

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Campaign for socialism,
vote Socialist Workers!

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Cuba-Africa speaking tour begins in U.S. cities

BY PAUL PEDERSON

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke and Ana Morales, a Cuban doctor and internationalist, were greeted warmly by a crowd of 40 people when they arrived at the airport here October 19 to begin a five-week speaking tour of half a dozen U.S. cities. The next day they met with tour organizers at the offices of the TransAfrica Forum to discuss

Youth from Americas to participate in conference in Guadalajara, Mexico.

SEE PAGE 2

plans for their visit.

Those who joined the welcome and the planning meeting included representatives of groups helping organize and host the tour, as well as others who oppose Washington's aggressive policies against Cuba. Among them were Olivia Burlingame from Pastors for Peace in Washington; Banbose Shango and Patricia Moral of the Sister City Project, which works to build closer relations between the U.S. and Cuba through city-to-city ties; Mwiza Munthali, information director of the TransAfrica Forum, a group that works to influence U.S. policy toward Africa; Mary-Alice Waters, president of

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U.S. holds war exercises in Kuwait and Qatar

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

Thousands of U.S. troops have been carrying out military maneuvers in the Arab-Persian Gulf as Washington takes further steps toward a massive bombing campaign and ground invasion of Iraq.

More than 1,000 marines from the 11th Expeditionary Unit have just completed "Eager Mace" exercises in Kuwait. On October 6 about 1,400 U.S. Special Forces troops began "Early Victor '02" maneuvers in Jordan.

They are training with Jordanian, Omani, and Kuwaiti troops in "unconventional warfare techniques," including operating behind enemy lines.

Jordan was also the venue for the little-publicized "Infinite Moonlight" maneuvers conducted by U.S. and Jordanian forces in late August.

Jordan's Ruwayshid and Wadi al-Murbah airbases are located near its border with western Iraq. U.S. military planners have been open about their plans to send Special Forces troops into the area to take out concentrations of Iraqi missile launch sites.

In recent weeks the U.S. and British warplanes, stationed in Kuwait, Turkey, Oman, and on aircraft carriers in the Gulf, have increased the tempo of their bombing attacks on southern and northern Iraq.

Under United Nations cover, the imperi-

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UK firefighters to strike in defiance of gov't threats

19,000 troops readied as strikebreakers against nat'l job action



Firefighters union members in Britain rally in support of wage demands

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—Acting in defiance of threats by the Labour Party government to mobilize army, air force, and navy troops as strikebreakers, 50,000 members of the Fire Brigades Union in the United Kingdom will stop work for 48 hours on October 29. The two-day stoppage is the first of a number of national actions planned through to the end of the year.

The workers approved strike action by a resounding 9-1 margin in face of the government's "emergency" plans to mobilize 19,000 armed forces personnel to step into the firefighters' jobs.

In Scotland, 1,800 troops are being readied to man 100 aging fire trucks in place of more than 4,500 full-time members of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) operating 500 modern fire engines.

More than 83 percent of the union's membership turned out for the October 18 vote. In Northern Ireland, the majority in favor

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Jailing of five on 'terrorism' charges provokes outrage in Lackawanna, N.Y.

BY DAN FEIN
AND ARRIN HAWKINS

LACKAWANNA, New York—The arrest of six U.S. citizens of Yemeni descent here on the frame-up charge of providing "material support" to al Qaeda, and the increased cop surveillance of their community, have sparked discussion and debate among

people living in the area. Many who live in the same neighborhood as the detained men expressed outrage to *Militant* reporters who visited Lackawanna on October 13.

In September federal police incarcerated in nearby Buffalo, New York, Sahim Alwan, 29; Faysal Galab, 26; Yasein Taher, 24; Mukhtar al-Bakir, 22; Shafel Mosed, 24;

and Yahya Goba, 25.

At an October 8 bail hearing, attended by supporters of those arrested, U.S. magistrate judge Kenneth Schroeder denied bail to all but one individual—Sahib Alwan. His bail was set at \$600,000 and he is required to stay at home where all his movements will be monitored by a satellite tracking system.

Alwan is not allowed to use cell phones or computers, and is required to wear an electronic ankle bracelet.

Khalid Qazi, president of the Western New York chapter of the America Muslim Council, said Alwan's so-called release was in fact "house arrest. He's released, but he's not free."

The Joint Terrorism Task Force of Western New York and the U.S. Justice Department admit they have no knowledge of any criminal act carried out by any of the six men.

The only "evidence" they present is that these individuals traveled to Pakistan and two of them went to Afghanistan as well.

The Yemeni community here of some 2,000 is part of a working-class section of Lackawanna. Many originally came here to

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Sat., Nov. 2 ♦ New York

**CAMPAIGNING FOR COMMUNISM,
RESPONDING TO POLITICAL OPENINGS**

The struggle against imperialism today

Speakers

Jack Barnes

National Secretary,
Socialist Workers Party

Jason Alessio

UMWA miner, SWP candidate
for U.S. Congress in Colorado

Arrin Hawkins

Socialist Workers candidate for
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Mary-Alice Waters

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Olympia Newton

Young Socialists National Leadership
Council, SWP candidate for California
secretary of state

Ma'mud Shirvani Farsi editor, Pathfinder Press

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- ♦ The unfolding world depression
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Germany marked by joblessness, banking crisis, labor resistance 9

Cuban youth build international student meeting in Mexico

BY LUIS MADRID

HAVANA—"We think it is important to have young people from the United States participate in this event," said Yanelis Martínez, speaking of the upcoming congress of the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students (OCLAE). The gathering, which will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, November 29 to December 2, will draw more than a thousand youth from throughout the Americas to discuss their experiences in confronting the consequences of imperialist domination.

"We want to promote participation from the U.S. and Canada," and are discussing opening membership to groups from those two countries, added Martínez, the president of OCLAE. The call for the gathering explains that the congress will be an opportunity to discuss how students are rejecting the policies that promote the "increased dependence and submission of our peoples." The conference "will be a contribution by the student movement to the struggle for an independent Puerto Rico," and the fight of its people to rid themselves of the U.S. military presence on the island of Vieques.

Following an opening plenary session, delegates will divide up into eight work commissions whose themes include "Another America is possible: strategy of the student movement in the face of neoliberalism;" "Culture as the peoples' expression and a form of struggle;" "Gender and identity;" "Education in the era of trade pacts;" "Defense of the environment: a contribution to the future of humanity;" and others. Following a session that will be open to members of OCLAE only, the gathering will close with another plenary session. Students and youth organizations not currently affiliated will be able to speak and vote in the work commissions, noted the OCLAE president.

Cuban youth leaders build congress

Martínez explained she had just returned from a 14-day tour that took her, Hassan Pérez, president of Cuba's Federation of

University Students (FEU), and Norge Jiménez, a member of FEU's national secretariat, through five countries to help promote the congress. "It was a very successful trip. We visited countries that are key to the success of the congress. As a result, for instance, we can now expect at least 30 delegates from Chile," Martínez said. This is part of an effort to reintegrate Chilean university student groups into OCLAE, she explained.

Furthermore, during their stop in Brazil, the delegation met with political organizations, solidarity groups, and others in both Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. They met with leaders of the National Students Union and the Brazilian Union of High School Students—both part of OCLAE's secretariat—as well as with students and faculty at Sao Paulo State University, the state's largest, to help finalize congress preparations. TV Globo network broadcast an interview with the Cuban student leaders, highlighting the role played by young people in addressing social problems facing Cuba today.

In Argentina the Cuban youth met with



Militant/Angel Larisey

Cuban youth leader Yanelis Martínez, today president of OCLAE, during U.S. speaking tour in April 2001. OCLAE congress in Guadalajara, from November 29 to December 2, will draw hundreds of youth from throughout the Americas, including the United States.

the Argentine University Federation and the Buenos Aires University Students Federation. "Given the crisis facing that country, it's important to have the voice of Argentine youth present," Martínez pointed out.

The tour also included Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador. In all, some 1,500 delegates from 23 countries are expected to attend the event.

The congress schedule includes a visit by delegates to the 16th annual Guadalajara International Book Fair, which this year is honoring Cuba. "The University of Guadalajara plays a central role in the orga-

nization of the book fair," Martínez added. "We also have solid support from the local student federation and faculty for the upcoming congress."

Martínez urged everyone planning to participate in the meeting to register by the November 10 deadline. The registration fee is US\$70.00. OCLAE can be contacted at oclae@jccc.org.cu, or through its affiliate in Guadalajara at fea@cencar.udg.mx. Those interested can also visit OCLAE's web site through www.feuu.edu.uy, where the organization's aims, the congress schedule, and other related materials can be obtained.

U.S. troops step up maneuvers in Gulf

Continued from front page

alist powers have declared these regions "no-fly" zones to justify the decade-long air assaults they have conducted against Iraq. Since the end of the 1990-91 Gulf war, Washington and London have carried out nearly 300,000 bombing missions against Iraq—about 265,000 in the south since 1992 and 33,000 in the north since 1997. The Iraqi government has denounced this violation of the country's sovereignty and the continuous killing of Iraqis, both civilians and defense personnel.

The imperialist military buildup continues throughout the region. By mid-October, the total troop strength of U.S. armed forces under the Pentagon's Central Command (Centcom), whose field of operation

stretches from Kazakhstan to East Africa, stood at close to 60,000 troops. Some 25,000 of them are in the Arab-Persian Gulf, while tens of thousands of others are stationed in bases around the Arabian peninsula.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar include some of the largest concentrations of U.S. military personnel, with 9,000, 6,000, and 3,000 troops, respectively. In November some 600 Centcom officers will arrive at the Al-Udeid air base in Qatar, which is being expanded and upgraded by U.S. forces and already has the capacity to house 10,000 troops.

Some 37 warehouses, each averaging 60,000 square feet, have been constructed in Kuwait and Qatar over the last decade. Each holds tanks and other armored vehicles, personnel carriers, mortars, howitzers, and other equipment.

The 600 Qatar-based officers, who will be flown in from Centcom's U.S. headquarters in Florida, will play a central part in "Internal Look," a series of military exercises scheduled to start before the end of 2002. Gen. Thomas Franks, who is in charge of the U.S. war moves in the Middle East, said the maneuvers will test the new command facilities in a "simulated war."

The shift of Centcom's command from the United States to Qatar is one of the moves designed "to shorten the time between any decision on war and our execution of the orders," a senior Pentagon official told the media.

"We're a war-fighting headquarters and the responsible thing is to plan for a variety of

contingencies," Centcom spokesman Maj. John Robinson said in Qatar on October 15.

U.S. officials say they are building up their "forward positions" in the Mideast region to be able to move large numbers of troops and military equipment much more rapidly than they did a decade ago. Vice Adm. Charles Moore said, "For the first time in a number of years we have the capability to surge a significant portion of our force."

Writing in the October 16 *Wall Street Journal*, Gen. Barry McCaffrey said the U.S. armed forces were preparing a "short and violent military campaign." He acknowledged that to accomplish their goal of taking over Iraq, "U.S. forces are likely to endure significant casualties."

A major target of the assault will be Iraq's elite Republican Guard, a force of 100,000 that is reportedly digging in around Baghdad, including the Special Republican Guard, which reportedly protects central government officials. In an invasion, McCaffrey wrote, "allied forces will be compelled to kill the 15,000 troops of the Special Guard."

In 1991, during the six weeks of bombing and the 100-hour ground invasion of Iraq, the U.S.-led forces—including those under McCaffrey's command—killed at least 150,000 people. In the final 48 hours of the invasion, as Iraqi soldiers fled Kuwait along the road to Basra, Iraq, U.S. forces trapped tens of thousands of Iraqis, Kuwaitis, and others on a 20-mile stretch of highway and proceeded to slaughter them

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THE MILITANT

The truth about the Palestinian struggle

Despite military occupation, constant harassment, and encirclement of towns in the West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli rulers remain unable to crush the Palestinian people. The 'Militant' tells the truth about this resistance and the fight for a democratic, secular Palestine.



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Workers at Dakota Premium win contract

BY JENNY BENTON

SOUTH ST. PAUL, Minnesota—With shouts of “*Si se pudo!*” (“Yes we did it!”) workers at the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789 union hall celebrated their first union contract at Dakota Premium Foods on October 15. The pact was approved by workers by a margin of 149 to 21. The overwhelming “yes” vote capped a two-and-a-half-year fight that began with a sit-down strike in June 2000.

From the first days of the struggle, company officials vowed not to recognize the union or negotiate a contract. The plant is a subsidiary of Rosen’s Diversified, one of the 10 largest beef packers in the country, and employs 200 production staff.

Many workers read and discussed the contract before the vote. “I was surprised that many people voted for the contract. This shows how strong we are, and the company knows it too,” said Tyrone Appleton, a worker in the packing department. “Maybe this will help us in the workplace. We can stick together instead of being divided.”

“Some things I didn’t agree with, but it’s a contract,” said Augustina Borroel, another worker in the packing department. “We have something and now we can fight for something better.”

