

U.S. gov’t boosts military strength in Latin America

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

In a high-profile visit to Colombia and Honduras in late August by U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Washington signaled it is now giving increased attention to strengthening its military presence in Central and South America.

The two-day visit registered the end of a period during which the U.S. rulers put their challenges in Latin America on the back burner while focusing on their war on Iraq and occupation of that country, their economic and military offensive in the Mideast and Asia, and efforts to deepen their penetration of Africa.

On August 19 Rumsfeld arrived in Bogotá, Colombia’s capital, where he held press conferences, interviews, and meetings with top government and military officials. He praised Colombian president Alvaro Uribe for an “excellent job” in aggressively using the military to fight “narcoterrorism,” referring to the regime’s war on antigovernment guerrilla organizations, particularly the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Speaking at a news conference with Defense Minister Marta Ramírez, Rumsfeld said that Washington had lifted the ban on the interdiction of planes allegedly carrying suspected drug traffickers and weapons to “terrorists” in Colombia and other nations in the region. The flights were suspended in 2001 after a Peruvian military jet guided by a CIA spy plane shot down an aircraft carrying five U.S. missionaries, killing Veronica Bowers and her daughter Charity.

The Pentagon chief announced that Washington was considering offering the right-wing government more weapons, troop training, and funds for Plan Colombia, which provides billions of dollars in counterinsurgency support to the Colombian armed forces.

During his visit, the U.S. defense secretary backed Bogotá in its border conflict—which has included armed confrontations—with the government of President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela.

The day after Rumsfeld’s visit to Colombia, the pro-imperialist opposition in Venezuela delivered 2.7 million signatures to the National Elections Council demanding a referendum to oust Chávez from power.

Traveling August 20 to Honduras, where he met with President Ricardo Maduro, Rumsfeld stated that Central



Reuters/Eliana Aponte

U.S. Special Forces troops stand guard at military base in Saravena, Arauca province, Colombia, February 7. U.S. soldiers are there training Colombian army troops to combat government opponents. Visiting Bogotá August 19, U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced that Washington will strengthen its military presence in region.

SWP candidate for California governor calls on youth nationwide to help socialist campaign

Young Socialists for Britton campaign among working people in the state



Militant/Betsey Stone

Joel Britton (left), Socialist Workers candidate for California governor, campaigns in downtown Los Angeles garment district August 23.

Black farmers in U.S. South press fight against land loss, racist discrimination

BY JEANNE FITZMAURICE AND SARAH HARRIS

EPES, Alabama—The Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund held its 36th annual meeting at the Rural Training and Research Center here August 15–16. More than 100 people, including farmers who are Black from throughout the Southeast, participated in the gathering.

The conference showed the determination

of Black farmers to persist in their struggle against land loss and decades-long racist discrimination and that they are getting involved in broader social struggles. The group endorsed the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride at this meeting.

The Federation was formed in 1967, under the impact of the civil rights movement. Today, more than 100 cooperatives, credit unions, and community organiza-

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Unionists in Atlanta build Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride

BY ELLIE GARCÍA

ATLANTA—“The march is a very important thing, fighting for driver’s licenses opens the door for us,” said Gloria Muñoz, a laundry worker and member of UNITE, about the demonstration slated to take place here September 29, demanding that immigrant workers be granted the right to get driver’s licenses. That same day the buses of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride roll into town. “That the unions are involved is a sign of strength,” Muñoz added. “We can’t go forward without the unions. With the union there is power.”

On September 27 a conference called the First Latino Civil Rights Forum is also scheduled to take place here, and will help build the actions two days later. Muñoz is involved in building all three events, as are many others.

Organizers of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride have embraced these two events and are building them, along with a

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Democrat Howard Dean supports U.S. embargo of Cuba

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Former Vermont governor Howard Dean, currently at the front of the pack of contenders for the Democratic Party nomination for president in 2004, has announced his support for continuing Washington’s more than four-decade-long economic war against Cuba.

“If you would have asked me six months ago, I would have said we should begin to ease the embargo in return for human-rights concessions,” Dean told reporters at an August 24 dinner in Seattle, according to the *Miami Herald*. But, “we can’t do it right now.” He cited as a reason the April trials and convictions of 75 individuals in Cuba for collaborating with and accepting money from U.S. government representatives to undermine the Cuban Revolution.

In taking this stance Dean joins most

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Auto parts workers defy lockout in UK

BY PAUL DAVIES

CAERNARFON, North Wales—“We have been the moral victors,” said Gerald Parry, one of the 86 locked-out workers who began picketing the Friction Dynamics auto parts manufacturer more than two years ago. “I’ve been all over the country and seen first-hand the tremendous support we have received, the strength that is there, but the heart of this fight was the comradeship I experienced on the picket line.”

Parry spoke to the *Militant* in August as the workers, who are members of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), discussed a new challenge in their fight against their sacking. That month tthe bosses filed for bankruptcy, sold the assets, and established a “new” company, Dynamex Friction, on the same site.

The battle was joined in April 2001 when the workers struck for one week over pay and conditions. Eight weeks later the Friction Dynamics bosses sacked them. Since then they have maintained pickets, linked up with other union fights, held rallies in Caernarfon, and travelled the country seeking support.

Production at the new plant got under way August 19. The new owner of the business is Mark Jones, a former factory manager with Friction Dynamics. When the company went into bankruptcy it sacked the 93 workers who had been crossing the picket line.

“What has happened is still sinking in,” said Parry. “Jones will probably get an injunction to prevent us from picketing.” On August 18, he said, Dynamex Friction called the cops to remove the union members, but at the time this article was written the picket line was still up. Passing motorists hoot their horns to show support to the workers, who have made signs in English and Welsh.

“Since Dynamex Friction started up, it has said it will rehire over 60 of the 90 scabs that were working there before the bankruptcy, but that they will take up to a 30 percent wage cut, have no pension, have their holiday entitlement reduced to 16 days a year, and get no overtime pay until they’ve worked 48 hours,” said Parry. “Some of these scabs won’t go back for that.”

Last November the TGWU members won an employment tribunal decision for unfair dismissal. The court awarded compensation. The company appealed both rulings.

TGWU national secretary Bill Morris said the administration of the company and the sale of its assets must be investigated. “We believe it is a tactical maneuver designed to avoid making the compensation payments to the 86 unfairly dismissed workers and to put the financial burden onto the taxpayers of this country,” he said. The union’s call for a public inquiry has been joined by local politicians, Welsh Assembly Member Alun Ffred Jones, and Hywel Williams, a member of the UK parliament in London. “With the new company opening no one can claim against the old company for asbestosis, and a lot of us spent years working with asbestos,” said TGWU member Searle Owen.

Despite their anger over these company maneuvers the workers who spoke to this reporter view their fight with pride and pay tribute to the solidarity they have received.

A feature of the fight has been the high level of local support, Parry said. Solidarity rallies in the Caernarfon town center have been the largest labor actions in the region for decades. Area farmers who spent time working in the plant have extended assistance, while strikers’ wives successfully pressured a local supermarket to stop supplying the company canteen in 2001. In June of this year the locked-out workers were applauded by thousands at a rock concert featuring Welsh band Super Furry Animals and singer Cerys Matthews, organized to mark the centenary of a three-year-long quarry workers’ strike.

The TGWU members have also reached out more widely to extend and receive solidarity, joining firefighters in their national strikes last year, workers at Manchester airport fighting job and wage cuts, and steelworkers at William Cooks in Sheffield, who have been locked out.

In early August the workers visited a



Militant/Paul Davies

Workers locked out at Friction Dynamics have won solidarity from others in struggle

picket line at nearby Ifor Williams Trailers. The members of the General Municipal and Boiler Makers Union (GMB) there had taken one day’s strike action. “They are fighting for a paid shift allowance and to prevent compulsory overtime. When we stopped to show our support we told them, ‘If you’re going to get serious we are the people to talk to,’” said Parry.

“What is the outcome of our dispute?” Parry asked. “You can’t answer this in financial terms; you have to face what the boss was doing—reorganizing the company to chip away at our rights and try to break the union. We had to try to stop him and you can’t do that by sitting on the fence. If we had done nothing some of us might be working for him now, but with no dignity—and if we had had no union the company would have buried us within a month.”

Pointing to the role of the courts and the government in backing the company, he noted “the length of time that the laws of this country have allowed [former owner Craig] Smith to keep us out and not to compensate us. He owes us something like £2 million in compensation after the industrial tribunal found him guilty (£1 =

US\$1.58).” The *Daily Post* reported, “It is expected that the workers will get statutory redundancy [severance] payouts funded by the government, but less than they would have received from Mr. Smith.”

“We’re all disappointed,” said David John Roberts. “We won a tribunal ruling against him but he has not lost anything. The bankruptcy administrators should have frozen his assets instead of selling them and as soon as we had won we should have been reinstated. The government and the Welsh Development Agency, who gave a grant to Friction Dynamics, don’t care about us. Many of us are in our early 60s and won’t get other jobs. But the best thing about what we have done in this dispute has been the unity—only one person out of the original 87 ever went back.”

“It would be easy to be pessimistic with what has happened,” added Searle Owen. “We have been here for two years and four months including in temperatures of minus 11 degrees—we have had all the elements against us. But I’m happy; I can say that I have done something worthwhile with my life, and that we have fought for our rights and the rights of future generations.”

Grocery workers in Canada fight for contract

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—In the latest development in their months-long contract fight, 53 percent of members of United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 1518 at Safeway

supermarkets voted August 13 to reject the bosses’ final offer. One week later the state Labor Relations Board ruled that Safeway could hold a government-conducted vote on a slightly modified final offer. The negotiating committee is recommending a “no” vote. The ballot has not yet been scheduled.

The union is seeking a wage increase of 55 cents an hour each year over the life of the contract (Can\$1 = US\$72). Safeway proposes a lump sum payment of \$1,000 and total wage increase of \$1.40 an hour over the course of a five-year pact. Workers earn between \$8.75 and \$21 per hour. The union is also fighting to increase benefits for workers with more than four years’ seniority and to bring pharmacy workers’ wages into line with those of cashiers, among other issues.

In April, 98 percent of the unionists voted to authorize a strike if the Safeway bosses wouldn’t agree to their demands. On July 26 union members voted by a 75 percent majority to set a strike deadline of

August 4. On August 3 the talks restarted.

On August 6 and 7 workers carried out rotating strikes at Safeway stores in Vancouver and Richmond. The local includes 4,700 members who work at Canada Safeway at 49 grocery stores in the lower mainland and Fraser Valley in British Columbia. The union negotiating committee suspended the rotating strikes pending the August 13 vote.

Some 1,200 members of UFCW Local 247 who work in Safeway’s meat, seafood, and deli departments have announced that they will join picket lines in the event of a strike or lockout. During their contact fight the workers have leafleted to build support for their struggle in front of several Safeway stores. The Safeway contract is traditionally the pattern-setter for contracts in the British Columbia retail food industry. Thousands of members of Local 1518, which is an amalgamated local, and Local 247 are in negotiations with Save-On-Foods and the Real Canadian Superstore and will be following the Safeway fight closely.

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Photo of Belfast mural taken August 10 during protest against state-sponsored murder of Republicans by pro-British gunmen. Wording on left says, “10 people from Ardoyne were murdered by weapons imported by British government from South Africa by their agent Brian Nelson in January 1988 until 1994.” Weapons used are listed on right.

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Tyson strikers hold solidarity rally

BY PATTIE THOMPSON
AND MAURICE WILSON

JEFFERSON, Wisconsin—Marking their sixth month on strike against Tyson Foods, members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 538, their families, and supporters rallied in front of the plant here August 17. With signs, cheers, and applause, the 250 people registered their continued determination to resist the onerous concessions demanded by the bosses.

Local 538 president Mike Rice, who chaired the event, called off the list of company concession proposals: “Are you willing to accept \$2 an hour cut in pay for new hires? Are you willing to accept a 4-year wage freeze? Are you willing to accept elimination of pension for new hires?” He received a resounding “NO!” to each one.

Chief steward Ron Peich told the gathering that his attitude was expressed by a sign displayed by UFCW Local 271 from Omaha, Nebraska, that said, “Your victory will be our victory.” He thanked everyone for the donations that fill the food pantry.

The union has called several rallies in Jefferson since the meat packers’ walked out on February 28. They are standing up to the company’s demands to cut hourly rates for new hires from \$11.09 to \$9 and freeze pay for others over a four-year period; eliminate pensions for new hires and freeze benefits for the rest; increase health-care premiums by as much as \$40 a week and eliminate health-care supplements for retirees; cut sick leave and disability benefits by more than half; reduce vacations; eliminate two paid holidays for new hires; and end the profit-sharing program.

The strikers have organized regular cook-outs on the picket line, on-the-road Truth Squads that visit other UFCW-organized meatpacking plants to spread the facts on the strike and seek solidarity, and other activities to win support for their fight.

Sharing experiences in this struggle against the world’s largest meat processor with visitors to the picket line from as far away as St. Louis, Missouri, has been an eye-opener, said Jim Weissman, a member of Local 538’s bargaining committee.

Mike Rice pointed to the example of this solidarity provided by the Omaha delegation, who “worked their full week of work then drove 12 hours to get here.” He introduced them to participants as “our friends who have come to every rally since the beginning, from a local union recently founded in Omaha, Nebraska.” The delegation of 11 workers thanked the strikers in Spanish and English for opening up their homes to them and pledged to support the fight until it is won.

Chicago supporters of the strike at the rally included two members of UFCW Local 1546, and Henry Miller, a member of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employ-

ees (HERE) Local 1 on strike against the Congress Plaza Hotel. The two struggles had similarities, said Miller. “They cut our wages, and they want to cut out health benefits, cut out retirement,” he said. “We are fighting for the same thing—justice!”

Speakers from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and the Rock County Board of Supervisors reported their activities passing resolutions in favor of the Tyson product boycott, and raising school supplies for the strikers’ families as well as funds to support the strike.

Rice noted that donations have come from the Mid Atlantic region of the UFCW, Midwest Joint Board of UNITE, Wisconsin state teachers union (WEAC), United Steelworkers of America, International Association of Machinists, and United Auto Workers.

