

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

White House backs attack
on affirmative action

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Tens of thousands protest U.S. war drive

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Amid news of the U.S. government's stepped-up military deployments in the Middle East, tens of thousands of people gathered here on January 18 around the slogan "No War on Iraq." A similar crowd gathered in San Francisco, while smaller demonstrations were organized in Tampa, Florida; Portland, Oregon; and elsewhere.

In this capital city the turnout included high school and college students who, along with others, traveled in buses, cars, and vans from as far away as Mississippi, Illinois, Minnesota, Vermont, and Florida. Sixteen buses came from Minnesota and 18 from Detroit.

The demonstration attracted people holding a wide range of political viewpoints. Among them were thousands of youth, many at their first political protest, who came to Washington because they were repelled by Washington's drive toward war in the Mideast and wanted to do something about it.

The national protest was called by a coalition called International A.N.S.W.E.R. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism). The list of endorsers of the action included groups such as the Fellowship for Reconciliation, Global Exchange, Not In Our Name Project, and IFCO/Pastors for Peace.

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Strikers at GE fight health-care squeeze

BY MAGGIE TROWE
AND ELLEN BRICKLEY

LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS—Some 100 unionists walked the picket line and stoked wood fires in steel drums outside the General Electric plant here on January 14 and 15. They were among the 17,500 GE workers at 48 locations in 23 states who took part in the two-day strike action to protest the company's increase in their out-of-pocket health-care payments.

Across the United States, the strike shut factories that produce motors, turbines, generators, locomotives, jet engines, and household appliances, among many other products.

On the second day, the members of Local 201 of the International Union of Electrical Workers-Communications Workers of America (IUE-CWA) wound black tape around picket signs and strike buttons to show respect for a striking worker killed when a police car hit her in Louisville, Kentucky.

Kjeston "Michelle" Rodgers, 40, was struck by a police cruiser driven by officer Roy Truax shortly before 5 a.m. on January 14 as she was crossing the street from the picket line to her parked car. She was carrying a picket sign when she was hit. "We'll fight on in her memory," said Pat Ryan, a shop steward who has worked at the Lynn plant for 23 years.

Members of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers also joined the

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U.S. troops head to Turkey as Iraq invasion force builds

BY SAM MANUEL

U.S. and British planes bombed eight air defense installations in southern Iraq January 20, U.S. officials said. An Iraqi military spokesman said the planes carried out 46 sorties from U.S. bases in Kuwait, hitting civilian as well as military targets.

The regularity and scale of such air strikes have increased in step with the imperialist buildup in the Middle East.

In mid-January U.S. secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld ordered the dispatch of a further 62,000 Marine, Army, and Air Force soldiers. The arrival of the troops will bring the total U.S. strength to 150,000. Another 100,000 are expected to be deployed by mid- to late-February to be ready for a full-scale air and ground assault.

The U.S. buildup includes new naval forces. On January 17 two amphibious assault ships and five other vessels carrying about 10,000 Marines and sailors departed San Diego for the Arab-Persian Gulf.

On January 20 the Turkish government gave the go-ahead for Washington to station 15,000 troops in the south of the country. The move will provide the U.S. warmakers with a substantial force at Iraq's northern border to add to their Kuwait-based southern army—the principal invasion force.

The deal was cemented after a visit to Turkey by 150 U.S. military officials. The

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Demonstrators in Istanbul, Turkey, rally to oppose government support for a U.S. invasion of Iraq and the use of Turkish territory for the assault. Signs read, "No to War." The regime has bowed to U.S. demands to station invasion force in the south.

West Coast meetings build support for fight against deportation of Róger Calero

BY NAN BAILEY

LOS ANGELES—"I'm here to support Róger Calero because they did the same thing to my brother, they unjustly deported him," said Cliseria Piñeda. The garment worker was a member of the speakers panel at a public meeting held here January 15 to build support for Calero's fight against moves by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport him. The event drew 60 people, many of them immigrant workers from Latin America.

Police had framed up her brother, Piñeda said. "They forced him to sign something saying he was guilty. He was in jail two years before they deported him."

"The same thing happened in the struggle I'm in," she said. Piñeda is one of the former Forever 21 employees who are fighting to win back wages owed by the clothing company. "The rumors have gone around that they'll deport fighters who

don't have papers.

"That's why it's so good this young man is doing this," Piñeda said. "Many people don't know where to go or what to do. And it's happening all over."

Other panelists at the meeting and participants who spoke in the discussion stressed the same theme: that many people know Calero's situation from personal experience and will respond to the fight that he is waging, alongside others.

On March 25 the socialist journalist, who is the associate editor of *Perspectiva Mundial* and a *Militant* staff writer, will face an INS hearing in Houston aimed at his "removal" from the United States.

Calero was originally seized by INS agents in Houston on December 3 as he returned from a reporting trip to Cuba and Mexico—one of several he has carried out in recent years. In jailing him, INS officials cited his 1989 conviction as a high

school student in Los Angeles on a charge of selling an ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop. The conviction had previously been waived twice when Calero applied for permanent residency, granted first in 1990 and renewed in 2000.

As the *Militant* and *PM* spread the word of his jailing, letters demanding Calero's release began arriving at the INS office. On December 13 he was paroled, and supporters formed a defense committee shortly afterwards. Working out of its New York office the committee promptly launched the speaking tour, in the course of which the socialist journalist has spoken to hundreds of workers and others in Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and now the West Coast.

Angela Sanbrano, the executive direc-

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Somalis in Seattle defeat INS move

ERNEST MAILHOT

SEATTLE—Yusuf Ali Ali, Mohamed Aweys, Mohamed Hussein Hundiye, and Goma Kalif Mohamed hugged each other in celebration after a federal judge halted their impending deportation.

In a January 14 ruling that, pending appeal, made permanent a preliminary injunction against the federal government that was handed down in December, U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman barred the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) from deporting anyone to Somalia. The ruling not only stopped the immediate deportation of the four Seattle residents; it also certified their lawsuit as a class-action suit, halting the deportation of 2,747

other Somalis the INS wants to exclude from the U.S. At least 41 are presently in INS detention around the country.

The step-up in government harassment of Somalis and other immigrants in its police sweep following Sept. 11, 2001, including the use of minor immigration and other offenses to deport people, has prompted an ongoing protest campaign in this city.

Between 1997 and 2002 the INS deported 196 people back to Somalia. Since the country has no central government and no formal procedure to accept returning nationals, the INS has simply dropped people back there without regard for what they will face. Activists here explain that

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U.S. troops head to Turkey as Iraq invasion force builds

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original U.S. demand for the go-ahead to place 80,000 troops in Turkey was scaled back for the moment in face of the widespread opposition among working people there to the alliance with Washington.

“The importance of the northern front is to fix Iraqi military strength, which is positioned in the north,” said Turkish foreign minister Yasar Yakis. “It should be a sufficiently big force to fix them there so that Iraqi soldiers do not leave the northern front and go to the southern front.”

The Turkish-based U.S. forces will move rapidly to seize the oil fields in the north of Iraq. They will also assist Turkish troops in blocking off any renewed national struggle by the Kurdish people in the region.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government has asserted its readiness to launch a war according to its own timetable if taking a decision through the UN Security Council causes excessive delay.

In response to a statement by Hans Blix, the chief UN arms inspector, that it could take up to a year to follow up on leads about chemical and biological weapons in Iraq, Bush stated, “Time is running out.”

National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice met with Blix in New York to express the “strong displeasure” of the U.S. government with his remarks. She also discussed plans to interrogate Iraqi scientists outside of Iraq. On January 21 Baghdad announced that it would encourage its scientists to agree to the questioning.

U.S. officials demanded a meeting of the UN Security Council to press for speeding up the pace of the inspections. On January 27 Blix is to report on the results of the first 60 days of the inspections.

The Iraqi government has protested the U.S. move to supply the inspectors with a high-altitude U-2 spy plane, noting that the aircraft adds to the surveillance capacity that Washington has already put in place. “Iraq is resisting allowing overflights,” reported the Associated Press, “at a time when the U.S. military is massing troops near Iraq’s border for a possible attack.”

Administration officials have reiterated that a unilateral decision to attack Iraq is not ruled out. Following a January 14 meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said military action against Iraq should not depend on finding hard evidence of chemical and biological weapons.

The same day, according to a *New York Times* report, White House spokesman Ari Fleisher said Bush “left open the option of acting against Iraq without a new resolution.”

“In the case of Iraq, we’re nearing the end of the long road, and with every other option [but force] exhausted,” Rumsfeld said on January 20.

Washington has seized upon the “discovery” of 12 empty chemical warheads at a munitions facility and documents at the home of an Iraqi nuclear scientist. White House spokesman Fleisher described the finding of the empty warheads as “troubling and serious.”

Iraq has said that the warheads were included in a report on its weapons capability made to the Security Council last month. Iraqi scientist Faleh Hassan said the documents in his possession had also been reported and that the UN inspectors had acted like “mafiosi.”

While it makes use of such developments in its propaganda, the U.S. government has made it clear that the burden of proof is on Iraq and not on the inspectors or the imperialist powers. Secretary of State Colin Powell announced January 18 that the administration expects in a few weeks to declare that Iraq has not cooperated with the inspections. “We believe that a persuasive case will be there at the end of the month that Iraq is not cooperating,” hesaid.

U.S. differences with Paris, Berlin

While preparing to throw its lot in with a U.S.-led invasion, the French government has stated that the decision to go to war should be taken by the Security Council. French president Jacques Chirac backed Blix’s view that the weapons inspectors need more time, while French foreign minister



U.S. soldiers train in Kuwaiti desert, January 2003. Some 150,000 troops are in the region, and 100,000 more are on the way, as Washington escalates war preparations.

Dominique Villepin accused Washington of “impatience” to go to war with Baghdad.

German foreign minister Joschka Fischer also said he differed with the U.S. approach, arguing that the inspectors should have “all the time which is needed.” Chancellor Gerhard Schröder said, “We will not take part in a military intervention in Iraq.” At the same time, Berlin has not prevented the U.S. command from using German bases in the buildup.

Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov said that a unilateral attack against Iraq would lead to “unpredictable consequences” and “damage” the struggle against terrorism. Iraq signed a new agreement with a Russian company for oil production on January 17. It also set aside two other oil fields for two more Russian companies and began talks with a third.

Ivanov’s counterpart in China, Tang Jiaxuan, described the report to be delivered by inspectors on January 27 as “a new beginning” rather than the final accounting.

British buildup also accelerates

In mid-January British prime minister Anthony Blair expressed confidence that Washington and London would win Security Council backing for an assault. “Of course we all want a second UN resolution,” he said. “I believe that we will get one. But where there is an unreasonable veto put down we will not rule out action.” Britain’s most powerful warship, the *Ark*

Royal, set sail for the Gulf region January 16 following a three-day stopover in Scotland to be loaded with munitions. British defense secretary Geoff Hoon announced on January 20 the deployment of 26,000 troops in preparation for war against Iraq. Among them are seven armored brigades and 16 air assault brigades. They will join 5,000 troops already en route, putting a quarter of Britain’s 109,000-member army in the region.

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THE MILITANT

Washington’s threats against Korea

Washington continues to withhold food and fuel from north Korea, demanding that Pyongyang accept U.S. dictates to ‘disarm.’ In the south, popular anger against the 37,000 U.S. troops on the peninsula continues to build. The ‘Militant’ brings you the facts about the fight to unify this nation divided by U.S. imperial troops.



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Editorial Staff: Róger Calero, Michael Italie, Paul Pederson, and Maurice Williams.

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Protesters keep up pressure on U.S. Navy to leave Vieques

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

“We have won the battle but not yet the war,” said Ismael Guadalupe, a leader of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques (CRDV). Guadalupe was responding to the U.S. Navy officials’ statement that they will stop bombing practice on the Puerto Rican island in May, ending 56 years of military exercises there.

The announcement came just days before the January 13 start of month-long maneuvers there involving the aircraft carrier USS *Theodore Roosevelt* and its battle group. The latter includes nine ships, two submarines, fighter jets and 8,000 personnel.

“We are not surrendering or stopping our protests with the Navy’s announcement,” said Guadalupe in a phone interview with the *Militant* on January 15. Three days earlier hundreds had marched in San Juan. On January 14 U.S. forces fired tear gas at demonstrators on Vieques.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vernon Clark wrote in January to Navy Secretary Gordon England that such ongoing “civil unrest” was a key reason for the announcement. The “level of protests, attempted incursions, and isolated successful incursions generally remain high when Battle Group training occurs,” he wrote.

Despite the “significant resources” allocated to “maintain range security and safety,” lamented the admiral, “our sailors are continually subjected to an unsatisfactory environment in Puerto Rico. The support of the local police organization has been unable to provide the kind of safety we would demand at any other site in the United States. [The] Navy’s departure from Vieques will liberate us from this burden.”

For many years officers of the Navy and

Marine Corps have contended that Vieques had no satisfactory alternatives as a site for naval, air, and amphibious exercises. They did not mention its chief advantage to them—Puerto Rico’s status as a U.S. colony.

Now Navy Secretary England has certified as “equivalent or superior” a series of bombing ranges in Florida and elsewhere on the mainland United States.

Since World War II, Washington has occupied two-thirds of the small island off the eastern coast of Puerto Rico, using it for bombing and live-ammunition exercises. For nearly 60 years fishermen and other residents have protested the Navy’s presence and the environmental destruction it causes. Vieques has been used to prepare for U.S. military interventions from Grenada and Nicaragua to Yugoslavia and now Iraq—the probable destination of the *Roosevelt*.

The April 1999 killing of civilian security guard David Sanes by a 500-pound bomb—described as “errant” by the Navy—sparked an upsurge in which thousands took to the streets in Puerto Rico and several U.S. cities with large Puerto Rican communities. Following protests, the exercises were suspended. A deal between U.S. president William Clinton and Puerto Rican governor Pedro Rosselló to reopen the range sparked a demonstration of 80,000 people in San Juan in February 2000.

Majority vote for end of Navy bombing

A big majority voted for immediate Navy withdrawal in a July 2001 nonbinding referendum organized by the Puerto Rican administration of Sila Calderón, whose declared opposition to the exercises help ensure her election.



Rally of 50,000 in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, on July 4, 1999, against U.S. Navy exercises on Vieques. For 60 years Puerto Ricans have protested U.S. military presence there.

On October 9, 2002, after complaints of ill health by 55 U.S. veterans, the Pentagon admitted to using chemical weapons on Vieques. Among other experiments, Washington had ordered jets to spray a chemical simulating nerve gas over land and water to assess the efficiency of chemical weapons and its soldiers’ response to them. It was recently revealed that a Navy destroyer sunk about 900 feet off the Vieques shore had been used as a target ship for nuclear tests in the Pacific.

Opponents of the live-fire practices are not letting down their guard in face of the withdrawal statements. “The Navy has lied to this town so many times over the years, nobody believes them,” Nilda Medina told the *Washington Post*, speaking from one of the protest camps set up in front of the Navy’s Camp Garcia military reservation.

While U.S. military officials have stated that the maneuvers begun in January 13 will be the last, a spokesperson for the Atlantic Fleet left open the option for another round before May. “We prefer not to talk about future movements of our ships and

the placement of our forces,” he said.

Reaffirming the colonial status of Puerto Rico in the eyes of the U.S. government and military brass, the Pentagon has announced that it will turn over the eastern third of the island to the U.S. Department of the Interior for use as a wildlife refuge.

Stating that “without Vieques, there is no way I need the Navy facilities at Roosevelt Roads,” Adm. Robert Natter, commander of the Atlantic Fleet, implied that the end of military maneuvers would be a staggering blow to the Puerto Rican economy. The naval station on the Puerto Rican mainland is the largest employer in Puerto Rico with a workforce of 4,800 employees. It is home to the commander of the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, a Navy hospital, and other facilities.

Ismael Guadalupe said that while the ending of Navy training would be a victory, “if they shut down Roosevelt Roads that would be the big prize. We will not die of hunger, or lose our arms and legs and ability to work. The Roosevelt Roads area would make an excellent port for use in our economic development.”

Meanwhile, opponents of the continued U.S. presence have continued their protests against the current military exercises. On January 14 three individuals were detained for entering Navy grounds, bringing to eight the number arrested since the Navy training began the day before. Up to 1,500 protesters have been arrested for “trespassing” and other charges in three-and-a-half years of heightened protests.

Protesters emphasize that the termination of the war games will not resolve the issues of sovereignty and development on the island. “We will continue our protests: caravans with horses, marches, civil disobedience,” said Guadalupe. “The Navy has not responded to our principal demands. Are the people no longer going to get sick after the exercises end? There is still contamination. We will win the war when we get back our land, the Navy has paid to clean it up, and there is no more Navy repression.”

State governments slash Medicaid budgets

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

An estimated 1 million to 2 million people will lose health insurance this year because of state government budget cuts to Medicaid benefits.

State officials claim that spiraling health-care costs coupled with plunging tax revenues have forced their hand in chopping benefits for working people and others with low incomes who have no other way to get medical care.

Medicaid is a federal government program that provides medical coverage for more than 40 million people on low incomes. It pays for 35 percent of all births in the United States and covers 6 million elderly and disabled persons, who also receive Medicare benefits.

According to a survey released by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 49 state governments are slashing services to Medicaid beneficiaries, reducing payments to doctors and hospitals, and restricting eligibility to the program.