Winning the contract strengthens the unionists’ ability to defend themselves against the company’s profit drive. The union negotiating committee, headed by Local 789 president Bill Pearson, included rank-and-file workers from both the kill and boning departments. The contract provides for wage increases of between 20 and 35 cents an hour for the next five years, as well as medical benefits that the company had previously threatened to eliminate. The contract also upholds seniority rights. Most workers will receive a \$1,000 signing bonus. Recent hires will get \$500.

Miguel Gutiérrez, a central leader of the fight since the sit-down strike and member of the negotiating committee, told the *Militant*, “I remember what it was like in this plant before the union vote. People were complaining about injuries and not being able to work because of the line speed. We fought for this contract. I know it is not the best, but we need the union inside the plant now. This contract gives us that.”

Ernesto Ramirez, a worker in the boning department, said, “This is good. I cut a nerve in my hand a year ago and the company fired me. I went to the union and we fought to get my job back. Now, with the union in the plant we will have more rights and better protection.”

Sit-down strike a turning point

For several years meat packers at Dakota Premium have fought against brutal working conditions and for the right to be treated with dignity. On June 1, 2000, more than 100 workers staged a seven-hour sit-down strike to demand the company slow the line speed and cease forcing people to work while injured. Despite the company’s efforts



July 2000 rally of meat packers at Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul, Minnesota, the day before they voted in United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789.

to intimidate the meat packers, the bosses conceded to their demands and workers launched an organizing drive to join the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

The strike gave momentum to the effort to bring the union back. Eight years earlier it had been decertified after failing to win a contract.

On July 21 of that year workers voted to join UFCW Local 789. The company immediately challenged the election with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Region 18 of the board rejected the

company’s claims and upheld the union vote. The company then appealed to the national NLRB, effectively stalling the union recognition process by nearly 14 months before a second ruling upheld the election result.

Throughout the period between the sit-down strike and the contract vote the Dakota bosses threatened to eliminate medical benefits and stepped up an in-plant propaganda campaign designed to intimidate workers.

Resistance continued as the company targeted outspoken supporters of the union.

Some of these workers were refused bathroom visits. After an incident on the line where a worker was denied a break, other workers responded by organizing a meeting at the union hall to demand that the company allow such breaks when needed.

A central issue in the fight for union recognition has been the line speed. Over a period of time before the sit-down strike, production was raised from 450 head of cattle in 10 hours to 700 in seven and a half hours. Today, workers process more than 800 cattle in less than nine hours. Some supervisors have threatened that the line speed will be increased to 125 per hour.

In an attempt to create an atmosphere of intimidation and discourage people from voting for the new contract, the company fired a number of workers, claiming that they did not have proper work documentation, for alleged attendance lapses, and other reasons. Workers responded by turning to their union and discussing with fellow workers why a contract was needed in the plant.

The majority of workers are from Mexico and other countries in Latin America. Many use their vacation time and ask for additional time without pay—which the company had previously granted—to visit their families. Several workers have reported that after having approved their vacation time in addition to unpaid leave time, the company reversed its decision the day after the contract ratification. Workers have met at the union hall to demand the company give them the previously approved time off.

Jenny Benton works in the boning department at Dakota Premium Foods and is a member of UFCW Local 789.

Cubans start speaking tour on ‘Cuba and Africa’

Continued from front page

Pathfinder Press; and others.

Victor Dreke has been a leading participant in Cuba’s revolutionary movement for more than half a century. He is speaking on “Cuba and Africa: 1959 to today” to students, farmers, unionists, and others. The first speaking engagements are at several campuses in Washington, D.C.

Ana Morales, a doctor and professor at the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, headed the Cuban medical mission in Guinea Bissau in 1985. She helped found the first medical school in that country, donated by Cuba. Morales is touring with Dreke, speaking on “Cuba’s medical missions in Africa.”

“We’re going to talk about the reality of Cuba, which many people in the United States aren’t aware of,” Dreke said in an interview at the beginning of the tour. “We’re open to answering any question they have about any topic they want. We will explain the efforts Cuba is undertaking to break out of the U.S. economic blockade. We will talk about the work of Cuban doctors in Africa



and the struggle there against the AIDS epidemic. We will also talk about the five Cubans imprisoned in U.S. jails.”

Dreke became active in the Cuban revolutionary movement as a teenager in the popular struggle against the Batista dictatorship.

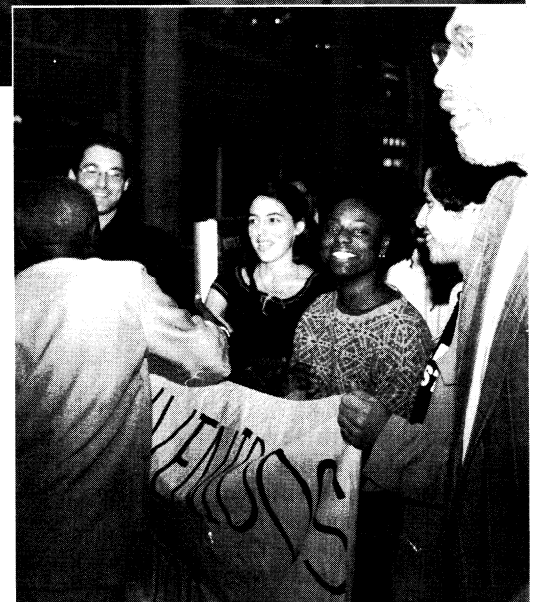
Following the 1959 victory of the Cuban Revolution he held numerous responsibilities in the revolutionary armed forces and political leadership of the battle to transform Cuban society. He commanded the forces fighting CIA-backed counterrevolutionary bands in the Escambray mountains of central Cuba in the early 1960s.

In 1965 Dreke served under Ernesto Che Guevara as second-in-command of the more than 100 Cuban volunteers who fought alongside national liberation fighters in the Congo.

In 1966 he returned to Africa, serving as head of Cuba’s military mission to Guinea-Bissau, where Cuban volunteers joined forces led by Amílcar Cabral in the struggle for national independence from Portugal. Dreke returned to Guinea-Bissau in 1986-89.

Today he serves as vice president of the Cuba-Africa Friendship Association and helps lead work in African development projects.

The tour in Washington, from October 19 to 25, includes speaking engagements at Banneker High School, American University, Howard University, the University of Maryland in Baltimore County, and the College of Notre Dame.



Militant Paul Pederson

Top: Victor Dreke, left, and Ana Morales, right front, arrive at Washington, D.C., airport. Inset: Dreke is greeted by activists opposed to U.S. policy toward Cuba, with banner reading “*Bienvenidos*,” or welcome, in Spanish.

On October 27 Dreke and Morales head to Georgia. Their first stop is Valdosta, a town in southern Georgia, where they will visit a farm and meet with members of the People’s Tribunal, a civil rights organization made up of farmers and rural workers. In Atlanta they are scheduled to speak at Clark Atlanta University and Spelman College, and at a citywide meeting October 31.

Following the Atlanta visit, they have been invited to speak in a number of other cities including Birmingham, Alabama; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Boston.

Cuba and Africa: 1959 to Today

Victor Dreke and Ana Morales, two veteran Cuban revolutionaries, have begun a tour of six U.S. cities to speak about the Cuban Revolution and its record of support for liberation struggles in Africa. Below is the schedule for the next stops of the tour. The series of speaking engagements is hosted by the Africa-Cuba Speakers Committee.

Washington, D.C.

Friday, October 25

Howard University, Blackburn Student Center, 7:00 p.m.

Valdosta, Georgia

October 27

People’s Tribunal of Valdosta, Church at Pine Hill, 7:00 p.m.

Atlanta, Georgia

October 29

Clark/Atlanta University

Ana Morales, 1:30 p.m.

Victor Dreke, 3:30 p.m.

October 30

Spelman College, Reception, 5:30 p.m., Program, 7:00 p.m.

October 31

“Cuba and Africa 1959 to Today”

Citywide meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Birmingham, Alabama

November 4-8

Charlotte, North Carolina

November 8-12

Boston, Massachusetts

November 15-18

For more information or to send a contribution to help defray travel expenses, contact the Africa-Cuba Speakers Committee; c/o Howard University NAACP, 2400 6th St., Suite 118, Washington, D.C. 20059. For local information on Washington, D.C., leg of tour, call Howard University Political Science Department at (202) 806-6848.

Saudi oil in U.S. imperialism's sights

BY JACK WILLEY

As Washington moves toward war in the Mideast, Iraq is not the only country in its sights. Saudi Arabia, which sits on top of the largest known oil reserves in the world, is also targeted by U.S. imperialism's drive to redivide the region and gain more control over its natural resources.

Saudi Arabia, a semicolonial country of 23 million inhabitants, is at the center of the sharpening conflicts and volatility in the region. Dominated economically and politically by U.S. imperialism, Saudi Arabia was used by the U.S. military as a staging ground for its 1990-91 assault on Iraq. Since then, Washington has continued to use the country's Prince Sultan air force base for bombing sorties over the imperialist-imposed "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq.

The political weakness of the Saudi ruling class and the exhaustion of its ability to use oil wealth to stave off economic crisis have bred growing social instability. Fearing popular anger at the trampling of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, the regime in Riyadh has placed some limits on Washington's use of military facilities on Saudi territory. The dependency of the Saudi royal family on U.S. imperialism and the social crisis have also led to bourgeois currents using anti-American rhetoric to gain a broader hearing.

The Saudi rulers find themselves buffeted between the pressures of imperialism and the growing discontent among working people, sometimes putting them at odds with Washington.

Following a 1996 bombing that killed 19 U.S. soldiers at the Khobar Towers apartment complex, Saudi authorities, who conducted the investigation, did not accept the U.S. demand that the FBI be part of the interrogation of witnesses. After the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the regime balked at the demand that the FBI have free rein to round up, interrogate, and take away any Saudi resident it deemed a "terrorist suspect."

As Washington has pressed ahead with steps toward launching a bombing campaign and ground invasion of Iraq, Riyadh has softened its public stance of barring use of its soil for a U.S.-led war on Iraq.

Nonetheless, Washington has built or expanded military facilities in Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates as possible alternatives to its bases in Saudi Arabia. Today U.S. bases and battleships ring

the Arabian Peninsula.

In another example of the worsening relations between Washington and Riyadh, capitalist politicians in the United States have highlighted the report that 15 of the 19 alleged September 11 hijackers were Saudis, arguing that the Saudi regime is not "cooperating" with Washington and should be brought to heel.

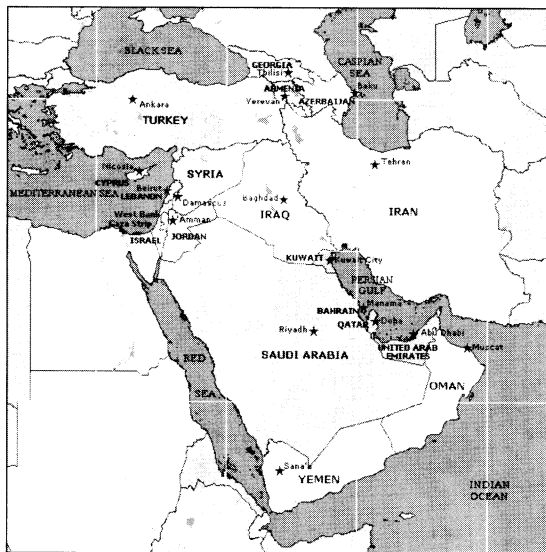
Some in U.S. ruling circles have argued for taking a more aggressive stance toward Saudi Arabia, including the possibility of grabbing its oil resources.

A briefing given to a Pentagon advisory board in July, for example, described Saudi Arabia as an enemy of Washington and proposed giving the government of that country an ultimatum to "stop backing terrorism" and to crack down on "fundamentalist" Muslims or face seizure of their oilfields and financial assets invested in the United States. The Defense Policy Board, a group of former senior officials who advise the Pentagon on military policy, endorsed the report from the Rand Corporation.

The report claimed that "the Saudis are active at every level of the terror chain, from planners to financiers, from cadre to foot-soldier, from ideologist to cheerleader... the kernel of evil, the prime mover, the most dangerous opponent" in the Middle East. It concluded that "once a U.S. invasion has removed Hussein from power, a friendly successor regime would become a major exporter of oil to the West. That oil would diminish U.S. dependence on Saudi energy exports, and so, in this view, permit the U.S. government to confront the House of Saud for supporting terrorism," the *Washington Post* reported.

"The road to the entire Middle East goes through Baghdad," a Bush administration official told the *Post*. Once Washington puts in place a government that will do its bidding in Iraq, "there are a lot of possibilities."

Columnist William Safire wrote September 12 that rifts within the ruling Saud family posed the question of who Washington should back in a possible power struggle between factions headed by the de facto monarch, Crown Prince Abdullah, and the defense minister, Prince Sultan. Safire stated that Prince Sultan takes a stand less favorable to the U.S. government so Abdullah should be supported. One of the



options being discussed in big-business circles is Washington fomenting a palace coup in Saudi Arabia to usher in a more reliable pro-U.S. government.