“Get ready to do a lot of traveling,” said Mark Lauritsen, UFCW vice president and director of Region 2. “The only way to win is to take this strike on the road—to the East Coast, the West Coast, and overseas.” He reported the decision by the union’s recent national convention in San Francisco to expand the adopt-a-family program so that no striker’s family will go wanting.

Representatives of the South Central Wisconsin Federation of Labor, the Milwaukee County Labor Council, and the Rock County Board of Supervisors invited participants at the Jefferson rally to join in the Labor Day parades in their areas, where the Tyson strikers will be featured along with other struggles. UFCW international representative Mike Barkley said the strikers will be joining such parades throughout Wisconsin and possibly other states.

After the rally, several strikers talked about recent experiences in reaching out to build solidarity. “Twelve of us went to Rice Lake, Wisconsin, one week ago to join the picket line against Shadow Plastics,” said

Continued from front strike
tions—including about 10,000 working farmers, most of whom are Black—belong to the organization. Many of the farmers present at this year’s meeting were part of the class-action lawsuit, *Pigford vs. Vene-man*, against the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). That suit was part of a fight by Black farmers that forced the government to admit to long-standing racist discrimination by the USDA and its field offices in processing loans and providing other services. In 1999 the USDA and lawyers for the farmers signed a consent decree settling the lawsuit. Farmers were told that if they met minimal requirements for proving discrimination they would receive \$50,000 tax-free grants from the

Unionists build Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride

Continued from front page

whole week’s worth of activities leading up to the arrival of the Freedom Ride buses. A Direct Action Committee to organize the march for drivers’ licenses is one of the committees of the local Freedom Ride coalition.

The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride takes its name from the freedom rides of the civil rights movement, but it is above all based on struggles by immigrant workers that have intensified over the last half decade to organize unions and against deportations and discrimination. Immigrant workers and their allies will be setting out September 20 from nine U.S. cities—Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Houston, Miami, Boston, Chicago, and Minneapolis—and crossing the country in buses. They will converge on Washington, D.C., October 1–2. They will gather again the next day at Liberty State Park in New Jersey, and meet in New York for a mass rally on Saturday, October 4. National sponsors include the AFL-CIO, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the garment and textile workers union UNITE, National Council of La Raza, and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

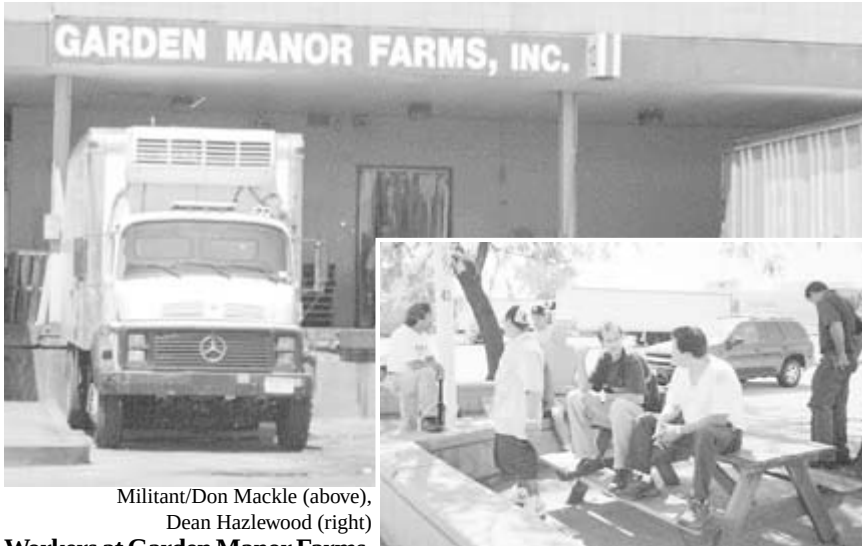
The First Latino Civil Rights Forum is organized by the Coordinating Council of Latino Community Leaders (Coordinadora). This one-day conference will be held at Morehouse College, a historical Black college. Workshops on education, health, consumer, and legal rights are planned. Important questions that affect immigrants such not being able to get driver’s licenses will be discussed.

At a June press conference, Adelina Nicholls, Coordinadora’s vice president, said that one of the goals of the conference was to exchange experiences with a broad range of organizations and individuals, whether immigrant or not, that Coordinadora can work with in the future.

Builders of the Freedom Ride have been meeting weekly at the offices of the Central Labor Council. Representatives of UNITE, Service Employees International Union, and Amalgamated Transit Union attend the meetings. Community organizations—a number of which are African, such as Women Watch Afrika, Inc.—are also taking part. Individual workers like Hoa Vo, a 20-year-old sewing machine operator who works in a nonunion shop, are there too.

“We want people to know that we work and want the same respect as others,” Vo

New York meat packers protest bosses’ sabotage of union election



Militant/Don Mackle (above),
Dean Hazlewood (right)

Workers at Garden Manor Farms, a meatpacking plant at Hunts Point, Bronx, New York, outside plant August 28. Two days earlier they had walked out to oppose company efforts to sabotage the certification election held that day for United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 342. The boss had sent workers one at a time to take part in the vote during the one hour officially allotted. At the end of the hour, eight union supporters still had not had the opportunity to vote. “When John (the union observer) came back into the plant and told us what happened, we just put down our stuff, left the meat on the table, and walked out,” said Frankie Matos. After consulting with the union representatives outside, the workers returned to work together. The 17 ballots cast were taken to Washington, D.C. The union hopes to get the results in a couple of weeks. “This all just makes us stronger,” said Alfonso Morales, an 11-year veteran at the plant. Workers regularly meet outside the plant with Local 342 representatives to discuss their fight.

Dave Reed. “The 20 people who work at that plant went on strike for three weeks after going without a contract for 18 months. After the union had negotiated a two-year contract the owner said it was only good for six months. His demands included pension cuts and reduced vacations.”

Kurt Kernan, a member of the local’s hardship committee, had attended the union convention. “We went to the convention to get the word out about our strike,” he said. “I met people from Oregon to New York

to Kentucky. I also met UFCW members from Canada who had been on strike for 16 months against Safeway Foods.”

“We’re going to be getting out again with Truth Squads and other activities,” said Local 538 member Keith Griep. “I plan to participate in the [Labor Day] parade in Milwaukee.”

Pattie Thompson is a member of UNITE Local 39C and Maurice Wilson is a meat packer in Chicago.

Black farmers protest land loss, discrimination

government.

A number of speakers at the meeting addressed the question of land-loss by farmers who are Black and the lawsuit against the USDA. The keynote speaker was Vernon Parker, USDA assistant secretary for civil rights—a position the government created through the 2002 Farm Bill. Parker said the USDA “must have accountability” regarding racism, and admitted that its local offices still discriminate. He stated that the USDA is planning a “summit meeting” with organizations of Black farmers. Parker left the meeting quickly after one of the farmers asked him what he would do concretely. Congressman Arthur Davis from Alabama also spoke.

A representative from the Monitor’s of-

fice, set up as part of the consent decree in part to review the claims by farmers that were denied the promised grant, gave an update on the lawsuit. He said the government has paid \$810 million so far.

Mattie Mack, a farmer from Kentucky, spoke for other farmers in the group from that state who have not received any money. “We have heard the same thing every year,” she said, “but nothing happens. What’s the problem?”

The USDA’s own figures show that of the original 21,982 claimants, 8,480—some 40 percent—were denied. Another 61,844 farmers filed “late claims.” To date, 56,388 of these have been rejected.

Daniel Bustamante, a Federation of Southern Cooperatives staff member from Laredo, Texas, encouraged the organization to support the Immigrant Workers Freedom Rides (see article below). The group endorsed this activity.

Ralph Paige, the Federation’s executive director, noted in his address to the meeting that the group is organizing to bring Cuban farmers to the region this October.

Dean on Cuba

Continued from front page

of the other Democratic Party presidential contenders. Sen. John Kerry announced August 31 on NBC’s *Meet the Press* that he, too, supported keeping the U.S. trade sanctions against Cuba. Florida senator Robert Graham and Connecticut senator Joseph Lieberman—Albert Gore’s running mate on the 2000 Democratic presidential ticket—are both outspoken supporters of the embargo. Missouri congressman Richard Gephardt, too, is a staunch supporter of Washington’s aggressive policy toward Cuba. And, according to the *Herald*, Sen. John Edwards has “spent months meeting with exile leaders to study the issue.”

Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and New York politician Alfred Sharpton have taken positions in favor of easing Washington’s trade restrictions with Cuba. Speaking in Iowa this past May, Kucinich said the em-

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Calero meets striking workers in Canada

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL—Nearly nine months after he was arrested, threatened with deportation by the U.S. government, and had his passport and permanent residency card seized by Washington, Róger Calero crossed the U.S. border to Canada in his first travel outside the United States. He visited this city August 20–21 as part of his international “Fight to Win” tour. His purpose was to show his appreciation for the support he received from working people here for his struggle to prevent the U.S. government from excluding him from that country, and to share with them and others the lessons of his successful fight.

Calero is currently an associate editor of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and a staff writer for the *Militant*, both published in New York. He was involved in a six-month fight against the U.S. government’s efforts to deport him. Last December, immigration agents arrested him at the Houston Intercontinental Airport while he was on his way home from reporting trips to Cuba and Mexico. Washington said it intended to send him back to his native Nicaragua because of a plea-bargain conviction 15 years ago for selling one ounce of marijuana to an undercover cop. Calero was then in high school.

Under the mounting pressure of his defense campaign, the U.S. government dropped its effort to deport him on May 1 and a judge formally declared Calero “non deportable” three weeks later.

Meeting with Labatt strikers

A highlight of his visit here was meeting and exchanging experiences with more than two dozen strikers at the Labatt picket line and strike offices. Calero was invited to visit the Labatt strikers by Normand Faubert, a union vice president, only days after the union officer had received the material on the tour. Calero met and spoke with two groups of strikers during his two-hour morning visit.

The 950 members of the Labatt Brewery Workers Union, affiliated to the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), have been on strike since June 16, demanding more permanent jobs, better pensions, and an end to subcontracting. Some 20 percent of the workers in the plant are temporary, with no benefits and lower wages.

“As part of my defense campaign,” said Calero in his opening remarks, “I learned that the bosses and their governments are doing the same things everywhere in order to maximize their profits and smash us as a class. Working people lose too many fights, not because we do not want to fight, but because we don’t know how to fight in order to win when the objective conditions don’t present insurmountable obstacles.”

This opened up a serious discussion between Calero and the overwhelmingly native-born Quebecois strikers. “This guy is not a terrorist, he is a revolutionary,” said one worker. “After 10 weeks on strike, should we begin to be more aggressive?” asked another.

“Looking for and extending solidarity is key,” replied Calero. Some strikers explained with pride how 400 of them went to support 10 municipal workers on strike in a very small village, doubling the local population at once.

“What stance should our unions take on globalization?” asked another worker. Calero said that this is a term used widely to obfuscate the reality of the world capitalist system, which is in the era of imperialism. The only effective way to oppose globalization is to seek international solidarity of the oppressed and exploited classes and fight imperialism. A feature of this system, which has now entered a period of economic depression, is intensified competition between the employing classes of different countries. Under the “progressive” banner of opposing globalization, bosses try to tie workers behind their bandwagon by drawing them to nationalist demands of defending “American jobs” or “Canadian jobs,” which underlie anti-immigrant and chauvinist campaigns. “There is no such thing as ‘American’ jobs,” Calero said. “These are bosses’ jobs. The bosses decide who and when they will hire and who and when they will lay off.”

Another striker asked: “What will it take in order to begin winning more struggles?” A fourth added: “What should we do so the unions act less like ‘businesses’?”

Calero said that after nearly two decades of retreat by the labor movement in the United States, there has been a sea change in the mass psychology of working people over the last six years. “There is more willingness to resist and to look for and extend solidarity.”

“There is no blueprint. As individuals, each of us should take more responsibility for the struggles we are engaged in and find ways with others to strengthen our unions.” Calero gave the example of a group of coal miners he met two days before in western United States.

“Many of these,” he said, “are undocumented, nonunion workers from Mexico. They are paid \$5.25 an hour, while unionized workers at a mine a mile from there are paid \$20 an hour. These unionists have to work with these immigrant workers to help them get a union. Otherwise the bosses will impose on the unionized miners the same intolerable wages and working conditions that the Mexican miners face.”

Bringing fighters together

The same night, some 25 people attended a meeting at the St-Pierre Centre sponsored by local backers of the Róger Calero Defense Committee. The panel brought together several fights for immigrants and workers rights. These included five Algerian activists, a group of five people involved in the struggle to free Mohamed Harkat in Ottawa, three participants in the recently concluded Quebec-Cuba Brigade, and other working people and youth.

On behalf of the Action Committee of Those Without Papers (CASS), Mohamed Cherfi told of the more than year-long fight led by hundreds of Algerian refugees against the Canadian government’s effort to deport them back to their native Algeria, a country with an ongoing civil war.

For months, he said, Algerian refugees and their supporters organized marches, weekly vigils, and press conferences, circulated a petition, and built support for their case wherever they could get a hearing. Their fight received national coverage in October when a family took refuge in a church to avoid being deported.

At that point, the Quebec government



Militant photos by Grant Hargrave

Above, left to right: panel at Montreal meeting included Yannick Dugay, chair of local Calero defense committee; Róger Calero; Mohamed Cherfi, of Action Committee of Those Without Papers; Christian Legeais and Sophie Harkat, of Justice for Mohamed; and Michel Prairie, Communist League. Right: Calero (sitting by tree) speaks to striking Labatt brewery workers.



stepped in and offered to process the Algerian refugees as would-be immigrants without them having to leave the country, which is the usual procedure in such cases. Since then, hundreds of Algerian refugees and their families have been accepted as immigrants by the Quebec government—a victory unprecedented in its scope for any group of immigrants in Canada.

“However,” said Cherfi, “there are still several dozen, if not more, Algerian refugees who either have been excluded from this procedure for technical or so-called legal reasons, or are still awaiting an answer from the Quebec government.”

Sophie Harkat and Christian Legeais described the struggle they and others in Ottawa are leading to free Sophie’s husband, Mohamed Harkat, who was arrested in December under a so-called security certificate issued by the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS), Ottawa’s secret police. He has been jailed since then without access to the evidence against him and was tried without the right to appeal the judge’s decision, which is pending. CSIS is demanding Harkat be deported to Algeria, accusing him of being a “ sleeper agent” for Al Qaeda and a threat to Canada’s security.