Programs that are affected include dental care for adults, physical therapy, and subsidies on eyeglasses and hearing aids. Coverage for nursing homes and other providers of health care is being slashed or frozen.

In California, Governor Gray Davis has proposed budget changes that would remove almost 500,000 people from the Medicaid program. Officials threaten that more cutbacks are to come.

Only way to get treated

Washington State has removed half the 120,000 people who are enrolled in that state’s health program for childless adults on low incomes, and eliminated special payments to hospitals for charity care for the uninsured. Such services are often the only way that many working people receive medical treatment, including for serious and even life-threatening conditions—generally by heading for emergency rooms.

A spokesperson for the Nebraska Health and Human Services System said that a law passed last year establishing a new method for assessing income would knock 28,000

people off the Medicaid rolls. The government has also reduced coverage—from two years to one—for welfare recipients who have found jobs.

The cuts represent new blows to the availability of affordable health care for working people in the United States. A National Academy of Science survey reports that health-care costs are rising at an annual rate of more than 12 percent, “while at the same time individuals are paying more out of pocket and receiving fewer benefits.” The survey also noted “disturbing racial and ethnic disparities in access to and use of services.”

By the latest figures some 41.2 million people—14.5 percent of the population—are in that position.

Charges dropped against Yemenis in Detroit

BY PETER THIERJUNG

DETROIT—Federal officials dropped frame-up charges of “money laundering” against six local residents of Yemeni origin January 6.

The six, who were charged for sending money home to Yemen, were arrested December 18 in highly publicized raids on several local businesses and residences in a working-class district here where many Yemeni immigrants live and work. Sensational media reports played up insinuations by government officials of connections between the money and “terrorism.”

A federal agent here claimed that a “confidential informant” secretly videotaped the men accepting funds for transfer to Yemen. The raids were part of a national sting operation called “Green Quest.” Some 60 city and federal cops carried out the raids, confiscating records, computers, and \$200,000 from five bank accounts.

But pressed by the media, Robert Cares, an assistant U.S. Attorney who heads the federal Anti-Terrorism Task Force in Detroit, was forced to admit that the men were not part of a “terrorist” plot. “There are no links of any type to terrorist activity,” said.

In October, federal agents carried out similar “money laundering” raids in Coldwater, Michigan, where there is also a large Yemeni immigrant community. But no charges were ever filed against anyone following those raids.

Provisions of the USA Patriot Act, passed in October 2001 after Washington sharply accelerated its war drive in the Middle East, require that money transfer agencies register with the U.S. Treasury Department. These laws have been one way the U.S. government has rounded up individuals under the pretext of “fighting terrorism.”

Like immigrants from many other countries, Yemenis here regularly send remittances to their families back home who depend on the income. And there are numerous businesses and agencies here where such transactions can be arranged.

U.S. Customs officials seized on the traditional Middle Eastern practice of *havala*, a means of money exchange based on trust, to make unsubstantiated accusations of “financing terrorism.” Because no banking documentation is created and no money crosses borders, the government claims it is justified in carrying out its “money laun-

dering” raids.

One Yemeni-born worker interviewed by the *Militant* said he may have lost \$5,000, part of the money assets seized by the government. The funds were savings accumulated over time and intended for his wife in Yemen to travel here with the couple’s child.

Gina Balaya, a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney’s office, said that while charges against the six had been dismissed, the government could refile complaints or ask a grand jury to indict them. “The case is ongoing,” she told the press.

“A complaint only has a shelf life of 20 days,” Balaya asserted. “This has nothing to do with the strength of the case.” An assistant special agent in charge of the U.S. Customs Service investigation, James Dinkins, said “volumes of evidence were obtained at the original arrests. New criminal charges will be forthcoming in the near future.”

Nabih Ayad, a well known attorney in the Arab-American community here, told the press the dismissal of the charges showed they were unfounded. “These are poor people sending money to their families,” he said.

Shirtmakers strike to defend health benefits

BY JANET POST

LYKENS, Pennsylvania—Members of Local 317-C of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE) are on strike here against the bosses at the Libro Shirt factory. Picketing 24 hours a day in freezing weather in this town in the anthracite coal region, the strikers say they will stay out as long as it takes to win.

The 89 workers, who are mostly women, walked out January 7 after being without a contract since last August.

At the front gate, Connie Gibson and Cardella Schutt spoke to the *Militant* as they arrived at 6:30 a.m. for a three-hour picket shift. They would be back in the evening for another stint, they said.

Schutt, who has sewn at Libro for seven years, said that her husband plans to join her on the picket line. “He’s laid off without any health insurance, so this strike is important for us,” she said.

Libro Shirt is owned by Leventhal Ltd., based in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Leventhal executive Leonard Springer had sent the workers a letter before the winter holiday break saying that he expected them to abide by the company’s latest offer when they returned in January, contract or no contract. The union had previously agreed to work under the old agreement until a new one was hammered out.

The company terms included a pay increase of five cents. Another provision would have the workers paying half their health insurance or forgoing it entirely. Up to that point the insurance had been fully funded by the company. Springer advised workers to sign up for the government’s paltry COBRA health benefits if they didn’t want to foot the bill.

“They are making it impossible to live,” said Patti Verisch, who has worked at Libro for 23 years. “And just look at the situation at General Electric. The health insurance cuts are why the workers there are striking.”

Firewood, coffee, doughnuts

Springer had threatened to shut down the plant, said Connie Gibson. The boss had claimed that “you people are the ones who will suffer, not me,” she said, adding that “he thinks that the workers are below him.”

Strikers say they are getting a lot of sup-



Members of Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees picket Libro shirt factory in Lykens, Pennsylvania.

port from other workers in the area. As we spoke, a truckload of firewood was dropped off for fire barrels as the wind whipped across nearby Wiconisco Creek. Supporters have also brought hot coffee and doughnuts, and hooked up two camping trailers.

At Hollander Home Fashions in Frackville, about an hour from Lykens, members of UNITE Local 133 took up a collection for their fellow members.

In the last week before the strike, said Schutt, some 60 workers marched into the plant office demanding their last paycheck still owed by the company. Ordering some pizza, they settled in to wait, determined to get satisfaction. “The bosses said the

workers could wait ‘until hell freezes over,’” said David Greenlief, a regional UNITE representative. He added, “But then they gave out the checks after some television cameramen arrived.”

The Libro Shirt bosses have threatened to put guaranteed pension contributions into a 401k plan, he said.

Over the past year the workforce has been reduced by layoffs from 171 to 95, all but six of whom are in the union. Some strikers said this coincided with the company’s use of a non-union plant in Tennessee. Some of the shirts made there are sent back to Libro to have the “union” label sewn in, said Verisch.

With the strike solid, a few managers are

working machines inside the Lykens plant. But the county’s *Sentinel* newspaper reported that delivery truck drivers are honoring the UNITE picket lines. One driver declared his sympathy, saying that the company’s stance “almost makes you want to cry. Some of these women were here before I was born.”

On January 15 more than 20 strikers traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend an organizing rally of Linens of the Week workers who were to vote on UNITE membership two days later.

Janet Post works as a sewer at Hollander Home Fashions in Frackville, Pennsylvania where she is a member of UNITE Local 133.

GE workers stage two-day national strike

Continued from front page
national two-day action.

Several strikers saw the stoppage as preparation for a confrontation around the contract when it expires in June. While this was the first national strike against the giant company since 1969, the workers said, they themselves had joined some 2,500 GE unionists in stopping work for four days last November, protesting job subcontracting, outsourcing, and the company’s an-

nounced plan to lay off as many as 2,800 of its 26,000 employees worldwide.

“They’ve done something they’ve never done before,” Ryan said, referring to the company’s takeback demands. “They’ve opened up medical benefits, co-payments, and deductibility before the contract expired. GE made \$16 billion in profits last year, but they have no money for health care for us,” he said.

Union officials estimate that the increase

will take an extra \$300–\$400 per year out of workers’ pockets at a time when the company is posting record profits.

“We feel we have to do something now or it will just get worse,” said picket Peter Allouise, Jr., who has worked at the Lynn plant for 25 years.

Community rally for health care

On the strike’s second day in Lynn the GE unionists joined a “community rally for health care reform.” In addition to IUE-CWA Local 201, the rally sponsors included Service Employees International Union Local 285, the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Lynn Health Task Force, and Mass Senior Action. The main slogan presented by rally speakers was “Health Care for All...*Not* Health Cuts at GE!”

A flyer for the rally painted a graphic picture of a deteriorating national public health system. It noted that 2.2 million retired people have been thrown out of health maintenance organizations (HMOs). Some 50,000 low-income people in Massachusetts will lose their health coverage April 1, it stated, while 41 million people in the United States have no medical insurance. The World Health Organization now ranks U.S. health care as no. 37 in the world.

More than 200 people took part in the rally. Peggy O’Malley, a member of the Massachusetts Nurses Association, encouraged people to join the fight for universal health care. She thanked the GE workers for the courage and leadership they had shown.

The strikers distributed a leaflet highlighting the situation of retirees at the company. The former workers’ monthly pension after an average 34.5 years of service works out at \$683. Several retirees joined the picket line at the plant gate.

“We may be on strike in June,” said Ric Casilli, Local 201 business agent. The likely issues of dispute in the contract, he said, are job security, health care, and pensions.

At GE’s plant in East Cleveland, Ohio, workers on picket duty cut wood for the burn barrel, brewed coffee in the hastily erected shelter, and marched in front of the plant entrance. Several strikers waved to the operator of a large snow plow blaring his horn in support, like many other drivers in passing vehicles. As in Massachusetts, many workers saw the action as a buildup to a confrontation in June.

Mike Fitzsimmons, a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees Local 168-C in Cleveland, contributed to this article.

Democratic politicians say, ‘reinstate draft’

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Two Congressmen who present themselves as opponents of the Bush administration’s course toward an invasion of Iraq have introduced a bill to reinstate the draft in the United States. They argue that by forcing the offspring of the well-to-do into uniform and “in harm’s way,” the measure would make politicians think twice about going to war. In the same breath they say that the armed forces are in danger of becoming overstretched and need an infusion of personnel.

Charles Rangel of New York and John Conyers of Michigan, both Democratic Party representatives, have introduced leg-

islation that would impose mandatory military or national service on men and women, ages 18 to 26. No exemptions would be allowed for college or graduate students. Rangel said he looked forward to “a patriotic debate” on the proposal.

At a January 7 news conference the two members of the Congressional Black Caucus depicted the proposal as an antiwar measure, consistent with their votes against the Congressional resolution last year that gave President George Bush the authority to press toward an assault on Iraq. “I believe that if those calling for war knew that their children were likely to be required to serve—and to be placed in harm’s way—there would be more caution and greater willingness to work with the international community in dealing with Iraq,” said Rangel.

“As a combat veteran of the Korean conflict,” wrote the congressman in an op-ed piece run in the December 31 *New York Times*, “I believe that if we are going to send our children to war the governing principle must be that of shared sacrifice.” He noted that “a disproportionate number of the poor and members of minority groups make up the enlisted ranks of the military, while the most privileged Americans are underrepresented or absent.”

Rangel did not comment on the reality that the conscript armies in Vietnam and other wars were made up overwhelmingly of working people, as the families of the upper middle class and ruling class found a myriad of ways to avoid the enlistment

of their offspring. This class divide is reflected in 1967 figures showing that 31 percent of eligible whites were inducted into the military, compared with 67 percent of eligible Blacks.

‘Strained military resources’

Joining the issue from another angle, Rangel argued that going to war against Iraq will “severely strain military resources already burdened by a growing number of obligations.” He pointed to the number of U.S. troops in different areas of the world, including the 116,000 in Europe, 90,000 in the Pacific, and thousands more in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo and elsewhere.

“We can expect the evolving war on terrorism to drain our military resources even more,” he stated. “Those who would lead us into war have an obligation to support an all-out mobilization of Americans for the war effort.”

For his part, Conyers—speaking as “one against the war”—questioned whether an all-volunteer army could “sustain the number of military personnel required to police Iraq after the war.”

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, dismissed the proposal at their regular press briefing on January 7. Myers said that the present army is “extremely well-trained and well-led. Any comparison between today’s force and the Vietnam force would be dramatic,” he said. “There is no comparison.”

Military conscription was brought to a halt in 1973 in the closing stages of Washington’s defeat in Vietnam. Terminated three years later, registration for the draft was reintroduced by President James Carter in 1980. After an initial period of widespread refusal to register, it remains in place today.

In 2000 some 1.3 million men and women were on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

Further reading from Pathfinder

in New International no. 7

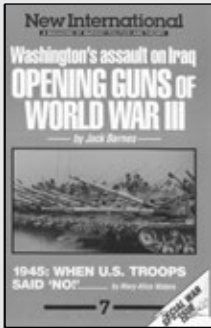
Washington’s Third Militarization Drive

By Mary-Alice Waters

“The political repercussions of the defeat in Vietnam set the framework within which the U.S. rulers had to operate throughout the 1970s. By the end of the decade the need for a new militarization drive was posed with growing urgency. Carter’s announcement of the intention to reinstate draft registration was one of the first shots in this campaign.”

Also contains “The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington’s Assault on Iraq” by Jack Barnes, and other articles. \$12.00

Order from www.pathfinderpress.com. Please include \$3 for shipping and handling. Also available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.



Tens of thousands oppose war drive

Continued from front page

along with several Democratic Party and religious figures.

The most prominent speakers at the event included Democratic politicians Jesse Jackson, Alfred Sharpton, and Rep. John Conyers. Others ranged from actresses Tyne Daly and Jessica Lange to Vietnam War veteran Ron Kovic and Rev. Herbert Daughtry of New York.

The national demonstration was timed partly to commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday. Invoking the name of the slain civil rights leader, some of the speakers as well as many demonstrators sounded a pacifist theme.

Several speakers argued that the impending military assault on Iraq was a "weapon of mass distraction" from social and economic problems in the United States.

"Poverty is soaring while social programs are being diverted for a war and occupation of Iraq," read the leaflet for the march. Some "1.5 million people in New York have to go to food pantries," said Brian Becker, co-director of the Interna-

tional Action Center, who co-chaired the concluding rally at the Navy Yard in Washington. "We want the \$250 billion used for military spending to feed the people."

Patriotic themes

Nearly all the speakers presented President George Bush and the Republican Party as the ones responsible for the drive to war. The leaflet for the march called on "the people of the United States to act now to stop Bush's planned war of aggression."

"President Bush can't wait to launch a war," said Democratic Congressman John Conyers. "There is still time for the president to change his destructive course, which will only lead to an inflamed Middle East and increased terrorism."

Conyers, who has cosponsored legislation to reintroduce military conscription, struck a patriotic note that was repeated by many of the speakers and organizers. The president "will call you unpatriotic, but you are showing your patriotism by being here today," he said, adding, "Only the American citizens can stop this war now."



Militant/Glova Scott

Protesters against U.S. war drive in Mideast march in Washington January 18

Placards carried by many marchers also expressed these themes. "War in Iraq Won't Solve America's Problems," read one sign. "This Patriot Is For Peace," read another. Some participants carried U.S. flags.

"Peace is patriotic, war is nothing but

chaotic," chanted one small contingent.

Former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark told demonstrators that "unlawful detentions [of immigrants] are a major campaign of the Republicans." He offered a slogan, "impeach Bush," that was chanted by thousands at the rally.

The virtually exclusive emphasis on Republican responsibility for the war drive raised questions with some. "The Democrats gave Bush complete authority to put this war in action," said Richard Cho, 26, from New York. The Democratic Party "needs an overhaul," he said.

Youth open to different viewpoints

Thousands of protesters, particularly college and high school students, were attending their first political demonstration and were receptive to hearing different points of view about Washington's course toward war and what to do about it.

Brianna Beeker, who came with six other students from Elmira College in Elmira, New York, said the actions of the U.S. government and the pro-war media coverage brought her to believe the U.S. war moves were wrong. "The negative way they spoke of other peoples, the people in the Middle East, the Palestinians—I did not like that," she said. "And I could see that the U.S. has not been provoked."

"I'm new to this antiwar movement," said Kelly Ryan, a member of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 3800 who works at the University of Minnesota.

She said 10 union members had ridden 25 hours in a caravan of 16 buses to join the march. "Bush hoped that September 11 would be sufficient to rally people against Afghanistan and Iraq. There is no reason for a first strike against Iraq," she said.

One of the political questions reflected at the demonstration was the arrests of immigrants from the Mideast targeted in the immigration police sweeps of the past 16 months.

Rally co-chair Mahdi Bray of the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation

Continued on Page 14

Young protesters open to revolutionary ideas

BY ROMINA GREEN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The demonstration here on January 18 proved to be a good opportunity to discuss a working-class perspective on the unfolding aggression against Iraq and the assaults on workers' rights in the United States. Among the thousands who participated were many young people posing the question of why Washington is driving relentlessly toward war. Many were open to discussing the explanations put forward in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the broader outlook presented in titles published by Pathfinder Press.

Socialist workers and members of the Young Socialists sold books and papers from a large table at the rally near the Washington Monument and from several smaller tables stationed around the park. They reported a day of lively discussions.

Joey Doubek, a high school student in Washington, bought a copy of the *Militant* and told Young Socialists members about a walkout of 150 students the previous week to protest the war. "We walked out of school at 8:00 a.m. and marched to the Metro stop where we protested with signs against the war until 2:00 p.m.," he said.