In October 2001 the *Wall Street Journal* said a Saudi regime that is overtly hostile to Washington would "force a decision on whether to take over the Saudi oilfields, which would put an end to OPEC."

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a pact by 11 oil-producing semicolonial countries offering a measure of protection from imperialism by setting production quotas and prices for the sale of oil on the world market. The imperialist powers view OPEC as an obstacle that cuts into their profits. U.S. control over the oil and natural gas reserves in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, with a combined total of 36 percent of the world's reserves, would deal a death blow to OPEC.

Regime faces sharpening economic crisis

Saudi Arabia is being shaken by the world capitalist economic crisis, and is more unstable and dependent than ever on Washington. This crisis was accelerated by the monarchy's expensively purchased victory in the Gulf War against Iraq, in which Saudi Arabia was used as the main staging ground for 650,000 imperialist troops. With rising unemployment and a steep drop in per-capita income, the Saudi monarchy faces increased internal opposition.

Like Kuwait and the other kingdoms of the Arabian Peninsula—the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain—Saudi Arabia rests on a narrow social base of a parasitic merchant, banking, and oil-rentier ruling class. The royal family has fostered little industrial development.

Today 18 million people in Saudi Arabia are citizens and more than 5 million—some 20 percent—are foreign-born workers. Unemployment among male nationals is estimated at 30 percent. Per-capita income for citizens has dropped from a peak of \$19,000 in 1981 to \$7,300 in 1997, measured in 1997 dollars.

The kingdom depends on imported wage workers who toil under contract-labor conditions and who, no matter how long they have lived and worked in the country, are denied the most basic rights of citizenship.

Immigrants produce most of the wealth, provide the services, staff the professions,

refine and transport the oil and care for the children of the rich and the middle class. In response to the growing economic crisis, the government has stepped up its "Saudization" drive with the aim of replacing 60 percent of the foreign-born workers with Saudis by 2005. But relatively few Saudis have taken these jobs with their low pay and often brutal working conditions.

Imperialist carve-up of Mideast

Saudi Arabia was created as a by-product of the carve-up of the Ottoman Empire, which in World War I fought on the losing side headed by German imperialism. The former Ottoman Empire was balkanized into spheres of British and French military occupation, at the expense of the Arab masses, who had supported those imperialist powers in the war because of promises by London of independence after victory. In the shakeout, Ibn Saud, head of the House of Saud family, consolidated power over most of the Arab peninsula by 1932, and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia was proclaimed.

In the 1930s, the U.S. oil giants began to push aside British and French companies, which had dominated the region. In 1936 oil was discovered in Saudi Arabia by the U.S.-owned Arabian Standard Oil Company. Oil was also struck by U.S. companies in the sheikdoms of Bahrain and Qatar, both under British colonial domination. But it took World War II, where Washington consolidated its place at the top of the imperialist food chain, for U.S. firms to gain hegemony over Saudi oil.

A handful of imperialist monopolies—historically known as the Seven Sisters—have long dominated world oil production and refinery.

In 1974 the government of Saudi Arabia reached a deal with Aramco, a conglomerate of several U.S. oil giants, whereby the government took 60 percent of the company's ownership. By the early 1980s, Riyadh gained full ownership of its oil reserves. Formal Saudi ownership, however, masks reality—foreign oil companies have billions of dollars in investments and joint venture deals tying them into the largest source of the world's crude. ExxonMobil, for example, has more than \$5 billion invested in the country. And the imperialist oil monopolies dominate the world oil market and prices.

In 2001 the Saudi rulers announced they would negotiate with eight U.S., British, and French oil companies to open the country's natural gas reserves to foreign ownership for the first time since 1975. These companies are ExxonMobil, Phillips, Marathon, Conoco, and Occidental, as well as Royal Dutch/Shell, British Petroleum, and France's TotalFinaElf.

According to the *Washington Post*, the ruling family was divided over whether the gas deals should be followed up by opening the country to foreign exploitation of oil. The Saudi foreign minister, who allies himself with Abdullah, rejected allowing foreign companies back into the oil fields and take away profits from the state-run Aramco. In September of this year, the much-touted \$25 billion natural gas plan was scuttled without warning by the Saudi government.

Socialist street campaigners receive good hearing in Rio Grande Valley

BY PHIL DUZINSKI

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — Supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign of Steve Warshell for governor, Jacquie Henderson for U.S. Senate, and Anthony Dutrow for Congress were well received in a weekend of street campaigning in the Rio Grande Valley October 13-14.

Beginning with several hours of shaking hands and soapboxing in downtown Brownsville, supporters discussed politics with workers from that town and from Matamoros, Mexico, many of whom regularly cross the international bridge to shop for hard-to-get items. Several workers stopped to listen to Warshell and others who took the megaphone to condemn the role of U.S. imperialism.

One worker commented on the high unemployment in the region on both sides of the border and thanked the candidate for making available Pathfinder books with its extensive selection of working-class titles. A farm worker stopped to talk for more than an hour and left with a copy of *Nueva Internacional* no. 1. One young worker from a store across the street visited the table after asking her employer's permission. She then returned after work to buy the pamphlet *We Represent the Immense Majority of Humanity* by Fidel Castro.

The following morning campaigners



Jacquie Henderson, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas, soapboxing at Houston bus terminal.

brought a sign supporting the West Coast dockworkers' fight to the Port of Brownsville where they introduced *Perspectiva Mundial*, the *Militant* to a number of workers there, most of whom speak Spanish. The supporters also gave out flyers explaining the political program put forward by the socialist candidates.

Later that morning at the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost, supporters set up a campaign table that became a center for discussion and debate, as students and professors on both sides of the issue of support for the U.S. war in the Middle East talked with Warshell, who was one of the speakers at a rally at noon that day calling for "Hands Off Iraq."

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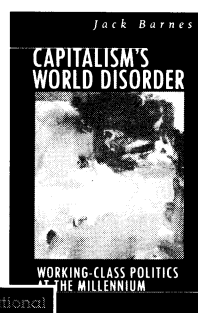
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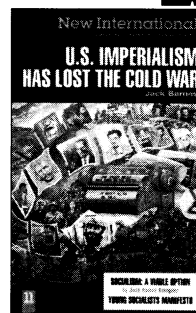
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Socialist Workers mayoral candidate in D.C. joins debate

BY DARRYL SHEPPARD

WASHINGTON—Socialist Workers candidate for Washington mayor Sam Manuel participated in a lively political debate at George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs on October 16.

The debate was organized by the Student Voices Project, which brings information on election campaigns to students. The majority of the evening was taken up with the replies of four mayoral candidates to questions asked by members of a panel made of up students from a number of schools.

The debate opened with one-minute statements by each candidate. Along with Manuel, Democratic incumbent Anthony Williams, Republican council member Carol Schwartz, and Independent Tricia Kinch spoke.

"Do the candidates favor statehood for Washington?" asked Georgetown Day senior Alejandro Golding. Opposition to Columbia's second-class "district" status and support for statehood are long-standing positions of the labor movement and fighters against racism. Stating his support for that stance, Manuel said that statehood can only be achieved in a deep-going struggle organized by workers, farmers, and "youth like yourselves, as in the example of the civil rights movement."

Kinch and Schwartz declared themselves in favor of statehood. Williams disagreed, and said that he wants to see "full represen-

tation" of D.C. citizens in Congress.

The assault on Iraq now in preparation by Washington will be "a war to defend the interests of the oil companies in the region," said the socialist candidate in response to a question on how he would have voted on the Congressional war resolution—passed with a bipartisan majority—authorizing President George Bush to launch such action. Kinch also said that she would have voted "no." Both Williams and Schwartz said they would have voted for the resolution.

When asked about gentrification, a process by which working-class families are forced out of their homes by skyrocketing rents, Manuel responded that "this problem is rooted in the capitalist system, which treats housing as a commodity. There's no shortage of housing in this city. If you drive around you'll see tons of abandoned housing. In order to address this question and provide affordable housing for all, we need to abolish the profit motive." The Socialist Workers representative noted that in the early stages of the Cuban Revolution, the revolutionary government slashed rents to 10 percent of income—an approach it maintains to this day.

The discussion on housing was timely, since it had just been revealed that nine homeless people had died of hypothermia in the city's streets in the past two winters—a figure that reflects the problem for working people of finding suitable and decent



Militant/Darryl Sheppard

Mayoral candidates in Washington participate in debate October 16 at George Washington University. From left, Tricia Kinch, independent; Sam Manuel, Socialist Workers Party; Republican Carol Schwartz; and Democratic mayor Anthony Williams.

housing.

Student Marcus Horne asked the candidates how they would improve the city's education system, which he described as one of the worst in the country. In response, Manuel discussed the character of the schools as institutions under capitalism. For the great majority of the children of working people he said, "there is no meaningful 'educational system' in this country, but a training system geared to lead students" into a life of labor for the boss or the state.

Answering a question about what they would do about the drug trade and its ruinous effects, most of the candidates called for more police. Schwartz called for "getting the police officers out of their cars and

onto the streets."

In contrast, Manuel said that "the drug industry is a business. Legitimate businessmen who participate in both legal and illegal trade profit from the production and trade in addictive drugs. Far from being a solution, the police know exactly who the drug dealers are and receive kickbacks.

"The only way to end the drug problem," he said, "is for workers and farmers to take power from the capitalist class, and address such social problems through the active participation of workers and youth. The Cuban Revolution, which I support, achieved this, because they eliminated the profit motive."

The question of cop brutality also came up after the event during Manuel's informal discussion with students. The socialist candidate explained the class basis of the capitalist justice system, which functions as a prop of private property and capitalist rule. Frequently acting as judge, jury, and executioner on the streets, the cops carry out anti-working-class violence and intimidation, with Black youth disproportionately singled out as targets.

According to a 2001 report of police shootings in the Washington metropolitan area, of the 122 people shot by the Prince George's County police in the previous decade 45 percent were unarmed and 85 percent were Black.

"Voting on the first Tuesday of next month will not solve the problems faced by working people," said Manuel in his closing statement. He encouraged students and young workers "who are interested in joining the fight against police brutality, against the imperialist war drive against Iraq," and on other issues to "join the socialist campaign."

Darryl Sheppard is a member the Young Socialists in Washington.

Chicano farmers fight discrimination

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

As part of an ongoing fight to counter the discrimination they face from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), more than 100 Chicano and other Latino farmers from Texas to California have continued to pursue a \$20 billion class-action lawsuit against racist practices by the government. They have also spoken to the media and testified before a congressional hearing about numerous incidents of discrimination. Thanks to such policies many of the farmers involved in the suit, which was filed last October and potentially affects some 20,000 farmers, have lost their land.

The *Houston Chronicle* covered the issue in an October 13 article entitled, "Land of denied opportunity for Latinos? Perennial drought for Hispanic farmers."

"The Hispanic farmers argue that they routinely are discouraged from applying for government loans, are required to submit more paperwork, are turned down at a higher rate than Anglos, and, if their application is approved, the money usually arrives after the planting season," reported the *Chronicle*. "They also claim they encounter more difficulty than Anglo farmers in having their debt restructured in the event of disasters brought by weather, insects or disease."

Lupe Garcia, 58, a farmer in New Mexico, said that during the 1980s he was repeatedly denied loans and disaster relief by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The agency did not budge, Garcia said, when a dam collapsed and floods destroyed his crops in 1986 and 1988.

Even after successfully appealing these rejections Garcia was denied loan restructuring. In 1999, Garcia's land was "foreclosed on by his lenders and sold to Anglo farmers for \$1 million," reported the *Chronicle*. The farm had previously held an official value of \$2.4 million.

"To add insult to injury," Garcia told a congressional hearing, "the FSA assisted the Anglo farmers in purchasing our farms."

Tyn Davis, 41, who grows cotton, wheat and onions south of El Paso, Texas, described one blatant example of racist discrimination. In April 1998, Davis said, he received assurances from an officer at the FSA that he was entitled to receive assistance after fungus ruined his wheat crop. When the officer overheard his client helping another farmer who was having trouble with English, however, he asked Davis "how come I spoke Spanish so well. I told him I was half-Hispanic...my

mother was Mexican."

The FSA changed its "cooperative" attitude immediately, Davis said, and within weeks had notified him that it was foreclosing on his farm—a process that was stalled only by his declaration of bankruptcy.

When a truck arrived this summer to remove his equipment, "I told the driver what was being done to me and he said he would come back in a week," said Davis. "He told me I should get a bankruptcy lawyer."

The FSA's policy of having loan applicants screened by county committees is a cause of many grievances among farmers. Although their members—usually numbering three to five—are elected, the committees tend to be dominated by wealthier farmers. One indication of this is the fact that of the 695 committee members in Texas, only 13 are Latino.

The farmers' lawsuit has drawn compari-

son with a similar action pursued by Black farmers in the mid-1990s. Charging a long history of discrimination by the USDA, those farmers continue to wage this fight, including through public meetings and rallies in Washington and elsewhere. In *Pigford vs. Glickman*, Black farmers forced the agency to provide some financial compensation for past discrimination.