On August 25 about 50 relatives and friends of five men held in Ottawa, Toronto, and Montreal under a federal security certificate marched in Ottawa and presented a petition signed by 4,500 people to the office of Canada’s prime minister Jean Chrétien. In addition to Harkat, the other detainees are Mahmoud Jaballah, Muhammad Mahjoub, Hassan Almrei, and Adil Charkaoui.

Speaking on behalf of the Communist League, Michel Prairie thanked all those who had made possible Calero’s victory by sending protest messages, signing petitions, and donating badly needed funds for the case. The Communist League, a sister organization in Canada of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, Calero’s party, played a key role in his defense campaign in this country.

Prairie stressed that there was nothing

specifically “American” in what happened to Calero. “As working people living in this country, our responsibility is to aim our fire at the Canadian government.”

Over CAN \$1,000 was raised or pledged toward Calero’s tour and defense expenses.

Calero spoke at an August 20 meeting of the CASS where he discussed in more detail the lessons from his fight together with five Algerian activists and supporters of their struggle.

He was also able to meet several workers leaving work at Jack Victor, a large UNITE-organized garment plant in Montreal, some of whom had signed a petition in support of his fight and followed his case in the pages of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Calero was also interviewed for a Spanish-language program on Radio Centre-Ville, a widely known multilingual community radio station.

Sylvie Charbin and Grant Hargrave contributed to this article.



BY ELIZABETH WALLADOR

TORONTO—“Róger Calero’s victory has been an inspiration to us all,” said Sophie Harkat, leader of a campaign to free her husband Mohamed Harkat (see article above). Sophie Harkat joined Calero and others at a public meeting here at the Domenico di Luca Community Centre. Calero visited Toronto August 22–23 as part of an international tour.

Other speakers included Mathew Behrens from the Campaign to Stop Secret Trials in Canada, Morteza Gorgzadeh of the Free the Five Committee in Toronto, which is organizing a cross-country tour with a relative of one of the five Cuban revolutionaries jailed in the United States on frame-up conspiracy charges, and Michel Dugré, a leader of the Communist League.

Meeting participants also expressed opposition to the August 14 arrest and indefinite detention without charges of 19 men of Pakistani and Indian origin here on the pretext of links to terrorist groups.

The 27 people present contributed nearly CAN \$800 toward the costs of the tour and to put aside some funds for the next defense case the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF) may have to take up. New York-based PRDF helped initiate the Róger Calero Defense Committee.

Calero was also able to discuss his victory with workers at two hog processing plants organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers and visit a picket line in Port Colbourne of Steelworkers who have been on strike against the Inco refinery for the past three months.

At the Maple Leaf meatpacking plant, he met members of a Hungarian family who have worked for several years at the factory and now face deportation. “There is an opportunity for their co-workers and their union to extend solidarity,” Calero said. He described how support from the labor movement was instrumental in winning his case.

Antideportation struggle gets hearing in Boston

BY MAGGIE TROWE

BOSTON—“I congratulate Róger for his brilliant victory,” said Amer Jubran, a Boston-area Palestinian activist facing deportation. Róger Calero, who visited this city in March seeking support for his antideportation fight, was back here August 8-9 to thank those who had helped win a victory in his case, discuss the lessons of his struggle, and extend solidarity to those like Jubran who face harassment from Department of Homeland Security and other police outfits.

Also on the platform were Tony Van Der Meer, adjunct professor of Africana Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston campus, and Maggie Trowe, chairperson of the Boston branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

Van Der Meer is facing trial on frame-up charges of assaulting a police officer and

resisting arrest. In April, while carrying out antiwar activity and commemorating the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., on the campus, a National Guard recruiter verbally threatened Van Der Meer and a student. Van Der Meer was subsequently assaulted by a campus police officer, who then charged the professor with attacking him. “They have declared war on us, and we have to understand that *that* is terrorism,” Van Der Meer said.

Jubran, an activist in the New England Committee to Defend Palestine, was arrested last November in his Rhode Island home, held for more than two weeks, and ordered deported over technicalities in his immigration application. At a recent hearing attended by dozens of Jubran’s supporters, Jubran’s attorney charged federal authorities with tampering with witnesses in the case.

Charles Welch, from the July 26 Coali-

tion, appealed for support for five Cuban revolutionaries who are being held in U.S. prisons for their efforts to prevent rightist attacks on Cuba.

More than 30 people attended the event held at the Zumix Youth Music Center in East Boston. Fifteen were present at a meeting in the Spanish-language Nobel Bookstore in Lawrence, a mill town north of Boston.

Participants in the meetings contributed \$650 to help replenish the Political Rights Defense Fund, which backed Calero’s case.

Calero was interviewed on a Lawrence Dominican radio program, and a Massachusetts Institute of Technology public radio show. Reporters from the Boston *Globe* and *El Sol* weekly covered the East Boston meeting. The August 17 *Globe* carried an article on the event.

Joel Britton for governor

Continued from front page
ton is on the ballot as an “Independent” and “Retired Meat Packer.” Among those buying the *Militant* or its sister publication in Spanish, *Perspectiva Mundial*, was a young worker who had served in the Marines until he was disabled in an auto accident. He was interested in the front-page *Militant* article, “200 U.S. Marines land in Liberia.”

A few days later Britton campaigned near a large meatpacking plant, Farmer John. Workers there are involved in a fight to revitalize their union. This was reflected in their discussions with Britton, who also worked as a slaughterhouse worker in Chicago. These workers told Britton about a new speed-up drive, how difficult it is to get a bathroom break, firings of workers, and the low wages and poor working conditions in the plant.

Quite a few of the workers wore union T-shirts as they left work that day. Britton learned that supporters of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 770 inside the plant had organized a T-shirt day that day, one of the steps in a drive to strengthen the union and win a better contract. The slogan on the T-shirt read *Luchando por dignidad y respecto* (fighting for dignity and respect). One of the union builders told Britton he had been a UFCW union stalwart when he worked at a Grand Island, Nebraska, packing plant.

Workers read Britton’s statement that will appear in the voters guide and be mailed to all registered voters in the state. The statement will be translated into six languages: Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish, and Korean.

The socialist campaign has generated considerable interest from the media. Britton was interviewed August 28 by John Beard and Christine Devine on Channel 11 Fox News. Introduced on the three-minute segment as a “leader of the Socialist Workers Party” and a “supporter of the Cuban Revolution,” Britton was asked what was the main message of his campaign.

“The deepening crisis of the global capitalist system is causing working people to resist,” said Britton. “We can fight to strengthen our unions now,” he emphasized, pointing to the need for the unions “to champion the demand of Jobs for all. Shortened workweek with no cut in pay. Launch public works programs to meet pressing social needs. Raise the minimum wage.”

In response to a question about why Cuba was important to his campaign, Britton said “Cuba is a country where working people have been in power for more than four decades. They have set an example for all working people of the benefits of establishing a workers and farmers government that has made huge social gains for their people.” But doesn’t Cuba suffer from “poverty” and haven’t the Cubans “given up their freedoms?” asked Beard. Britton

said that although Cuba is a poor country, it has an unmatched record of building a society based on human solidarity. The most important freedom they have won is to “be free from U.S. domination. They did not have that under the U.S.-backed Batista regime,” he said.

The *Boston Globe* and the *Los Angeles Times* recently interviewed Britton. The *Times* quoted him as saying, “The crisis of the capitalist system and the capitalist government in Sacramento shouldn’t be put on the backs of the working people.” Britton returned candidate surveys to the *San Jose Mercury News*, *Sacramento Bee*, and other papers; appeared for four minutes on KGET News Radio 970 on the Bakersfield Morning News show and taped a one-minute statement with KFI-AM 640, which will be aired soon; and prepared a one-minute taped statement that will be aired over 36 Infinity AM and FM radio stations broadcasting from Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Di-



Militant/Betsey Stone

Joel Britton (left) campaigns in Los Angeles with Olympia Newton (right), a leader of Young Socialists for Britton.

ego, San Jose, Sacramento, Riverside/Palm Springs and Fresno.

Britton has also submitted a two-minute video statement to Access Sacramento TV Channel 17, a cable channel that reaches more than 250,000 households. And last but not least, the Socialist Workers candidate gave a 15-minute phone interview to a high-school student on assignment from *The Guerrilla*, her school paper.

If you want to campaign for Britton, contact his campaign office or the Young Socialists for Britton at 4229 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90011; Tel: (323) 233-9372; or e-mail: 74642.326@compuserve.com

Subscription renewal drive is a success

BY SAM MANUEL

Distributors of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* far surpassed the goal for *Militant* subscription renewals in a four-week campaign, during which

270 readers re-upped—120 percent of the target of 225. This means that more than a quarter of subscribers from last spring renewed—the highest rate in such a campaign for at least half a decade. At the same time, partisans of the socialist publications fell short of the *PM* goal of 80 sub renewals with a final total of 67, or 84 percent. During the final week of the campaign 75 *Militant* and 26 *PM* readers renewed their subs.

“It took a lot of consistent follow-up work,” wrote Ilona Gersh from Detroit. “None of the subscribers were overlooked.” She said that a meat packer and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) who renewed his subscription to *PM* “supported the recent ‘Fight To Win’ tour by Róger Calero in Detroit, bringing six co-workers to meet and talk with Calero during a lunchtime meeting outside the plant.” After the discussion he decided to also help encourage others in the plant to subscribe (for coverage of Calero tour see facing page).

From Omaha, Jacob Perasso wrote that a medical student from Iran studying at the University of Nebraska renewed her *Militant* subscription for one year. “She handed me \$60 and said to apply it to a *Militant* sub for as long as it will last.” After looking through a few books she also purchased a copy of *New International* no. 7, which features “Washington’s assault on Iraq—Opening Guns of World War III.” A reader in the Swift meatpacking plant who subscribes to *PM* also renewed his *Militant* sub.

Through such efforts, socialist workers active in the UFCW surpassed their *Militant* target and met their *PM* goal for sub renewals from co-workers.

Distributors in Seattle sold two more renewals to the *Militant* to make their goal and won some new ones. Chris Hoeppner said that a student at the University of Washington became a new subscriber while attending her second Militant Labor Forum along with two friends.

Events planned to boost fund

BY ANGEL LARISCY

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund in cities around the country are organizing meetings to raise money for the \$80,000 fund that helps to finance the work of the communist movement. The campaign runs until October 15.

On September 20 SWP leader Martín Koppel will speak in Newark, New Jersey, on “Latin America: A Smoldering Volcano; Washington’s Moves to Boost its Military Intervention.” Supporters of the fund effort in Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta have organized for SWP and Young Socialist leader Arrin Hawkins to speak in their cities September 19–20, on “Defend the Cuban Revolution: Its lessons for fighting workers and youth worldwide.”

Other programs include Sam Manuel speaking September 6 in Twin Cities on

“The U.S. Conquest of Iraq and Its Trade Push in Africa.” Ernie Mailhot and Becca Williamson will speak on “The Road of Moncada and Party-Building Today” September 14 in Des Moines, Iowa, and September 28 in Omaha, Nebraska. Similar meetings have been planned for Pittsburgh and Hazelton, Pennsylvania, as well as Detroit and Chicago.

Socialist workers in these cities and others will be building the meetings among fellow trade unionists, youth who have just returned from the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange, and others.

The challenge before all supporters is to rapidly begin collecting and sending in contributions. We are halfway through the fund campaign but only 16 percent of the goal has been collected—\$31,000 short of where it should be. Diligent effort is needed

to contact all those with pledges and ask them to make payments as well as seek out new contributors.

The deadline for contributions to be received and recorded on the weekly scoreboard is Saturday at noon (EST). All donations should be mailed to: SWP, 152 W. 36th St., Room 401, New York, N.Y., 10018. Checks should be made out to the SWP.

— CALENDAR —

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speaker: Brian Taylor, SWP candidate for Mayor of Birmingham, Sat., Sept. 6, 7:00 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m., Donation: Dinner \$5, Program \$5. *Pathfinder Bookstore*, 3029-A Bessemer Road, (205)780-0021.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

After the Vieques Victory: How does Puerto Rico fit into U.S. Strategies for Global Domination? Speakers: Jorge Farinacci, Socialist Front of Puerto Rico; Ismael Guadalupe, Committee for the Rescue & Development of Vieques. Sat., Sept. 20, 10:00 a.m. Donation: \$6/\$8/\$10. Vieques Support Campaign. *Brecht Forum*, 122 West 27th St., 10th floor.(718) 610-4751 or (212) 677-0619.