Rebecca Cornwell, a 19-year-old student at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, said, "This is the second protest and the first big action I have participated in." Cornwell had run into the YS at a meeting on the campus for Cuban revolutionary leader Víctor Dreke, who toured several U.S. cities at the end of last year. She bought the *Militant* on the bus and after reading it remarked, "I really liked the review of the documentary about Emmett Till this week. It really gave me a feel for the power of the civil rights movement and what was going on at the time."

Derrick Thomas, a 22-year-old student and former U.S. soldier, said, "This is my first protest action. Seeing U.S. policy from the inside, I can tell you that there is no reason to go to war with Iraq. There is no threat anywhere in the world to the U.S."

Brian Taylor, a YS member and coal miner who rode on the bus from Alabama, said he talked to a 27-year-old teacher from Brooklyn who bought an armful of Pathfinder titles, including *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*. "She asked if she was young enough to be in the Young Socialists and purchased a *Militant* subscription," said Taylor.

Several *Militant* supporters traveled on buses that came from New York, including one organized by a mosque from the Islamic Council of North America in Jamaica, Queens. "We sold two *Militant* subscriptions on the bus," said Naomi Craine. "I sold one to the women next to me. The article on the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II under the Roosevelt administration sparked her interest.



Militant/Shirley Peña

Sales table at January 18 rally in San Francisco protesting U.S. war. Participants at national actions wanted to discuss reasons for Washington's military drive.

"We had a sign at our table that said 'No to imperialist inspectors, Respect Iraqi sovereignty,' that sparked some of the best discussions on how 'inspectors' help prepare the ground for war. Many were dubious but began agreeing after hearing an explanation," said Craine.

Sales of revolutionary literature at the Washington protest included \$943 worth of Pathfinder books, 270 copies of the *Militant* and 8 *Militant* subscriptions, and 4 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*. Some of the top-selling Pathfinder titles

were *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*; Pathfinder's newest title, *Marianas in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mariana Grajales Women's Platoon in Cuba's Revolutionary War*; and *Capitalism's World Disorder* and *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, both by Jack Barnes.

Sales at the demonstration on the West Coast included 160 copies of the *Militant*, 7 subscriptions to the paper, 1 subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and \$500 worth of Pathfinder titles.

Young Socialists draw protesters interested in revolution

BY ROMINA GREEN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—An open house organized by the Young Socialists following the antiwar action on January 18 attracted 30 people to a discussion on "The Young Socialists and the Fight against Imperialism and its Wars."

YS leader Arrin Hawkins presented introductory remarks. "The Young Socialists is a revolutionary youth organization that takes part in the building of a movement to overthrow capitalism and build a workers and farmers government," she said. "We don't just study working-class history but also take part in struggles today, such as the strike by garment workers taking place in Lykens, Pennsylvania. We link up with youth who want to fight the brutalities of capitalism."

Sarah Katz, a representative of the Róger Calero Defense Committee, spoke about the government's attempts to deport him and the defense campaign being organized in response. The defense committee set up an information table and display at the event.

Chairperson Darryl Sheppard encouraged participants to get involved in building the upcoming speaking tour by two representatives of the Union of Young Communists in Cuba. "This is an opportunity for youth and workers in the U.S.," he said.

YS members and socialist workers distributed a flyer on the event during the day's protest. It included a statement on fighting imperialism and its wars that YS leader Olympia Newton had given at the December congress of the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students, held in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The college students and young workers who attended had come from as far as Kannapolis, North Carolina; northern Vermont; and New York, as well as Washington, D.C.

"I don't agree with the war and I am trying to understand why it is happening. I've heard different opinions and this meeting was different," said Heidi Osgood, 19, a college student in Vermont, who attended

with two friends.

Two students from Japan came. They talked to volunteers staffing a table of revolutionary literature, and described antiwar demonstrations in Saitama, the city in which they are studying.

Hawkins's remarks sparked some discussion and questions—particularly her statement that working people should avoid falling into the trap of the patriotism expressed by the "antiwar" camp of the ruling capitalist class. When the shooting starts, she said, that camp will fall in behind the war using the same appeal to patriotism.

One high school student from St. Paul, Minnesota, asked, "Why wouldn't you say that peace is patriotic?"

"The capitalist rulers try to impose a 'we' as though there is one unified America, and as though working people have similar interest to the bosses," Hawkins replied. "The truth is we don't. The 'we' hides the reality that there is the ruling class and the working class whose interests are counterposed."

Malcolm X speeches are for today's militants

Malcolm X Talks to Young People edited by Steve Clark. 152 pp. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1965, 1970, 1991, 2002. \$15 paperback.

BY SAM MANUEL

Readers of all ages and generations will find the new, expanded edition of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* published by Pathfinder Press an important contribution to their political education. Speaking on a number of different platforms, Malcolm urges young people to “see for yourself and listen for yourself and think for yourself.” If you do that, he says, “you can come to an intelligent decision for yourself.”

The book adds material to Pathfinder's earlier edition of the title, first published in 1965. It includes for the first time the full text of Malcolm's presentation to a debate at Oxford University in December 1964—an event that was televised to an audience of millions by the British Broadcasting Corporation. Also newly incorporated is “Two interviews,” a 1966 *Militant* article by Jack Barnes, who the previous

IN REVIEW

year had helped to conduct the *Young Socialist* interview that is printed here (see excerpts on facing page.)

An expanded collection of photographs provides a graphic presentation of major political events that had an impact on Malcolm's thinking—among them the struggle against white minority rule in southern Africa, the independence struggle in the Congo, the victorious Algerian revolution, the socialist revolution in Cuba, and the heroic fight of the people of Vietnam against U.S. imperialism.

The footnoted references substantially aid in making the time period accessible to readers of all generations. Editor Steve Clark has added a preface that provides a political biography of the revolutionary leader.

Pathfinder launched the new book at the same time as Casa Editora Abril, the publishing house of the Union of Young Communists in Cuba, released *Malcolm X habla a la juventud*, the Spanish-language edition. The two publishers are organizing a combined presentation of the two editions at February's international book fair in Havana.

The Spanish-language book will provide useful insights about U.S. imperialism to workers and youth throughout Latin America who have begun to fight back against the deepening social crisis there—a crisis wrought by the plunder of the continent by the imperialists, who use the mechanism of the unpayable foreign debt to suck out the wealth created by working people. It will also enable them to see the potential for allies in struggle right in the bowels of the U.S. beast, and the need and possibilities of revolutionary change in the United States.

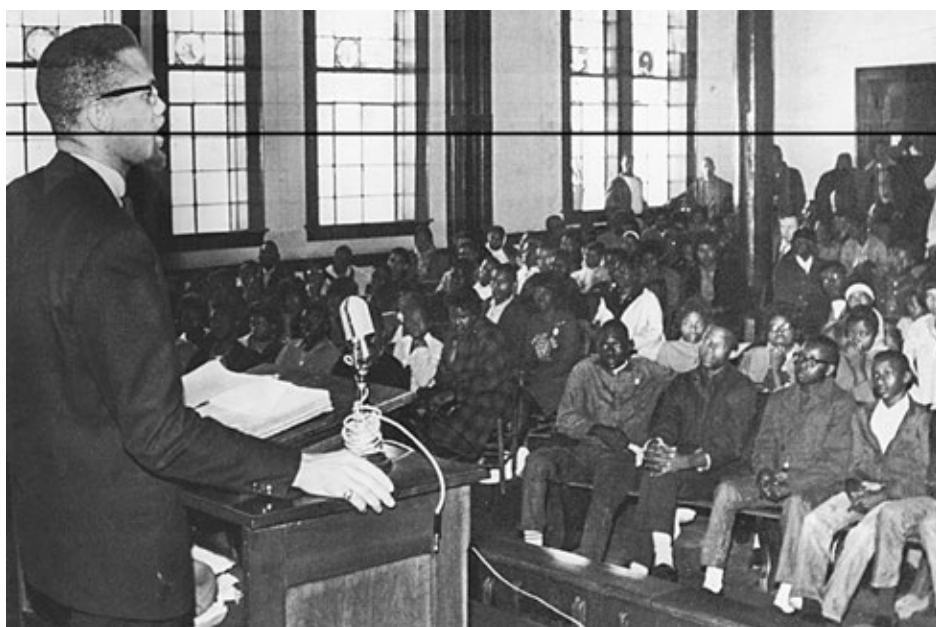
Young people in Latin America are not the only ones who will find *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* to be a valuable political resource. The book is an effective handbook for all those—whatever their age or national origin—who seek to follow Malcolm's example and join in the worldwide fight for revolutionary change.

Confidence in young fighters

In the last years of his political life Malcolm took every opportunity to talk with young fighters in this country and around the world. His confidence in the new generation of young Blacks in the south, raised in the heat of the battle to overthrow Jim Crow segregation—and in young fighters from Vietnam to Algeria—runs through the pages of this book.

When asked if he would take time to meet and talk with a group of young civil rights activists from McComb, Mississippi, he answered that it would be “the greatest honor that I ever had experienced.”

Malcolm met the 37 high school-age youth at the offices of the Organization of Afro-American Unity—the organization he helped to found—in Harlem's Hotel Theresa. They had come to New York City on an eight-day trip sponsored by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). McComb was where the committee had begun its voter registration project



Malcolm X speaks to young civil rights fighters in Selma, Alabama, Feb. 4, 1965. His confidence in the new generation runs through expanded collection of his speeches.

in 1961, which had included Mississippi's first sit-in to desegregate public facilities.

For the voter registration efforts, SNCC mobilized thousands of civil rights activists, many of them college students from the north. During the 1964 effort, known as “Freedom Summer,” racists had targeted McComb, bombing or setting fire to more than 15 churches, homes, and businesses there.

Malcolm looked to young people around the globe to play a leadership role. “It is the teenagers abroad, all over the world, who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation,” he said in the *Young Socialist* interview. “And here in this country, it has been my own observation that when you get into a conversation on racism and discrimination and segregation, you will find young people are more incensed over it—they feel more filled with an urge to eliminate it.”

Like many Blacks in this country, Malcolm began his political activity in the fight against racism. He quickly learned that an effective fight against racism cannot be fought within the confines of the United States. This uncompromising stance inoculated him against any drop of American patriotism.

“I'm not an American,” he told a large crowd at the University of Ghana, who broke into applause. “I didn't go there of my own free choice. If I were an American there would be no problem, there'd be no need for legislation or civil rights or anything else.... I'm one of the victims of Americanism.”

He stressed the unified character of the fight of Blacks in this country against racial oppression and the struggle of the African nations against colonial and imperialist exploitation. Speaking at the London School of Economics in February 1965, Malcolm explained that “from '54 to '64 was the era of an emerging Africa, an independent Africa. And the impact of those independent African nations upon the civil rights struggle in the United States was tremendous.”

Image of Africa

“The American racists know they can rule the African in America, the African-American in America, only as long as we have a negative image of ourselves. So they keep us with a negative image of Africa. And they know that the day that the image of Africa is changed from negative to positive the attitude of twenty-two million Africans in America will also change.”

“In my opinion,” he told the McComb students, “the greatest accomplishment that was made in the struggle of the Black man in America in 1964 was the successful linking together of our problem with the African problem, or making our problem a world problem. Because now, whenever anything happens to you in Mississippi, it's not just a case of just somebody in Alabama getting indignant. With the attention of the African nations drawn toward Mississippi there are repercussions all over the world.

“I wanted to point this out to you, because it is important for you to know that when you're in Mississippi you're not alone,” he said.

In keeping with his thoroughgoing internationalism, Malcolm placed the fight

for Black rights in the United States in the context of the worldwide fight against imperialism from Mississippi to the Congo to Vietnam. In speech after speech he opposed the military aggression of the United States, Belgium, France, and the other imperialist powers, strongly condemning the assassination of Congolese independence leader Patrice Lumumba and the subsequent barbaric assault on the Congo organized by Washington.

Speaking of the imperialist-backed Moise Tshombe to the McComb students, he said, “And here Tshombe is a killer, a murderer—of Patrice Lumumba. They put him over the government in Léopoldville ...saying he's the only one that can restore peace to the Congo. Imagine this, he's a murderer. It's like saying Jesse James is the only one can run the bank.”

“Probably there is no better example of criminal activity against an oppressed people than the role the U.S. has been playing in the Congo,” he said in the *Young Socialist* interview. “You can't overlook the fact that Tshombe gets his money from the U.S. The money to hire mercenaries—these paid killers imported from South Africa—comes from the United States. The pilots that fly these planes have been trained by the U.S. The bombs...come from the U.S.”

Malcolm X was an early opponent of the U.S. war against the people of Vietnam. He saw the fight in Mississippi, in the Congo, and in Vietnam as fronts in the same battle.

In the London School of Economics speech he predicted that the Western powers would be “bogged down in the Congo” the same as in South Vietnam. He explained that “The French were deeply entrenched in Vietnam for a hundred years or so. They had the best weapons of warfare, a highly mechanized army, everything that you would need. And the guerrillas come out of the rice paddies with nothing but sneakers on and a rifle and a bowl of rice.... You know what they did in Dien Bien Phu. They ran the French out of there.”

Among the questions Malcolm addressed with the visiting students was the tactic of nonviolence.

“If they make the Ku Klux Klan non-violent, I'll be nonviolent,” he said. “If they make the White Citizens' Council nonviolent, I'll be nonviolent.... I don't think it's fair to tell our people to be nonviolent unless someone is out there making the Klan and the Citizen's Council and these other groups be nonviolent,” Malcolm said.

“I have never said that Negroes should initiate acts of aggression against whites, but where the government fails to protect the Negro he is entitled to do it himself. He is within his rights,” Malcolm argued pointedly in the Oxford debate. “I have found the only white elements who do not want this advice given to undefensive Blacks are the racist liberals.”

Malcolm also addressed the need for Blacks to break from political allegiance

to the major capitalist parties, including the Democratic Party, which had gained the electoral support of the majority of the Black voting population. Heading into the 1964 elections Blacks in Mississippi who had been excluded from the Democrats' segregated delegate selection process held an alternative integrated delegates' conference. Forming the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), they challenged the “regular” delegates from Mississippi.

As millions watched MFDP leader Fannie Lou Hamer's address to the convention credentials committee on television, President Lyndon Johnson had the press cut away to an “emergency” speech of his own.

In a compromise the MFDP was offered two token seats with no voting rights. Its delegation declined the deal.

The MFDP announced its own candidates for the November elections and conducted a Freedom Election open to all Mississippi residents, registered or not. After the election the MFDP and other civil rights organizations demanded that Congress refuse to seat the winners in the election in Mississippi, from which Black voters had been excluded.

Malcolm supported this demand and insisted that Democratic Party leaders make their stance known publicly before the January 4 Congressional session.

Democrats in NY just as responsible

But, he said to the young civil rights activists, “I must point out that those who are depriving you of your rights in Mississippi aren't all in Mississippi. You got these New York Democrats who are just as much responsible. The mayor of this city is a Democrat. The senator, you've heard of him, Robert Kennedy, he's a Democrat. The president of the country is a Democrat. The vice president is a Democrat. Now don't you tell me anything about a Democrat in Mississippi who is depriving you of your rights, when the power of the Democratic Party is in Washington, D.C., New York, and in Chicago.”

Malcolm X Talks to Young People ends with excerpts from a talk by Barnes on behalf of the Young Socialist Alliance at a memorial meeting organized by the Mili-



March against Washington's war in Vietnam, April 15, 1967. Malcolm X spoke out against U.S. aggression and in solidarity with the Vietnamese revolutionary struggle.

tant Labor Forum in 1965, two weeks after Malcolm's assassination. On several occasions the revolutionary leader had spoken at meetings sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

Barnes spoke for a generation of revolutionaries and many others to come who were shaped by Malcolm's influence. “Our job,” said Barnes, “is to teach the revolutionary youth of this country to tell the difference between the nationalism of the oppressed and the nationalism of the oppressor, to teach them to differentiate the forces of liberation from the forces of the exploiters; to teach them to hear the voices of revolution regardless of the forms they take; to teach them to differentiate between the self-defense of the victim and violence of the aggressor; to teach them to refuse to give an inch to white liberalism and to reach out to Malcolm's heirs, the vanguard of the ghetto, as brothers and comrades.”

Malcolm's ability to do that springs from every page of *Malcolm X Talks To Young People*.

Malcolm X: ‘youth more filled with urge to eliminate oppression’

The following are excerpts from an interview printed in *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* given to Young Socialist Alliance leaders Jack Barnes and Barry Sheppard on January 18, 1965. Malcolm read and approved the final text, which appeared in the March/April 1965 issue of the *Young Socialist*. Copyright © 1965, 1970, 1991, 2002 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings and notes in brackets are by the *Militant*.



Young Socialist: What are the aims of your new organization?

Malcolm X: There are two organizations. There’s the Muslim Mosque, Inc., which is religious. Its aim is to create an atmosphere and facilities in which people who are interested in Islam can get a better understanding of Islam. The aim of the other organization, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, is to use whatever means necessary to bring about a society in which the twenty-two million Afro-Americans are recognized and respected as human beings.

Young Socialist: How do you define Black nationalism, with which you have been identified?

Malcolm X: I used to define Black nationalism as the idea that the Black man should control the economy of his community, the politics of his community, and so forth.