The racist barriers faced by Black and Chicano farmers augment the impact of the deep class inequalities that exist in the countryside, a situation that is reinforced by the way government subsidies are doled out to farmers. Some 1,300 of the wealthiest U.S. farmers in the United States each received more than \$1 million in government subsidies between 1996 and 2000. Working farmers, who make up a much larger proportion of the country's 2.5 million farmers, received an average of \$5,830.

Controversy over Baraka poem on conspiracy theories

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"Somebody Blew Up America," a poem written by Amiri Baraka, a radical political activist who was recently appointed poet laureate of New Jersey, has unleashed a controversy in that state. Baraka wrote the poem in October 2001 as a response to the events surrounding the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The 200-line poem presents a long list of historical events as the product of conspiracies. The lines that have sparked the most criticism imply that the U.S. and Israeli governments and other ruling-class institutions knew in advance about the September 11 attacks. They read:

Who knew the World Trade Center was gonna get bombed
Who told 4,000 Israeli workers at the Twin Towers
To stay home that day
Why did Sharon stay away?

The controversy came to a head after Baraka read the work on September 19 at a poetry festival in Stanhope, New Jersey. One week later Gov. James McGreevey, who had appointed the writer to the position at the end of August, called for him to resign.

State politicians from both major parties have also condemned the poem, as have editorials and opinion columns in New Jer-

sey and New York dailies. "Mr. Baraka continues to spread lies [and] spew venomous hatred," said Richard Codey, the Democratic Party co-president in the state Senate.

Adding his voice to calls for Baraka's removal has been Shai Goldstein, the New Jersey regional director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), who labeled the poem anti-Semitic.

Baraka defended the point of view put forward in the poem at a meeting held October 2 in the Newark Public Library. "I will not apologize [and] I will not resign," said Baraka in a statement released that day. The political history of the poet, who strikes a Black nationalist stance in his work and statements, includes a period starting in the 1970s as a Maoist.

"The Bush administration knew" about the September 11 attack before it happened, he insisted. Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon, the FBI, and government leaders in Germany, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom also knew, he said, explaining that testimony to this effect "is everywhere on the Internet."

"Stockholders of American Airlines and United, which were the carriers hijacked to commit the terror, began withdrawing stock from these companies in August before the attacks," he added.

In his statement, Baraka asked what "our" intelligence community knew in advance.

His arguments that the government and FBI should have done a better job of predicting and preventing such attacks echoed the remarks of liberal Congressmen who have criticized the Bush administration and police agencies for being caught by surprise.

"The Israelis didn't pull the attack," Baraka added, "but they were smart enough to get people out of the way. How come our government didn't do the same thing for us?"

The poem lists a number of crimes carried out by the imperialist powers at home and abroad, from the holocaust suffered by Jews in Europe at the hands of German imperialism, to police frame-ups of and attacks on leaders of the Black Panther Party.

The refrain "who?" is repeated throughout, adding to the strong implication that a conspiracy lies behind these disparate developments, with Washington at its center.

The poem also laments the passing of the New Deal in the lines, "Who decided Affirmative Action had to go, Reconstruction, the New Deal..." First used in 1932 as a campaign slogan by the Democratic Party presidential candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt, the New Deal was the name given to social legislation enacted with the aim of stimulating the stagnant capitalist economy and heading off the powerful social movement of labor struggles that reached its peak in the rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

'They will never catch Cuba by surprise'

In 1962 speech Fidel Castro answers Kennedy's lies justifying assault on revolution

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 launch a direct invasion of Cuba and overthrow the revolutionary government there. In the face of the U.S. government's threats, Cuban working people mobilized in their millions to defend their revolution, staying Washington's hand (see accompanying 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 Díez Acosta, tells the story of what really happened.

The *Militant* has been printing excerpts from the new book. The one below is from the October 23 speech given by Fidel Castro, then prime minister of Cuba, that was broadcast over Cuban television and radio the day after U.S. president John F. Kennedy's televised speech publicly launched the crisis. In his address to the Cuban people Castro answers Kennedy's war threats and explains why the country's armed forces were placed on combat alert in response to U.S. military maneuvers taking place at that time on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

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BY FIDEL CASTRO

The people were informed of the declaration Mr. Kennedy made yesterday. During the day we had been receiving a series of reports about unusual meetings, about unusual goings-on in Washington—meetings with an officer from the Pentagon, meetings with political leaders of both parties, and meetings of their Security Council. Movements of planes, ships, a whole series of reports. We knew it had something to do with us. We knew because of everything that had come before in their policy since the revolution, the warmongering campaign, the hysteria, the Joint Resolution, all those things.

We realized that anything could happen from one moment to the next. They will never catch us unprepared and by surprise. They have not caught us by surprise up to now, nor will they ever catch us by surprise. When Girón occurred, they didn't catch us by surprise, and they'll never catch us unprepared and by surprise. When we realized that a series of movements were occurring and that some sort of action was imminent—we didn't know concretely what it was going to be or where it would come from—then we came to the conclusion, after discussing the situation with the compañeros, to put our forces on alert.

That is why yesterday, at 5:40 p.m., the order was given sounding the combat alarm. The combat alarm is the highest degree of alert and readiness in the armed forces. We wanted to avoid having to take this measure unless we were facing a very clear danger, because naturally all our efforts, the efforts of our country, have for many months been



Cuban militias with anti-aircraft battery during 1962 "missile" crisis. In Oct. 23, 1962, speech Castro explained to Cuban people the need to mobilize in defense of revolution.

devoted almost exclusively to increasing production and solving problems of an economic character. And our country really has progressed and is advancing very much in this field.

Naturally, every time a mobilization of this type is made, it implies sacrifices in the field of production, no matter how much one tries to reconcile one thing with the other. And even though we're much better organized and have much more experience, it of course affects us in any case. In face of this situation, the order was decreed, and naturally all instructions related to the combat alarm were carried out, in anticipation of an aggression and against the danger of a surprise attack. At this moment, therefore, they cannot catch us by surprise.

On combat alert for surprise attack

Since we must always distrust these gentlemen, we felt the same thing might occur here, in line with the movements they've been carrying out. That is, the military landing maneuver—supposedly a maneuver—on the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico, might be redirected against Cuba, we felt, as in fact was done.¹ They suspended the maneuvers, and we were on alert, because one of the methods they can utilize is to simulate a maneuver and launch an attack, to try to obtain their proposed objectives through surprise.

The maneuvers were in progress, and in anticipation that something might occur, such as a sudden surprise attack, the combat alarm order was given. Later, Kennedy's statement was published, which simply confirmed and justified the measures we had taken. Why was this? Simply because an imperialist adventure of this type is fraught with such dangers that it is necessary to be on a state of total alert.

After some preliminary words of attempted self-justification—in which all the reasons invoked are absolutely unfounded—he says that the weapons received by Cuba "constitute an explicit threat to the peace and security of all the Americas in flagrant and deliberate defiance of the Rio Pact of 1947."² This is an act that might have validity for those who remain in the fold of imperialism, but not us.

What are "the traditions of this nation and hemisphere"? What are "the traditions of this nation"? What are they? The traditions of imperialist exploitation. The pirate-like sacking of our wealth and the exploitation of our workers? The tradition of submission and exploitation? According to him, then, we violate the traditions of this continent, the Joint Resolution of the 87th Congress. What do we care about any resolution of the 87th Congress—or the 7th or the 587th, for that matter? [Applause]

He speaks of the United Nations Charter precisely at the moment they are about to violate it. They invoke the United Nations Charter against us. We have not committed the slightest violation of any of its articles—not the slightest. No one can show that we have violated a single article, not a single one. At the very moment they are about to commit a flagrant and barefaced violation, they invoke the United Nations Charter.

He refers finally to "My own public warn-

ings to the Soviets on September 4 and 13." What do we care about Mr. Kennedy's personal warnings? They might be important to him and the people around him, but they don't concern us in the least.

Washington imposes naval 'quarantine'

These are nothing less than the legal pretexts he uses. They are his basis for adopting a measure, which goes as follows:

"First, a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation or port will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back. This quarantine will be extended"—note this well—"...this quarantine will be extended, if needed, to other types of cargo and carriers. We are not at this time, however"—at this time—"...denying the necessities of life, as the Soviets attempted to do in their Berlin blockade of 1948."

Note well between the lines how it says that "this quarantine will be extended, if needed, to other types of cargo and carriers," but that we are "not at this time denying"—at this time!

"Second: I have directed the continued and increased close surveillance of Cuba and its military buildup. The foreign ministers of the OAS in their communiqué of October 6, rejected secrecy on such matters in this hemisphere. Should these offensive military preparations continue, thus increasing the threat to the hemisphere, further action will be justified."

"I have directed"—this gentleman has turned into a director!—"...the Armed Forces"—the Armed Forces!—"...to prepare for any eventualities." We are prepared just in case. "And I trust that in the interest of both the Cuban people and the Soviet technicians at these sites, the hazards of all concerned of continuing this threat will be recognized."

"Fourth: As a necessary military precaution, I have reinforced our base at Guantánamo"—they are shameless—"...and evacuated today the dependents of our personnel there, and ordered additional military units to be on a stand by alert basis."

"Fifth: We are calling tonight for an immediate meeting of the Organ of Consultation under the Organization of American States, to consider this threat to hemispheric security and to invoke Articles 6 and 8 of the Rio Treaty in support of all necessary action. The United Nations Charter allows for regional security arrangements, and the nations of this hemisphere decided long ago against the presence of outside powers. Our other allies around the world have also been alerted." Yes, but they were alerted after the decision was taken. They did not consult any of them beforehand. We can talk about this later.

And "Sixth: Under the Charter of the United Nations, we are asking tonight that an emergency meeting of the Security Council be convoked without delay to take action against this latest Soviet threat to world peace. Our resolution will call for the prompt dismantling and withdrawal of all offensive weapons in Cuba, under the supervision of UN observers, before the quarantine can be lifted."

You can see how each one of these articles implies an aim—like the one I referred to where he said that "at this time" the quarantine applied to armaments; later it can be extended to other things.

Regarding the question of surveillance of Cuba, their surveillance has consisted of

Continued on Page 10

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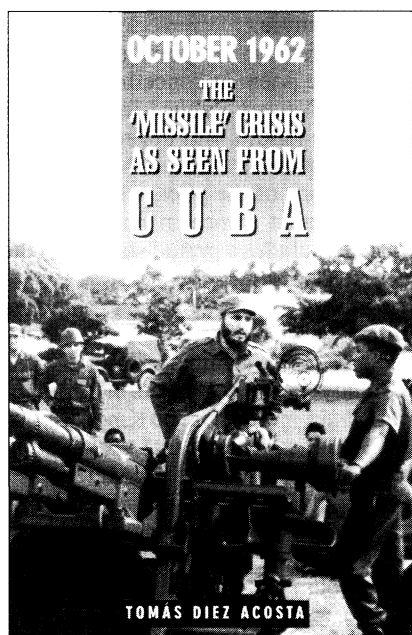
By Tomás Díez Acosta

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Fidel Castro, November 1, 1962

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Outrage over frame-up of 'Lackawanna Six'

Continued from front page
the giant Bethlehem Steel mill, which prior to closing more than a decade ago employed thousands of workers.

"I don't agree with what the government is doing," commented Ivette Ramirez. "Just because of what happened in New York City a year ago, they arrest them. The FBI found letters and computers. What does that have to do with terrorism? It is ridiculous!" She added, "I see the cops and media here constantly harassing people, especially at the Yemenite Benevolent Association nearby."

Increased cop surveillance

A number of people mentioned the increased police presence in the community, including plainclothes cops in parked cars. During our visit here, three helicopters were flying overhead. Residents told us this was part of increased cop surveillance of the area, and that some trees were cut down to make people on the ground more visible from the helicopters.

Gwen Moore pointed out that there had been several raids of local Yemeni-owned

stores and that the FBI and police are constantly in the neighborhood in both marked and unmarked cars. "The police are checking everything. You can't even breathe out here without looking at a policeman's face. We're sick of it!"

Commenting on Washington's escalating war moves in the Mideast, a young woman of Yemeni descent said, "No one wants a war in Iraq. The outcome is no good for anyone. The media is used for war propaganda." As for the six who were jailed, she said, "There is no evidence. The judge is now searching for evidence."

When asked her opinion on the case, Amia White commented, "I think they should be released." White described how a carload had driven through the Yemeni community for several days following the arrests, blaring the national anthem and other music out of car speakers, yelling things like "God Bless America" and waving U.S. flags, causing some families to keep their children indoors. "I asked myself: are the police going to stop them? But they didn't."

Some others living in the community



Relatives of some of the six residents of Lackawanna, New York, framed on charges of giving "material assistance" to al Qaeda, leave Buffalo courthouse September 18.

thought the arrests were justified. When questioned whether it shouldn't be a right to travel anywhere without being suspected of terrorist activity, including to countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, Terry Williams replied, "they could have gone anywhere. They shouldn't have been over

there. I see what they did as treason." Others expressed the view that "if they arrested them, they must have done something."

Edward Robinson, 19, said he knew the six accused men from school. "We could be sitting here and they could come in here and raid and arrest everyone. If they are guilty," he said, referring to the six men, "I'm guilty because I knew them."