\$80,000 Party-Building Fund July 12–October 15: Week 7 of 13			
	Goal	Paid	%
NE Pennsylvania	2,000	750	38%
Twin Cities	4,300	1,595	37%
Miami	1,800	600	33%
Tampa	1,800	550	31%
Newark	3,500	980	28%
Utah	1,000	275	28%
Boston	2,800	575	21%
San Francisco*	8,000	1,600	20%
Detroit	2,500	450	18%
Birmingham	1,400	240	17%
Atlanta	5,200	660	13%
New York	10,000	1,090	11%
Chicago	4,200	400	10%
Des Moines	1,450	150	10%
Seattle	6,000	525	9%
Washington, DC	2,700	215	8%
Houston	3,500	250	7%
Cleveland	1,000	55	6%
Philadelphia	3,200	150	5%
Los Angeles	7,500	150	2%
Omaha	1,300	10	1%
Western Colorado	2,700	35	1%
Pittsburgh	3,600	0	0%
Other		1,131	
Total	81,450	12,436	16%
Goal/Should be	80,000	43,200	54%
*Raised goal			

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Subscription Renewal Drive July 26–Aug. 24: FINAL CHART

Country	Militant			PM	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES					
Boston	4	11	275%	3	6
Miami	7	12	171%	3	3
Houston	6	10	167%	1	0
Omaha	3	5	167%	5	3
Atlanta	8	13	163%	2	1
Tampa	5	8	160%	1	0
Des Moines	4	6	150%	2	1
Twin Cities	8	12	150%	6	5
Birmingham	5	7	140%	2	2
Seattle	8	11	138%	1	1
Washington, DC	8	11	138%	4	1
Newark	6	8	133%	2	3
Los Angeles	12	16	133%	5	11
New York	12	15	125%	6	6
San Francisco	8	10	125%	4	0
Utah	4	5	125%	5	4
Western Colorado	8	9	113%	6	2
Cleveland*	9	10	111%	1	0
Detroit	8	8	100%	2	2
Philadelphia	5	5	100%	2	1
Pittsburgh	8	8	100%	0	0
Chicago	15	15	100%	8	7
NE Pennsylvania	7	3	43%	0	2
U.S. total	168	218	130%	71	61
AUSTRALIA	8	7	88%	1	0
CANADA					
Vancouver	6	7	117%	1	1
Toronto	6	5	83%	1	1
Montreal	4	2	50%	3	2
CANADA total	16	14	88%	5	4
NEW ZEALAND					
Auckland	4	4	100%		
Christchurch	4	3	75%		
N.Z. total	8	7	88%		
SWEDEN					
Stockholm	4	4	100%	1	0
Gothenburg	4	3	75%	0	1
SWEDEN total	8	7	88%	1	1
UNITED KINGDOM					
London	10	9	90%	2	1
Scotland	3	2	67%		
UK total	13	11	85%	2	1
ICELAND	8	6	75%		
International totals	229	270	120%	80	67
Goal/Should be	225	225	100%	80	80
IN THE UNIONS					
	Militant			PM	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES					
UFCW	13	17	131%	15	15
UMWA	9	9	100%	4	2
UNITE	13	12	92%	2	5
Total	35	38	109%	21	22
*raised goal					

U.S. youth, on visit to Havana, discuss fight of Cuban Five

BY MARK GILSDORF
AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

HAVANA—“They could have devoted themselves to their career and family life, but they decided they had to fulfill their revolutionary duty to their country, Cuba, and set aside other things in their lives,” said Olga Salanueva, addressing a group of nearly 300 youth visiting from the United States.

Salanueva has been active here in the international campaign for the release of her husband, René González, and four other Cuban revolutionaries serving long sentences in U.S. prisons on frame-up conspiracy and espionage charges. Before their arrest and frame-up, the five—González, Gerardo Hernández, Fernando González, Antonio Guerrero, and Ramón Labañino—had been carrying out an international mission on behalf of Cuba to obtain information on counterrevolutionary Cuban-American groups that have a long record of conducting violent attacks on Cuba from U.S. territory with Washington’s knowledge and complicity.

Salanueva spoke on a panel July 30 with Irma Schwerert, René González’s mother; Rosa Aurora Freijanes, the wife of Fernando González; and Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly.

In the audience were Yadira Pérez, Hernández’s niece, and Irmita and Ivette González, daughters of Olga Salanueva and René González. The first two were part of the delegation of some 30 Cuban students and other youth accompanying the U.S. visitors throughout their weeklong trip.

The meeting was part of the Third Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange, which was held July 23–31 and hosted by the Federation of University Students, the Union of Young Communists, and other Cuban youth organizations (see article on the Youth Exchange in the September 8 *Militant*).

Noting the virtual media blackout in the United States on the case of these five Cuban internationalists, Alarcón reviewed some of the basic facts. He appealed to the youth from the United States to join in the campaign to publicize these facts and win their release.

The five revolutionaries were arrested by FBI agents in 1998 and tried and convicted in a federal court in Miami in 2001. They were charged with conspiracy to act as unregistered agents of a foreign power,

conspiracy to commit espionage for Cuba, and—in the case of Hernández—conspiracy to commit murder.

The latter charge was based on the far-fetched allegation that Hernández was responsible for the deaths of four members of the ultraright group Brothers to the Rescue whose planes were shot down in February 1996 after they conducted provocative actions inside Cuban airspace. Falsely depicting the outfit as a “humanitarian” group shot down over international waters—despite testimony during the trial to the contrary—federal prosecutors claimed Hernández had alerted Cuban authorities to the group’s plans and was therefore guilty of murder.

The trial was riddled with violations of constitutional rights. Before arresting the five men, FBI agents repeatedly broke into their homes and raided their computer files, in violation of the Fourth Amendment protections against arbitrary search and seizure. For months before the trial, the defendants were tried and convicted in the big-business media. The judge refused a defense motion to move the trial to a city outside Miami, despite statements by some prospective jurors, especially Cuban-Americans, that they feared reprisals if they voted “not guilty.”

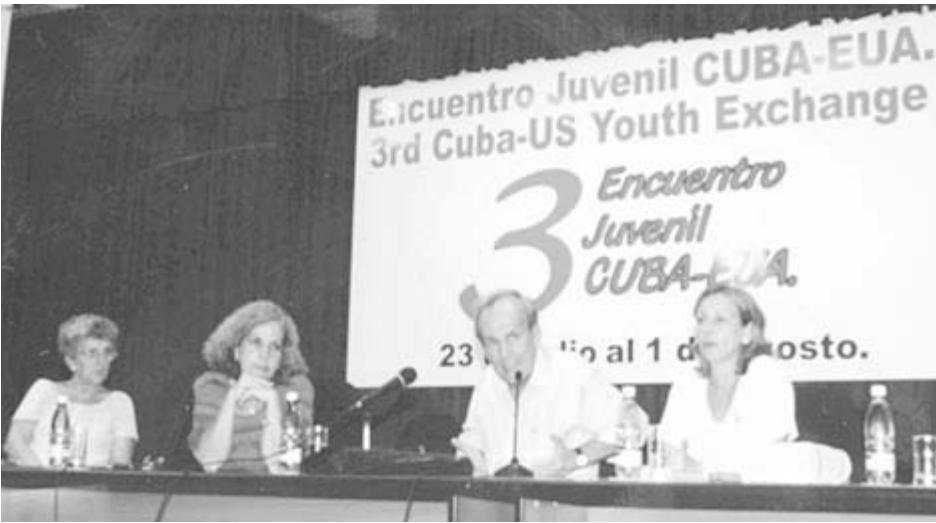
U.S. officials accused the defendants of trying to obtain military secrets, but no such evidence was presented during the trial. The prosecution was unable to prove that they carried out a single illegal act, so they were convicted on “conspiracy” charges.

The federal judge gave Hernández two consecutive life sentences plus 15 years; Ramón Labañino, a life sentence plus 18 years; Guerrero, a life sentence plus 10 years; Fernando González, a jail term of 19 years; and René González, 15 years.

Alarcón explained that the five men have been subjected to brutal conditions in an unsuccessful effort to break them. “They have been transferred to five separate prisons, far from each other and from their defense lawyers,” he noted.

U.S. denial of visas to relatives in Cuba

“The Cuban diplomatic staff in Washington has been sharply limited in its ability to accompany family members who travel from Cuba to visit their imprisoned relatives,” Alarcón said. “Our staff has been reduced to seven because of recent unjust expulsions of our personnel by the U.S. government. And in a new restriction, Cuban



Militant/Martín Koppel

Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly, speaks July 30 on panel in Havana with family members of Cuban Five. To his left sits Rosa Aurora Freijanes, who is married to Fernando González; at his right is Olga Salanueva and Irma Schwerert, wife and mother, respectively, of René González.

consular officials are authorized to leave Washington, D.C., to accompany relatives only during prison visitation days.” This means family members—who have been permitted only one or two visits a year—will come on weekend visitation days, then wait alone till the next weekend to see their loved ones, while Cuban officials are forced to return to Washington and then go back.

“On top of these obstacles,” Alarcón said, “Olga, the wife of René, and Adriana [Pérez], the wife of Gerardo, have repeatedly been denied visas to see their husbands.”

Olga Salanueva, a U.S. legal resident who after her husband’s arrest in 1998 was locked up in an immigration jail for three months and then deported to Cuba, has so far been denied a visa three times. Adriana Pérez has not seen her husband in five years. This includes the 17-month period after the arrests during which the five men were thrown into solitary confinement and kept incommunicado at the Miami federal detention center, with their families denied word of their fate.

“This denial of the right of the families to visit their relatives in prison is a form of cruel and unusual punishment,” Alarcón stressed. He urged those in the audience to join in the demand that the U.S. government immediately grant visas to Salanueva and Pérez.

In a further attempt to isolate them, on February 28 U.S. officials put all five in the “hole,” a move that sparked a flood of protest messages from defenders of the Cuban patriots. They were released a month later.

During the discussion period, several of the Youth Exchange participants asked questions about the five men, two of whom were born in the United States, who are all part of a generation that grew up in Cuba since the victory of the 1959 revolution. Freijanes, Salanueva, and Schwerert painted a vivid portrait of their lives.

They explained that Hernández, Fernando González, and René González were among the hundreds of thousands of Cu-

bans who served as volunteer combatants in Angola between 1975 and 1990, helping defeat invasions by the South African army under the racist apartheid regime.

How René González got to Angola

Irma Schwerert told the story of how in 1977 her son managed to be included in the list of internationalist volunteers to be sent to Angola. “René wanted to go, but was turned down because he had just completed his military service. He said, ‘I have to go to Angola.’ So he hopped on his bike on a Friday afternoon, pedaled several kilometers to find the two officials who could give him the necessary forms and signatures. He got the signatures. And early on Monday he left for Angola,” she said with a grin.

The panelists also explained how the five internationalists have continued to carry out political work behind bars, sharing books and discussing politics with fellow prisoners. Schwerert told how, when René González was transferred to the federal penitentiary in Edgefield, South Carolina, many of his fellow inmates were happy to learn that he had fought in the liberation struggle in Angola.

“Some of René’s African-American cell mates invited him to attend one of their cultural celebrations,” she said. “When he walked in, one prisoner asked, ‘What is someone with blonde hair and green eyes doing here?’ Another prisoner responded, ‘He fought in Africa.’ When the others heard this they welcomed him to take part in their celebration.”

Alarcón and other panelists noted that they realize the fight to free the framed-up revolutionaries will be long and hard. “We will consider it a final victory when all five are freed. However, we have been winning small victories along the way,” said Salanueva, pointing to successful efforts such as the campaign of protest messages that was organized after they were put in the “hole.”

The unbreakable stand of the five jailed revolutionaries has given their supporters greater determination to keep fighting for their release, she said. When two of the five Cubans were given lesser charges of conspiracy, they could have opted to pursue separate trials in hopes of getting shorter sentences. “Instead, they all asked that the trials be done together, because the only victory will be freedom for all five,” she said.

“It’s a victory when the world knows that the Cuban people cannot be intimidated and cannot be bought,” Salanueva added. “It is by chance that we have been placed in this situation, but I am sure there are millions of Cubans who are ready to take their place. It is much harder when people abandon their principles. Despite the hardships, it was a source of pride when we learned why they had been imprisoned and what they had been doing.”

At the conclusion of the July 30 meeting, members of the youth delegation from Los Angeles presented the delighted families of the five prisoners, on behalf of the entire U.S. group, with a large, colorfully painted banner with portraits of the five and the slogan “Free the Cuban Five.” The banner, painted by student Alicia Siu, had been signed by dozens of the participants in the Youth Exchange.

Many of the youth in the audience left the meeting expressing their eagerness to return to the United States to spread the facts they had learned about the case of the Cuban Five and campaign for their freedom.

Thousands rally in Washington, D.C., on 40th anniversary of 1963 civil rights march

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Thousands rallied here August 23 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for civil rights.

That rally four decades ago, attended by 250,000, registered a watershed in the civil rights movement. It followed the victorious battle to desegregate Birmingham, Alabama, during which the police arrested thousands of young Blacks. The 1963 march was followed by coordinated protests against government-backed racial discrimination throughout the South, forcing Washington to pass the Civil Rights Act the next year and the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

In contrast, the theme of this year’s anniversary rally was to get out the vote for the Democratic presidential nominee in 2004 to defeat U.S. president George Bush. Democratic Party leader Jesse Jackson led the crowd in chanting, “Bush no more, in 2004.” At a teach-in preceding the rally, Jackson emphasized “we must have one candidate in 2004.” In a reference to the campaign of Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader in the 2000 vote,

Jackson said “we lost the election because of candidates who ran for good causes.”

At planning meetings here in the final weeks leading up to the rally, organizers stressed that the focus of the event would be to launch a 15-month voter registration drive to sign up a million new voters. “The press will judge the success of the march by the turn out on Saturday,” said Walter Fauntroy, former D.C. delegate to the House of Representatives. “The turnout we are looking for are the million new voters who will go to the polls next November.”

Participants in the rally were mostly Blacks and came mainly from the southeastern part of the country. About 8,000 in all took part. Many of those who had joined the march in 1963 or who were involved in protests against the war in Vietnam expressed concern at the small turnout for the rally. Aaron Harding, 58, was a teenager when he stood among the participants in the 1963 rally. “The way things are going with this administration there should be at least as many people as were here in 1963,” he said.

Lamar Stockton, 21, from Roanoke, Virginia, however, saw it differently. “A lot of

the people who were here in 1963 are saying there should be more people,” he stated. “We all want that, but this is our beginning. How many people did they have when they first started? And while we are dealing with many of the same issues, it is different and not so clear today.” Asked his opinion about the emphasis on voter registration, Stockton replied, “Everybody should vote, but right now I don’t see any candidate seriously addressing our issues today.”

About 200, mostly students who are Black, marched to the rally from Howard University. Their involvement was part of a weekend conference organized by the group By Any Means Necessary. BAMN was one of the groups that organized a march of tens of thousands in April in defense of affirmative action programs at the University of Michigan. A contingent of about 400 organized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was loudly cheered when it entered the Lincoln Memorial grounds.

Several Democratic Party politicians attended the rally. Among them were presidential contenders Howard Dean, Carol Moseley Braun, and Alfred Sharpton.

How Allende government was overthrown

Sept. 11, 2003, marks the 30th anniversary of the U.S.-backed military coup in Chile led by Gen. Augusto Pinochet. The coup overthrew the elected government of Socialist Party leader Salvador Allende. Many working people today are eager to get an accurate balance sheet on that terrible setback for the working class in Chile and throughout the Americas and the world. Recent events indicate that the Chilean working class is awakening again. On August 14 of this year hundreds of thousands of workers honored the call by the Central Workers Union of Chile for a nationwide walkout. It was the country's first general strike since 1986. For these reasons, bringing history into the present, the *Militant* reprints below excerpts from *Fidel Castro on Chile*, an Education for Socialists bulletin published by Pathfinder Press. The bulletin contains speeches by Cuban president Fidel Castro during his tour in Chile Nov. 10–Dec. 4, 1971, while Allende was president. The excerpts are taken from the bulletin's introduction written by Elizabeth Stone. Copyright © 1982 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission.



