paradoxically, the statement denied the existence of strategic weapons on the island: "The Soviet Union does not need to transfer to any other country—Cuba, for example—the means it possesses to repel aggression, to strike back. Our nuclear resources are so powerful in their explosive force and...we have such powerful missiles for delivering nuclear warheads that we have no need to look for a place to deploy them anywhere outside the boundaries of the USSR."

Cuba responds to U.S. slanders

In response to the joint congressional resolution authorizing President Kennedy to use armed force against Cuba if it threatened U.S. security, the Council of Ministers of the Cuban revolutionary government released a statement September 29 reaffirming Cuba's principled policy:

"Do we not have the rights that international norms, laws, and principles recognize for every sovereign state in any part of the world?"

"We have not surrendered nor do we intend to surrender any of our sovereign prerogatives to the Congress of the United States.

"If the U.S. government harbored no aggressive intentions toward our country, it would not care about the quantity, quality, or type of our weapons.

"If the United States could give Cuba effective and satisfactory guarantees with respect to our territorial integrity and would cease its subversive and counterrevolutionary activities against our people, Cuba would not need to strengthen its defenses. Cuba would not even need an army, and we would be happy to invest all the resources this implies to the nation's economic and cultural development.

"Cuba has always been ready to hold discussions with the U.S. government and to do everything possible on our part, if only we were to find a reciprocal stance by the U.S. government of reducing tensions and improving relations."

This is how the revolutionary government expressed itself in response to the slanderous campaigns being whipped up in the United States. Cuba steadfastly maintained this principled stance and never vacillated in the slightest in the face of all types of

pressures. Nor did Cuba negate its sovereign right to possess whatever weapons might be necessary to confront military aggression, and it warned of the consequences such aggression could bring.

In assessing the information supplied and the position taken by Soviet officials, the testimony of Georgi Bolshakov is very interesting. Bolshakov was a press officer in the Soviet embassy in Washington, and at that time acted as a secret "channel" of communication between Kennedy and Khrushchev. "The U.S. had already installed their missiles right under our noses, in Turkey, some time ago," he commented. "That was not secret. The whole world knew it, including the Soviet Union. However, our own deliberate secrecy was hindering Soviet diplomacy, because whenever the topic of Cuba came up, the question arose: 'Are there Soviet missiles in Cuba?' The fact that we denied it was used in the only possible way: 'They lie.' That idea took hold easily in the minds of the American people, sowing mistrust of our intentions. Perhaps this is why President Kennedy managed to secure support in advance for a planned invasion of Cuba from the Organization of American States and from several European countries, such as Great Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, and France."

Years later, Fidel Castro explained the major mistakes made by the Soviet government, not only keeping the operation secret—which certainly didn't help—but also their repeated denial of the presence of missiles in Cuba. He analyzed how Khrushchev, in his eagerness to cover up the strategic character of those weapons, used the categories Washington had contrived of "offensive" or "defensive" weapons. Khrushchev always made assurances that the weapons sent to Cuba were defensive in character. For the U.S., the distinction depended on whether the weapons could reach the continental United States, not on the purpose for which they were intended. Consequently, to define the weapons in this way was a highly dangerous political error by Khrushchev. It made things easy for Kennedy, because when nuclear missiles were discovered, Kennedy presented himself as a man who had been lied to, which gave him the moral high ground in public opinion.

Unlike the Soviet government, the Cuban government maintained a principled stance on the matter. "We refused to play that game," Fidel said, "and in the public statements of the government, and then at the United Nations, we always said that Cuba considered that it had the sovereign right to have the kind of weapons it considered convenient, and that no one had any right to establish what kind of weapons our country could or could not have. We never denied the strategic character of the weapons. We did not want to play that game."

² On September 25, the Congress also approved President Kennedy's request to call up 150,000 reservists to active military service.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: The Militant
2. Publication No.: 0349-040
3. Filing Date: 10/01/02
4. Issue Frequency: Published weekly except one week in June, August and December
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 49
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$45
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State, and ZIP+4) (Not printer): 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014-2570.
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 408 Printing & Publishing Corporation, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do Not Leave Blank). Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address): 408 Printing & Publishing Corporation, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address): Martin Koppel, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address): none.
10. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereafter the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Do Not Leave Blank): 408 Printing & Publishing Corp., 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Stockholders: Joel Britton, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; Chris Hoepfner, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; Sam Manuel, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; Dennis Richter, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014; Anchor Foundation, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: Anchor Foundation, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.
12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: Does not apply.