A cousin of two of the arrested men said that jail conditions were better when all six of the men were together. He explained how they had been separated into three different prison facilities in Niagara Falls, Batavia, and Buffalo.

In another development, on October 11 Hussein Mohamed-Ahmed Saeed, a 28-year-old Yemeni store clerk, pleaded guilty in U.S. District court to failure to fill out a government-required report when moving cash from the United States to Yemen. Saeed explained to the judge that he sometimes takes money from Buffalo to Yemen to support his wife and children still living in Yemen.

The *Buffalo News* reported that one of the prosecutors is a member of the Joint Terrorism Task Force of Western New York. The paper added that federal agents have been investigating local food shops owned by Arab-Americans whose operators have been sending money to Yemen, trying to develop some connection that money is being funneled to al Qaeda.

Arrin Hawkins is the Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor of New York. Seth Dellinger contributed to this article.

Student meeting calls for 'No U.S. aid to Israel!'

**BY ILONA GERSH AND
MICHAEL FITZSIMMONS**

ANN ARBOR, Michigan—Some 400 people, the majority young and U.S.-born students of Middle Eastern descent, attended the Second National Student Conference on the Palestine Solidarity Movement, held at the University of Michigan here October 12-14. According to spokespersons for Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE), the conference organizers, 70 campuses were represented. Others in attendance included members and representatives of various Muslim and Arab community organizations, including some from the large Arab communities in Ann Arbor and Dearborn.

"What Israel is doing to the Palestinian people is unjust and has to be stopped," said Bilal Iddin, a junior at Howard University, who was one of about 30 students who attended the conference from several campuses in the Washington area. He and others at Howard have been active in organizing a range of activities, from a conference on Palestine, to protests against police brutality, and against the U.S. war on Iraq.

One of the first motions passed by the conference condemned the U.S. war against Iraq. Another resolution called for an April 9, 2003, National Day of Action to commemorate the massacre of Deir Yassin, demanding university divestment from companies that fund Israel. The resolution states: "Divestment and the end to U.S. aid to Israel are unequivocally a means rather than an end in our solidarity movement, and the ultimate struggle for self-determination lies with the Palestinian people themselves."

Several of the workshops and plenary sessions discussed the question of how to achieve peace in the Middle East. The solution posed by the majority of speakers is to fight for the formation of two states in the region, Israel and Palestine. In a workshop on the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland, participants discussed a proposal for a single country, containing a state of Israel, a state of Palestine, and the District of Jerusalem. Many of the panelists and participants in the conference equated

Israel with the apartheid state of South Africa, overthrown in a decades-long revolutionary struggle led by the African National Congress.

Sami Al-Arian, a professor at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa, spoke on a panel on academic freedom. He said the struggle of 6 million Palestinian refugees must be heard as part of the divestment campaign. "Their cause should be championed as the United States prepares for a second Gulf War," he added. Al-Arian, whose parents were driven from Palestine in 1948, was suspended by the USF administration in September 2001 because of his support for the Palestinian struggle. He has led a national campaign to protest the university's trumped-up charges that he is "linked to terrorism."

Several participants expressed interest in attending the 13th congress of the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students (OCLAE), which is taking place in Guadalajara, Mexico, from November 29 to December 2.

The Michigan Student Zionists, a campus group, attacked the Ann Arbor gathering, claiming it was anti-Semitic and would promote terrorism and violence. They held a counter-rally on campus during the week leading up to the conference.

Two of these students filed a suit against the university demanding the conference be canceled. Washtenaw County Circuit Court judge Melinda Morris denied their request for a temporary restraining order to stop the conference. The lawsuit alleged that speakers such as Al-Arian spread hate and may provoke violent acts on campus. The Zionists organized a protest outside the Michigan League while the conference proceeded as planned. Spokespeople for Students Allied for Freedom and Equality announced to a news conference on the first day that the three-day event would stand up for justice and not be silenced, and that they had no intention of promoting anti-Semitic, terrorist, or violent actions.

Socialist Workers candidates Michael Fitzsimmons, who is running for lieutenant governor in Ohio, and Don Mackle, the SWP candidate for governor of Michigan, participated in the conference. Their supporters set

up a table in the literature display area of the gathering.

"Zionism justifies the chauvinist concept that Israel is a homeland for Jews from all over the world. It justifies the expansionist policies of Israel, which was created in 1948 at the expense of more than a million Palestinians who were killed, thrown into camps, or exiled in other countries," stated Fitzsimmons to several students clustered around the socialist campaign literature table.

Fitzsimmons described Zionism as a death trap for all Jews, not just those in Israel. "The road to peace for Jews living in Israel and around the world," he said, "is to link with those forces, including the Palestinians, who are fighting to overthrow imperialism and establish a new society based on the majority, where neither racism, nor Zionism, nor anti-Semitic prejudice will serve any purpose. Overturning the Israeli government will open the door for the working people to forge a democratic, secular Palestine in which Muslims, Jews, Christians, and other people can live together."

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

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

November 4, 1977

A week of token protests.

That's how the Carter administration has responded to South Africa's October 19 crackdown [banning more than 20 anti-apartheid organizations and two Black-run newspapers].

Neither Carter, nor [United Nations Ambassador Andrew] Young, nor other administration figures have said anything about reducing the \$3.8 billion in direct and indirect American investments in South Africa.

But these help prop up the apartheid economy and the entire system of racist rule.

In a November 5, 1976, interview in the Johannesburg *Financial Mail*, he said, "Our American businessman can be a constructive force achieving racial justice within South Africa."

One year later, this U.S. investment in apartheid has borne bitter fruit. Can there be a more damaging indictment of Carter's real South Africa policy?

Carter is the chief executive for the American corporations that profit off the racist superexploitation of Black workers in South Africa and the continued existence of white-minority regimes in Rhodesia and South-West Africa.

That's why supporters of the African freedom struggle should not be misled by the president's words. They need to build a movement that takes on both the bigots in Pretoria and their backers in Washington.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE DOLLARS

November 3, 1952

A series of new witch-hunt moves, partly designed as pre-election efforts to beat off Republican charges of "softness towards Communism," have been made by the Truman administration in the past two weeks.

On October 20, a two-member subcommittee of the Subversive Activities Control Board set up under the McCarran Act called the Communist Party "a puppet of the Soviet Union" and recommended that the CP be compelled to register its officers, members and finances.

The CP is not yet legally required to register. This gives the anti-witch-hunt forces time to organize a strong movement against this first attempt in U.S. history to (in effect) outlaw a political party.

On October 28, Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party and Morris L. Ernst of the American Civil Liberties Union joined with the labor editor of *Business Week* and several other signers in a letter to the *N.Y. Times* "warning" liberals against joining any committee to defend the CP against the McCarran Act.

The letter said that the finding of the McCarran panel is "fair, proper and correct." It tries to do an advance hatchet job on any movement to defend civil liberties against the McCarran Act by hinting that such movements are "Communist-inspired or Communist-directed."

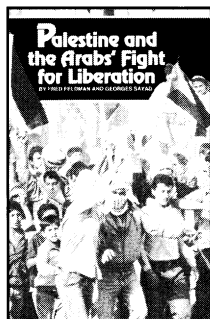
From Pathfinder

Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation

**Fred Feldman
and Georges Sayad**

An overview of the Palestinian struggle from World War I to the beginning of the *intifada* in 1987.

Booklet \$6.00



Israel and the Arab Revolution Fundamental Principles of Revolutionary Marxism

Gus Horowitz
\$7.00

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 8.

Quick stuff—The recall of some 28 million pounds of poultry cold cuts because of listeria bacteria contamination came despite the con-

cern of the company, Pilgrim's Pride, and the extensive inspection system of the feds. According to the Bloomberg business news service,



Harry Ring

the Dept. of Agriculture has about 7,000 inspectors in 6,500 meat and poultry plants—averaging one and a something per plant.

They've been around the block—"We have a thorough and comprehensive insurance program that we are sure will cover the company."—Richard Gogdill, keeper of Pilgrim's Pride purse strings.

Think if we didn't have capitalism—"If you include the most recent downturn, then we've had four out of the past four recessions caused by the Middle East."—David Wyss, economist at Standard

& Poor's.

Worry all the way to the bank—"Terror, war worries push oil up 2.5 percent"—News headline.

Try the local bus—With more price hikes looming, ambulance companies are openly advising they will serve people with private insurance rather than poor people with skimp stuff like Medicaid and other "coverage." The latter pay \$150 a trip against a current fare of \$350.

Sunny California—"More than three-quarters of California nursing homes fail to meet federal standards

[What federal standards?] and more than four in 10 homes violate a state law, according to a comprehensive review."—News item.

Housing tip—Leo Hinderly, briefly a top dog at Global Crossing, the telecommunications outfit that is now belly-up and under federal scrutiny, is demanding back rent and severance money from the company, which also owes severance pay to thousands of ex-employees. The company was paying \$22,000 a month rent for Hinderly at the posh Waldorf Astoria.

Our advice—Recently, if

memory serves, St. Patrick's Cathedral on nearby Fifth Avenue beat a court move that tried to bar it from letting homeless people sleep on its steps. Maybe Hinderly could make a reservation.

Finally—We balked at picking up the widely reported item of the \$6,000 shower curtain bought by Dennis Koslowski on Tyco Int'l money. We wondered where you could buy a \$6,000 curtain, and assumed it was a whimsical item on a swindle sheet. But one writer suggested maybe it was to show visitors his contempt for money. We thought, more likely for himself.

'SWP candidate offers revolutionary program'

The following article appeared October 13 in the *Sioux City Journal*. It is based on an interview with Lisa Rottach, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Nebraska.

BY MIKE KOEHLER

SIOUX CITY, Iowa—Socialist Workers party candidate Lisa Rottach is running for governor of Nebraska in a revolutionary struggle for the rights of workers and farmers.

Employed on the kill floor of an Omaha meatpacker, Rottach is running against the two major party candidates: Republican Governor Mike Johanns and Democratic challenger Stormy Dean. She and her campaign staff have been door knocking at South Sioux City mobile home parks and doing meet-and-greets with IBP Inc. employees at shift change time.

"We think working people need a voice that speaks clearly in the interest of our class, which is the working class," she said. "Running for governor is a vehicle for us to bring our program of revolutionary struggle to as wide of an audience as we can."

Rottach said the Socialist Workers campaign is part of building a movement of young workers and students who will be in the struggle for a workers and farmers government to take power out of the hands of ruling capitalist families.

"We join with the unbreakable fight of the Palestinian people for their land and against Israeli government brutality; with mobilizations of working people across Latin America against the imperialist-imposed social catastrophe; and with the people of Cuba, Iran, Iraq and North Korea standing up to the economic and military threats of Washington," she said.

The Socialists Workers explain that capitalism has nothing to offer working people and youth—either at home or abroad. Rottach also said the Socialist Workers campaign offers a revolutionary program to unite working people around the world in a common struggle that can defeat the super-wealthy ruling class.

Her major campaign points include:—Saying no to "Washington's imperialist war drive"

—Jobs for all and shortening the workweek with no cut in pay while raising the minimum wage;

—Stopping INS raids and deportations and ending Social Security "no match letters" and driver's license denials;—Fighting police brutality and abolishing the death penalty;

—Defending workers' rights;

—Defending a woman's access to abortion;

—Stopping farm foreclosures while implementing debt relief;

—Defending affirmative action, including employment, housing and education;

—Cancelling the Third World debt;

—Stopping Washington's economic war on Cuba while normalizing relations.

"What our campaign speaks to is that

capitalism has nothing to offer humanity," she said. "It is leading humanity to economic depression and war."

She said capitalism is a system that is no longer capable of bringing progress to the world's population. Because of this, she said, it is important for workers and farmers to unite in a struggle to reach out in solidarity for strikers, students protesting budget cuts and black farmers fighting racist discrimination of the USDA. These people need to fight the ruling class, she said. These are a handful of billionaire families that control the means of production and concentrate the wealth of the world.

She said the capitalists are waging a war here in the United States against workers' rights.

"We see that in stepped-up police brutality," she said. "We see the police as an institution which defends the interests of the ruling class and their private property. Their job is to mete out punishment on the spot, to terrorize working people, to put us in our place and to make it more difficult for workers to organize and defend our interests."

Capitalists are also engaged in wars of conquest, Rottach said. The current example of this is the impending war on "the people of Iraq." Her campaign points out that capitalists are in a state of perpetual war. It is the only solution that the Democrats and Republicans can put out.

Socialists see war with Iraq as one of conquest and occupation because of the concentration of oil reserves in the Middle East.



Lisa Rottach (right), Socialist Workers candidate for Nebraska governor, speaks to Omaha reporter. She offers a socialist alternative to bosses' twin parties of war and depression.

She also said the capitalist United States is in competition with its imperial rivals such as the Germans, French and the English for the world's resources. This will lead to a world economic depression and wars.

Rottach uses Cuba as an example of how a revolutionary socialist system has worked despite an economic war by the United

States. She said the people receive education and healthcare from the government while the farmers are respected and cannot lose their land.