BY ELIZABETH STONE

In the fall of 1970, Salvador Allende Gossens, a Socialist Party left-winger and longtime supporter of the Cuban Revolution, was elected president of Chile. He ran as the candidate of Popular Unity, a coalition of the Socialist Party, Communist Party, Radical Party, United People's Action Movement (MAPU—a left split from the Christian Democrats), and two smaller parties. The CP and SP were the dominant forces in the coalition.

Allende's victory reflected a broad radicalization of the Chilean masses. Popular Unity committees sprang up throughout the country to work for Allende's election, and when it became clear that Allende was going to get the largest vote of the three candidates running, masses of people poured into the streets to celebrate.

During the first year of the UP government, a number of far-reaching reforms were carried out. Foreign holdings in copper, nitrate, iron, and coal were nationalized, as well as many banks and textile mills. Steps were taken to implement a land reform law passed under the previous Christian Democratic government but never carried out. Along with this, peasants began seizing land. The government opposed such seizures, but in most cases went along with them, offering to pay the owners.

Workers received a significant increase in wages. A half quart of milk a day was supplied to children. Thousands of political prisoners were released. And Allende opened up diplomatic relations and trade with Cuba and took other foreign policy stands, such as opposing U.S. intervention in Vietnam, that earned the wrath of the U.S. government.

These challenges to imperialism helped to deepen support for Popular Unity among the masses, so that by the time of the legislative elections the next year, the UP vote went up from 36 percent to 49.75 percent.

Within the UP, the number of votes for the workers' parties increased, with 22.89 percent for the Socialist Party and 17.36 percent for the Communist Party, while the Radicals—a bourgeois party—declined to 8.15 percent.

The UP government did not claim to be establishing socialism in Chile. But Allende insisted that his was a “revolutionary” government that was “laying the basis for socialism.” In an interview with Régis Debray, Allende described himself as follows: “The president of the Republic is a socialist...I have reached this office in order to bring about the economic and social transformation of Chile, to open up the road to socialism. Our objective is total, scientific Marxist socialism.”

Despite Allende's radical rhetoric, and despite some significant anti-imperialist actions, Popular Unity was a class-collaborationist coalition, a popular front. It subordinated the struggles of the masses to an orientation of collaborating with bourgeois parties and forces. The top UP leadership opposed a perspective of mobilizing the working class and its allies to take power, dismantle the old army and state apparatus, and build a new one based on the toilers. They looked to the army brass and to agreements with the Christian Democratic Party to protect them from the imperialists and the right wing.

At critical points in the Chilean struggle, the UP brought members of the top Chilean officer corps into the government as a guarantee to Chilean capitalists. Even when attacks from the right wing became severe, the main forces in the UP were afraid to organize the masses for an effective fight because this would frighten the Christian Democrats and cause them to turn against the government.

The UP government was also scrupulous in making sure that everything was done without infringing on bourgeois legality. It proclaimed that the “revolution” was being made in the context of bourgeois institutions.

Imperialist destabilization

Unlike the UP leaders, the imperialists and the Chilean ruling class had no allegiance whatsoever to bourgeois legality. From the beginning, imperialism began to plot to get rid of Allende. In fact, the U.S. corporation International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) connived with Richard Nixon's administration to try to prevent Allende from even being elected. And after the election, there were further plots to try to keep Allende from taking office.

Economic sabotage was one of the most effective weapons used against the UP government by the U.S. and Chilean capitalists. By undermining the economy and driving down the standard of living of the masses, they sought to demoralize the workers and to turn the middle class against the government.

The U.S. opened up a virtual economic war against Chile. It used its influence to block the refinancing of Chile's foreign debt. World Bank credits for Chile dropped from an annual average of \$230 million to \$27 million. There was a flight of capital from Chile, and private companies ended new investments. U.S. trade with Chile was slashed. The U.S. cut off all shipments of spare parts and wheat. Foreign aid was cut. U.S. copper companies claimed that they were not getting paid fairly for the nationalized copper and tried to block Chile from marketing the copper. American technicians were pulled out of the mines to sabotage their functioning. The U.S. also sold off some of its copper reserves, driving down the price of copper on the world market. Within Chile, the bourgeoisie decapitalized industries, sabotaged production, hoarded goods, and withdrew money from the banks.

All of this had the desired effect of creating economic chaos and of putting the economic squeeze on the masses. Given his framework of not challenging



Workers in Chile meet under banner that reads, “We demand expropriation.” Demands for nationalization and workers control of production increased in early 1970s in face of sabotage by bosses who opposed Allende regime. The Popular Unity government tried to appease workers' demands, while also defending capitalist property interests.

bourgeois legality and the norms of capitalism, Allende found himself more and more in the position of calling upon the workers to sacrifice to meet the payments demanded by the imperialists.

As the crisis deepened, the right-wing actions against the government began to grow and involve larger layers of the middle class. In October 1972 small shopkeepers went on strike against government searches for hoarded goods. Upper class and middle-class women began to demonstrate against the shortages. Fascist movements began to grow and to carry out violent attacks. Right-wing forces carried out bombings, assassinations, and provocations. The bourgeois press produced an unending stream of lies against the UP and the workers' movement. Finally, right-wing bosses' “strikes,” spearheaded by the truck owners, paralyzed the economy.

U.S. imperialism played a direct role in this destabilization campaign. The U.S. embassy, the CIA, U.S. corporations, U.S.-trained Cuban counterrevolutionaries, and the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD)—the AFL-CIO bureaucracy's government-funded counterrevolutionary operation in Latin America—all had a hand in the action.

When U.S. aid to Chile was cut, there were two notable exceptions: 1) U.S. military aid and training continued for the Chilean armed forces; and 2) a million dollars were made available through AID to finance counterrevolution. Most of the latter was channeled through AIFLD and used to help organize and finance the truck owners' strike, as well as other activities of the right wing.

Working people in Chile responded to these attacks by defending the Allende government and by taking steps to keep the economy running. When the capitalists began to sabotage production, the workers occupied the plants and continued to produce without the bosses. In the summer of 1973, the army responded with searches of the plants, harassing and arresting workers under the pretext of searching for weapons. The Christian Democrats backed up the army in their growing attacks on the workers and the UP.

1973 coup

The process culminated, three years after Allende's election, in a bloody military coup. Thousands of workers, political activists, and people from the poor neighborhoods were massacred, along with many foreign revolutionaries who had obtained political asylum under the UP government. Allende himself was killed as he fought to defend the national palace against attacking troops. It was a terrible setback not only for Chile, but for the oppressed and exploited masses throughout all of Latin America.

These tragic events provided important lessons for the workers movement. They showed what imperialism was ready to do to defend its interests. They also showed the bankruptcy of a perspective of relying on the bourgeoisie in the struggle against imperialism.

The UP was in a contradiction from the beginning. Under the pressure of the masses, it took certain deepgoing anti-imperialist actions, and then expected the bourgeoisie of Chile to help defend these actions. But it has been shown time and time again that the national bourgeoisie in semicolonial countries will not wage a consistent struggle against imperialism; instead, it lines up with imperialism against the workers and peasants of its own country.

These events also showed how, under the blows of capitalist attacks, the workers found it necessary to take more and more radical steps, occupying plants, taking over distribution, and other steps that led in the direction of challenging the capitalist system itself. Two alternatives were posed: either the masses would be mobilized in a struggle that would culminate in a workers and farmers government, or the workers would be crushed.

There was no question that the workers of Chile were ready to fight. Every time there was an opportunity, the workers came out *en masse* to demonstrate against the right wing. In the industrial areas, organizations known as *cordones industriales* began to coordinate the struggle. But, the UP government—with the CP in the lead—put a brake on these activities.

By restricting the organization of the masses, the UP leaders blocked the workers from taking the lead in providing real solutions to the problems faced by the masses, including the peasantry, the unemployed, and the poorer layers of the urban middle class. Efforts by the MIR (Revolutionary Movement of the Left) and the left wing of the SP to organize such layers and to build an effective resistance to the right wing were attacked by the CP as ultraleft. Even when it was obvious that a coup was coming—and there was plenty of warning—the UP leadership refused to take the necessary steps to mobilize and arm the workers.

Cuba's role

Cuba responded to the events in Chile in the following ways:

1) by solidarizing with Chile as a country that was charting a foreign policy independent of Yankee imperialism and taking its natural resources out of the hands of the imperialists;

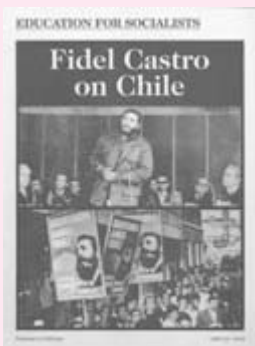
2) by defending the Popular Unity government in the face of a concerted drive by imperialism and Chilean reaction to overthrow it; and

3) by attempting to bolster the positions of those in Chile who were trying to mobilize the masses to defeat the right-wing forces and to make a revolution, and to influence the broadest possible layers in the UP and Chilean labor movement along these lines.

The Cubans jumped to the defense of Chile as soon as the U.S. attacks began, even before Allende became president. They sought to expose what the U.S. was doing and viewed the election itself as a victory against this. *Granma* carried a banner headline, “Anti-imperialist Victory in Chile.”

(To be continued)

From Pathfinder



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How slaveholders backed Liberia colony

The following are excerpts from *America's Revolutionary Heritage*, a collection of Marxist essays edited by George Novack, who is also the author of many of these articles. This is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. Derrick Morrison is author of the article from which the portions below are taken. Titled "Martin R. Delaney—pioneer Black nationalist," the essay is published as the last item in "The Slavocracy," the third section of the book. Copyright © 1976 by Pathfinder

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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BY DERRICK MORRISON

Pennsylvania, in 1780, was the first state to abolish African chattel slavery, albeit gradually, and thus allowed the growth of "free" Black (or, in the term in use at that time, "colored") communities. Black people lived in ghettos then as they do now.

Delaney¹ arrived in Pittsburgh in the fall of 1831. The first extensive Black awakening was under way. A year earlier, on September 30, the first national Black convention had met in Philadelphia with thirty-eight delegates. This was the beginning of a series of national Black conventions held over the next three decades. A second such affair was held in June of

1831, followed by a convention of the "Colored Citizens of Pittsburgh" on September 1.

These first shoots of the independent organization of Black people in 1830–31 arose out of the awareness that slavery was not going to wither away. Rather than weakening after the First American Revolution, Black slavery had been given a new lease on life with the invention of the cotton gin, an important factor enabling the Southern slaveholders to become the prime suppliers of cotton to the British textile industry. The prosperity of the South fueled the growth of finance and commerce in the North, making more remote than ever the thought of abolishing slavery.

As a solution to the contradiction of having free Blacks walking around among slaves, the American Society for Colonizing the Free People of Color in the United States was formed. This organization, which came to be known as the American Colonization Society, aimed at ridding the country of free Blacks, not slaves. It was covertly backed and financed by the slaveholders and the federal government itself. With their aid, the society purchased what has become known as Liberia. By 1860 the society had transferred 15,000 Blacks to this area, which had been nominally an independent country since 1847.

With the expansion of the society during the 1820s, the free Blacks began to organize in opposition. Regional and statewide gatherings led to the first national Black meeting in 1830. These independent expressions of the Blacks played a direct role in the organization of the abolitionist movement....

The positions held by Blacks helped educate and harden the antislavery attitudes



Drawing of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, made up primarily of free Blacks, attacking Fort Wagner, South Carolina, during U.S. Civil War. Black nationalist Martin Delany, the first Black major in the U.S. Army, opposed the American Colonization Society's efforts to use Liberia as a colony for free Blacks in order to blunt the abolitionist cause. Some 180,000 Blacks enlisted in the Union Army to fight the slavocracy.

of William Lloyd Garrison² and other abolitionists. For instance, many whites who started out on the road to the abolitionist movement thought the Colonization Society was acting in the interests of the Blacks by sending them to West Africa, since they obviously couldn't enjoy the benefits of citizenship in this country. And the chance to do missionary work in Africa ingratiated many Christian churches.

Opposed colonization schemes

Only when the free Blacks met and aired their opposition to the Colonization Society, exposing its complicity with the slaveholders and affirming their right to be American citizens and enjoy the fruits of the blood and toil of their forefathers and mothers, did abolitionists like Garrison become irrevocable opponents of this scheme.

Three months after the first national Black convention, Garrison brought out *The Liberator*. Two years later he, along with other white and a few Black abolitionists, organized the American Anti-Slavery Society.

Indispensable to this ferment in the North were two other forms of independent

activity by the Blacks. One of them was the slave rebellions, the biggest of which was led by Nat Turner in Virginia in 1831. The other was the continued stream of escaping slaves; their flight northward compelled the organization of the Underground Railway, which became the biggest single center of abolitionist activity.

These two kinds of slave resistance heightened the objective contradiction between the expansion of the capitalist North and the slaveholding south, and made impossible any peaceful coexistence between the two regions.

¹Martin Delany (1812–1895), the son of a free mother and slave father, was a leader of the fight against slavery and racist discrimination. He advocated emigration as a solution to the oppressed condition of African-Americans, which he counterposed to the colonization of Liberia. Delaney embraced the northern cause in the U.S. Civil War in order to advance the fight to end the slavocracy, and played an active part in postwar Reconstruction efforts.

²William Lloyd Garrison (1805–1879), an abolitionist, was the organizer of the Anti-Slavery Society.

September

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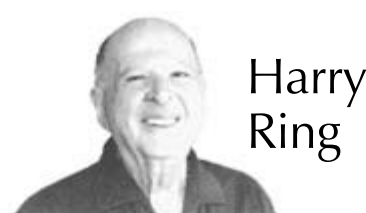
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Well, natch—“Wall Street powers into energy sector—Blackout prompts financial interest”—News headline, Money



Harry Ring

section, *USA Today*.