But when I was in Africa in May, in Ghana, I was speaking with the Algerian ambassador who is extremely militant and is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word (and has his credentials as such for having carried on a successful revolution against oppression in his country). When I told him that my political, social, and economic philosophy was Black nationalism, he asked me very frankly: Well, where did that leave him? Because he was white. He was an African, but he was Algerian, and to all appearances, he was a white man. And he said if I define my objective as the victory of Black nationalism, where does that leave him? Where does that leave revolutionaries in Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania? So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary.

So I had to do a lot of thinking and re-appraising of my definition of Black nationalism. Can we sum up the solution to the problems confronting our people as Black nationalism? And if you notice, I haven’t been using the expression for several months. But I still would be hard pressed to give a specific definition of the overall philosophy which I think is necessary for the liberation of the Black people in this country....

Impact of revolutionary Africa

Young Socialist: What were the highlights of your trip to Africa?

Malcolm X: I visited Egypt, Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar (now Tanzania), Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea, and Algeria. During that trip I had audiences with President Nasser of Egypt, President Nyerere of Tanzania, President Jomo Kenyatta (who was then prime minister) of Kenya, Prime Minister Milton Obote of Uganda, President Azikiwe of Nigeria, President Nkrumah of Ghana, and President Sékou Touré of Guinea. I think the highlights were the audiences I had with those persons because it gave me a chance to sample their thinking. I was impressed by their analysis of the problem, and many of the suggestions they gave went a long way toward broadening my own outlook.

Young Socialist: How much influence does revolutionary Africa have on the thinking of Black people in this country?

Malcolm X: All the influence in the world. You can’t separate the militancy that’s displayed on the African continent from the militancy that’s displayed right here among American Blacks. The posi-

tive image that is developing of Africans is also developing in the minds of Black Americans, and consequently they develop a more positive image of themselves. Then they take more positive steps—actions.

So you can’t separate the African revolution from the mood of the Black man in America. Neither could the colonization of Africa be separated from the menial position that the Black man in this country was satisfied to stay in for so long. Since Africa has gotten its independence through revolution, you’ll notice the stepped-up cry against discrimination that has appeared in the Black community.

Young Socialist: How do you view the role of the U.S. in the Congo?

Malcolm X: As criminal. Probably there is no better example of criminal activity against an oppressed people than the role the U.S. has been playing in the Congo, through her ties with Tshombe and the mercenaries. You can’t overlook the fact that Tshombe gets his money from the U.S. The money he uses to hire these mercenaries—these paid killers imported from South Africa—comes from the United States. The pilots that fly these planes have been trained by the U.S. The bombs themselves that are blowing apart the bodies of women and children come from the U.S. So I can only view the role of the United States in the Congo as a criminal role. And I think the seeds she is sowing in the Congo she will have to harvest. The chickens that she has turned loose over there have got to come home to roost.

Young Socialist: What about the U.S. role in South Vietnam?

Malcolm X: The same thing. It shows the real ignorance of those who control the American power structure. If France, with all types of heavy arms, as deeply entrenched as she was in what then was called Indochina, couldn’t stay there, I don’t see how anybody in their right mind can think the U.S. can get in there—it’s impossible. So it shows her ignorance, her blindness, her lack of foresight and hindsight; and her complete defeat in South Vietnam is only a matter of time....

Youth open to revolutionary politics

Young Socialist: In a recent speech you mentioned that you met John Lewis of SNCC [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee] in Africa.¹ Do you feel that the younger and more militant leaders in the South are broadening their views on the whole general struggle?

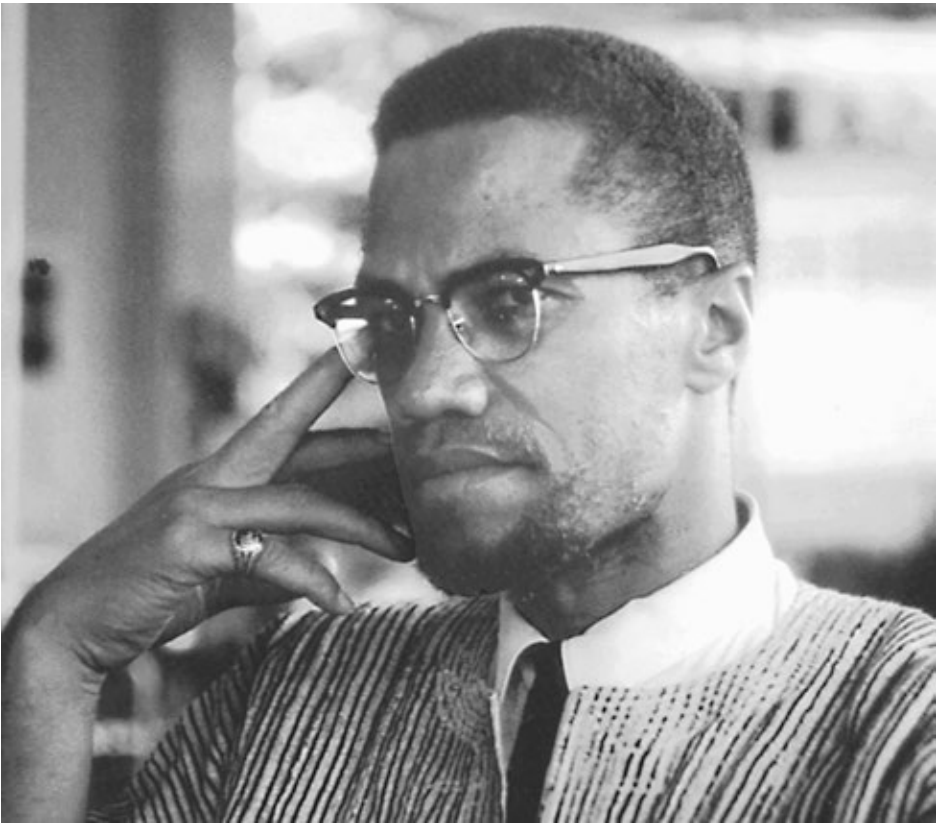
Malcolm X: Sure. When I was in the Black Muslim movement I spoke on many white campuses and Black campuses. I knew back in 1961 and ’62 that the younger generation was much different from the older, and that many students were more sincere in their analysis of the problem and their desire to see the problem solved. In foreign countries the students have helped bring about revolution—it was the students who brought about the revolution in the Sudan, who swept Syngman Rhee out of office in Korea, swept Menderes out in Turkey. The students didn’t think in terms of the odds against them, and they couldn’t be bought out.

In America students have been noted for involving themselves in panty raids, goldfish swallowing, seeing how many can get in a telephone booth—not for their revolutionary political ideas or their desire to change unjust conditions. But some stu-

¹ Malcolm X spoke of his meeting with John Lewis at a January 7, 1965, meeting of the Militant Labor Forum. See *Malcolm X Speaks*, p. 209. Some comments by Lewis and another SNCC leader on the impact in Africa of Malcolm X’s trip there can be found in *Malcolm X Speaks*, p. 85.

² In the 1964 presidential election, the Republican candidate Barry Goldwater, who had made open appeals to racist and extreme anti-communist sentiment, was defeated by the Democratic candidate, Johnson.

³ The Dixiecrats were the openly segregationist and racist wing of the Democratic Party dominant at the time in most of the U.S. South.



Malcolm X in May 17, 1964, at the completion of trip to Ghana.

dents are becoming more like their brothers around the world. However, the students have been deceived somewhat in what’s known as the civil rights struggle (which was never designed to solve the problem). The students were maneuvered in the direction of thinking the problem was already analyzed, so they didn’t try to analyze it for themselves.

In my thinking, if the students in this country forgot the analysis that has been presented to them, and they went into a huddle and began to research this problem of racism for themselves, independent of politicians and independent of all the foundations (which are a part of the power structure), and did it themselves, then some of their findings would be shocking, but they would see that they would never be able to bring about a solution to racism in their country as long as they’re relying on the government to do it.

The federal government itself is just as racist as the government in Mississippi, and is more guilty of perpetuating the racist system. At the federal level they are more shrewd, more skillful at doing it, just like the FBI is more skillful than the state police and the state police are more skillful than the local police.

The same with politicians. The politician at the federal level is usually more skilled than the politician at the local level, and when he wants to practice racism, he’s more skilled in the practice of it than those who practice it at the local level.

Young Socialist: What is your opinion of the Democratic Party?

Malcolm X: The Democratic Party is responsible for the racism that exists in this country, along with the Republican Party. The leading racists in this country are Democrats. Goldwater isn’t the leading racist—he’s a racist but not the leading racist.² The racists who have influence in Washington, D.C., are Democrats. If you check, whenever any kind of legislation is suggested to mitigate the injustices that

Negroes suffer in this country, you will find that the people who line up against it are members of Lyndon B. Johnson’s party. The Dixiecrats are Democrats. The Dixiecrats are only a subdivision of the Democratic Party, and the same man over the Democrats is over the Dixiecrats....³

Young people identify with the struggle

Young Socialist: What part in the world revolution are youth playing, and what lessons may this have for American youth?

Malcolm X: If you’ve studied the captives being caught by the American soldiers in South Vietnam, you’ll find that these guerrillas are young people. Some of them are just children and some haven’t yet reached their teens. Most are teenagers. It is the teenagers abroad, all over the world, who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. In the Congo, the refugees point out that many of the Congolese revolutionaries are children. In fact, when they shoot captive revolutionaries, they shoot all the way down to seven years old—that’s been reported in the press. Because the revolutionaries are children, young people. In these countries the young people are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the evil conditions that exist. And here in this country, it has been my own observation that when you get into a conversation on racism and discrimination and segregation, you will find young people are more incensed over it—they feel more filled with an urge to eliminate it.

I think young people here can find a powerful example in the young simbas [lions] in the Congo and the young fighters in South Vietnam.

Another point: as the dark-skinned nations of this earth become independent, as they develop and become stronger, that means that time is on the side of the American Negro. At this point the American Ne-

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New, expanded edition

Malcolm X Talks to Young People

“All over the world, it is young people who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. They are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the conditions that exist.”

—Malcolm X, January 1965

This new expanded edition includes four talks given to young people in Ghana, the United Kingdom, and the United States in 1964 and 1965; a 1965 interview with the *Young Socialist* magazine; and an enlarged display of photographs. It concludes with two memorial tributes by a young socialist leader to Malcolm X. The new English-language edition is being released with the Spanish-language edition, *Malcolm habla a la juventud*. \$15



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12; or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Tel: (212) 741-0690; or visit www.pathfinderpress.com.

Detroit Muslim leader fights deportation

BY PETER THIERJUNG

ANNARBOR, Michigan—More than a year after his arrest by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Rabih Haddad remains in prison on a minor immigration violation.

On November 22 immigration judge Robert Newberry ruled against Haddad's application for political asylum, filed last October. The decision gave approval to the government's moves to deport the Muslim community leader and his family. Like hundreds of others detained on suspicion of "terrorism" in the aftermath of attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001, Haddad has been held by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) on an immigration technicality. No criminal charges have been filed against the Lebanese-born man. "The government's case [against me] is built on perception and manipulation rather than facts and evidence," he wrote in a 12-page open letter following hearings last October and November that led to the deportation order.

In the document Haddad answers in detail the ruling by Newberry, who accepted the claims of government attorneys that the Muslim cleric is associated with "terrorism" and is a threat to U.S. national security.

Prior to his arrest on Dec. 14, 2001, Haddad was a leader of the Islamic Center of Ann Arbor and a teacher of high school students at the Michigan Islamic Academy. He was also a founder of the Global Relief Foundation (GRF), an Islamic charity that provided relief and education aid to people in 22 countries, including Chechnya, Albania, Jordan, and Iraq, as well as to Palestinians in the occupied territories.

At the hearings, Haddad said that the pro-Washington Lebanese government would persecute him for his alleged connections with terrorism. "I fear torture,

imprisonment, and even death," he said.

"The newspapers there were claiming that my brother was a terrorist," Mazen Haddad reported of his two visits to Lebanon over the past year.

Global Relief Foundation

Government attorneys presented Haddad as a terrorist because of his involvement with the foundation, classified by the U.S. Justice Department as "terrorist" a week before the asylum hearing. Government officials have presented no evidence to substantiate the charge other than to say that the foundation once received calls from Wadhi el-Hage, who is currently serving a life sentence in connection with the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

"The government alleges that el-Hage made a call to GRF in the U.S. and a few to the GRF in Belgium, which the GRF never denied and explained that the calls were made in connection with a relief project el-Hage was trying to get funding for," Haddad wrote. "GRF denied the request and that was the end of that."

U.S. attorneys asked Haddad about trips he made to Pakistan in the 1980s, implying that he had made contacts with future al-Qaeda members. Haddad denied the charge, explaining that it is based on the testimony of a "totally discredited self-proclaimed terrorist expert."

In an attempt to present more solid evidence, the government introduced photographs of "sophisticated communication equipment" which allegedly belonged to the charity.

Haddad wrote that the equipment was from a warehouse that foundation members had "used to temporarily store some relief items." The judge said that Haddad's affidavit to that effect was of "dubious va-

New York cemetery workers launch strike



Members of Teamsters Local 282 picket during strike against St. Raymond Cemetery in the Bronx. The cemetery is owned and operated by the Archdiocese of New York. The 38 gravediggers walked out January 15 to demand an increase in pensions and wage parity with other cemetery workers. "The church is not bargaining in good faith," said striker Jimmy Donlin.

lidity." He then quoted government statements that the radios were the same as those used by an antigovernment group in Egypt. "Well, what if the Unibomber drove a Dodge Caravan like the one GRF owned?" asked Haddad in his letter. "Would that make us his accomplices?"

In his ruling against asylum, Judge Newberry said that "a plethora of public evidence circumstantially links [Haddad] to terrorist elements."

At the end of December 2002, Haddad and his attorneys filed an appeal with the Federal Board of Immigration Appeals challenging the deportation order and denial of political asylum.

Four months earlier, he and his supporters had won an important victory when the American Civil Liberties Union, several Detroit-area newspapers, and U.S. Representative John Conyers successfully sued the government to open his hearings to the public. Prior to the victory, Haddad had been through three closed immigration hearings.

The Free Rabih Haddad Committee has won the support of many individuals and organizations. Thousands have signed petitions supporting the demand for his release. Meetings, rallies, and protests involving hundreds have been held in Chicago, Detroit, and Ann Arbor. On the one-year anniversary of his imprisonment, more than 150 people protested outside the federal building here, chanting, "Where is Rabih? Where is justice?"

Fighting for Haddad's freedom is not just about one person, Asad Tavsin, a leader of the defense committee and the Muslim Community Association told the crowd.

Salma Al-Ruhsaid, Haddad's wife, has challenged the frame-up in the media and before Congressional hearings. The Ann

Continued on Page 15

Court backs gov't attack on Islamic charity

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled December 31, 2002, that the government has the legal authority to freeze the assets of the Global Relief Foundation, an Islamic charity with its offices in the Chicago area.

The foundation's offices were raided by FBI, U.S. Treasury, and CIA agents on December 14, 2001, the same day Rabih Haddad was arrested in Ann Arbor, Michigan (see accompanying article.) Haddad was a co-founder of the charity, which has raised some \$20 million over the last ten years for relief aid for people in 22 countries.

The U.S. Treasury Department seized the property of the foundation and froze its assets under provisions of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, claiming "reasonable" cause to believe the foundation was "funding terrorism."

The government has presented no evidence to substantiate the allegations. At first it admitted that it did not have enough proof to add the foundation to its blacklist of organizations that it claims are directly linked to funding terrorism. In October 2002, however—six days prior to hearings on Rabih Haddad's petition for political asylum—the government added the foundation to its list of proscribed organizations. Haddad's supporters believe that the decision was intended to prejudice Haddad's political asylum application.

In appealing the government's freezing of assets, the foundation's lawyers challenged the Treasury Department's designation of the foundation, saying it has never broken any laws or supported terrorism.

Asserting "due process" rights under the U.S. constitution, they have asked to see government evidence, "secret" or otherwise, backing up its allegations of connec-

tions with terrorism. They also asserted their right to confront the foundation's accusers and cross-examine witnesses.

Siding with a lower court's ruling upholding the government's asset freeze, the court ruled that the appeal was premature because the government investigation is ongoing. The judges said that the foundation "does not have any grievance, any more than a cocaine ring has the right to recover the value of the illegal drugs or a thief a right to be paid the value of confiscated burglar tools."

Roger Simmons, an attorney for the Global Relief Foundation, has said that he will appeal the ruling.

Families demand truth about New Year's killings by N.Y. cops

BY ARRIN HAWKINS AND CANDACE WAGNER

NEW YORK—Family members of Allen Newsome and Anthony Reid held a press conference January 4 to demand the truth about the killing of the two young men by New York cops.

The 21-year-old Reid was shot in the back on January 1 and died shortly later. The police claimed that he was firing at them over his back. Newsome was killed in a police ambush involving a cop dressed up as a pizza delivery man. When the 17-year-old pulled out a pellet gun, the cop's partner shot him three times.

Jeanette Perry, a social worker who lives near the site, told the *Militant* that she supports the call for full disclosures. "The police are all over the place," she said. "They will always justify it, and then get a few 'dirty cops' and say 'we cleaned it up.'"

"He was just a 17-year-old kid. Even if he had a real gun, why shoot him?" asked Ethna, a student at City College. "It is not justified. Every time they have to shoot. Where is the justice?"