As governor of Nebraska, Rottach said, she would use the office to further the ideals of the revolutionary struggle for workers and farmers.

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Germany marked by joblessness, banking crisis, labor resistance

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The German imperialist government of Social Democratic Party leader Gerhard Schröder, reelected as chancellor by a narrow margin in September, faces an economy marked by stagnant growth, high unemployment, and a looming banking crisis. On the political and diplomatic as well as the economic front, the country's rulers face substantial problems, including divisions and economic problems throughout the European Union, as well as conflicts with Washington over its drive to war in the Middle East.

In late September, the Frankfurt stock market dropped 5 percent, falling to its lowest level in more than five years. The country's Dax index, listing the 30 major companies, has fallen 48 percent since January. That same month Deutsche Börse, which operates the Frankfurt stock exchange, announced that by the end of next year it will scrap the Neuer Markt—Germany's equivalent of the U.S. Nasdaq high-tech index—after the value of the companies listed on it dropped 96 percent from its March 2000 peak.

A growing number of major banks and financial houses in Germany are loaded with bad loans and declining stock. "In dollar terms, shares of German banks have performed worse in the past year than those of any other country except Argentina and Brazil," the *Financial Times* reported October 14. "Twitchy investors are beginning to fear the worst," added the big-business daily, "that somewhere, a big bank failure is waiting to happen."

Allianz, the second largest financial institution, has watched its stock plunge 65 percent since reaching a year-high of \$292 in March. Its Dresdner Bank unit lost more than \$1 billion in the second quarter of this year. The bank has some \$30 billion in uncollectible loans due to be transferred to an "institutional restructuring unit."

Major industrial companies are also faring poorly. Stock of telecommunications giant Deutsche Telekom, Europe's largest phone company, fell more than 90 percent from its high point two years ago. The com-

pany lost a record \$3.8 billion in the first half of this year. The bosses of the former state-owned enterprise announced October 8 that they would eliminate more than 15,000 jobs as part of a "restructuring plan" to reverse the company's sagging profits. The news followed cuts of 30,000, announced earlier.

According to the Bundesbank, the nation's central bank, 32,000 German companies went bust last year, a 14 percent increase from the previous year. In 2002 the figure will be higher still, said Michael Rogowski, the head of German industry association BDI. The German credit data bureau, Creditreform, estimated that bankruptcies could rise to 40,000 this year.

'Only Japan has performed worse'

The shrinking profits and stock market value of many of the largest German firms highlight growing problems for the German capitalist rulers. The German economy has stagnated for the past two years and is projected to grow less than 1 percent for the second year in row. Among the Group of Seven major capitalist countries, "only recession-plagued Japan has performed worse," said the September 20 *Wall Street Journal*.

Unemployment has been hovering at 4 million 1998 when Schröder took office, despite his campaign promise to bring it down to 3.5 million. While noting that the number of jobless workers fell to 3.9 million in September, German Federal Labor Office president Florian Gerster warned in early October of "increasing signs of slowing economic growth."

The differential impact of the crisis across Germany can be seen in North Rhine-Westphalia, the country's most populous state. The jobless rate for the 18 million people in this western state is more than 9 percent. The state is home to the Ruhr, the traditional engine-room of German industry, which has been shrinking for the past 30 years, losing more than 100,000 jobs in coal mining and almost 250,000 steel jobs.

The sheer size of the German economy, the biggest in Europe and third largest in the world, means that this crisis has big repercussions. At \$1.8 trillion, the country's gross domestic product eclipses that of France, the next largest European economy, by almost 40 percent.

Berlin has been the most energetic advocate of the adoption of the euro currency and of a closer European Union, in which it is the strongest economic power. Its political authority among the EU powers has been somewhat undermined, however, by news that its budget deficit is threatening to breach the official EU limit of 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product—a mark established under the EU's 1997 Stability and Growth Pact, which Berlin strong-armed other member-states to sign.

Last year Germany's deficit reached 2.8 percent. "The risks of exceeding this limit this year have



IG Metall union workers in Germany rally in March to press fight for 6.5 percent pay hike. German rulers are meeting resistance to their drive to roll back social wage.

grown," said Bundesbank chief economist Hermann Remsperger.

In a number of European countries, assaults on social benefits won by working people have been launched under the banner of reducing the budget deficit and abiding by the EU deficit limit. Shortly after the September election, Schröder established a labor and economics "super-ministry" charged with implementing "essential reforms," including cuts to social security benefits, reducing job security for older workers, creating a "low wage sector" of the workforce, and measures to make it easier for bosses to fire workers.

Three years ago Schröder gained parliamentary approval for cuts in retirement pensions as part of a \$16 billion austerity package. Since then, however, the government hasn't been able to keep up the momentum of a wholesale assault on the social wage.

Workers resist demands for concessions

The resistance they have bumped into among working people is one factor that has affected the capitalists' attempts to gain something like a competitive position with their imperialist rivals, particularly those in the United States. In June, for example, thousands of construction workers walked off the job for a pay raise, in face of a loss of 500,000 construction jobs since 1995 and pressure from the bosses, who howled that the strike would cause "massive economic damage."

The construction trade union IG Bau demanded an increase in the minimum wage for workers in eastern Germany, where unemployment is considerably higher. The labor action—the first walkout in the industry in more than 50 years—followed a series of rolling one-day strikes by the metalworkers union IG Metall that forced the employers in the auto industry to agree to demands for a 4 percent wage increase.

The leaders of Germany's Green Party, junior partners in the coalition government with the Social Democratic Party, are taking more responsibility for pushing assaults on the social wage. According to the September 24 *New York Times*, the Greens budgetary spokesman Oswald Metzger said that he hoped the party's strong showing in the elections would enable them to prod Schröder into taking "bolder" actions, including cutting unemployment benefits and "reforming the health care and pension systems."

Final results of the September 22 elec-

tions show the Social Democratic Party of Gerhard Schröder winning 251 seats after getting just 8,864 more votes than the Christian Democrats and their sister party, the Christian Social Union, which together won 248 seats. The Green Party won 55 seats in the Parliament in one of its best electoral showings.

In the run-up to the elections, Schröder stated strong disagreement with Washington's course toward a massive air assault and ground invasion of Iraq, including an assault approved by the UN Security Council. The appeal to German nationalism helped him to hold onto the chancellorship. After Schröder's election victory, U.S. president George Bush reportedly refused to place the traditional congratulatory telephone call.

Since the elections the German imperialists have attempted to smooth relations with Washington. "We have to go back to normal business with our most important ally, the United States...the most important outside of Europe," said German foreign minister Joschka Fischer.

Some 70,000 U.S. troops are stationed in several U.S. Air Force and Army bases in Germany, which have been used for bombing missions against Yugoslavia in 1998 and Afghanistan last year. The Pentagon is using these bases as it moves men and materiel into the Gulf in preparation for its military offensive. The German military has also maintained reconnaissance tanks in Kuwait.

Some 10,000 German soldiers are deployed abroad for "peacekeeping duties" that include 600 German soldiers out of a NATO military force of 1,000 in Macedonia. Berlin has proposed that starting in December it replace the Turkish government as head of the U.S.-led international security force in Afghanistan. The German military has provided 1,300 soldiers for that operation.

The Turkish government's application for EU membership is another source of friction between Washington and its imperialist rivals in the European Union, including Germany. In spite of its three-year status as a candidate member, Turkey was absent from a list of 10 countries put forward October 9 by the European Commission. Its recommendation was a "disappointment" for Washington, "which has long supported Turkey's claim to membership," noted the *International Herald Tribune*. It "coincides with U.S. attempts to enlist Turkey as one of its key regional allies in a possible military campaign in Iraq," the paper added.

\$105,000 Pathfinder Fund Sept. 1–Nov. 17. Week 6

	Goal	Paid	%
NY Garment District	6,000	4,255	71%
Tucson AZ	150	100	67%
Newark NJ	3,600	2,157	60%
Charlotte NC	3,500	2,090	60%
Cleveland OH	1,700	1,000	59%
Twin Cities MN	5,000	2,820	56%
NY Upper Manhattan	5,000	2,663	53%
San Francisco CA	8,500	4,365	51%
Western CO	2,600	1,225	47%
Seattle WA	7,500	3,380	45%
Atlanta GA	4,250	1,910	45%
Northeast PA	1,200	480	40%
Philadelphia PA	5,000	1,928	39%
Pittsburgh PA	4,200	1,570	37%
Des Moines IA	1,200	415	35%
Washington DC	3,000	1,030	34%
Birmingham AL	3,100	975	31%
Miami FL	2,100	578	28%
Los Angeles CA	9,500	2,440	26%
Chicago IL	5,500	1,400	25%
Omaha NE	900	225	25%
Boston MA	3,500	690	20%
Detroit MI	3,000	485	16%
Tampa FL	2,000	320	16%
Houston TX	4,500	665	15%
Other		799	
U.S. total	96,500	39,965	41%
New Zealand	1,500	873	58%
Sweden	1,400	100	7%
France	350	20	6%
Canada	4,500	0	0%
Iceland	150	0	0%
United Kingdom	1,200	0	0%
International total	105,600	40,958	39%
Int'l goal/should be	105,000	67,200	64%

'Need Pathfinder to understand what's happening in world'

BY MAGGIE TROWE

As local organizers of the \$105,000 Pathfinder fund map out plans to solicit contributions from all those who read and value the books produced by the revolutionary publisher, supporters in Minnesota and Pennsylvania have reported successful events to promote the international campaign.

Both meetings celebrated the release of Pathfinder's newest book, *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tomás Díez Acosta. Each drew several students and workers newly acquainted with Pathfinder books.

Workers from two meatpacking plants and two students from Metropolitan Community and Technical College joined around 20 others at an October 19 Militant La-

bor forum in St. Paul, Minnesota. The forum raised \$1,300 for the fund, reports Becky Ellis.

Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Illinois Joel Britton was the featured speaker. As a new member of the communist movement in 1962, Britton said, he had participated in actions in defense of the Cuban Revolution as the U.S. government brought the world to the precipice of nuclear war.

Kossivi, a young worker born in Togo, saluted Pathfinder books. "Everyone should read Pathfinder so we can tell other people what is happening in the world and why," he said.

From Pennsylvania, Janet Post writes that a Pathfinder Fund event held October 20 at the Pathfinder bookstore in Hazleton also provided a boost to the drive. Among the participants were one student from Bloomsburg University and another from

Penn State University in State College—both some two hours away. A worker from Harrisburg also took part in the meeting, which raised \$205, helping Northeast Pennsylvania go over the halfway mark toward its goal of \$1,200.

Paul Pederson, the Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 12th C.D. in New York, was the speaker. Pederson had recently joined other socialist candidates in a solidarity trip to Puerto Rico.

Funds collected to date bring the total to \$40,958, around two-fifths of the way toward the international goal. This is short of the \$67,200 the fund should have reached to be on track. Putting a premium on collecting pledges and winning new contributors will be key to meeting the \$105,000 goal by November 17.

Checks for the fund should be made out to Pathfinder and sent to the *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Vote Socialist Workers!

There is a fighting, working-class alternative to the twin parties of imperialist war and depression in the November 5 elections. It is offered by the Socialist Workers candidates, who are running in cities and states around the country (see list below).

Along with young socialists and other campaigners, these candidates have been in the streets presenting a revolutionary perspective in face of the brutal offensive by the wealthy U.S. rulers against working people at home and abroad.

They have campaigned against U.S. imperialism and its military assaults, including its drive toward a war of plunder against Iraq and the peoples of the Mideast, as well as its aggression around the world—from threats against north Korea to stepped-up military intervention in Colombia.

Socialist campaigners have joined workers opposing the bosses' drive to undermine wages, job safety, and human dignity, from striking janitors in Boston, to California farm workers fighting for a union, to coal miners defending safety on the job. They are standing alongside working farmers who resist the foreclosure of their land.

They have also joined protests in Detroit demanding the release of a Muslim leader held with no charges, and have traveled to Lackawanna, New York, to back the fight to free six local residents—U.S. citizens of Yemeni descent—who are being framed up on “guilt by association” charges of providing “material support” to al Qaeda. Such attacks are aimed at the rights of all working people.

The candidates explain that the spiraling world depression and the U.S. war on working people here and abroad are not the results of “mistaken” government policies. This is how capitalism works. As it continues its long-term decline, this system threatens millions with economic devastation and increasingly inescapable brutality.

While the bosses attempt to trap working people into identifying with them as “we Americans” against “them,” referring to those targeted by Washington, the socialist candidates say: no, that's a lie. The real *we* is workers and farmers around the world, and our interests are completely opposed to *them*—the bosses and their parties, cops, and government.

The only way to end the exploitation, brutality, and oppression that capitalism imposes on us is to make a socialist revolution. That requires organizing a movement of millions that can take power out of the hands of the imperialist rulers and establish a workers and farmers government, joining with fellow working people around the world in the fight for a socialist future.