Class-angle inebriation—The media has it that New York’s Mayor Michael Bloomberg got good marks for his “leadership” during

the blackout (the cops didn’t kill anyone?). Anyway, back on July 4, the cops issued tickets to people drinking beer at a city beach 9/11 fund-raiser. A few days later a photographer got a shot of the good mayor sipping wine with numerous others at a park symphony. No busts.

U.S. crayon ring—During Washington’s initial assault on Iraq, several hundred people from Europe and a U.S. group went to Iraq and camped near an oil refinery as “human shields.” After their return, the Treasury Department warned them of possible jail terms and stiff fines. Trampling on democratic rights? Of course not,

snorted a Treasury spokesperson. There’s no stifling of dissent such as practiced by Saddam Hussein. Merely enforcing sanctions.

Oops. We forgot—There may have been violations of the sanctions rule. A schoolteacher from Hoboken admitted she brought in two dozen coloring books and the same of crayons. She left these at a Baghdad hospital.

Chat about this—America on Line, the biggest U.S. subscriber network service, has asked the feds that it be exempted from labor laws. This was prompted by the demand of its 7,000 “volunteers” who monitor AOL’s chat rooms in

return for free subscription service. The monitors are demanding wages and \$80 million in back pay. AOL calls them “community leaders.” (Try that on your grocery.)

Maybe so—In Clinton County, Indiana, the Carson & Barnes circus was accused of using hooks and electrical prods on the animals. Circus operators responded they treated the animals like family.

How to run a railroad—Privatized some decades back, allegedly to improve service, the United Kingdom railroad lines are facing “years of chaos.” That’s according to a leaked report by the government, which has coughed up

billions to hold the rail network together until 2010. Virtually all of it has already been spent.

Trendsetter?—In North Little Rock, Arkansas, a trolley car rail system that functioned until 1938 has been uncovered. We know nothing of the state of the line. But, it’s been public knowledge that in Los Angeles, a trolley system was valued but scrapped by the swelling auto industry and suburban real estate sharks.

Here’s a man with vision—Patrick Hays, mayor of North Little Rock, has a proposal on the trolley track: “We may slice it up in little pieces to sell as bookends.”

Washington boosts military strength in Latin America

Continued from front page
America was part of a “global struggle” against “terrorism.” He told U.S. soldiers at Soto Cano Air Base “that he and senior U.S. military officers will be discussing possible realignment of the American military presence in Latin America in coming weeks,” the Reuters news agency reported August 20.

At Soto Cano, some 500 U.S. troops belonging to a unit called Joint Task Force Bravo conduct military training and counterdrug operations in Central and South America and the Caribbean, according to AP. A U.S. defense official accompanying Rumsfeld told reporters that Washington had recently resumed providing the Honduran regime with radar data as part of interdicting “narcoterrorist” flights.

Soto Cano became a key staging area for U.S. military operations in the region after a decades-long struggle forced the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama in 1999.

U.S. officials also praised the Honduran government for having met two of their demands: sending a contingent of troops to be part of the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq, and ratifying a treaty exempting U.S. troops from war-crimes trials.

‘Focus on U.S. counterinsurgency’

For almost two years, the U.S. rulers have been focused on their war drive and other challenges in South Asia and the Middle East, including their rapid invasion and takeover of Iraq earlier this year, carried out without substantial opposition or high U.S. casualties. They have also been expanding their military intervention and economic domination in Africa, eyeing especially the continent’s oil resources, at the expense of their imperialist rivals.

Under these conditions, Washington has until now been unable to devote the same kind of attention to Latin America, despite developments in which U.S. imperialism has a stake—from Brazil to Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico. For example, despite U.S. hostility toward the Venezuelan government, which Washington views as too independent of its dictates, the Chávez regime has been able to govern without a seriously organized challenge from U.S. imperialism.

The Rumsfeld trip was a demonstrative sign that this period is over—a change that bourgeois commentators noted. “Mr. Rumsfeld’s visit, his first to Latin America during the Bush administration,” reported the Australian daily *The Age*, “put a sharper focus on U.S. counterinsurgency efforts in the region, which has been largely ignored during the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

The Pentagon chief’s visit was part of a string of trips to the region by high-

level U.S. government officials. On August 11–12, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, stopped in Bogotá to meet with President Uribe, Defense Minister Ramírez, and Colombia’s top army brass. He was preceded by U.S. trade representative Robert Zoeller, who dangled the offer of a bilateral “free trade” agreement. And in late July, U.S. drug czar John Walters dropped in together with U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs Marc Grossman and Gen. James Hill, head of the U.S. Southern Command.

The centerpiece of expanding U.S. military intervention in Colombia has been Plan Colombia, launched in 2000 by the Clinton administration. Washington has so far spent \$2.5 billion in Plan Colombia, making Bogotá the third largest recipient of U.S. military funding after Israel and Egypt.

Plan Colombia was initially presented as “fighting drug trafficking,” despite ample evidence that it was above all about increasing U.S. military intervention in a region where the U.S. ruling families have vast economic interests and that has been shaken by social turmoil. Last year, however, the U.S. government officially expanded the brief of its military mission in Colombia to include support to the Colombian regime’s “war on terrorism,” that is, its decades-long battle against the 18,000-member FARC and a smaller guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army (ELN). Media reports estimate that the two guerrilla organizations have effective control over 40 percent of Colombian territory, overwhelmingly in rural areas.

Since coming into office a year ago, the Uribe regime has launched an even more aggressive counterinsurgency drive, with Washington’s active support.

Earlier this year, the Bush administration dispatched 150 U.S. troops to Colombia. The pretext used was the capture of three U.S. “civilian contractors” by FARC combatants when their Pentagon-owned Cessna crashed in rebel-held territory. The added troops increased the official U.S. military strength in Colombia to 400—the limit set by the U.S. Congress. They are supplemented by another 300 “contract workers.”

U.S. Special Forces have trained 15 regular Colombian army battalions. U.S. troops are also training a special unit whose job is to protect Occidental Petroleum’s oil operations in the country’s northeast. Colombia is the seventh-largest supplier of oil to the United States. In fact, U.S. companies import more oil from Venezuela, Ecuador, and Colombia combined than from the entire Arab-Persian Gulf region.

A host of U.S. military contractors such as Lockheed Martin and DynCorp are involved in logistical, training, and maintenance work for the Colombian military and police, which are equipped with U.S. helicopters, planes, and arms. Under the banner of fighting “terrorism,” the Uribe regime has stepped up repression against working-class and farm struggles. Much of this repression is carried out by the army-backed death squads organized by drug-running landlords and capitalists.

Struggles by the miners union at coal mines in northern Colombia owned by Alabama-based Drummond Co., and by the food workers union at a Coca-Cola bottling plant, have been targeted by paramilitary groups, which have assassinated union militants.

Plan Colombia was expanded last year into the Andean Regional Initiative, which

includes funding for Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, Brazil, and Bolivia. Half of the funds are for these seven governments’ military and police, according to the U.S. State Department.

The expanding U.S. military presence in the region includes the U.S. air base at Manta, Ecuador; dozens of “drug interdiction” bases in Bolivia and Peru; and semisecret military bases in eastern Paraguay.

New pressure on Chávez government

One focus of the conflict is Venezuela, where Washington is worried about heightened expectations by working people for land, jobs, and better living conditions since the election of Chávez. The oil-rich country remains polarized between the continuing popular support for Chávez and the pro-imperialist opposition that is pushing for a referendum to recall the president.

As part of the U.S.-backed campaign against the current regime in Venezuela, Colombian military officials have charged that the government in Caracas is allowing its territory to be used as a refuge and supply route by FARC and ELN guerrillas. During his visit to Bogotá, General Myers “compared Venezuela to Iraq’s neighbors that allow ‘weapons or fighters’ to cross the border,” according to Dow Jones reporter Charles Roth. “It’s not helpful when countries don’t fully support the antiterrorism fight,” Myers was quoted as saying in ref-

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



September 15, 1978

“Despite widespread arrests of opposition leaders and youthful protesters, the nationwide general strike to overthrow Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza appeared to be holding firm yesterday,” according to a dispatch from Managua, the capital city, in the September 5 *Washington Post*.

During the last few days of August, however, Somoza’s forces did succeed in quelling the five-day takeover of Matagalpa by students and young working people in that city.

While Somoza’s crack troops were being hemmed in by the high school students of Matagalpa, street fighting was also reported in the cities of Jinotepe, León, Cotal, La Trinidad, Estelí, and Diriamba. Demonstrators were said to have erected barricades in some of these areas, although events apparently had not reached the same scope as in Matagalpa.

On August 28, the Nicaraguan government announced that twelve senior guard officers and seventy-three enlisted men had been arrested and would face court-martial for plotting a coup against Somoza. These were reportedly elements who were furious that Somoza had released all members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) held in Nicaraguan jails. Somoza did this in late August after FSLN guerrillas raided the National Palace and took more than sixty legislators and cabinet officials as hostages.

The mass hatred for the Somoza dictatorship was dramatized when thousands of Nicaraguans lined the streets to cheer the FSLN guerrillas as they traveled to the airport with the freed prisoners.



September 14, 1953

The August 15 issue of a leading Negro weekly, the Cleveland *Call and Post*, concluded an editorial on “The Moral Bankruptcy of South Africa” with the following paragraph:

“Will South Africa be permitted to fester and contaminate the rest of the world as did Hitler? Or, will the United Nations, supported by the great powers, be empowered to end this ‘tragic-comedy’ before it becomes a world drama?”

We’d like to ask the editor who wrote that: Are you serious? Do you really think the main danger of spreading racial discrimination throughout the world, even in places not already diseased, comes from South Africa? Isn’t there a more powerful nation—the most powerful—that has already done more than South Africa in that respect? Wasn’t it the U.S. Army, if you please, that brought Jim Crow to Europe during World War II?

And to which “great powers” in the United Nations would you entrust the ending of this “tragic-comedy”? Britain, with its brutal, counter-revolutionary policy in Kenya? France, with its vicious and predatory treatment of the natives of Indo-China and Morocco? Or the great “leader” of the United Nations and the “free world” without whose aid neither Britain nor France could continue to fight to the death to exploit all colonial peoples?

The place to look for a solution to the problem of South Africa is not the UN, Mr. Editor. The place to look is to South African labor.

The Leninist Strategy of Party Building

The Debate on Guerrilla Warfare in Latin America
By Joseph Hansen

An analysis of the debate in the 1960s and '70s among revolutionaries in the Americas on how to apply the lessons of the Cuban Revolution. \$26.95

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Campaign for Britton in California

The Young Socialists for Britton are appealing to youth across the United States to join in campaigning for Joel Britton, the Socialist Workers candidate for governor of California. We urge every young person interested in the socialist campaign to take up this invitation to campaign for the socialist alternative to the Democrats and Republicans—the twin parties of imperialist war, racism, and economic depression.

The California recall election, previously dismissed and ridiculed by some big-business pundits as a “circus,” has now become a focus of national and international attention and is seen as a run-up to the 2004 U.S. presidential elections.

Britton, who is on the ballot for the October 7 election, is getting a serious hearing from many workers, farmers, and youth. His campaign is especially attractive to those involved in struggles in face of the drive by the wealthy employers and their two parties against the wages, jobs, social gains, and rights of working people.

We urge you to take a few days or a week off work or school to campaign with Young Socialists for Britton. The socialist campaigners are handing out flyers on street corners in working-class neighborhoods and industrial districts. They are discussing the campaign with workers at factory gates and picket lines. They are setting up campaign tables on campuses. And they are joining protests: from demonstrations against U.S. military intervention abroad, to actions in support of a woman’s right to abortion; against police brutality and the death penalty; and against deportations and

Neither euro nor Swedish krona

The *Militant* is providing some of its editorial space this week for excerpts from a statement by the Communist League and Young Socialists in Sweden.

The Communist League and the Young Socialists invite working people and youth to join with us campaigning against Stockholm joining the European Monetary Union (EMU). Our campaign seeks to strengthen the resistance of working people to the bosses’ offensive. We say no to the EMU. It is part of an imperialist pact—the European Union. The EU is a bloc of predatory powers in Europe formed not only to compete against their imperialist rivals in the United States and Japan over the division and redivision of the world but above all to maximize their plunder of working people and oppressed nations around the globe.

Nationalistic resistance to the EMU, which has as its starting point the “defense of the Swedish krona” or the “independence of Sweden’s national bank,” is a reactionary obstacle to the line of march of the working class and its allies and makes the labor movement vulnerable to the demagoguery of the ultraright. That’s why we vigorously oppose the official “vote no” campaign and similar chauvinist appeals against the EMU. Those in the Swedish ruling class who oppose the adoption of the euro are as much an enemy of the working class as those who campaign for the EMU.

Swedish workers and exploited farmers have interests that are antagonistic to those of the bosses and the entire bourgeoisie—whether Swedish or of other nationalities—and common interests with working people throughout the world. We join with fighting workers and champion the need for independent working-class political action and a program of demands to unify working people in this country and internationally to effectively resist the attacks that the capitalists and their governments in Sweden, the rest of Europe, and the world are carrying out against the toilers.

These attacks are not a policy chosen by the current rulers, but the logical consequence of the normal workings of the capitalist system, which has entered an economic depression worldwide. The employers want to solve that crisis on the backs of working people. They want to make us accept divisions by nationality, age,

“no-match” firings of immigrant workers.

The Britton for Governor/Vote Socialist Workers Campaign proposes a revolutionary program, one that can unite working people in struggle. Britton calls for opposing imperialism and its assaults and military threats around the globe—from Iraq to Liberia, from Korea to Iran—and for bringing all the troops home now. In face of the growing economic catastrophe, he advocates a fight to demand jobs for all by shortening the workweek with no cut in pay and carrying out a massive public works program. The socialist campaign supports the demand to cancel the Third World debt that is squeezing workers and farmers around the globe.

Britton explains that the capitalist rulers offer us a future of imperialist wars and plunder, economic dislocation, and dog-eat-dog reality. Workers and farmers, on the other hand, have the potential power to take on and defeat the ruling rich. To do so a course of political independence from the capitalist parties is needed—a course toward establishing a workers and farmers government and joining the worldwide fight for socialism.