New York police killed two others in the same period. Earlier on New Year's Day Jamal Nixon, 19, was shot twice in the back in Brownsville, Brooklyn. Along with other neighbors, he had been celebrating the

holiday by shooting in the air. When he refused a police order to drop his gun, he was shot and killed.

On January 2 the police chased down John LaGattua, accusing him of driving a stolen vehicle. One cop broke out a side window of the car with his gun. Police said the gun discharged accidentally, killing LaGattua.

Police commissioner Ray Kelly said January 4 that he accepted the explanation. The other three homicides were also justified, he said.

On January 15 70 people gathered at a Brooklyn school to mark the one year anniversary of the police killing of Georgy Louisgene. The 23-year-old Haitian immigrant was shot by two police officers who claimed that he had charged them with a knife and a stick.

The memorial was organized by the Haitian Coalition for Justice. Members of the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights also participated, along with Parents against Police Brutality. The evening began with a showing of "Justifiable Homicide," a documentary about the 1995 police killing of Hilton Vega and Anthony Rosario.

Candace Wagner is a garment worker in Queens, New York.

Contribute to the Books for Cuba Fund

The *Militant* is appealing for contributions to the Books for Cuba Fund. This fund makes it possible to respond to requests by Cuban libraries, schools, and other institutions for titles published by Pathfinder. It also means they can be sold at affordable prices to Cubans at events like the Havana International Book Fair.

As in previous years, Pathfinder will have a booth at this year's fair, which will run from January 30 to February 9 in Havana and from there will go to other cities. During past fairs, librarians, students, workers, soldiers, and others have made requests for Pathfinder titles. In response, the publisher has made a number of donations to libraries and other cultural institutions.

On the final day Pathfinder will make every title in its booth available in Cuban pesos. Many people who have visited the booth eagerly await the opportunity to read books on the international class struggle, U.S. politics, the fight for women's liberation, and other questions.

This year Pathfinder will organize special presentations on several new



Militant/Daniel Ahl
Pathfinder booth at 2002 Havana book fair drew stream of visitors.

titles at the fair. They are: *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*; *Marianas in Combat: Teté Puebla and the Mariana Grajales Women's Platoon in Cuba's Revolutionary War, 1956-58*; and *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen from Cuba* by Tomás Diez Acosta.

To contribute, please send checks or money orders made out to the *Militant* and earmarked "Books for Cuba Fund" to the *Militant*, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014.

Somalis in Seattle win court ruling against deportation

Continued from front page
some of those deported lived most of their lives in the U.S. and have no relatives in Somalia or any other ties to the country.

The Seattle case began last November in defense of the four men and Ahmed Noor Yusuf, all of whom were in jail. Ahmed Noor Yusuf has since been released while the others remain behind bars. The INS has used convictions on drug, drunk-driving, and assault charges against three of them, while the two others are being held for alleged immigration law violations.

Lawyers for the four contended that deportation to a country that did not accept the deportees was illegal. Justice Department attorney Greg Mack countered, "It's not about what happens on the other end. If someone got on the plane and the door was sealed, acceptance has occurred."

"What we are talking about are people who do not have the legal right to be in the U.S.," said INS official William Strassberger.

According to a press release from the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington, the judge "found the INS' interpretation of acceptance 'is...incredible.'" The statement reported that Judge Pechman "was very concerned that the INS could provide no record that previous Somali deportees had even reached their destination, almost 'as if they ('ve) fallen into a black hole.'"

The judge said that part of the reason she included all Somalis in the United

States in her ruling was the government's treatment of those they had jailed. The INS withholds information about the detainees, including their names. "The numbers... appear to change and individuals have been transferred out of districts" where they have cases pending, she said. "How can they develop a relationship with counsel if they are moving? Depending on charity and pro bono organizations to work around the country is not access to the court."

Pechman rejected Justice Department lawyer Mack's justification of the deportations as part of the so-called "war on terror." Mack had stated, "As to [al-Qaeda's] presence in Somalia, those assessments are ongoing...where [Attorney General John Ashcroft] has the sense that there is a potential threat from a country, he has to have the option of removal."

The judge rejected that argument, stating that there had been no evidence provided showing that al-Qaeda was in Somalia or that there was any connection between the Somalis and terrorism.

Mahamed Accord, president of Somali Society Services, said that he was happy with the court decision. "But this is the tip of the iceberg," he said, "A lot of the INS decisions are being done behind closed doors. They hold people for eight months and violate their own laws. They need to be held accountable." Accord said that he is "thankful for the support of the Ameri-

Maine rally defends Somali residents



Many and One Coalition
Above, 4,000 people joined a January 11 protest in Lewiston, Maine, to defend Somali residents against a racist rally calling for their deportation. Participants also condemned statements by the mayor, who had called on Somali community leaders to discourage further immigration. The march was organized by the Many and One Coalition. Some 1,200 Somalis live in the area. At left, three students at the march, among the many high school and college age youth there.

New Jersey detainees launch jail protest

BY MICHAEL ITALIE
"We demand that we be released at once. We are accused of no crimes," said six men at the Passaic County Jail in Paterson, New Jersey, as they launched a hunger strike to protest their continued imprisonment by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Farouk Abdel-Muhti, Saleh Hamza, Ali Akhbar, Cacko Kirob, and Mohammed Seif initiated the protest action on January 14. They have been held in jail for up to 13 months with no charges. From Palestine, Lebanon, Pakistan, Mali, and Egypt respectively, they were all among the hundreds of people who were picked up in the post-September 11 police sweeps.

Their statement also called for "the release of all detainees who are accused of no crimes, and of all detainees who have already served their terms." The men demanded ventilation in their cells, improvements in food and medical care, and the resumption of Friday Islamic service—halted one month earlier by prison authorities.

Following meetings with INS officials, several of the strikers reportedly accepted offers of transfers to another jail in Hudson County, New Jersey. Farouk Abdel-Muhti turned down the transfer, however, saying that he will sustain his strike until he is released.

ever to get through the system."

The hunger strike is at least the third protest action by prisoners in New Jersey jails in the last year and a half. Last October almost 80 inmates released a statement pro-

can public. We have a lot of support. We can't do it alone."

Pramila Jayapal, Executive Director of the Hate Free Zone Campaign of Washington, said the ruling pointed to the need to stop the Department of Justice from un-

dermining civil liberties.

Nancy Johnson, the administration and grants manager of the organization, explained that it was formed soon after Sept. 11, 2001, to defend immigrants facing racist attacks and government denial of their rights. Since then the group has helped defend people from many different immigrant groups, including Somali grocers and money transfer business owners in Seattle who had their businesses raided and emptied out by customs agents in November 2001; airport workers discriminated against by the federal government; and other immigrants who have reported racist attacks or discrimination in housing, employment, and elsewhere.

Washington expands registration list

BY MICHAEL ITALIE
The U.S. government's expansion of the list of countries covered by its immigration registration requirements has met with protests from several governments. Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Marty Natalegawa said, "We find it difficult to comprehend, and we deeply regret the decision as it is discriminatory.... And unacceptable." The Indonesian government has advised citizens not to travel to the United States.

Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, and Kuwait were added to the list, along with Indonesia, the world's most populous majority-Muslim country, in a January 16 announcement by U.S. attorney general John Ashcroft. The move raised to 25 the number of countries whose male citizens 16 years of age and older are required to register at Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) offices, where they are to be fingerprinted, photographed, and interrogated. Washington set a March 28 deadline for the registration of individuals from the five additional countries.

citizens was an affront to the country's "credentials as a moderate, Muslim democracy."

Meanwhile, the INS has extended the registration deadline for citizens of a number of countries until February 7. Acknowledging that significant numbers have been "frightened away" by the process, an official said, "Many people may have misunderstood or been misinformed" about the penalties for not registering.

Justice Department officials claim the program has "stopped and identified terrorists." Of the 1,169 men who were jailed while complying with the registration order, 164 remain behind bars, almost all for immigration violations.

Commenting on the January 16 announcement, an INS representative said that by 2005 all immigrants will be incorporated. "Eventually, everyone will have to comply," he said.

The Palestinian fighter, who is 55, has been imprisoned without charges since April 2002. Having lived in the United States since the 1970s, he is active in the Palestinian Education Committee and the Palestine Aid Society. Before his arrest he hosted a regular program on the WBAI community radio station in New York on the struggle of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

David Wilson, of the Committee for the Release of Farouk Abdel-Muhti, sent a letter January 16 urging the INS to immediately set Farouk free. The INS has threatened to deport Abdel-Muhti and turn him over to the Israeli secret police.

After meeting with the hunger strikers on January 15, Deputy Warden Brian Bendl claimed that prison authorities had "done more for the Muslim inmates than any previous administration." In answer to complaints about the long periods of detention, he said, "Some immigration cases take for-

FROM PATHFINDER

Cuba and the Coming American Revolution

By Jack Barnes

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Los Angeles meeting backs Calero fight

Continued from front page

tor of the Central American Resource Center where the event was held, co-chaired. “Stopping Róger’s deportation is a way to contribute to stopping the INS policy,” she said in introducing the meeting. “This policy is not new. We’re just seeing an escalation of what was happening already.”

An injury to one an injury to all

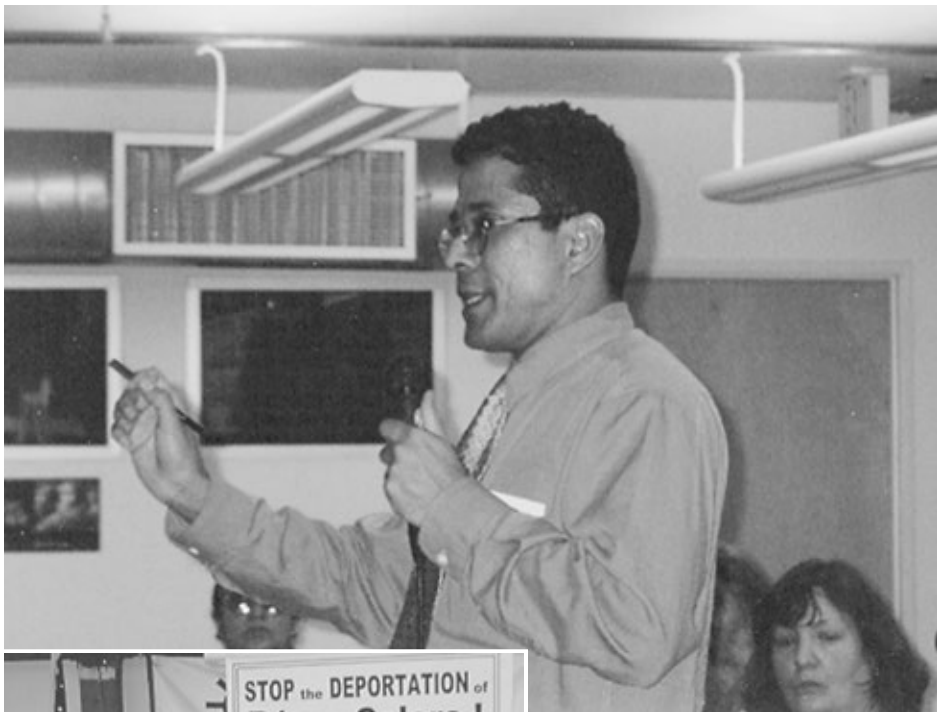
“As we defend freedom of the press and other important rights,” Sanbrano said, “it’s important that we send a message that an injury to one is an injury to all. All of us and our movements must come together to defend Róger.”

Several Salvadoran and Nicaraguan-born workers came to the meeting after reading about Calero’s fight and the meeting that same day in *La Opinión*, the Spanish-language daily published in Los Angeles (see below.)

Among the young people present were students from California State University in Los Angeles. Some had met Calero in Guadalajara, Mexico, during his November–December reporting trip. They had gone there for the congress of OCLAE—the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students.

The meeting included members of Róger Calero’s family, friends he’d grown up with during his 10 years living in Los Angeles, and Carlos Ugalde, one of his teachers when he was studying at Glendale Community College. Ugalde joined others on the speakers platform.

Another panelist was Norma Martínez, the Argentine-born mother of Gonzalo Martínez, who was shot and killed by Downey police in February 2002. Martínez and her family have organized protests over the last year against the murder of her son and plan another on February 15. “We have a saying,” Martínez said: “*La migra, la policía, la misma porquería*,” (“the INS, the



Militant
Above, Calero speaks to participants at January 15 meeting in Los Angeles during tour of West Coast. Left, panel of speakers at the event. “There are no guarantees but one,” said Calero, “and that is that we will put up a fight to show them that we will join together with all those who agree to fight to protect workers’ rights. That kind of fight will encourage others to stand up, too. And a victory will show that we can win.”

speaking out,” Lombardo said.

In his extended remarks, Calero began by thanking the resource center and “all of you who have embraced this fight,” said Calero. “Without your letters of protest to the INS I would not be here tonight.”

“What is happening to me is happening to thousands of others who live and work in this country,” he said. “Every victory will reinforce the fights of others like me.”

police, the same filth”). I support Róger and anything he needs we’re here for him,” she added.

Hamid Khan, a leader of the South Asian Network, and immigration attorney Pasquale Lombardo were also panelists. “I’m here to support Róger because he is

Students exchange views on issues in Calero fight

BY NAN BAILEY

On January 14 Róger Calero, who visited California as part of a speaking tour to win support for his fight against deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, spoke to 25 students at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College. The students in the Ethnic American Studies class responded with questions for Calero and an exchange of views among themselves.

After one told Calero, “It seems like you’re only fighting for Latinos, not Blacks,” another replied, “We all need to get past the belief that immigrants are just Latinos. Immigrants are Haitians, Nigerians, Somalis—a lot of Black people. So we shouldn’t think we’re not included.”

“I know what you’re talking about,” a student told Calero, referring to the immigration authorities’ use of an old conviction on a minor drug charge as the basis for their moves to deport him. “My son got into trouble when he was 16 years old. He served his time and they said it would be taken off his record. That was a while back. Do you know every time something happens they come up with that again? They didn’t take it off his record at all.”

“I don’t get it,” said another student. “If they already waived the conviction, why are they still hassling you?”

“That’s my point,” said Calero. “They shouldn’t be. It’s just one of many abuses by the INS against working people. Supporting my fight against deportation will help push back these kinds of injustices.”

Another student asked, “Are you afraid of being deported? I mean, how will you feel if you are?” Calero responded, “I’ve lived here most of my life and I’m fighting to stay. But wherever I am I will continue doing what I’m doing now. One thing we can’t show is fear. They want to see that. The whole purpose of these things is to intimidate us. By fighting we can make them pay and that in itself is a gain,” Calero said.

Spanish-language daily interviews Calero

The following article appeared in the January 15 edition of *La Opinión*, the Spanish-language daily in Los Angeles. It was entitled, “**Latino journalist fights deportation: Róger Calero, associate editor of the magazine *Perspectiva Mundial*, visits several cities around the United States to gain support.**” The translation is by the *Militant*.

BY VICTORIA INFANTE

In 1988, when he was in high school, Róger Calero sold an ounce of marijuana to an undercover police officer. Arrested and taken to court, he pleaded guilty and agreed to pay a \$50 fine. The judge gave him three years of probation.

That brought that episode of Calero’s life to an end—or so he thought. However, many years later he would realize that wasn’t so.

On December 3, while returning from a work-related trip, Calero was arrested at the Houston airport. The immigration authorities told him that he had committed a crime 15 years earlier and would be deported to his native country, Nicaragua.

In prison Calero wrote to the editor at the magazine where he worked as coeditor, a Spanish-language publication of a socialist stance edited in New York and distributed in several countries. His case was reported in the following issue and the response was swift.

“Letters of support from all over began to arrive for the director of the Houston immigration center. That was why they let me out,” said Calero, who attributes his release on parole 10 days after his arrest—without having to pay bail—to the pressure applied by human rights groups and other organizations.

Calero obtained his residency in 1990. At the time he explained in his application about his teenage conviction. It wasn’t a problem when he renewed the residency in 2000, either; in fact, he traveled several times to other countries.

Nevertheless, a 1996 law, establishing that any immigrant who has been convicted

of a crime has no right to legal residency and other benefits, changed Calero’s life.

He believes that the immigration authorities have wrongly interpreted this provision.

“The law doesn’t say if there is a cutoff date for cases like mine, and because of that the INS [Immigration and Naturalization Service] has done whatever it’s wanted to with this,” the journalist said.

Francisco Arcaute, spokesman for the Los Angeles INS office, explained that the law was approved in 1996 after it was discovered that many immigrants with criminal records had been able to obtain their residency through amnesty and other programs. “Now more investigation is being done than before,” Arcaute said.

That is precisely why Calero wasn’t arrested before now. Following the September 11 attacks, the agency improved its sys-

tem and has access to local and state court files.

Before presenting himself to an immigration judge on March 25, Calero is visiting several cities around the country to make

his case known and to obtain the support of activists and community groups. He believes that this effort to spread the word and a good defense can save him from deportation.

Calero will speak about his situation today at 6:30 p.m. at the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN), located at 2845 W. 7th Street. Telephone (323) 841-3255.

Alongside a number of others who have been imprisoned without charges and threatened with deportation, Abdel-Muhti has begun a hunger strike to demand his release. (See story page 9.)

“There are no guarantees but one,” Calero said, “and that is that we will put up a fight to show them that we will join together with all those who agree to fight to protect workers’ rights. That kind of fight will encourage others to stand up, too. And a victory will show that we can win.”