Is this possible? Yes—the example of Cuban workers and farmers, who broke free of U.S. imperialist domination and took political power, shows the direction that working people can and will take. They proved that Washington, the center of the world's final empire, is not all-powerful and can be defeated. To achieve that goal, working people will have to organize our own political party that can lead a revolutionary struggle for power and the transformation of society.

That is what the Socialist Workers campaign is about. And it doesn't come to a halt on election day. The campaign for communism will continue in the streets, in factories and fields, on picket lines and at protests by working people and youth. We urge you to get involved in different ways:

- Helping publicize and attending meetings for Cuban revolutionary commander Víctor Dreke, who is speaking on “Cuba and Africa Today,” and for fellow revolutionary Ana Morales.
 - Going with other youth to the upcoming meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, of OCLAE, the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students, which will attract young people seeking to discuss the most effective ways to fight imperialist oppression and exploitation.
 - Setting up engagements for two Cuban youth leaders who will be speaking on U.S. campuses in the spring on the fight to advance a socialist course in Cuba today.
 - Reading and selling the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and books by revolutionary leaders that offer the theory, strategy, and working-class continuity of the struggle for socialism and national liberation.
- Vote Socialist Workers! Join in campaigning for socialism!

The SWP candidates in 2002

Listed below are the Socialist Workers candidates for federal and state offices in the 2002 elections. The socialists are fielding candidates in 18 states and the District of Columbia. Because of undemocratic election laws designed to keep working-class candidates off the ballot, most of the Socialist Workers candidates will not appear on the ballot. In such cases, the candidates are running as write-ins. The names of those appearing on the ballot are indicated below with an asterisk (*).

ALABAMA

Governor: **Brian Taylor**
U.S. Senate: **Susan LaMont**

CALIFORNIA

Governor: **Nan Bailey**
Lieutenant Governor: **William Kalman**
Secretary of State: **Olympia Newton**
U.S. Congress, 8th C.D.: **Deborah Liatos**

COLORADO

U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.: **Jason Alessio**

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mayor: **Sam Manuel***

FLORIDA

Governor: **Rachele Fruit**
Lieutenant Governor: **Lawrence Mikesh**
Commissioner of Agriculture: **Karl Butts**

GEORGIA

U.S. Senate: **Eleanor García**
U.S. Congress, 5th C.D.: **James Harris**

ILLINOIS

Governor: **Joel Britton**
Lieutenant Governor: **Chessie Molano**
Secretary of State: **Claudia Hommel**
U.S. Senate: **Lisa Potash**
U.S. Congress, 4th C.D.: **Gerardo Sanchez**

IOWA

U.S. Congress, 3rd C.D.: **Edwin Fruit***

MASSACHUSETTS

Governor: **William Leonard**
Lieutenant Governor: **Sarah Ullman**

MICHIGAN

Governor: **Don Mackle**

MINNESOTA

Governor: **Kari Sachs***
Lieutenant Governor: **Samuel Farley***
U.S. Senate: **Barry Fatland**

NEBRASKA

Governor: **Lisa Rottach**

NEW JERSEY

U.S. Senate: **Ved Dookhun**

NEW YORK

Governor: **Martin Koppel**
Lieutenant Governor: **Arrin Hawkins**
Comptroller: **Jack Willey**
U.S. Congress, 12th C.D.: **Paul Pederson**
U.S. Congress, 14th C.D.: **Margaret Trowe**
U.S. Congress, 15th C.D.: **William Estrada**

NORTH CAROLINA

U.S. Senate: **Connie Allen**

OHIO

Governor: **Eva Braiman**
Lieutenant Governor: **Michael Fitzsimmons**
Attorney General: **Helen Meyers**

PENNSYLVANIA

Governor: **Anthony Lane**
Lieutenant Governor: **Hilda Cuzco**
U.S. Congress, 1st C.D.: **John Staggs**
U.S. Congress, 11th C.D.: **Betsy Farley**
U.S. Congress, 14th C.D.: **Omari Musa**

TEXAS

Governor: **Steve Warshell**
U.S. Senate: **Jacquie Henderson**
U.S. Congress, 18th C.D.: **Anthony Dutrow**

WASHINGTON

U.S. Congress, 7th C.D.: **David Ferguson**

U.S. forces hold Gulf exercises

Continued from Page 2

in wave after wave of bombing, strafing, and shelling.

The U.S.-British bombing attacks on Iraq and the imperialist military buildup in the region have steadily continued while they have pressed for a United Nations resolution “authorizing” Washington to launch an invasion of Iraq. The resolution, still being negotiated, would demand that Iraq accept “UN weapons inspectors” as a way to justify a subsequent assault on Iraq when the imperialist powers—who themselves have nuclear weapons—deem that the Iraqi government hasn't complied with their demand to disarm.

Whether or not the United Nations backs Washington's position, said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer October 16, “the president has made it perfectly plain that the United States will assemble a coalition of the willing who are going to enforce the UN resolutions.”

The steps toward war against Iraq are increasingly intertwined with the Israeli war on the Palestinians. This can be seen in the maneuvers carried out by U.S. troops on Jordanian soil, which provides the Pentagon with a staging ground for forays into western Iraq.

In an October 17 White House meeting, U.S. president George Bush repeated earlier promises to Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon that U.S. special forces would carry out such raids in order to counter any possible Iraqi missile strikes against Israel.

The administration's pledge “follows an undisclosed reconnaissance mission in western Iraq this summer by Israeli special forces,” reported the October 18 *Washington Post*.

A White House official told the *Post* that “the Israelis are pushing for a permanent U.S. troop presence to maintain security” in western Iraq, “an area the Israelis believe will quickly fill up with refugees in the event of a U.S. invasion.”

In an October 21 *New York Times* column, William Safire described his discussion with Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon on Tel Aviv's stance in the approaching war on Iraq. “Israel will respond,” he said, “if our citizens are attacked seriously.”

Sharon also pointed to Syria and Iran as possible targets of attack, a comment that Safire reported favorably. “The Syrians, together with the Iranians, are playing a double game, escalating tension on our northern border,” the Israeli prime minister asserted. He claimed that the government in Damascus was integrating the Lebanon-based Hezbollah combatants into Syria's front-line forces and that the Iranian government was supplying Hezbollah with rockets. “If war comes, we see what Syria-Iran-Hezbollah are preparing: they'll be surrogates for Saddam, opening a second front to help him,” Sharon said.

The Israeli regime has continued its assault on the Palestinian population in the occupied territories. In mid-October, the Israeli army moved its tanks out of the center of the West Bank city of Jenin, the second of eight cities occupied in mid-summer from which it has partially withdrawn. Soldiers immediately began digging a trench around the city, forcing residents or visitors to go through Israeli checkpoints.

Israeli tanks fired shells at Palestinians in the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp on October 17, killing six people, including two children. “We have no need to apologize,” Brig. Gen Yisrael Ziv told a television reporter.

‘Missile’ crisis

Continued from Page 6

violating our airspace and territorial waters every day. They themselves admit it, because they're now talking of alleged photographs their planes took. How could their planes take photographs unless they violated Cuban airspace?

So each one of the points, each one of those actions involves an act of illegality. They assembled the foreign ministers at Washington's State Department behind closed doors, in secret, and today they speak of that meeting.

They then speak of the Guantánamo base. What right do they have to speak of the Guantánamo base? That is, a base they hold in our territory, which they took by force and maintain against the will of our people. So, calmly, in a document of this type, they speak of the Guantánamo base, which is located in our territory, and shamelessly say they are utilizing this base, that they have reinforced it in order to utilize it against Cuba. This is a magnificent warning they are making to all countries where they currently have military bases!

New ‘Militant’ publishing schedule

The *Militant* has a new publishing schedule. The paper will be printed on Wednesdays and shipped on Thursdays—a day earlier than before. Please note that with this change we have adjusted several weekly deadlines.

The deadline for submitting articles is Friday at 8:00 a.m. for the issue published the following week. The deadline for listing items on the calendar or Militant Labor Forum list is Monday at 8:00 a.m. Distributors can change the size of their bundles of papers up until Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. each week. For the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* circulation drive, sales results must be reported by Monday at 8:00 a.m. For the Pathfinder Fund, results need to be in by Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

From 'Fidel' showing to raisin farms, socialist campaigners sell subs

BY PAUL PEDERSON

From New York cinemas to California raisin farms, socialist candidates are taking their campaigns to the places where they are finding the greatest interest in a working-class alternative to the twin parties of big business. In the process, they are expanding the circulation of the socialist press and revolutionary books.

In week six of the subscription and book sales drive, supporters of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* remain just a hairbreadth behind their international targets.

Socialist campaigners in New York wrapped up the October 12-20 target week with a bang, selling 17 subscriptions to the *Militant*, two subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and more than \$500 worth of Pathfinder books October 19-20 outside the film showing of *Fidel* by Estela Bravo.

"We barely had enough time to pull the books and papers out of the box after the film was over," said Brian Williams, who staffed a campaign table outside the Quad Theatre in Manhattan. "When I explained that this newspaper defends the Cuban Revolution two young women who had just seen the movie signed up for *Militant* subscriptions."

Socialist Workers congressional candidate Margaret Trowe was at the table shaking hands and talking to young people, several of whom signed up for more information on the upcoming Latin American and Caribbean students congress in Guadalajara.

Over the same weekend Martín Koppel, the candidate for governor of New York, headed to Willimantic, Connecticut for an interview with Ramón Morel on WECS radio, the station of Eastern Connecticut State University. The Spanish-language show, originally slated for one hour, was extended another half hour for the socialist candidate. On their way to the interview Koppel and two campaign supporters set up a campaign table in downtown Hartford, selling three *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions in half an hour.

The previous evening Koppel was invited to the home of a garment worker who recently subscribed to the Spanish-language monthly. Four other workers joined in to discuss a wide range of issues, from the resistance by working people today to imperialist war and economic depres-

sion, to the example of the Cuban Revolution.

Campaign goes to Fresno

Socialist campaigners in California traveled to Fresno October 11-12 to talk to small farmers facing a deepening economic crisis and rising threats of foreclosure. William Kalman, the Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor of California, visited the vineyards to talk to farmers about the impact of the "glut" of this year's grape harvest.

Small farmers who grow grapes for the wine, concentrate, and raisin markets are being driven under as they are forced to accept a pittance for their crop. Many raisin farmers are tearing vines out or letting grapes rot on the vine in an attempt to boost their returns.

Kalman met one such farmer, Greg Patterson, on his 40-acre vineyard in Kerman. "We have no option," said the farmer. "It is not that we don't want to produce, but we can't keep on taking money out of our pockets." Many small farmers are selling their land or going bankrupt this year, he and others said.

Kalman explained that the socialist campaign defends the interests of working farmers against the crushing squeeze they are put under by the banks, the capitalist farmers, and middlemen, who keep the prices as low as possible and drive small farmers deeper into debt.

"It has never been this bad," said Elias Zaragoza, a farm worker who has worked in the vineyards in Fresno since 1979. September and October are usually the busiest time of the year, he said, but this year there is little work.

The socialist campaigners also set up a campaign table outside a small convenience store at which workers from Harris Ranch cash their checks on Fridays,



Militant/Jim Spaul

Communists campaigned with revolutionary literature at September 28 protest in London against imperialist war drive in Mideast. The British rulers are also threatening to use their armed forces for strike-breaking against firefighters union.

selling six copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

They also sold a copy of *Capitalism's World Disorder*, a copy of *New International* no. 4 with the article, "The Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States," and three copies of *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as seen from Cuba* to other workers and farmers over the weekend.

UK firefighters defy gov't threats

Continued from front page

of strike action reached almost 97 percent.

The initial October 29 actions will be followed two days later by a second 48-hour walkout. The union will then organize four eight-day strike periods in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

The preparations for military strikebreaking come at the same time as London prepares tens of thousands of troops for an invasion of Iraq. Military chiefs have said that the deployment against the firefighters will affect their commitments to the war.

Central to the unionists' fight is their long-standing demand for a wage increase. They are demanding an annual wage of £30,000 for a trained firefighter, amounting to £400 weekly take-home pay or an hourly rate of £8.50, given their 48-hour workweek (UK£ = US\$1.55.)

Government and employers have railed against the wage

claim, saying that it would work out to a 40 percent increase, and have condemned the plans for work stoppages. Labour government minister Nicholas Raynsford described the ballot outcome as "wretched and wrong." For its part, the Confederation of British Industry released a statement describing the strikes as "very worrying" for business.

Strike could trigger 'me-too' increases

"The worst outcome" of the dispute, wrote the firefighters' employers, the Local Government Association, in a submission to a government-established pay review body, is that the final settlement would trigger "a widespread series of 'me-too' increases for much larger groups of public employees in local government, the NHS [National Health Service] and the civil service." The bosses have offered a 4 percent wage raise. "No government can afford to see pay rises of 40 percent with the knock-on effects on public service pay and the economy," said Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott.

The government's survival is at stake, said Prime Minister Anthony Blair, in face of the potential repercussions of industrial action by workers in the public sector. "Just because there's all this going on with Iraq, don't think I'm not completely focused on public services reform," Blair told Labour Party members of Parliament.