13. Publication Name: The Militant
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: October 7, 2002
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation. Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: (a) Total No. Copies (Net Press Run): 3,552. b. (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscribers Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies): 1,156; (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies): 67; (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 1,547; (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 5; c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation [Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4)]: 2,775; d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free): 95; e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 97; (f) Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e): 192; g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f): 2,967; (h) Copies Not Distributed: 587; i. Total (Sum of 15g and 15h): 3,552; j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g times 100): 93.53%. No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date. a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): 3,438; b. (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscribers Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies): 1,182; (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies): 51; (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 1,639; (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 7; c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation [Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4)]: 2,879; d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free): 37; e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means): 44; (f) Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e): 81; g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f): 2,960; (h) Copies Not Distributed: 478; i. Total (Sum of 15g and 15h): 3,438; j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g times 100): 97.26%.
16. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the October 14, 2002 issue of this publication.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Jack Willey, Business Manager (signed), Date: 10/01/02

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Textile workers in Scotland walk out

BY HARRY LAWS

HAWICK, Scotland—Some 170 union members at the Barrie Knitwear textile plant here launched a two-day strike October 2 in the face of a breakdown in wage negotiations. The workers are fighting for a 5 percent pay increase that, they explain, should have been implemented more than a year ago.

"We have not had a pay raise since January 2001 and before that it took another two years, putting us way behind inflation and other factory workers," one worker said on September 25.

The textile workers are also combating the bosses' attempts to reduce their guaranteed workweek. Dawson International, the company that owns both Barrie and Ballantyne Cashmere in Innerleithen, another town on the Scots-English border, is demanding the "harmonization" of wages and conditions in both plants before discussing pay raises.

The bosses issued an ultimatum that if the dispute is not settled by September 30, they will present workers with 90-day firing notices. Existing contracts would be torn up on the last day of the year and workers would be rehired on the employers' terms.

For the workers at Barrie, "harmonization" includes losing a guaranteed four-day working week. One worker told the local press, "Three days is no use to anyone. Folk would be better off not working".

A co-worker added, "We feel like they are trying to bring annualized hours in the back door by offering to pay us a five-day week when we are working three and then taking the money back when we are busy."

The bosses' proposal of annualization of hours would mean that workers are paid for five days' work every week but must accept longer hours when the mills are busy and shorter hours when demand drops. Such schemes mean a forced lengthening of the workweek without overtime pay.

In May, bosses laid off 39 workers from Barrie and nine from Ballantyne. They have since introduced short-time work at both plants, blaming a downturn in business.

Workers at both plants struck over the pay increase July 12. A worker at Ballantyne, who

asked not to be identified by name, told the *Militant*: "We were told there was no money for us workers at the same time as [Dawson International chief executive Paul] Munn got an £87,000 bonus" (£1=US\$1.57).

When bosses at Ballantyne Cashmere were informed of the decision to strike they announced a short workweek. "By the close of that day we were told we were going on a three-day week," said Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) convenor Irene Bell. The TGWU represents workers at Ballantyne while those at Barrie Knitwear are members of the General, Municipal and Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union (GMB) members.

The 259 workers at Ballantyne took part in a further half-day strike on August 14 over wages, before voting 88 percent in favor of accepting "harmonization." Under the proposed terms, they would be better off than they are now, as a four-day week would be assured for the first month of any period of short time. Unlike the Barrie workers in Hawick, Ballantyne workers do not currently have a guaranteed four-day week.

How guaranteed four-day week was won

The guaranteed four-day week, which applies mostly to Hawick mills, was won 30 years ago. In 1972, 5,500 knitwear workers in Hawick waged a five-week strike against the bosses' organization, the Hawick Knitwear Manufacturers Association. Pickets were organized at every mill, and strikers set up a caravan as a field kitchen to feed the pickets with food and drink donated by local residents. Strikers took down the Queen's Award for Industry flag from one mill. Fifty extra police were brought in from other areas and the "Welcome to Hawick" sign outside the town was overhung with a sign saying "Welcome to Dawson City...a police state". Gains won included a wage increase and extra holiday.

"At least it showed that the Hawick folk were prepared to fight for their rights," one strike veteran recalled.

Dawson International reported a £900,000 loss in operating profits for 2001 and has predicted another loss this year. Turnover for

the first six months of 2002 fell to £24 million from £37.5 million for the same period last year. Like many other bosses, the company has blamed the impact of the September events and a global slowdown in demand for the slump in orders for their product.

Dawson procures raw cashmere fiber from Inner Mongolia, cleans and processes it in

China, spins the yarn in Scotland for international fashion businesses and knits for some top fashion designers. The final products sell for between £200 to around £2,000.

Harry Laws is a meat worker in Scotland, Carol Ball, also a meat worker, contributed to the article.

Salt miners in Cleveland fight for 'jobs, respect'



Militant

Striking Teamsters Local 436 members join September 9 rally to demand that city council halt purchases of salt from Cargill until company hires back former strikers.

BY HELEN MEYERS

CLEVELAND—"We're fighting for our jobs, seniority rights, and respect," Leroy Kinder said about the strike by salt miners here. He spoke to the *Militant* during a September 21 rally demanding that Mayor Jane Campbell cancel Cleveland's purchasing of road salt from the Cargill salt mine.