“Everything you’re talking about, I’ve lived it,” a 53-year old man—like Calero, a native of Nicaragua—said in the discussion period. He told of being imprisoned in California for 100 days in 1986. As he was being transferred to Texas, where he was held behind bars for another one-and-a-half years, he said, “I remember thinking that if the plane went down, at least I would take the INS agent with me.”

“They treated all of us like dogs,” he said, “especially the Black prisoners.” He was released from prison as part of a government amnesty. “I am here to say to my compatriot, Róger, that I understand,” he said. “If we committed a crime and paid for it, we shouldn’t have to pay twice.”

A collection at the meeting raised \$900. With the \$700 in donations by individuals in Los Angeles, this makes \$1,600 raised there toward the \$50,000 fund drive launched by the defense committee.

The report in *La Opinión* was a high point of the considerable media interest that Calero’s visit to Los Angeles generated. One woman called him after reading the interview to tell him that her son was being held in the same Houston jail in which Calero had been held for ten days.

Calero was interviewed by Spanish-language AM radio station KNX. Several other stations, the *CentroAmerica Weekly* newspaper, and EFE, the news agency from Spain, all covered the January 15 meeting.

La Opinión
www.laopinion.com

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Róger Calero defense campaign tour

The Róger Calero Defense Committee has launched a speaking tour for Calero in cities around the country to broaden the fight to stop his deportation by the INS. Below is the schedule for the next stops in the tour. Requests for additional tour dates can be made to the committee.

Miami Jan. 22–23

Houston Jan. 24–27

N.Y./New Jersey Jan. 28–Feb. 2

Seattle Feb. 20–22

Colorado Feb. 23–25

For more information or to send a contribution, contact the Róger Calero Defense Committee; Box 761, Church St. Station, New York, NY 10007; tel/fax: (212) 563-0585; e-mail: calerodefense@yahoo.com



Workers put stamp on Calero meeting in San Francisco

BY BILL KALMAN

SAN FRANCISCO—Workers involved in struggles for immigrant rights helped put a militant stamp on the San Francisco public meeting organized to support the fight by Róger Calero against Immigration and Naturalization Service attempts to deport him. The meeting was held at New College in the city's Mission district, where the college director kicked off the event by welcoming the 60 participants.

"We are working here, and we have the right to be here!" said Eduardo Palomo, one of the featured speakers of the evening. Palomo is an organizer for a day laborers program in the city. He described these workers' fight for protection on the job, and against cop harassment and threats of deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). "We support Róger in his fight," he said.

Defense campaign wins support at SF antiwar protest

BY BILL KALMAN

SAN FRANCISCO—An information table staffed by Róger Calero and supporters of his fight against deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) attracted attention at the large antiwar demonstration held here January 18.

"You guys are doing some real education here today," said Lynette Gomes to volunteers staffing the table. After a discussion of the place of the fight against harassment of immigrant workers in building the unions, she said that she had "blamed the wrong people" for being unable to find work.

Many were drawn by the bilingual signs on the table demanding "Stop the deportation of Roger Calero!" along with a display that featured background on the case. Calero and his supporters distributed several hundred brochures and fact sheets in English and Spanish to protesters, while more than 200 signed a petition calling on the INS to stop its "removal" proceedings against him.. A worker from Yemen took several brochures on Calero's case to distribute at his mosque.

A number of people had already heard of the case, either from reading about it on various web sites or from the media coverage.

Solidarity with hunger strikers

The following message was sent by Róger Calero to participants in a January 20 picket outside the Passaic County jail in Paterson, New Jersey. The protest was called in solidarity with Farouk Abdel-Muhti, a Palestinian activist, and five other prisoners who began a hunger strike on January 14 (see article page 9.) The six men, all of whom are held without charges, are fighting for immediate release. The message was read out to some 35 people who took part in the picket.

I stand with Farouk and the other hunger strikers in demanding their immediate release from INS detention. I am unable to be there today to participate personally in the demonstration outside the Passaic County Jail in support of the hunger strikers because I am in Tampa, Florida, as part of a national speaking tour to speak about my situation, and that of hundreds of thousands of others being threatened with deportation and jail.

As part of the stepped-up campaign of harassment and deportations in the last year and half, the U.S. government continues to hold indefinitely in INS prisons unknown numbers of immigrant workers from the Middle East and Asia without any charges, or for minor violations. In clear violation of their constitutional rights, they are often kept in brutal conditions, in isolation, and constant harassment, without legal representation and due process. By

That fight began December 3 when Calero, who is the associate editor of *Perspectiva Mundial* magazine and a *Militant* staff writer, was arrested by the INS upon his return to the United States from a reporting assignment in Cuba and Mexico. A conviction for selling an ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop while in high school more than a decade before was enough to flag his entry at the Houston airport, and is the basis for the INS attempt to remove him from U.S. soil.

"As a Filipino immigrant naturalized in this country, I still have fear because of what I look like and what I do," said panelist Daz Lamparas, an organizer for the Service Employees International Union. Lamparas organizes airport screeners in the Bay Area. "Over 1,500 workers were removed from the San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose airports last year," he said. Many were from the Philippines. "This is connected to the increased U.S. military presence there to fight 'terrorism,'" he said.

Airport screeners, many of whom were immigrants working for private companies, were replaced en masse by a new workforce under the direction of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Lamparas reminded the meeting of Operation Tarmac, last summer's joint FBI/INS sweep of airports in search of "security breaches." Hundreds of workers were arrested or fired on allegations that they did not have the "proper" documents.

"The head of the TSA has said that the new screeners do not have the right to join a union—but forming a union on the worksite is necessary to defend your rights," Lamparas said.

Vu Duc Vuong brought greetings from

The following are excerpts from several letters sent to the Immigration and Naturalization Service's district director in Houston, Hipolito Acosta, demanding an end to the INS's efforts to deport *Militant* staff member and *Perspectiva Mundial* associate editor Róger Calero.

On December 3 INS agents arrested Calero, a 12-year permanent resident, as he came through Houston Intercontinental Airport on returning from a reporting assignment in Latin America.

He was jailed for 10 days, until immigration authorities paroled him after re-

ceiving a flood of protest messages like those below. The INS maintains its efforts to deport Calero, based on a 1988 conviction on charges of selling about an ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop when he was in high school. In 1990 the INS waived this conviction and granted him permanent residence; they renewed his legal status in 2000.

❖
The fight by Farouk and the other strikers is one more example of the rulers' underestimation of workers' capacity and willingness to fight. That we can't be broken and intimidated. That we will fight back. In the course of this national tour, which so far has visited six cities, I have spoken with many others that are at the forefront of the resistance against the government offensive on the rights of all workers in this country. From the protests organized inside the prison walls, to protests against the arrests of hundreds of men who went in to comply with the government registration system, to Somali communities fighting against deportations, these fights are finding a hearing among other workers fighting to defend their unions, and against the growing attacks by the bosses on our working and living conditions.

We must join today in support of the hunger strikers in their demand for immediate release from the INS prisons, and for their right to live and work in this country. We must also call for an end to all deportations and imprisonment of immigrant workers. The refusal of the hunger strikers to be silenced stands in the face of the government aims to isolate and divide immigrant workers from their brothers and sisters.

Cops storm mosque in Britain



Above, London mosque where some 150 cops in riot gear used battering rams January 20 to storm the building in a "hunt for terrorists." The cops seized computer equipment, passports, and other documents and arrested seven people trying to connect them with claims that traces of the poison ricin was found in a nearby apartment two weeks earlier. Inset, Abu Hamza al-Masri, right, leader of mosque, with an aide. Al-Masri was not among those arrested. London has stepped up its "antiterror" campaign as part of its drive to war in the Mideast. The government has arrested more than 200 people under new "antiterror" laws since September 2001.

the American Friends Service Committee. "People have the right to move, live, and work where they choose," he said. "We support Róger for fighting to defend all workers—we need to show this government that it cannot just throw its weight around."

"The NLG endorses the case proudly," said Riva Enteen of the National Lawyers Guild. "We have to defend freedom of association and freedom of speech, and the rights of all workers."

"We have to convince the state that they

picked on the wrong guy this time, because he is a political activist who sets an example for others," Enteen said.

José Sandoval of the Voluntarios de la Comunidad spoke before Calero. Having helped organize demonstrations in California demanding the right of those without Social Security numbers to gain a drivers' license, he is now involved in organizing protests to support immigrant workers who have been fired after their companies re-

Continued on Page 15

More unionists back defense campaign

ceiving a flood of protest messages like those below. The INS maintains its efforts to deport Calero, based on a 1988 conviction on charges of selling about an ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop when he was in high school. In 1990 the INS waived this conviction and granted him permanent residence; they renewed his legal status in 2000.

❖
Jim Olesen, president, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1149, Perry, Iowa.

Let me begin by saying that I met Mr. Calero when he was employed at the IBP plant in Perry, Iowa, and became a member of UFCW Local 1149. I found him to be a very caring individual that was always willing to assist anyone with their needs.

For the United States Government to even be considering deportation of Mr. Calero is ludicrous. As an individual with permanent resident status for the past twelve years, and no problems, what could possibly be the motivation to take this action in violation of his rights?

Edward Leahy, Coordinator of the Immigrant Rights Network of Iowa-Nebraska.

Mr. Calero has broad support among the membership of our Network, which seeks to help newcomers integrate into our society. In these trying times, we have witnessed many unfortunate attempts to enforce the minutia of the law against many immigrants who otherwise are law-abiding members of our society. While we applaud your decision to allow Mr. Calero to be released on bond on December 13, we also encourage you to stop further proceedings against him. Mr. Calero deserves to remain and work in the United States.

Donna McDonald, president, United Food and Com-

mercial Workers Local 271, Omaha, Nebraska.

I have just been made aware of a very disturbing event; the incarceration of Mr. Róger Calero.

I am quite simply appalled at the idea of any United States resident being treated in this manner. If my understanding of Mr. Calero's situation is correct, Mr. Calero's three-year probation and suspended 60-day sentence from a 1988 conviction has long ago been served. Why would the INS seek to exclude him re-entry to the United States and attempt to deport him to Nicaragua based on a sentence that has been served many years ago? I also understand Mr. Calero has lived in the United States for the past 17 years and has held permanent residence since 1990. During this 17-year time, Mr. Calero has traveled outside of the United States quite freely. Why the change now?

Support the Róger Calero Defense Committee

- Send messages to INS district director Hipolito Acosta demanding the exclusion moves against Calero be dropped. Messages can be faxed to (281) 774-5989 or mailed to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 126 Northpoint Drive, Houston, TX 77060. Copies should be sent to the Róger Calero Defense Committee, c/o PRDF, Box 761, Church St. Station, New York, NY 10007; fax (212) 563-0585.

- Sign and distribute petitions demanding the INS drop the exclusion of Calero. A brochure and petition are available from the defense committee (e-mail: calerodefense@yahoo.com).

- Funds are urgently needed to meet rapidly mounting legal and other expenses. Defense campaign backers in every city need to raise thousands of dollars for these needs. Organize phone calling for donations, seek honoraria for speaking engagements, and take collections at public meetings. The goal is to raise over \$50,000 by the end of January. Contributions are tax-deductible.

South Africa’s national, democratic revolution

Printed below is an excerpt from the English version of the pamphlet, *Sudáfrica: la revolución en camino*, by Jack Barnes, one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for January. The English version is available under the title *The Coming Revolution in South Africa* as one of the selections from the Marxist magazine *New International*, issue 5.

The talk, given in 1985, addressed how revolutionists should approach the revolutionary struggle, then gaining momentum, against the apartheid state in South

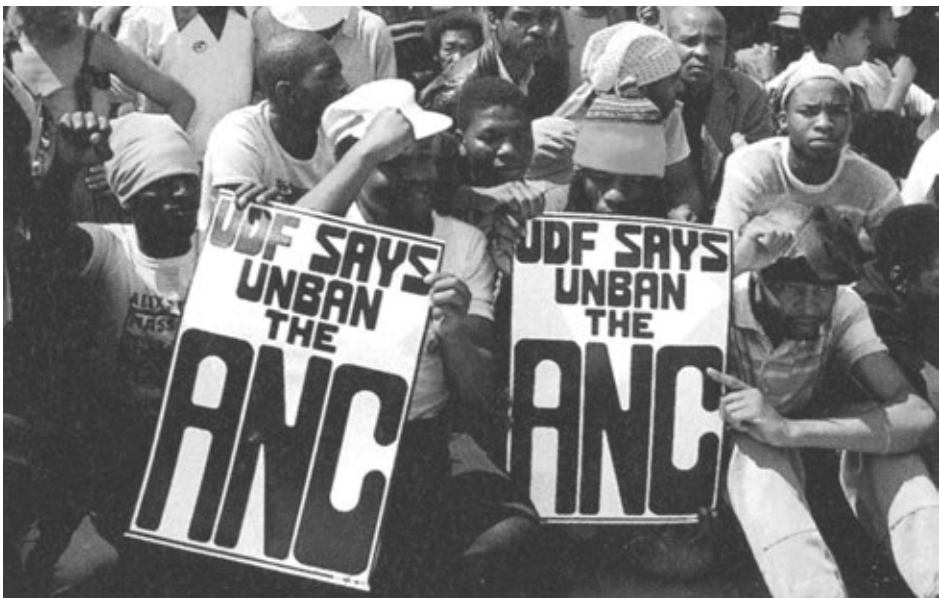
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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This state in South Africa—this capitalist state—is not a nation-state, at least not in a meaningful sense of the term. Only a small minority of the population in South Africa has any real rights of citizenship. This minority—some 5 million out of a total population of about 33 million—is defined by law as persons “of the white race.”

There is no South African *nation-state*; there is a state of the “white race.” In the geographical territory that the apartheid state controls, in what is today the *country* of South Africa, the overwhelming majority of people have no constitutional rights to speak of. Blacks are effectively denied the right to citizenship in the country in which they live and work.

The Black majority is itself made up of



Supporters of the African National Congress, which led the struggle against the apartheid state, rally at a township funeral during the 1980s.

a number of peoples, none of which constitutes a nation. Within the Black population there are important differences in legally enforced social positions, which the apartheid rulers perpetuate and seek to increase through legislation, economic policy, and other means. By far the largest group of Blacks are the Africans, 24 million direct descendants of the original inhabitants of what is now South Africa. They have even fewer rights than other components of the Black population and are the center of the target apartheid aims at. Those the apartheid rulers refer to as Coloured number 3 million. There are also 1 million Indians—many of whose ancestors were brought to Africa from the Indian subcontinent as indentured laborers to work on the sugar plantations.

In the past, the term *Black* was most often used to refer only to Africans. But since the 1970s Africans, Coloureds, and Indians—those whom the apartheid state brands as “nonwhite”—are increasingly identifying themselves as Black. This evolution of the meaning of the term *Black* reflects the development of unity and consciousness among those fighting against the apartheid state.

The apartheid system has one central and overriding purpose: to organize and perpetuate the superexploitation of Afri-

can labor by capital. It denies Africans the right to own and work land, and it denies them the right to compete freely and equally with whites in the sale of their labor power.

Apartheid has turned the African population into what, for lack of a better word, we can call an estate. By *estate* we mean in this case a part of the population whose legal and social rights are drastically limited in comparison to other sections of the population, a status enforced by the ruling power. It is a term we are most used to in connection with feudal society, not capitalist society. Nonetheless, it expresses the reality of apartheid. And it underscores the fact that apartheid is a qualitatively different phenomenon from the racial oppression that exists today in the United States.

Under apartheid, almost all Africans have been driven off the land and are denied the right to own land. They are without juridically recognized claims for equal protection under the laws of the state. To be born an African is to be born into that permanent social position, codified in law and enforced by the organized force and violence of the state.

That is what we mean when we speak of Africans as constituting an estate under apartheid. It is an estate similar to—though

not the same as—the peasant estate in tsarist Russia as late as the second decade of the twentieth century.

This fundamental underpinning of the apartheid system is part of a broader structure of laws and institutions that define the economic, social, and political rights not only of Africans, but also those categorized as Indian and Coloured in South Africa. Coloureds and Indians, too, hold a juridically established subordinate position in South African society. Every African, Indian, and Coloured person in South Africa has a social and legal status that deprives them of equality with any white person, of any social class.

The apartheid system blocks the creation of a South African nation, a modern nation with modern producing classes. Apartheid attempts to perpetuate and institutionalize tribal differentiations through the Bantustan system (the reservations that the regime calls “national homelands”) and other means. Apartheid blocks modern class development and differentiation, whereby some Africans—as part of a South African nation—would become free farmers, producing and selling their commodities on the market, while others would be able to sell their labor power on an equal basis with all other wage workers.

A South African nation does not yet exist, but it is in the process of being forged through the freedom struggle for liberation from apartheid. It will be forged from Africans, Coloureds, Indians, and those whites who will stay to live and work as equals in a nonracial, democratic South African republic.

A true nation-state in South Africa will be brought into being only as a result of the revolutionary overthrow of the apartheid state and the establishment of a new state-power. It is in this sense that the South African revolution can accurately be termed a national revolution. It is important to keep this content in mind, because in today’s world the term national revolution is almost exclusively used in connection with a struggle for liberation from colonial or neocolonial domination by another country. In South Africa, the obstacle to forging a nation isn’t occupation by a foreign imperialist power; it’s the apartheid state itself. To make the national, democratic revolution in South Africa, apartheid rule has to be overthrown.