The government has set up a so-called independent review body to report on the workers' pay levels. The review "is a complete farce," said FBU general secretary Andy Gilchrist. "How can we be expected to enter into a review when, clearly, the review team has already decided the outcome?"

Meanwhile, a number of part-time firefighters at four fire stations in the northeast of Scotland have joined the FBU so that they can take part in the strike.

At the same time, officials of the Retained Firefighters Union, which organizes some 4,000 part-timers, have condemned the planned industrial action and announced that they will organize their members to work alongside the military personnel.

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. MUA-Maritime Union of Australia

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Drive Sept. 7-Nov. 17: Week 6

Country	Militant			PM			Book	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold
Australia	28	12	43%	6	0		15	8
Canada								
Vancouver	30	22	73%	5	4		15	10
Montreal	15	6	40%	10	2		20	12
Toronto	30	17	57%	5	1		25	5
Canada total	75	45	60%	20	7		60	27
Iceland*	15	10	67%	1	1		25	4
New Zealand								
Auckland	20	12	60%	1	0		7	6
Christchurch	12	10	83%	1	0		7	6
N.Z. total	32	20	63%	2	0		14	12
Sweden								
Stockholm	12	9	75%	3	2		5	8
Gothenburg	15	9	60%	3	2		10	8
Sweden Total	27	18	67%	6	4		15	16
United Kingdom								
London	45	20	44%	15	6		60	49
Dundee	10	4	40%	0	0		8	13
UK total	55	24	44%	15	6		68	62
United States								
Washington	30	29	97%	12	12		25	18
Des Moines	30	26	87%	15	13		18	15
San Francisco	30	26	87%	20	24		20	24
Tucson	5	4	80%	1	3		5	0
Twin Cities	55	42	76%	45	34		35	25
Seattle	40	29	73%	12	5		30	8
Houston	35	24	69%	15	3		30	18
Western Colorado	30	19	63%	10	5		12	8
Detroit	43	27	63%	12	10		25	12
Atlanta	35	21	60%	15	3		25	7
Upper Manhattan	75	43	57%	45	21		50	29
Omaha*	20	11	55%	23	22		20	22
Charlotte	20	11	55%	8	7		20	10
Cleveland	28	15	54%	7	7		15	2
NE Pennsylvania	30	16	53%	7	2		15	5
Tampa	25	13	52%	8	1		12	2
Brownsville	8	4	50%	2	2		6	3
NY Garment Dist.	80	39	49%	45	23		70	20
Pittsburgh	40	19	48%	4	0		15	4
Los Angeles	45	21	47%	30	17		30	1
Birmingham	22	9	41%	10	4		12	3
Newark	65	25	38%	40	21		35	9
Chicago	45	17	38%	30	24		25	17
Miami	30	10	33%	10	3		25	7
Philadelphia	25	8	32%	10	2		15	6
Boston	28	7	25%	20	5		45	23
U.S. total	919	515	56%	456	273		635	298
Int'l totals	1151	644	59%	506	291		832	427
Goal/Should be	1100	660	60%	500	300		725	435

IN THE UNIONS

	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	%
Australia						
AMIEU	4	1	25%			
MUA	3	0	0%			
Total	7	1	14%			
Canada						
UFCW	9	0	0%	1	1	
UNITE	6	1	17%	7	2	
Total	15	1	7%	8	3	
New Zealand						
MWU	3	1	33%			
NDU	2	0	0%			
Total	5	1	20%			
United States						
UFCW	50	23	46%	65	53	
UMWA	25	6	24%	4	0	
UNITE	50	9	18%	40	13	
Total	125	38	30%	109	66	
raised goal*						

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Oppose U.S. Threats Against North Korea Fri.Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m. 168 Bloomfield, 2nd Floor. Donation: \$4. Tel:(973) 481-0077.

NEW YORK

Upper Manhattan

The Fraud of New York's 'Budget Crisis' and the Unfolding Economic Depression. Speaker: Jack Willey, Socialist Workers candidate for New York State Comptroller, staff writer for the *Militant*. Fri., Nov. 1, 7:30 p.m. 599 W. 187th Street, 2nd Floor. Donation: \$5. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

—CALENDAR—

NEW YORK

Manhattan

No to Racism and Imperialist War! U.S. Navy Out of Vieques! Join Ismael Guadalupe and a delegation from Vieques at the Vieques Walkathon. Saturday Oct. 26 starting at 126th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam. Registration begins at 8:00 am. For more information: (212)-348-8004, (212)-677-0619.

'Security' bill targets port workers' rights

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

LOS ANGELES—In an attack on dockworkers and others, the Senate Commerce Committee has approved a bill that, under the pretext of "fighting terrorism" and "tightening security" at the ports, would give the U.S. Coast Guard additional powers and require background checks of some port employees.

The legislation represents another attack on workers' rights at a time when the White House has intervened on the side of the shipping bosses and against 10,500 West Coast dockworkers by imposing the antilabor Taft-Hartley law.

The Senate bill would require every seaport to create a "security committee" involving federal, state, local police agencies as well as "private law enforcement agencies," the *Los Angeles Times* reported. The measure will go before the full Senate and the House of Representatives for a vote later this fall.

Senate Commerce Committee chairman Ernest Hollings declared that "the bill's need was underscored by the recent terrorist attack on a French oil tanker near a Yemeni port and the economic effect of a labor dispute at West Coast ports," according to the *Times*.

Some unionists, however, are concerned that the bill will be used to increase police intimidation and harassment of unionists.

President George Bush imposed the Taft-Hartley law October 8, after a 10-day lock-out forced on the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) by the shipping and port terminal bosses. On October 16, U.S. District Judge William Alsup officially approved the 80-day "cooling off period" mandated under the Taft-Hartley law.

Under the Taft-Hartley injunction, the terms of the previous labor pact are reinstated. The government injunction requires the union and Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) to hold contract talks with federal mediators over the next 60 days.

The federal judge prohibited the union

from striking during the 80-day period, which ends December 26, and has broad discretion to impose penalties against the union, such as fines and imprisonment. The injunction requires the ILWU members to work "at a normal and reasonable rate of speed."

The PMA is pressing the Justice Department to use "information" supplied by the shipping employers to force the dockworkers to pick up the pace or face penalties.

"We believe we have accumulated enough information to present a factual case to the Justice Department," said PMA President Joseph Miniace October 16. He said the shipping and terminal employers have documented a "totally intolerable" 22 percent drop in productivity since the dockworkers returned to their jobs.

In response to the PMA's charges of worker-orchestrated slowdowns, the union has filed 13 separate charges with the Labor Relations Committee saying that the shipping bosses were acting in bad faith to discredit the union.

The shipping bosses are seeking other ways to deepen government intervention against the unions. They are lobbying U.S. transportation secretary Norman Mineta to pass legislation similar to the Railway Labor Act that would apply to workers on the docks. The Railway Labor Act has been used to tie up the rail unions in miles of red tape, including government mediation and arbitration boards, to try to make it more difficult for rail workers to wage strikes.

One-day general strike shuts down Italy



Millions of workers in Italy held a one-day nationwide strike October 18, closing banks, schools, forcing cancellation of 275 flights, and shutting down half the nation's trains. Fiat has announced layoffs of 8,000, and tens of thousands marched in Turin, where the automaker's headquarters is located. Workers organized rallies across the country, like the one pictured above in Rome to protest the government's antilabor legislation that threatens more than 250,000 jobs.

Workers protest chemical weapons incinerator

BY WALTER BLADES

ANNISTON, Alabama—Three hundred people marched and rallied here to protest an incinerator that has been built to dispose of the 661,000 rockets, land mines, and ar-

tillery shells equipped with nerve gas stored in the U.S. Army Depot located here, one of nine locations where the U.S. military stockpiles chemical weapons.

The fight in Anniston has been developing since 1992, when the U.S. Army, not bothering to seek a permit, began groundbreaking for the incinerator at the army depot. Since then several protests against it have taken place. The facility was supposed to begin operating in October, but in August the Alabama Department of Environmental Management asked for more tests.

Several speakers at the rally pointed out that the incinerator was built in a working-class, largely Black community. Some 35,000 residents of Calhoun County live within a six-mile radius of the depot and would be vulnerable to a lethal dose if an accident occurred. To add insult to injury, some residents point out, Anniston is already severely contaminated with toxic PCBs from the local Monsanto plant.

The more than 2,250 tons of chemical weapons stored at Anniston Army Depot represents 9 percent of the Pentagon's chemical weapons stockpile. Other U.S. chemical weapons sites are located in Kalama (Johnston) Atoll in the Pacific; Umatilla, Oregon; Tooele, Utah; Pueblo, Colorado; Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Newport, Indiana; Richmond, Kentucky; and Aberdeen, Maryland. Two other incinerators in Utah and Hawaii have been closed since July because of nerve gas releases.

Local government officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and the local media all support the incinerator. Several environmental and other groups, including Serving Alabama's Future Environment (SAFE), Families Concerned About Nerve Gas Incineration, and Coosa River Basin Initiative are organizing opposition to it.

In 1986 Congress officially ordered all U.S. chemical weapons destroyed. The U.S. government signed the international Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, which went into effect in 1997. Under that treaty all U.S. chemical weapons are supposed to be destroyed by 2007.

At the rally Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a longtime civil rights leader, said, "President Bush is worried about Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons, but he isn't bothered at

all about chemicals that would destroy American people right here in Anniston," he said.

The method of disposal to be used at the Anniston incinerator involves chopping up the weapons and dropping them into the incinerator without separating out the nerve gas. Some of the nerve gas, stuck to the metal parts in gelatinized form, ends up in the incinerator. This poses a constant risk of dangerous chemical releases.

Terri Swearingen, an environmental activist from East Liverpool, Ohio, an Appalachian community that has one of the largest toxic waste incinerators, said that at the toxic waste incinerator in his area there have been 50 fires, two explosions and many chemical releases. He said the number of children with mercury in their urine has doubled and there have been more than 200 new cases of cancer since 1992.

Brenda Mugleston from Tooele, Utah, who worked at the incinerator there, described the lack of monitoring for chemical agents in the facility. She said the air lines workers used to breathe were contaminated, and that workers were sent into contaminated areas without proper protective equipment. Two workers have been exposed to sarin gas.

Several dozen young people came to the rally. Some came with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference activists, others from several different college campuses, especially from Rome, Georgia.

U.S. court hands down 25-year sentence in Cuba 'spying' case

BY MIKE ITALIE

On October 16 a court in Washington, D.C., sentenced Ana Belen Montes to 25 years imprisonment under a plea bargain stemming from charges that she had provided classified information to the Cuban government. Until her arrest last year, Belen had worked for the Pentagon as a senior analyst at the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency.

FBI agents had been trailing Montes since at least May 2001, and arrested her days after the September 11 attacks. In the course of the investigation they used wiretaps and broke into her apartment.

In March of this year Montes agreed to plead guilty on one count of conspiracy to commit espionage, a capital offense. Under the terms of the agreement, Montes has undergone months of debriefings with counterintelligence officers.

U.S. district judge Ricardo Urbina added a lecture on patriotism to his pronouncement of the sentence. "Today is a very sad day," he said, "for every American who suffers the betrayal of their country. If you can't love your country, you should at least do it no harm."

At the sentencing, Montes told the court that "I believe our government's policy towards Cuba is cruel and unfair.... We have displayed intolerance and contempt towards Cuba for most of the last four decades."

Since the overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and the establishment of a workers and farmers government, Washington has carried out a four-decade policy of hostility toward Cuba's socialist revolution, including an economic embargo, the organization of counterrevolutionary attacks, and military threats.

"I do not understand why we must continue to dictate how the Cubans should select their leaders, who their leaders cannot be, and what laws are appropriate in their land," explained Montes. "I did what I thought right to counter a grave injustice."

Prosecuting attorney Roscoe Howard declared himself "satisfied" with the outcome. He added that he was "disappointed," however, that Montes did not offer an apology to the court. "What we were all looking for is the recognition of the crime, the gravity of what she has done," he said. "She seemed not to really appreciate that."

Prosecutors acknowledged that Montes was not motivated by money and had received no financial rewards for her work. As part of her sentence, reported the Associated Press, she "must surrender all her government savings plus interest and any property that investigators could tie to her espionage."

Cuban foreign minister Felipe Perez Roque stated October 18 that he felt "profound respect and admiration for Ms. Ana Belen Montes. Her actions were moved by ethics and an admirable sense of justice."

Roque said he hopes that someday "it will be unnecessary for men and women of the moral stature of Ana Belen Montes and of the five Cuban heroes—also unjustly imprisoned in the United States—to sacrifice their lives, their families and their personal interests."

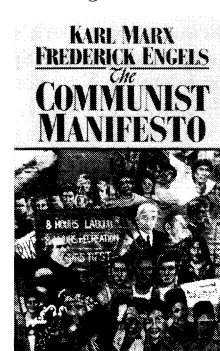
Last year five Cuban revolutionaries were convicted on frame-up conspiracy charges, ranging from conspiracy to commit espionage to conspiracy to commit murder. René González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González received jail sentences ranging from 15 years to a double life term.

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