Kinder has worked at the mine for 15 years. He is one of 165 members of Teamsters Local 436 who on May 6 struck Cargill, the giant agricultural products conglomerate. Fifteen salt miners participated in the protest with picket signs at a busy intersection near where Campbell was giving a speech.

The miners have been fighting to oppose the undercutting of seniority in job openings and work shifts, to end the use of subcontractors, and to reverse the flexible work schedule the union agreed to when Cargill bought the mine in 1997.

Since the union made an unconditional offer to return to work in August, the company has called back only 33 of the strikers and terminated the rest. Cargill has kept 83 of the replacement workers hired to break the strike.

On September 9, some 100 miners and their supporters rallied at Cleveland City Hall to defend the union and support a resolution in the city council calling on the mayor to end salt purchases from Cargill until the company rehires the former strikers. The rally was organized by Local 436 members and their spouses.

The city councils of Cleveland and nearby Lakewood and Parma have passed non-binding resolutions in support of the unionists. According to the September 28 *Plain Dealer*, Campbell wrote to Cargill, saying the company's "inability to come to a resolution that treats your workers fairly may prohibit the city of Cleveland from purchasing salt from Cargill."

Local 436 has asked the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to boycott all Cargill products, from grain to beef and other foods. The union has also filed an unfair labor practices complaint with the National Labor Relations Board.

Meanwhile, salt miners have expressed determination to continue their fight. James Yeager, a miner with 30 years' service, said the company has refused to call back union members by seniority. Commenting on the possibility of not returning to work for Cargill, Yeager said, "I may end up going, but I'm not going quietly."

Helen Meyers is the Socialist Workers candidate for Ohio attorney general.

Paraguay: mass protests by workers and peasants oppose austerity drive, repression

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Thousands of workers and farmers blocked roads throughout Paraguay on September 25 to protest the austerity measures the government of President Luis González Macchi is implementing. The International Monetary Fund insists on these measures as a precondition for a \$200 million loan. They include sharp hikes in the prices of diesel fuel and water as well as legislation to raise the sales tax. Peasant mobilizations in May and June blocked the government from passing

an earlier round of austerity measures.

Trucks and tractors were parked at intervals along highways around a number of major cities. Taxi drivers tied up the streets of the capital Asunción and the eastern city of Ciudad del Este with go-slow protests.

With a population of 6 million Paraguay has over 1 million unemployed or underemployed. This figure has continued to rise as the shockwaves from the economic crisis in neighboring Brazil and Argentina have hit the country. Peasants, who account for more than

a third of the workforce and whose labor produces 95 percent of Paraguay's exports, have been mobilizing in these protests to demand land. The depression has driven a growing number of peasants off the land.

As the fight by workers and farmers intensifies, the government is stepping up its assault on the rights of working people. On September 19 Juan Arrom, leader of the Free Homeland Movement (Movimiento Patria Libre—MPL) was jailed on frame-up charges in connection with the alleged kidnapping of Maria Edith Debernardi, a member of a prominent bourgeois family.

Initially, Arrom was kidnapped and tortured by the police. Following demonstrations and a national campaign he was released on parole, but government prosecutors have continued to try to build a frame-up case against him.

The MPL and other political organizations in Paraguay have issued a joint statement demanding Arrom's release. "We oppose the political persecution of MPL leaders who were kidnapped and tortured last January by the government under the pretext of going after 'subversive and terrorist' actions by left and popular organizations and seeking to tie them to an alleged kidnapping and extortion case," the organizations said in the statement. They accused the government of practicing "state terrorism" in its continuing persecution of MPL leaders.

The statement was also signed by the April 19 Indigenous Movement, Revolutionary Socialist Nucleus, Paraguayan Communist Party, Workers Party, and Paraguayan Socialist Party.

Special offers with subscription to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* in Sept. 7–Nov. 17 circulation drive

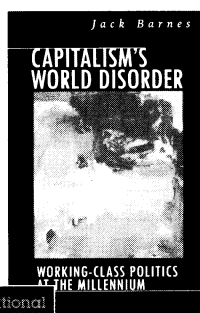
New International nos. 7, 10, 11 \$10

• Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's assault on Iraq
Regular price \$12

• Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War
Regular price \$14

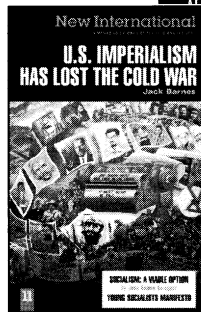
• U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War
Regular price \$14
Available in Spanish, French, and Swedish New International no. 11 also in Icelandic.

\$2 Off
All other issues of *New International*



Capitalism's World Disorder

Working-Class Politics at the Millennium
by Jack Barnes
\$15 Reg. price \$23.95
Also in Spanish, French.



For new readers, 12-week *Militant* subscription is \$10, and 4-month *Perspectiva Mundial* subscription is \$6. For longer-term subs and overseas rates, see page 2.

Pathfinder titles are available from bookstores, including those listed on page 14, or from www.pathfinderpress.com