January

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San Francisco: 3926 Mission St. Zip: 94112. Tel: (415) 584-2135. E-mail: sfswp@hotmail.com

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AUSTRALIA

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BRITAIN

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ICELAND

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

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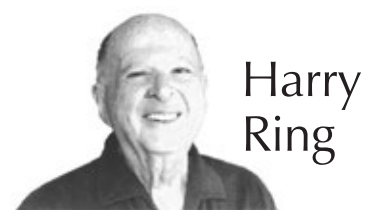
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12 The Militant February 3, 2003

No ‘profiling’ there—“Fort Lauderdale, Florida—Former FBI agent David Farrall was sentenced to three months in jail for driving



drunk and recklessly. He was involved in a head-on collision that killed two brothers. Farrell’s acquittal on more serious charges of vehicular homicide and manslaughter prompted allegations that the Florida Highway Patrol en-

gaged in a racist cover-up to protect the white agent. The victims were black.”—*USA Today*.

Science not just for war—Immersed in their labs, French scientists have developed a DNA test to distinguish the ultraprincey French truffle from the cheaper ones developed in China. These are currently being exported from China and the U.S. state of Oregon.

Reinforcements nearing—The municipal council in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is in the process of repealing its lunchtime ban on fortune tellers. The lawmakers are concerned with a court challenge to the ban as a curb on religious freedom. We thought they had all taken media

jobs as experts and sources.

Gobble, gobble—The Montana budget director saw it as highly unusual and asserted it would be investigated. The state board of workmen’s compensation voted a “retirement bonus” of \$133,000 for the president of the board. The bonus was tossed in when the board swelled his pay to \$280,224, reportedly the highest for any state employee in the country.

A proud record—“Inmate suicides is increasing in Michigan because the number of mentally ill people sentenced to jails and prisons has increased, the *Detroit News* reported. Administrators say they the lack of money, personnel and

expertise to evaluate or treat such inmates. The newspaper reported that 23 percent, or 11,598, of new state prison inmates in 2002 reported past mental health problems.... Michigan has closed 10 state mental hospitals in the past decade.”—*USA Today*.

UK golden shaft—To deal with a mounting pension crisis workers are being offered a new retirement deal. The retirement age will be pushed up to 65 from the present 60. If they live to 70, they’ll get up to \$30,000. The aim: to encourage workers to “work longer and save more,” said the *Times* of London. It added, “The government calculates that 3 million people face penury in old age unless they start saving

now. Another five to ten million face a big drop in living standards.”

They’ll really get soused—In addition to bankruptcy and slashing the work force, United Airlines is scrapping lunch (get the pun?) on coach flights. Now they’ve extended it to business and first-class. Free liquor will continue, but limited to previous meal periods.

Faulty swivel chairs?—“The [accident] insurance plan for members of the Canadian forces, who may be joining a possible attack on Iraq, has a clause that denies payment to most soldiers injured in the line of duty, but allows generals to claim up to \$250,000 for injuries or death.”—*National Post*, Toronto.

Court rules gov’t can jail citizen without charges

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The government’s denial of fundamental rights to Yasser Hamdi, whom it has labeled an “enemy combatant,” has been given the stamp of approval by a federal appeals court. Calling the U.S. citizen a “battlefield capture,” the ruling said that the courts take a “highly deferential” stance toward government decisions “when the nation...comes under attack.” Held in solitary confinement since April, Hamdi has not been charged and is denied access to a lawyer or any other visitor.

A day after the government won the ruling in the Fourth Court of Appeals in Virginia it asked a New York judge to back its imprisonment under similar conditions of Jose Padilla, another person deemed an “enemy combatant.”

Soldiers of Afghanistan’s pro-U.S. Northern Alliance seized the Louisiana-born Hamdi in November 2001. Handed over to U.S. forces, he was taken to Washington’s prison camp in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, where he was placed in an iron cage. The same treatment was handed out to hundreds of others. After finally heeding his repeated explanations that he is a U.S. citizen, the U.S. authorities transferred him to a military prison in Norfolk, Virginia, where he has been held ever since.

Hamdi’s imprisonment was a significant step in the acceleration of government attacks on constitutional protections and broader workers’ rights that followed the September 11 attacks. It placed a U.S. citizen in the same position and under the same conditions as hundreds of immigrants caught up in the “antiterrorism” sweeps, only one of whom was ever charged in connection with the attacks.

The three judges on the appeals court panel couched their ruling in arguments about the need to defend the separation of the powers of courts and government—in this case leaving the government a virtually free hand if it presents itself as being at war.

“The safeguards that all Americans have come to expect in criminal prosecutions do not translate neatly to the arena of armed conflict,” they added.

Attorney General John Ashcroft called the decision “an important victory for the president’s ability to protect the American people in times of war.”

The open-ended ‘war on terrorism’

The lawyers representing Hamdi, who have never been allowed to see their client, said that to hand the government such unchecked powers was “particularly disturbing in the context of a potentially open-ended, as yet-undeclared war, the beginning and end of which is left solely to the president’s discretion.”

One of the lawyers, federal public defender Frank Dunham, noted that the prisoner’s complete isolation means that “nobody knows what his version of the facts might be.” The attorney said the inmate should be allowed to see a Defense Department document claiming that he affiliated with a Taliban unit and received weapons training.

The appeals court decision overrules the order by U.S. district court Judge Robert Doumar granting requests by Hamdi’s father and lawyers to visit him. Doumar had twice ordered the military to grant Dunham access to Hamdi, insisting that the military should provide more information about his capture, statements, and travels. On each occasion the decision was suspended by the Fourth Circuit Court in Richmond.

On January 9 the Bush administration asked Judge Michael Mukasey of the Federal District Court in Manhattan to reverse his decision allowing Jose Padilla to consult with his lawyers. Padilla, also known as Abdullah al-Muhajir, is another U.S. citizen labeled an “enemy combatant.” Like Hamdi he has been jailed without charges, denied access to a lawyer, and held with no prospect of a trial.

Arrested in Chicago last May, Padilla was accused of conspiring to build and detonate a radioactive device, and locked up in a Navy brig in Charleston, South Carolina. Government officials later admitted that Padilla had no plans or materials to make such a weapon.

In its January 9 brief the government disclosed that Padilla has been subjected to “a robust program” of interrogation by military personnel for months. Padilla’s lawyers are demanding a full week of face-to-face meetings with him with no restrictions on the questions they are allowed to ask.

Meanwhile, lawyers for Lynne Stewart—a New York attorney accused of delivering messages to a so-called “terrorist” group—have filed a brief in the federal district court demanding that charges filed against her last year be dropped.

Stewart was attorney for the Egyptian sheik, Omar Abdel Rahman, who was railroaded to prison on frame-up charges of conspiring to blow up New York landmarks, including the World Trade Center. The government claims that Stewart helped Rahman pass on messages to an organization called the Islamic Group.

The issue is one of “pure speech,” said Stewart’s lawyers. The government has no right to clamp down, they said, “when a lawyer such as Ms. Stewart—or a newspaper reporter or anyone else—finds out her client’s political views on any given subject and truthfully reports those views to the world.”



Yasser Hamdi is led away by Northern Alliance soldier in Afghanistan after his capture in November 2001. Washington is holding the U.S. citizen without charges.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



February 3, 1978

RICHMOND, Va.—The 3,200 people who marched on the state capitol here January 22 shouted the same chant that has been heard at other demonstrations for the Equal Rights Amendment around the country:

What do we want? ERA!

When do we want it? NOW!

But there was a difference here. Up and down the line of march, contingents from trade unions predominated: Tobacco Workers, Communications Workers of America (CWA), several locals of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Farmers in bright red and blue jackets of the American Agricultural Movement urged support for the farmers’ strike and the ERA.

The Richmond demonstration was organized by Labor for Equal Rights Now (LERN), a coalition of trade unionists called together by locals of the Meat Cutters union. It was the first such labor-initiated ERA demonstration—a powerful example of how trade unions can help take the lead in the fight for women’s rights.

LERN won endorsements of the Virginia AFL-CIO. AFSCME and the Teamsters union put out leaflets for the rally. The United Auto Workers organized pro-ERA speakers for its local meetings.

Joyce Miller, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), pointed out, “The same people who oppose the Equal Rights Amendment also oppose the labor movement and labor’s goals.”



February 2, 1953

The 5–4 decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals Jan. 22 upholding the refusal of Washington, D.C., restaurants to serve Negroes again underlines the need for federal action to rid the nation’s capital of its notorious Jim Crow.

The test case against restaurant Jim Crow arose from the refusal of a John R. Thompson restaurant to serve a group of Negroes in 1950. The suit against the management was based on laws passed in 1872 and 1873 which forbid discrimination in the capital’s restaurants.

The majority opinion, written by Chief Judge Harold M. Stevens, argued in one breath that the anti-discrimination laws were unenforceable from the beginning and had really been repealed in 1901, and in the next breath that D.C. municipal authorities couldn’t enforce these laws now because they hadn’t been enforced for 78 years.

Negro and labor leaders are demanding that Eisenhower fulfill his campaign promise to end segregation in Washington, D.C. This was the pledge Eisenhower made to cover his intimacy with the Dixiecrats and the nakedness of the GOP platform on FEPC. Washington was chosen by the Republican promisers because, in theory, federal action against Jim Crow there would not interfere with “states’ rights.”

In fact, however, northern reactionaries and southern white supremacists will oppose the end of segregation in Washington as strongly as anywhere else.

from Pathfinder

In *New International* no. 6

Washington’s 50-Year Domestic Contra Operation

LARRY SEIGLE

As the U.S. rulers prepared to smash working-class resistance and join the interimperialist slaughter of World War II, the national political police apparatus as it exists today was born. This article documents the consequences for the labor, Black, antiwar, and other social movements and how the working-class vanguard has fought over the past 50 years to defend democratic rights against government and employer attacks. \$15.00

Order online at www.pathfinderpress.com. Please include \$3 for shipping and handling.

Defend affirmative action

Affirmative action, now under attack in a case before the Supreme Court involving the University of Michigan admissions policies, is a central question facing working people today. It is not about “diversity.” Nor is it about rectifying the discrimination of yesterday. Affirmative action is a necessary weapon in the present fight against discrimination, not only in education but in employment and housing. It is a class question—that is, one that is part of the fight to strengthen working people as a whole.

Opponents of affirmative action argue for “race-neutral” school admissions. There is no such thing. University officials have long used all kinds of special preferences in admitting students. Students whose parents have special connections, or whose relatives have attended the college, are given the inside track. The same is true for those who went to high schools offering advanced-placement classes. Far from being “race-neutral,” such formal and informal selection schemes, operating day-in and day-out, perpetuate the racist status quo. That is one reason affirmative action is needed.

Despite what President George Bush argues in his brief supporting the challenge to the University of Michigan policies, segregation is not a thing of the past. A recent study by Harvard University’s Civil Rights Project shows that despite gains won through civil rights battles, Black and Latino students face more school segregation today than they did in 1970. They are subjected to second-class educational facilities such as greater school overcrowding and lack of textbooks and other resources.

Racist discrimination is institutionalized in every aspect of capitalist society, which constantly reproduces and reinforces inequalities. In the economy, for example, it’s not affirmative action that “divides,” as its opponents assert; it’s the capitalists. They are the ones who benefit from maintaining Blacks and other oppressed nationalities, as well as women, in second-class status. Bosses

profit from paying them less and keeping workers pitted against each other. The employers and their representatives will never take the necessary measures out of the kindness of their hearts. They must be forced to do so. That’s why affirmative action means *quotas*—without quotas such programs are toothless.

Affirmative action is under attack both by its avowed enemies as well as by capitalist politicians seeking to gut such programs with the argument, “mend it, don’t end it.” “Mend” is a code word for opposing quotas.

At a time of economic crisis such as today, when working people face growing layoffs, increased housing costs, and cutbacks in education—affirmative action takes on added importance. Women and Black are often the last hired and the first fired. That is why when bosses carry out layoffs, the labor movement must demand dual seniority lists to prevent affirmative action gains from being eroded.

Like other social gains, affirmative action was not a gift from “progressive” politicians—it was fought for and won, through the mass struggles led by Blacks in the 1950s, ’60s, and ’70s. And over the past two decades, workers, farmers, and youth have continued to resist attempts to undermine it. No matter how much they hate it, the employers and their government can’t simply take away affirmative action without a fight.

Today they continue to chip away at and weaken such programs. But the issue can only be settled in struggle. Bush’s careful effort to appear “balanced” shows the limits of what the U.S. rulers feel confident to take back.

The need to defend and expand affirmative action goes hand in hand with other struggles that the labor movement must champion to unite working people in a fight for our common interests. This includes a campaign to raise the minimum wage, to oppose the assault on the rights of immigrant workers, and to fight to win jobs for all.

Build on Calero tour success

Building on the successes of meetings in the Midwest and on the West Coast, Róger Calero has taken his speaking tour to Florida. From there he will go on to Houston, New York, and New Jersey.

The tour to date has helped to win new adherents to the campaign against the government’s attempt to deport him. In every place that Calero has spoken working-class fighters have played a key part in making the tour a success, by helping to publicize the meetings, by attending, and by participating in the discussion. Their participation has given the meetings a serious and militant stamp. The same is true of the students and other young people who have offered solidarity to the defense effort.

The meetings are also stronger for their broad political character. Fighters for immigrant rights—whether from within the labor movement, church groups, or other organizations—have spoken up and signed on.

Activists on other fronts have also made common cause with Calero, recognizing the stakes involved in fighting for freedom of the press and workers’ rights. People from diverse walks of life who do not share Calero’s socialist political views but who detest the discriminatory and callous actions of the government have also put their name to his campaign.

The January 11 gathering sponsored by the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789 in St. Paul Minnesota was one high point of the tour, and helps indicate the way forward for those around the country who are active in the defense effort.

Augustina Borroel, a meat packer at Dakota Premium Foods and one of the speakers, helped to set the tone. “Enough of these injustices!” she said, “the campaign to stop the deportation of Róger Calero is a campaign all of us should be supporting.” Some 20 workers from Dakota turned out to solidarize with Calero’s fight and

help raise contributions toward the \$50,000 needed for legal and other expenses. The representation of the labor movement present extended from the plant kill floor, to officials of Local 789 and other unions. Some 130 people attended.

The public meeting in Chicago also involved a broad representation of working-class fighters, including long-time campaigners against police brutality and the death penalty.

The potential to strengthen the defense effort was also evident at the January 18 antiwar protests on both coasts. A number of the younger marchers said they would be interested in helping to organize meetings or making some other contribution. In San Francisco a Yemeni man armed himself with brochures to take back to his mosque. More than 200 people signed petitions calling for the immigration authorities to drop their deportation threat.

At the Minnesota event Calero explained the basis for winning new supporters. “What’s happening to me is happening to hundreds of thousands of other immigrant workers in this country,” he said. “That is why I am getting a hearing from civil libertarians, unionists, Black rights fighters, and those struggling for immigrant rights.”

A few days later in San Francisco he issued a statement in solidarity with Palestinian activist Farouk Abdel-Muhti and five other New Jersey prisoners who had just launched a hunger strike. Demanding their immediate release from detention, the five men have opened another public front of protest against the government’s brutal policies. The statement showed how the defense campaign provides a channel to forge links between different fighters.

For the immediate release of Farouk Abdel-Muhti and the other hunger strikers in New Jersey!

Stop the deportation threats against Róger Calero!

Protest against U.S. war drive

Continued from Page 5

spoke against Attorney General John Ashcroft’s “investigations and arresting people unlawfully.... We Muslims know we are under attack,” he said.

Opposition to INS roundups

Many marchers expressed their opposition to the INS roundups. One small contingent walked under a banner reading, “No Human Being Is Illegal.” They were joined by Palestinians carrying the flag of their national struggle, who swelled the group to about 200 people.

When the contingent arrived at the capitol they were joined by a group called Jews Against Occupation. Together they held a small rally, chanting slogans such as, “Shame, Shame, U.S.A., Long Live Palestine,” and “Jewish People Yes, Zionism No.”

As the protest took place in Washington, tens of thousands of people marched in San Francisco. Protesters at that action, which was similar in character to the Washington demonstration, came from around California and as far away as Seattle and Alberta, Canada.

Thousands of people also marched against Washington’s policies in Portland, Oregon; Tucson, Arizona; and Tampa, Florida, where protesters demonstrated outside MacDill Air Force Base.

Elsewhere around the world, demonstrations were held in Pakistan, Tokyo, and London. Some 6,000 marched in Paris, and 5,000 in the Swedish city of Gothenburg.

Organizers of the January 18 demonstrations announced that nationally coordinated regional protests are planned for February 15.

Women’s fight for affirmative action and the union mov’t

The following are excerpts from “New stage of revolutionary working-class politics,” a report by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes adopted by the SWP National Committee on April 29, 1979. The entire section of the portion of the report excerpted below appears in *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions* by Pathfinder Press.

BY JACK BARNES

Key to the road forward is the transformation, the revolution, that is taking place as women in the labor force push their way into industry. This transformation began as one of the repercussions of the gains of the Black struggle. When the Civil Rights Act was being debated in Congress in 1964, the southern senators tried to prevent its passage by outlawing discrimination in employment on the basis of sex as well as race. They figured that made the Title VII, as that clause of the act is known, so ridiculous, even northern liberals would have to vote against it. But it was passed.