The Cuban Revolution today is a living example that working people have the capacity to transform the world. The road charted in Cuba is necessary and possible in the United States and around the world, too. It is the road of working people developing the kind of leadership that can transform our unions into fighting organizations and lead working people to take political power.

Join in campaigning with Young Socialists for Britton!

sex, and skin color that tear the working class apart.

The state of Sweden is one of these imperialist powers. It protects the interests of the Swedish bourgeoisie around the world. The brutal treatment of refugees is only a reflection of the plunder of the countries the immigrant workers come from by Stockholm, London, Paris, Berlin, Washington, and Co.

The Communist League and the Young Socialists campaign against the EMU is part of building a movement of working people, students, and other youth who will be in the front ranks of a revolutionary struggle for a workers and farmers government to take the power out of the hands of the ruling capitalist families in Sweden, overthrow capitalism, and join the worldwide fight for socialism.

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

Campaign with us to demand:

- No to the EMU, EU, and all imperialist pacts!
- All Swedish and other imperialist troops out of Afghanistan, the Balkans, and the Congo! No to the imperialist occupation of Iraq and intervention in Liberia! No to imperialist threats against Iran, north Korea, Syria, and Cuba!
- No to the Schengen agreement and attacks on the democratic rights of refugees!
- End the deportations! No Swedish language test requirement for citizenship!
- Jobs for all! Shorten the workweek with no cut in pay!
- Defend affirmative action in employment, housing, and education!
- Cancel the Third World debt!
- Defend women’s access to abortion!
- Cheap credit for working farmers!
- Oppose EU attacks against the Cuban Revolution!

Ten Commandments removed from Alabama court

BY CHERYL GOERTZ

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—On August 27, workers moved a 5,280-pound granite monument of the Ten Commandments out of the Alabama State Judicial Building rotunda in Montgomery. Chief Justice Roy Moore had installed the monument there in a highly visible public spot over two years ago. A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the display resulted in a ruling by U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson 10 months ago that the monument represented government promotion of religion and therefore had to be removed.

“The Ten Commandments monument, viewed alone or in the context of its history, placement, and location, has the primary effect of endorsing religion,” wrote Thompson in his Nov. 18, 2002, decision.

The monument features two tablets bearing the Ten Commandments and historical quotations about the place of God in law. It was paid for by an evangelical Christian group and was installed on the night of July 31, 2001, without the knowledge of the eight associate justices, according to the court record. Like similar failed efforts three years ago to post the Ten Commandments in public facilities in towns in Illinois and Kentucky, Moore’s action became a rallying point for rightist forces.

A lawsuit challenging the display of the monument as unconstitutional was filed in October 2001 in a federal district court. The plaintiffs were represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, The Southern Poverty Law Center, and Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs filed a friend of the court brief supporting the suit, signed by more than 40 members of the Alabama clergy, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Interfaith Alliance.

On December 19 Judge Thompson ordered Moore to remove

the religious display. That injunction was stayed pending Moore’s appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. On July 1 of this year the Court of Appeals affirmed the judgment and on August 5 the District Court issued an injunction ordering the monument be removed by August 20. After Moore defied the deadline, Moore’s eight associate justices unanimously overruled him and ordered the removal.

Alabama governor Robert Riley and attorney general William Pryor expressed their support for the Ten Commandments display. But when the ruling came down, both opposed Moore’s defiance of the federal court.

As the conflict came to a head, supporters of Moore held rallies and vigils outside the judicial building demanding the stone be left in place. These actions—ranging in size from dozens to hundreds—were organized by the Christian Defense Coalition. Other right-wing supporters included American Veterans in Domestic Defense; the Conservative Caucus; Concerned Women of America; radio and television evangelist and founder of Moral Majority, Inc., Jerry Falwell; the anti-abortion rights organization Operation Rescue; and columnist and talk show host Alan Keyes. Coral Ridge Ministries has raised \$375,000 in donations for Moore’s ongoing legal fight to keep, and now to return, the monument to the Judicial Building rotunda.

Moore, who was elected chief justice in 2000 campaigning as the “Ten Commandments Judge,” was suspended with pay by a judicial ethics panel for having refused to comply with the federal court order. He faces trial before the Court of the Judiciary. The state attorney general has said his office will prosecute Moore but won’t recommend a punishment if Moore is convicted. Moore could face penalties ranging from censure or suspension to removal from office.

Arson attack on Native fishing boats in Canada divides toilers

BY GRANT HARGRAVE

In a letter on the facing page, Daniel Desbois says he disagrees with a number of things in the article “Behind Canada’s fishing crisis” published in the July 14 *Militant*, “such as the reason given for the arson attack” on fishing boats and processing plants on May 3 of this year. The article reported that “four fishing boats and two fish processing plants in Shippagan, New Brunswick, were set on fire by a racist mob of some 200 crab fishers and others. Also a federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) office was ransacked.” One of the

REPLY TO A READER

boats belonged to the Big Cove Mi’kmaq Indians. The other boats belonged to the DFO but were slated to be turned over to Mi’kmaqs.

“The arson attack was organized in response to the federal government’s decision to cut snow crab quotas by 5,000 tons,” the article stated, “a more than 20 percent reduction from the previous year, and to allocate 15 percent of the quota to natives and other fishers who are out of work due to the depletion of cod.”

As one of the authors of the article, I agree with Desbois’s point that not all crab fishermen are opposed to the government giving a quota to Natives. The crab fishermen’s associations are on record as supporting this. And during the visit to the Gaspésie peninsula that I was part of, *Militant* reporters saw examples of collaboration between traditional crab fishers and Natives. For example, one of the Mi’kmaq fishers we interviewed, Daryl Patnode, explained that the traditional crab fisher who sold his quota and boat to the Mi’kmaq, because he wanted to retire, had stayed on for five years to help train the Mi’kmaq so that they can get their captain’s licenses.

It is an undisputed fact, however, that the first response to the federal government’s decisions by a group of crab fishers and associates was directed against Native property. This can’t be ignored or papered over. It needs to be described for what it was—a racist act led by capitalist fishers against other, smaller, and oppressed fishers. It is worth noting that to this day, there have been no arrests or charges laid following the arson attacks.

It was a deadly error for any crab-boat crew members to be caught up in this racist riot by some traditional crab fishers. It turned these workers against other toilers of the sea who are oppressed and exploited and who in fact are natural allies in the fight against the real source of the problem.

From the first sentence, the article explained that those responsible for the fishing crisis are the big companies such as Fish Products International and Clearwater who, with their factory trawlers, only had short-term profits in mind instead of long-term sustainability. In this endeavor, they were aided, abetted, and highly subsidized by the federal government that defends the interests of the ruling rich. This is how the capitalist system works. The only solution for working people and other exploited producers, such as working farmers and small fishermen, is to unite to take power out of the hands of the capitalists and organize society for human needs and not profits. What happened in Shippagan went in exactly the opposite direction.

Dean on Cuba

Continued from page 3

bargo should be lifted “to open up Cuba” as a new market for capitalist investment and trade. Dean’s position is consistent with his overall foreign policy stances, such as backing the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, arguing for a stepped-up “war against Al Qaeda,” and advocating renewed negotiations with north Korea to pressure it to end its nuclear program, while threatening “in private” to go to war over that issue. He has criticized the Bush administration’s tactics in going to war against Iraq with “inadequate planning and without maximum support” from other governments.

Palestinian jailed in Florida resists conditions in the ‘hole’

BY KARL BUTTS

TAMPA, Florida—“They want to isolate my husband, to break him. His treatment amounts to psychological torture,” Nahla Al-Arian said to the *Militant* July 25. She was referring to the abusive conditions Palestinian professor Sami Al-Arian is being subjected to while he awaits trial on federal frame-up “terrorism” charges.

Nahla Al-Arian spoke after a court hearing here at which U.S. magistrate Thomas McCoun agreed to allow Al-Arian to dismiss his two court-appointed attorneys and represent himself.

The former University of South Florida professor was fired from his teaching position shortly after he and three co-defendants—Sameeh Hammoudeh, Hatem Naji Fariz, and Ghassan Zayed Ballut—were arrested February 20 on phony “terrorism” charges included in a 50-count federal indictment. The government asserts that Sami Al-Arian is the leading U.S. representative for Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian organization based in the occupied territories.

Nahla Al-Arian said that since March 27 her husband has been held in virtually complete isolation in the Special Housing Unit of the Coleman Federal Prison Complex, 70 miles north of Tampa. Along with Hammoudeh, who is incarcerated with him, Sami Al-Arian is confined to an isolation cell around the clock, save for one exercise hour on weekdays in a “larger cage,” she said.

The London office of Amnesty international has denounced Al-Arian’s detention as “gratuitously punitive,” citing the 23-hour

lockdown, strip searches, use of chains and shackles, severely limited recreation, lack of access to any religious service, and denial of watch or clock to inmates living in a windowless cell that is never unlit.

Visits are restricted to legal counsel and members of the immediate family. Physical contact is banned. Nahla Al-Arian is permitted two visits a week and one every other weekend. Phone contact with the outside world is limited to one 15-minute monitored family phone call a month. When she tried to set up a three-way phone call with their son, who is attending school in England, prison authorities cut off all calls for six months.

A political prisoner

The court has justified Sami Al-Arian’s detention in solitary confinement on the grounds that it is necessary to protect him from other inmates. Nahla Al-Arian disputed this, explaining that when the Palestinian fighter has contact with other inmates, “they only show respect and kindness—many are worried about him.” Their concern is based on overhearing the guards talking about the Palestinian behind his back, she said. “They know he is there as a political prisoner.”

Attorney Linda Moreno, who is appealing the denial of bail to Sami Al-Arian, told the August 3 *Palm Beach Post* that at the time of her visits the prisoner “walks shackled and bent-over, hands chained behind him, balancing his legal documents on his back which the guards refuse to carry.”

The *Tampa Tribune* gave prominent

coverage August 1 to a recently released court affidavit submitted March 2002 by U.S. Customs special agent David Kane. The article was headlined, “Agent: Al-Arian Organized [Islamic] Jihad from His Home.” The affidavit was drawn up as backing for a warrant to search Muslim-owned businesses and foundations in Herndon, Virginia, that reportedly had contact with the professor. The affidavit was based on materials seized in 1995 raids on Sami Al-Arian’s home and offices.

The article quoted the Palestinian as saying in 1988, “Islam means jihad, resistance, fight and martyrdom,” implying that this contradicted his assertions that he was engaged in nonviolent activities. Nahla Al-Arian rejected this inference. “Martyrdom doesn’t mean killing people,” she told the *Tribune*, “it means defending your rights. As for resistance, what is the problem? You have no dignity in this world if you just say yes to the slave master.”

At an August 6 hearing Judge James Moody delayed a ruling on an application by Sami Al-Arian and his co-defendants to see the classified evidence. U.S. Attorney Terence Zitek had objected to the request, saying that disclosure of the 21,000 hours of wiretap tapes would reveal “sources and methods” of government intelligence gathering.

In an interview with *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, a London-based Saudi newspaper, Sami Al-Arian said that he is working to raise money



Militant/Karl Butts

Sami Al-Arian addresses a Tampa rally in defense of the Palestinian struggle May 17, 2002.

to pay a legal defense team. “Whoever knows the United States knows that there are two systems of justice,” he said. “One of these systems applies to those who have a first-rate team of lawyers and who, as a consequence, can defy the state’s unlimited resources and defeat its arrogance and pride.” He asked supporters “to lend a hand in order for us to bring the truth to light.”

Contributions to Sami Al-Arian’s defense fund can be sent to: National Liberty Fund, P.O. Box 22580, Alexandria, VA 22304. Letters protesting the prison conditions can be sent to: Honorable Thomas B. McCoun III, U.S. District Court, 801 North Florida Ave., #223 Tampa, FL 33602.

— LETTERS —

Canada fishing crisis

In regard to the July 14, 2003, article “Behind Canada’s Fishing Crisis”—only one side of the coin has the ear of the authors. Many things are wrong [with the article], such as the reason given for the arson attack [on fishing boats and processing plants]. The fishermen are not against the court giving a quota to Natives; but the government doesn’t pay the fishermen for their lost quota and the government also gives a 15 percent higher quota to inshore boats. The crab fishermen are against the overfishing that depleted the cod stocks.

Daniel Desbois
Gascons, Quebec

Cheam fishing rights

We wanted to thank you for the article [“Cheam in Canada defend fishing rights,” August 11 *Militant*, no. 27] and for the interest in our issues. In a sea of racism, biased reporting, and redneck thinking, it was quite refreshing to meet the *Militant* reporters and see our side of the story in print.

Jim Stocco
Paspébiac, Quebec

AMFA vote at United

In “How AMFA won vote at United,” Ernest Mailhot presents developments in my workplace. The article is accurate overall, including when he refers to AMFA officials as “company-minded.” The big-business press refers to AMFA as “militant,” as he said, but that perception is also widespread among my co-workers, and was fueled by IAM officials, company-minded themselves. IAM officials have declared that saving United Airlines is their first priority.

AMFA only began to make serious inroads among United mechanics after 1994, when IAM officials negotiated the Employee Stock Ownership Plan. That contract swapped deep and long-term concessions for company stock, now worthless. While the contract passed nationwide, it was soundly defeated in the San Francisco area,

by a membership composed of mechanics in its vast majority.

Over the years, these workers have resisted one concession proposal after another. Recently, when the Presidential Emergency Board proposed United workers forego retroactive pay increases, mechanics rejected that. In December, IAM officials pushed deep concessions to save the airline from bankruptcy. When mechanics rejected those, IAM officials scolded that workers had “listened to organizers for AMFA.”

AMFA’s slogan at the time was “Full pay ’til the last day.” That may have been demagoguery, but IAM officials dismissed those who found it attractive as “ignorant.” A recent IAM District 141-M headline read: “AMFA Threatens UAL’s Future.”

Over the years, it has been the IAM’s response whenever co-workers resisted that explains the surge toward AMFA, more than anything attractive in a backward craft orientation.

Kathleen Denny
Oakland, California

Affirmative action

Confirmation of the U.S. Supreme Court June ruling on the centrality of affirmative action is apparent in surveys showing the integration of Blacks in the U.S. news media.

Late in July a report by the Radio-Television News Directors Association & Foundation showed that while the percentage of minorities at broadcast/cable television and radio stations slipped somewhat last year, it remains essentially stable, with Blacks and other minorities employed at all levels in this country’s opinion-making industry.

The report follows the April annual survey by the American Society of Newspaper Editors that found a slight increase in the number of minority managers at daily newspapers. Nearly two-thirds of minority journalists work at newspapers with a circulation exceeding 100,000.

In addition, the Jayson Blair affair at the *New York Times* earlier this year brought to light that, until

recently, a Black man was managing editor at the *Times*.

Baxter Smith
Baltimore, Maryland

Women’s oppression

Much appreciated the exchange between Lobello and Trowe in previous issues on the origins of women’s oppression and the nature of pre-class society.

Further to this: *Women’s Evolution* by Evelyn Reed (Pathfinder Press ISBN 0-87348-422-3), a thick book, is fun to dip into. Try the bit describing societies where women were physically stronger than men (1993 printing, p. 123/2003 printing, p. 157) or the one that explains societies where courting couples could have sex but would be outcast if they shared a meal together before marriage (1993 printing, p. 314/2003 printing, p. 375). Full of lively detail that gives you pause for thought. Also: neither Reed nor Engels (in *Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*) spell it out exactly in this way, but the following is true, I think?

Men gained power once domesticated cattle became a source of surplus value, and therefore gave their owners leverage. The division of labor between men and women had not been oppressive, when everyone was just surviving. But once the men’s domain became a source of wealth, power relations shifted. Now nature—in the form of cattle and then cultivated grains—and human labor became sources of surplus value. So women’s role as producers of children, sources of further wealth, became paramount. Men came to control women and their offspring in the same way they owned and controlled the herds.

The rise of the first class societies in which human labor was systematically exploited, slave societies, was therefore simultaneous with the consolidation of women’s oppression. This is why women’s liberation is inextricably tied to the liberation of human labor from exploitation, the fight for socialism. Katy LeRougetel,
Toronto, Ontario

On Liberia

Militant readers can find an important supplement to your excellent coverage of events in Liberia in the collection of essays gathered together by George Novack in his Pathfinder book *America’s Revolutionary Heritage*.

The essay by Derrick Morrison gives the lie to the oft-repeated bourgeois media story that Liberia was purchased by freed slaves in the U.S. who wanted to go back to Africa: by 1860 some 50,000 had been shipped to Liberia. The truth is that Liberia was created by what became known as the American Colonization Society, which was put together by the federal government and the slave owners. They wanted to get rid of the freed slaves because of their prominent involvement in the insurgent struggle for the abolition of slavery, to end racism, and for full civil rights for all. Conferences and campaigns were organized and led by important leaders, notably Martin Delaney and Frederick Douglass, both in the U.S. and Canada, to which country the underground railway was in full swing.

These efforts included plans to seek a new homeland for Blacks in Africa, a venture that was generally supported by both freed and enslaved Blacks who had no confidence that the U.S. rulers would ever allow equal rights for all.

However, these fighters were totally opposed to the aforementioned American Colonization Society and insisted on independent action by Blacks and their white supporters to win their goals. Struggles such as these led to the Civil War in 1861, which ended in the abolition of slavery.

I think it would be great if the *Militant* could include in a future issue all or part of the relevant essay from *America’s Revolutionary Heritage*. [See page 8—Editor.] Joyce Meissenheimer
Winlaw, British Columbia

Subs for prisoners

Please initiate a six-month subscription for the *Militant* to three inmates.

One is a self-motivated activist

diligently working to reform himself and fellow inmates through education, who is presently being held in a segregated housing unit in the Atlantic County Jail where he is not allowed visits. The second is a Muslim activist from St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, who stands in need of an attorney. The third is a veteran activist with an impressive portfolio who has been transferred throughout the Virginia Department of Corrections strictly for his effort to organize and establish Islam.

The *Militant* can play a key role in advancing their struggle by generating mass support, and increasing their chances of obtaining an attorney. In addition, it will heighten awareness by keeping them up to date on news, issues, and events from a Socialist perspective. Plus an opportunity to purchase some of Pathfinder’s spiritual life-giving and political consciousness-raising books by Malcolm X, Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Jack Barnes, and others.

Shakir Muhammad
Alexandria, Virginia

The Prisoners Fund makes it possible to send workers behind bars reduced rate subscriptions. A prisoner can buy a six-month *Militant* subscription for \$6 and a one-year subscription for \$12.

The Spanish-language monthly magazine *Perspectiva Mundial* offers a six-month subscription for \$3 and a one-year subscription for \$6. Please send a check or money order, earmarked “Prisoners Fund,” to the *Militant*, 152 W. 36th St., #401, New York, NY 10018.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief and indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name. Where necessary letters will be abridged.

Belfast protest targets loyalist killings

Irish Republicans launch campaign to expose London's role in death-squad actions

BY PETE CLIFFORD

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—"This issue is not going to go away," Gerry Adams told several thousand people outside Belfast City Hall on August 10 at a march and rally called to protest the collusion between the British government and pro-British (loyalist) death squads. Adams is the president of Sinn Féin, the party heading the fight for unification of Ireland and an end to British rule in the north. "The families of those who died as a result of the collusion policy have a right to the truth," he told the crowd. A number of marchers held pictures of their slain family members.

The protest was the opening step in a campaign to force out the truth about the deaths of Catholics at the hands of the loyalist squads over the course of the Troubles—the three decades of heightened resistance to British rule and stepped-up repression by London and its local allies.

Some 20 banners were painted with "Collusion=State murder," or similar slogans. Most participants arrived in feeder marches from West Belfast—the largest—as well as Ardoyne in North Belfast and Short Strand in the east of the city.

This reporter joined the Ardoyne march as it assembled by a mural in honor of the ten people murdered there between 1988 and 1994. The loyalist squads responsible used weapons imported by the British government from South Africa—purchases overseen by British agent Brian Nelson, who was the head of intelligence in the loyalist Ulster Defence Association (UDA).

As the march made its way to the city center, marchers described landmarks on the way. We passed through the Cliftonville area, where in the mid-1970s at least 19 people were murdered by a loyalist terror gang known as the Shankill Butchers. Next was New Lodge Road, where British forces killed six unarmed men in 1973—an event marked by a banner reading, "New Lodge Six massacre: time for truth."

Next we passed the scene of the 1971 loyalist bombing of the McGurks bar, in which 15 people were killed.

Overlooking this part of North Belfast are eight 20-story residential tower blocks, at the top of which fly Irish tricolour flags. Below them, in 10-foot high lettering, are the names of the Irish prisoners who died in a 1981 hunger strike in the H-Block wing of Northern Ireland's Maze prison—the protest that spearheaded the inmates' victorious fight to be treated as political prisoners. The last time this reporter was here, in 1997, these tower blocks were topped by British army fortresses with spy cameras able to survey every street corner and house in the district.

Most demonstrators said this has been a quiet summer, in comparison with previous years in which the pro-British marches of the Orange Order have provided a channel for attacks on Catholics.

The local papers report almost daily assaults, however, and I was still struck by the segregation between nationalist and pro-British areas.

Lurking British army vehicles

As the march neared the city center a long line of British Army vehicles came into view—a reminder of how quickly they could be on the scene. Some 14,000 British troops remain to enforce London's rule in Northern Ireland today.

The pro-Sinn Féin *An Phoblacht* newspaper reported August 14 that on the West Belfast leg of the march, cops from the Police Service of Northern Ireland videotaped marchers while other cops called out names of protesters for police records.

The feeder marches flowed together at the city center. Speaking at the rally there, Adams noted that an April 17 report by London Police Commissioner John Stevens was the British government's first official acknowledgement of its involvement in the killings. The report centers on the 1989



Militant/Xerardo Arias

Participants in August 10 march in Belfast, Northern Ireland, hold pictures of family members slain by loyalist forces in collusion with British government.

killing of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane by the UDA. Stevens says that British army intelligence and the police were complicit in Finucane's murder.

"For a long time," said Adams, the reign

of terror "was presented as being spontaneous, a few bad apples, something that was a wee bit out of control. But we had an actual strategy of state-sponsored murder. It was cleared at the very highest level.

Swedish rulers debate adopting the euro

BY CATHARÍNA TIRSÉN

GOTHENBURG, Sweden—With one month to go before the referendum on whether Sweden should fully join the European Monetary Union (EMU) and adopt the euro as its currency, political parties and campaign organizations here are gearing up for the final month of the campaign.

"The possibility for us to carry out our election promises from the elections in 2002 will diminish if there is a no to the euro in the referendum," Swedish prime minister Göran Persson said August 16, at a campaign event for the Social Democratic party that he leads.

The referendum manifesto of the social democrats warns: "A no for the euro will risk more instability on the markets for interests and currencies and a deeper recession. That would considerably decrease the space for reforms in Sweden in the future."

The membership of most political parties in Sweden has been split over joining the EMU. This is also true of the major nationwide trade union federation LO (*Landsorganisationen*). Four national unions have taken positions in favor of Sweden adopting the euro and three have come out against. Others remain neutral.

There was little active campaigning for a "yes" vote until Persson launched the campaign at the end of April. He ordered social democratic ministers who were against the euro not to campaign publicly. Different opinion polls have indicated support for a "no" vote ranging from 44 percent to 51 percent at different times this year.

Big business joins campaign

Since June several spokespersons for employers' organizations and big companies have come out campaigning for a yes vote. In an interview published in the June 22 *Göteborgsposten*, Jakob Wallenberg, head of the dominant Wallenberg group, spoke in favor of Stockholm joining the EMU. According to Wallenberg, many of his contacts abroad are in favor of it, arguing that a larger euro-bloc would improve odds for competition against Washington and Tokyo.

Leif Johansson, chief executive officer of Volvo Trucks, has also declared himself for a yes vote, saying that EMU membership would help stabilize the currency, interest rates, and inflation. Both Johansson and Wallenberg, however, noted that if they lost the referendum it would not be a ca-

tastrophe. "It's just another little uphill for industry," Wallenberg stated.

On August 20 the CEO of Spendrup breweries, Jens Spendrup, said in an interview on Swedish Radio that joining the euro would make trade easier, make it cheaper to invest, and thus create more jobs. "I think we will get 10,000 new jobs," he said. "We employers know what is good for us." Joining the EMU fully would "make it easier to deal with high sick leaves, as well as dealing with wage systems and creating greater flexibility in hiring, everything that profits industry," he stated. "Flexibility" in wage scales and hiring is a code word used by the employers to describe their efforts to undermine national wage contracts and labor laws prohibiting firings without reason.

On August 26 Social Democratic foreign minister Anna Lindh and Ericsson CEO Carl-Henric Svanberg wrote a joint column in *Dagens Nyheter*, warning that export-oriented companies would leave Sweden if the no vote wins out.

In a poll among 100 CEOs of big Swedish companies, 92 said they would vote yes and three no.

Dollar-pound bloc in the EU

The governments of the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Sweden chose not to be part of the euro when it was launched Jan. 1, 1999. When the EU decided to launch the euro in 1997, the European Union appeared weak relative to Washington and the euro looked "too shaky," as the Swedish prime minister put it then.

This "dollar-pound bloc" has been a way of keeping the door open to more collaboration with Washington. But the prospect of serious competition between the euro, the U.S. dollar, and the Japanese yen has led the rulers in Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Sweden to reconsider, fearing their own interests will be sidelined.

While London is still debating whether to join the euro, the Swedish parliament voted to go ahead with a national referendum on the question late last year after a social democratic conference in March 2000 voted in favor of joining.

The referendum comes at a time when the economic situation in several big EU countries is worsening. Germany and Italy have been in a recession since the beginning of the year. Opponents of joining the EMU among the Swedish rulers use this reality

"What happened?" continued the Sinn Féin leader. "Was there an immediate inquiry? Did governments fall? Were politicians, former prime ministers called to book? Were those running the services called to account? No."

Robert McClenaghan of An Fhirinne (The Truth), the newly launched campaign to uncover the truth about the killings, spoke to the *Militant* after the rally. "We have 472 families signed up to this new campaign," he said, adding that activists will take a photo exhibition throughout the north and into the rest of Ireland and England.

The showings will be combined with meetings in local areas to map out plans for the campaign.

"We're also pressing for the Irish government to do a report into this as they did on the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre" of 14 people in Londonderry by British troops, McClenaghan said. He rejected the proposal raised in the media of a South African-style Truth and Reconciliation Commission. "That would just let Britain off the hook, as though we could 'put it all behind us' when the structures that did these killings are still in place," he said.

Caroline Bellamy contributed to this article.

to bolster their arguments for a "no" vote, which are cloaked in nationalistic terms.

Anders Ferm, Swedish ambassador to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), wrote in the June 7 issue of the Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter*, "I believe Europe is entering a period of economic stagnation. Through the euro, which is rising in relation to the dollar and Asian currencies and thus diminishing the power to compete on export markets for the euro zone, and, just as important, through the stability pacts that have been called 'idiotic,' deflationary pressures have been created that are hard to overcome.... Saying yes to the euro then...becomes like tying your life boat to the Titanic!"

On July 11 Hans Eichel and Bo Ringholm, finance ministers of Germany and Sweden, respectively, wrote in the Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet*, "A coordinated economic policy and the common currency are ties that will strengthen Europe in a lasting way. That is why it would be of great benefit for our two countries if Sweden became a full member of the EMU."

At the same time, German foreign minister Joschka Fischer, a member of the Green Party, joined widely publicized summer seminars in Visby, Sweden, where he argued that Stockholm should join the EMU.

'No' campaign smacks of nationalism

The Green Party, the Left Party, and the bourgeois Center Party are campaigning for a "no" vote together with many leftist groups and activists. "Keep the Swedish krona and the Swedish national bank," is the headline of one of the leaflets being distributed in Gothenburg. One such group, demonstrated under a banner that read "Save Swedish jobs."

The Sweden Democrats, an incipient fascist group that got some of its candidates elected into municipal assemblies in last year's elections, campaign against EMU membership under the slogan "Save the Krona!"

The Communist League and the Young Socialists in Sweden are the only organizations in the workers movement calling for a no vote, while at the same time explaining that the stance of the overwhelming majority of those campaigning for a "no" vote is Swedish nationalism, a reactionary obstacle to the interests of the working class and its allies (see statement page 10).