Affirmative-action drive

This provided a legal opening for the affirmative-action drive by women. It gave women a legal club to use to force their way not just into jobs, but into basic industry, with its higher wages and greater unionization. Thousands of suits were filed. One stride forward came with the 1974 consent decree in the basic steel industry which established plant-wide seniority and set hiring goals for women and apprenticeship goals for women, Blacks, and Latinos. From 1975 to 1979, women made a big push into auto, mining, and steel.

Against the employers

The axis of women’s fight is against the employers, their foremen, their courts, and their politicians—not against fellow workers. To the contrary, women should aggressively appeal to all the class struggle-minded workers on the job, seeking support for women’s rights. From our initial experience, we know there is usually a positive response when women fight along these lines.

This came through clearly at a District 31 conference of the USWA. An older Black, male worker got up at this conference and explained: We have to support the women. The bosses are doing to them just what they did to us when we first came in the mill. They’re trying to drive them out. This Black steelworker predicted that with the next downturn, women will face a concerted drive to push them out of industry.

He was absolutely right.

Interview with Malcolm X

Continued from Page 7

gro is still hospitable and friendly and forgiving.

But if he is continually tricked and deceived and so on, and if there is still no solution to his problems, he will become completely disillusioned, disenchanted, and disassociate himself from the interest of America and its society. Many have done that already.

Young Socialist: What is your opinion of the worldwide struggle now going on between capitalism and socialism?

Malcolm X: It is impossible for capitalism to survive, primarily because the system of capitalism needs some blood to suck. Capitalism used to be like an eagle, but now it’s more like a vulture. It used to be strong enough to go and suck anybody’s blood whether they were strong or not. But now it has become more cowardly, like the vulture, and it can only suck the blood of the helpless. As the nations of the world free themselves, then capitalism has less victims, less to suck, and it becomes weaker and weaker. It’s only a matter of time in my opinion before it will collapse completely.

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Fund-raising Party for Farouk Abdel-Muhti, Palestinian Activist Jailed by INS. Sat. Feb. 8, 6 p.m. *Winston Unity Hall, 235 West 23rd St. (between 7th & 8th Avenues). Donation: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. For more information, call (212) 674-9499; Committee for the Release of Farouk Abdel-Muhti.*

Stop the Deportation of Róger Calero! Speakers: Róger Calero; Rev. Dr. Earl Kooperkamp; Kathy Andrade; Luis Miranda. Sat. Feb. 1, 7 p.m. Social to follow. *St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 521 W. 126th St. (between Broadway and Amsterdam). Donation: \$5. Tel: 212-563-0585; Róger Calero Defense Committee.*

White House backs legal attack on affirmative action

BY OSBORNE HART

DETROIT—The Bush administration has filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting efforts challenging University of Michigan policies on the admission of students who are Black. President George Bush announced the move in a January 15 national television address.

Bush said the University of Michigan (UM) law and undergraduate schools’ admission policies “amount to a quota system that unfairly rewards or penalizes prospective students based solely on their race.”

The policies “which award students a significant number of extra points based solely on their race and establish numerical targets for incoming minority students, are unconstitutional,” he said. Affirmative action quotas “create another wrong, and thus perpetuate our divisions,” he argued.

The administration is siding with two lawsuits against the University of Michigan law school and the undergraduate College of Literature, Science and the Arts. The lawsuits will be heard together by the Supreme Court during its spring session and a ruling is expected later this year.

The lawsuits were filed in 1997 on behalf of three students by the Center for Individual Rights (CIR). CIR lawyers claim that “minority” students with lower qualifications were accepted in place of their white clients.

CIR successfully challenged the University of Texas Law School’s affirmative action admissions policies in 1996.

The lawsuits against the University of Michigan resulted in opposing opinions in lower courts over the past two years as opponents have sought to deal further blows to affirmation action.

The UM undergraduate college uses a system of 150 points to rate students seeking admission. Points are awarded for grade-point average and scores on college

entrance exams. In addition, points are given to students in a variety of other categories: between 1 and 4 “legacy” points for relatives of alumni, 10–16 points for Michigan residents, and 20 points for being from an oppressed nationality or minority. The lawsuits and the Bush brief oppose the latter category.

Between 1997, when the lawsuits were filed, to 2001, enrollment of Blacks, Latinos, and Asians at the University of Michigan has remained steady at 26 percent. This year’s freshman class, excluding international students, is 11.8 percent Asian, 8.9 percent Black, and 6.1 percent Latino.

‘No quotas or numerical targets’

“We do not have, and have never had, quotas or numerical targets in either the undergraduate or Law School admissions programs,” insisted UM president Mary Sue Coleman in a January 15 statement defending the admissions policy.

“The court will need to decide whether these programs will continue to be upheld under the Bakke principles,” said University of Michigan general counsel Marvin Krislov.

He was referring to the 1978 Supreme Court ruling in the Bakke case, which declared that affirmative action quotas are unconstitutional. The court also held that “the goal of achieving a diverse student body is sufficiently compelling to justify consideration of race...under some circumstances.”

In his brief, Bush argued in favor of what he called “race-neutral” alternatives to affirmative action with quotas. He pointed to Texas, where students graduating in the top 10 percent of all high schools in the state, including largely Black schools, are supposedly guaranteed a spot in a state university. The system was instituted after a court struck down the affirmative action



Militant/Illona Gersh

Students at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor rally in defense of affirmative action, Jan. 15, 2001. The Bush administration is siding with two anti-affirmative action lawsuits against the university’s admission policies.

plan at the University of Texas. Such “percentage plans rely on segregated high schools to produce racial diversity in colleges,” the *Washington Post* noted.

Some opponents of affirmative action complained that the Bush administration’s brief does not go far enough because it failed to ask the court to declare the consideration of race as unconstitutional.

The Bush administration’s stand does not address the “central issue of whether ethnic or racial discrimination can be justified,” said Roger Clegg of the Center for Equal Opportunity, a right-wing think tank in Sterling, Virginia. “But it’s better than nothing and makes more likely that the court will hold that such discrimination cannot be justified.”

“We are not disappointed with the president’s briefs,” said Terry Pell, chief executive officer of the Center for Individual Rights.

“His arguments will lead to the same results in the near term.”

Ted Shaw, associate director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, told the press Bush’s stance is a hammer in a velvet glove. “He did not take a hard-line stance in opposition to affirmative action but he is advocating a standard that makes it impossible for colleges and universities to practice race-conscious admissions,” Shaw said.

The president’s decision to file briefs backing the challenges to the University of Michigan’s admissions policy has caused some divisions among administration representatives. Secretary of State Colin Powell stated publicly January 19 that he disagreed with the president’s position and expressed support for the UM admissions policies.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Abolish the Death Penalty! Speaker: Amy Husk, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. 168 Bloomfield Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (973) 481-0077.

NEW YORK

Garment District

Abolish the Death Penalty! Why Capital Punishment Can’t Be ‘Fair’ under Capitalism. Speaker: Salm Kolis, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Jan. 24. Program, 7:30 p.m.; dinner, 6:30 p.m. 545 8th Ave., 14th floor. Donation: Program \$5; dinner \$5. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

OHIO

Cleveland

Celebrate the Publication of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. Speaker: Don Mackle, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 1. Program, 7:30 p.m.; dinner, 6:30 p.m. 11018 Lorain Ave. Donation requested. Tel: 216-688-1190.

San Francisco meeting

Continued from Page 11

ceived “no match” letters from the government. The letters list workers whose Social Security numbers do not match government files.

“We work to produce the wealth of this country,” Sandoval said. “With our hands we create wealth; therefore we should have rights. We ask for your solidarity in this fight.” A march is planned for January 22 in San Jose to protest the firings.

“We will ask others to mobilize to support Róger, and we want to assure you that he will stay here in the U.S. with us,” Sandoval said in conclusion.

Fight can reinforce others

“This specific fight can set a tone and reinforce other fights,” said Calero. “It can show that we can organize ourselves to win.”

Chipping away at the rights of immigrant workers is part of “eroding constitutional protection for all,” he said.

Similar attacks are happening to thousands of workers, both “undocumented” and “legal,” Calero added. “The U.S. rulers seek

to impose onerous conditions on the most vulnerable, but they never allow for their resistance.” The outcry over the detention of thousands of men from the Middle East during the current “registration” process is evidence of that, he said, noting that the events remind many “of the incarceration of Japanese-Americans in World War II—two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens.”

Calero ended his presentation by explaining the importance of the fight for immigrant rights to the U.S. labor movement. “The TSA has said that collective bargaining is ‘not compatible’ with the fight against ‘terrorism,’” Calero said. “The fight against these assaults on immigrants is a life-or-death question for the unions. All workers’ rights must be defended, and we must fight to end all deportations.”

The meeting heard messages of solidarity from the Chinese Progressive Association and Ron Lind, secretary-treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 428 in San Jose.

During the discussion several young people spoke of their support for Calero’s fight, and a fund collection raised \$1,600 towards the defense committee’s national goal of \$50,000.

Calero ended the program by urging support for the five Cubans who have been framed up and jailed by the U.S. government on conspiracy charges. He also called for solidarity with the prisoners at the Passaic County jail in New Jersey who launched a protest hunger strike on January 14 (see article on page 9).

While in the Bay Area Calero was interviewed by Spanish television stations Univisión Channel 14 and Telemundo Channel 48, *La Oferta* newsweekly, and *Nuevo Mundo* newspaper in San Jose. He also spoke to two workers at the home of a member of UFCW Local 120.

Bill Kalman is a member of UFCW Local 120 in San Lorenzo, California.

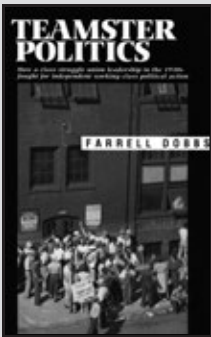
Detroit Muslim leader

Continued from Page 8

Arbor city council and University of Michigan student government have passed resolutions of support.

The defense committee has appealed for funds to help support Haddad’s family. Checks should be made to “Rabih Haddad” with “for the family” written on the memo line and mailed to: The Free Rabih Haddad Committee, P.O. Box 131092, Ann Arbor, MI, 48113-1092.

The committee is urging all who support Haddad’s fight to write to him in prison. Cards and letters should be addressed to: Rabih Haddad H-3, Monroe County Jail, 100 E. 2nd Street, Monroe, MI, 48161.



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North Korea calls on U.S. to negotiate

BY PAUL PEDERSON

In the face of more than two months of stepped-up hostile actions and pressure against it by Washington, the north Korean government has called on its U.S. counterpart to begin negotiations without preconditions. “It is the consistent stand of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) to settle the issue on an equal footing through fair negotiations that may clear both sides of their concerns,” said a January 15 statement issued by the foreign ministry.

While portraying itself as the one seeking dialogue, the U.S. government has refused to sit down to talks until north Korea agrees to dismantle a nuclear energy plant it has taken steps recently to reopen and scrap an alleged program to manufacture enriched uranium. “It is clear that the U.S. talk about dialogue” is an effort “to mislead the world public opinion,” read the statement.

“The nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula was created by the United States and must be wholly resolved with us and the United States” sitting down to negotiate, said a north Korean official on January 20.

U.S. cuts off food and fuel shipments

Following last October’s announcement by U.S. officials that north Korea had engaged in the uranium-producing effort, the U.S. government cut off shipments of fuel oil to the north. Japan and south Korea followed suit. The fuel shipments were part of the 1994 Agreed Framework, an accord under which the three governments promised to aid north Korea in the development

of nuclear reactors. In exchange, Pyongyang agreed to freeze its nuclear weapons programs.

Washington has also held off promised grain shipments to the United Nations relief agency that supplies food to north Korea, using the fact that the country faces chronic food shortages as a weapon against the workers state.

With its supply of energy-producing fuel oil suspended, the north Korean government took steps to restart a small reactor at the Yongbyon nuclear power facility. In December, the north Korean government removed monitoring equipment that had been placed on the reactor as part of the 1994 agreement, and expelled two U.N. inspectors.

Washington’s demands

U.S. president Bush announced January 14 that if Pyongyang agrees to its initial demands, the U.S. government would begin negotiations with north Korea on what he called a “bold initiative,” including aid and fuel supplies.

Bush made it clear that the “offer” is only up for discussion if Pyongyang abides by Washington’s demands. “We expect this issue to be resolved peacefully,” he said, “and we expect them to disarm.” He added, “We expect them not to develop nuclear weapons.”

A senior Bush administration official described a series of demands that are under consideration. To qualify for promises of aid, north Korea had to agree to cease the development and export of missiles, withdraw its troops from the demilitarized zone—where they face 37,000 U.S. Sol-

diers as well as hundreds of thousands of south Korean troops—and not engage in certain types of nuclear research, as specified by Washington.

The official also said that the U.S. will insist on the destruction of the Yongbyon nuclear power reactor.

The threats and actions against north Korea by the U.S. government occur as popular sentiment in the south against the U.S. military presence and in favor of national reunification is rising. In November and December large demonstrations were sparked by a U.S military court’s acquittal of two U.S. soldiers charged with negligent homicide after they ran over and killed two south Korean schoolgirls during a military exercise.

The incoming south Korean president Roh Moo Hyun won the election last fall in part because of his support for the withdrawal of U.S. troops and his policy of continuing negotiations with Pyongyang. In a January 15 statement, however, the south Korean president-elect



Militant map by Mike Shur

reiterated the stance of past south Korean governments, calling the troops “the driving force of security and the backbone of our prosperity.”

Like his predecessor, the new president has expressed strong unease at Washington’s pugnacious stance, telling a meeting of American and European business leaders, “I don’t think there is a reason to worry about the north Korean nuclear issue too much.... I am more concerned that the U.S. might attack north Korea.”

The north Korean consul-general in Hong Kong, Ri Top Sop, reassured people in the south that north Korea has no intentions of attacking the area. “We and south Korea are of the same lineage and the same country, we share the same language and culture. There’s no reason for us to harm our relationship with south Korea.”

The diplomat added, “If the United States attacks us, we’ll only go after our enemy.”

N. Ireland march to mark 1972 massacre

BY PAUL DAVIES

LONDON—Thousands of opponents of the British occupation of Northern Ireland will march in Derry on February 2 to mark the 31st anniversary of Bloody Sunday—the day in 1972 when British troops fired on a civil rights demonstration in the city.

March organizers anticipate that people will come to the march from all over Ireland, south and north, “as well as Britain, the United States, and elsewhere,” said John Kelly in a telephone interview with the *Militant*. The brother of Michael Kelly, one of the 14 people killed by British gunfire that day, John Kelly is a family liason officer with the Derry-based Bloody Sunday Trust.

Kelly commented on developments in the current inquiry set up by the British government into the events of three decades ago. The inquiry was set up after decades of campaigning by the families of those killed, he said. They were determined to establish the truth about the killings after the government had whitewashed the army’s conduct in an inquiry it organized just after Bloody Sunday.

Edward Heath, who was the prime min-

ister at the time, gave evidence before the inquiry on January 14 “A lot of people believed this would never happen,” said Kelly, “that the British prime minister of the day would be brought to answer our questions. I’m delighted.”

During his evidence Heath claimed that it was “absurd” to suggest that the government had planned the killings.

“Of course he will try to conceal the truth,” said Kelly. “Both the government ministers and the military officers that have given evidence at the tribunal have tried to lay responsibility on each other. What is absurd is that Heath would have no knowledge prior to Bloody Sunday—he was the prime minister, he chaired security meetings in the days before.”

Kelly went on to explain how the inquiry has heard evidence that reveals British officers adjusted their weapons just before Bloody Sunday to make them more effective.

In the months to come the inquiry is due to hear from 320 soldiers. Now that 30 years have passed, he said, “some of them will step outside the framework of the arguments

of the army hierarchy and politicians and explain how this was planned and executed.”

Evidence given by an officer at October sessions of the inquiry is a case in point, said Kelly. The witness was disguised at the inquiry and designated only as Soldier 027.

The officer was told the night before the massacre that the next day would provide an opportunity to “get some kills.” The lieutenant accused of making those remarks denies them. The soldier also gave a graphic description of the conduct of British forces in Northern Ireland, describing the pilfering of suspects whom they stopped and searched, and the routine beatings that they handed out to the nationalist population. “I did things that I am ashamed of,” he said.

“The fact that the inquiry is ongoing and in the public eye makes this year’s march as important as ever,” Kelly said. “People will come because they know that this is not over yet, the evidence we will hear in the months to come from other soldiers will be among the most important.”

The Derry march takes place against the backdrop of undefeated resistance by Irish nationalists to British rule. “Other campaigns are getting organized - some of them have been watching us and are picking up on the success that we have had,” said Kelly. In the 1970s the British unleashed internment without trial against Irish nationalists, utilized extralegal loyalist terror gangs, and directly killed many others as they had done on Bloody Sunday.

Despite this repression the British forces failed to stem the rise in struggle to end British rule in Ireland. Now relatives of others killed by British forces in this period—both in Derry and across Northern Ireland—are beginning to demand that the truth be told about how their relatives were killed.

As part of the buildup to the march the Bloody Sunday Organising Committee in London will hold a public meeting on January 26 featuring one of the relatives of those killed, a representative of Sinn Fein, and former Member of Parliament Anthony Benn.



Militant/Roy Inglee

Last year’s march on anniversary of 1972 “Bloody Sunday” massacre by British troops.

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