

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

World War II: Three wars in one

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Thousands in China, Korea protest effort to whitewash Tokyo's crimes

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Thousands mobilized in cities across China April 9-10 to protest the issuing and use of textbooks by Tokyo that whitewash the history of Japanese imperialism's colonial domination and brutality against China and Korea. The new history books are part of an ideological campaign by Tokyo to paint Nippon nationalism in a positive light as the rulers of Japan are rearming and preparing to use their military might again in the region—largely to face China—as a junior partner to their U.S. ally.

Demonstrations protesting Japanese imperialism were also held in Seoul, south Korea. These included a rally led by the few surviving Korean sex slaves of the Japanese imperial troops during the 1910-45 Japanese occupation of Korea. The estimated 200,000 mainly Chinese and Korean women forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese troops are absent or get barely a mention in the new school texts, where they are referred to as “comfort women.”

The Japanese government is using the campaign as part of pressing to extend the use of its military abroad today. There are 550 Japanese troops serving in Iraq—Japan's largest military operation abroad since World War II. Tokyo is trying to use its offer of similar military collaboration as a bargaining chip to get a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, a move that is hotly contested by the governments of China and Korea. In China an online campaign claims to have collected more than 25 million signatures opposing Tokyo's bid for a seat on the Security Council.

Recently, the Japanese government signed defense accords with the U.S. government that explicitly called defense of the Taiwan Straits a “common strategic objective” of Tokyo and Washington. This is an explicit

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Co-Op miners in Utah press union-organizing fight

Workers picket loadout where bosses are training replacements

BY LUIS ASTORGA
AND ELIZABETH NIX

PRICE, Utah—Coal miners who worked at the Co-Op mine and their supporters picketed at the road leading to Rail Co. Coal Load Out near Price, Utah, April 13. The miners have been fighting for 18 months to win representation by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). They were joined by UMWA retired miners.

Rail Co. has the same owners as C.W. Mining's Co-Op mine. It is the location where coal from Co-Op and other mines is trucked before being transported by train to other parts of the country. A loadout owned by another company is adjacent to Rail Co. Coal trucks come to these two facilities from mines throughout Utah.

Miners and their supporters held signs in English and Spanish that read: “We want our jobs back,” “Yes to UMWA at the Co-Op mine,” and “No contractors at Co-Op.” Drivers of coal trucks and other vehicles passing by honked their horns in support.

This was the second time workers have picketed the facility since Co-Op miners learned that C.W. Mining has established a contracting outfit at Rail Co. through one

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Militant/Luis Astorga

Co-Op miners and supporters picket Rail Co. Coal Load Out, owned by C.W. Mining, April 13. The facility is being used to hire and train replacements for the unionists.

Socialist Workers organize to get candidates on ballot

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

“We are inviting co-workers, students planning to participate in the world youth festival in Caracas this summer, and all other supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign to join us in petitioning to get the working-class candidates on the ballot in New Jersey,” Ved Dookhun, the party's campaign director in the state, told the

Militant. “Petitioning in New Jersey begins May 7. We'll have a big weekend May 7-8, ending with a campaign barbecue and fundraiser. By the next weekend we plan to collect 1,500 signatures—nearly double the requirement—to put Angela Lariscy, the SWP candidate for governor, and Michael Ortega, who is running for State Assembly in the 28th District, on the ballot.”

Similar petitioning drives will follow in Pittsburgh, Seattle, and New York City.

“We will start with a week-long effort on Memorial Day weekend,” said Tony Lancaster, a laid-off coal miner who is helping organize the campaign to gain ballot status for Brian Taylor, SWP candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh. Campaign supporters will then take a break to attend the June 9-11 party convention in Ohio. They will resume petitioning in mid-June and plan to collect about 2,000 signatures—double the requirement—to place Taylor, a coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America, on the ballot by the end of the month.

Supporters of Taylor's campaign and of other Socialist Workers candidates have already begun reaching out with the party's platform. On April 9, campaigners from Pittsburgh and nearby cities visited mine portals and coal mining communities in northern Appalachia, Lancaster said, where they introduced working people to the *Militant* and the Marxist magazine *New International*.

“We announced Taylor's election campaign and found interest,” Lancaster said. Thirty miners bought the *Militant* at six mine portals and one subscribed to the socialist paper at the mine where Taylor works.

Ron Smith, another Socialist Workers campaign supporter from Pittsburgh, said he explained to coal miners and other workers he met that the campaign is putting forward the need of workers to use union power to defend job safety, wages, and working conditions. In response, he added, one miner said: “That's right. They

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Rumsfeld: ‘No exit strategy’ from Iraq for U.S. troops

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As part of responding to press reports that Washington would start cutting its troops in Iraq in 2006, U.S. defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld told U.S. soldiers during an April 12 visit to Baghdad that the Pentagon has no timetable for withdrawing its 150,000 troops from the country. “We don't have an exit strategy, we have a victory strategy,” Rumsfeld said, according to the Bloomberg news service. “The goal is to help the Iraqi forces develop the skills and the capacity to provide their own security.”

Three days earlier, the *Washington Post* reported that Iraqi troops now patrol part of Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city and a center of attacks on U.S. and Iraqi government forces. This registers an advance by the U.S. military in training the Iraqi armed forces and police to take over responsibility for security.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi National Assembly also took further steps in pulling together

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UK rulers push ‘Britain First’ in election campaign

Communist League candidates promote working-class alternative

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—Days after Prime Minister Anthony Blair declared that the UK general election for Parliament would be held May 5, and that the Labour Party would be standing on its economic record, Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt announced that the car manufacturing company MG Rover had gone belly up, threatening thousands of jobs.

“This shows that when the profit-seeking bosses and capitalist politicians speak of growth, it means one thing for them and another for workers,” said Celia Pugh, Communist League candidate for the Bethnal Green and Bow constituency in London. Pugh was speaking on BBC Radio London April 10 in a debate between candidates in the constituency. “It shows why the League’s campaign advances the need to organize and strengthen the unions, and use union power to meet the bosses’ attacks,” Pugh said. “This is not something that’s limited to an election debate. No matter who wins the election, working people will face the challenge of the capitalist rulers seeking to offload the effects of the crisis onto our backs through attacks at home and wars abroad.”

MG Rover employs 6,000 workers at its plant at Longbridge in Birmingham. It is the last British-owned volume car manufacturer. In addition to the Longbridge jobs, another 15,000 jobs in the West Midlands car components industry are threatened by the collapse. Adding his voice to the nothing-can-be-done reaction, Stephen O’Brien, the Conservative Party’s Shadow Industry Secretary, described the car company’s failure as a “deeply depressing day.”

Tony Woodley, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, which organizes the production workers at MG Rover, was at Hewitt’s side when she made the bankruptcy announcement. The government could not have done more to protect the workers’ jobs, the union leader said. He and Hewitt spoke of the Labour government’s backing for the company’s negotiations aimed at securing a deal with a Chinese company, Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC). The terms of the proposed deal have not been made

public.

“MG Rover’s books should be opened so that workers can see what’s been going on behind their backs,” said Peter Clifford, Communist League candidate for Edinburgh East. “Through shining a spotlight on what’s been going on, workers can chart a course forward.” Clifford pointed out that last year the MG Rover bosses had pocketed more than £16 million (£1=US \$1.89), including salaries and pension contributions, when the company reportedly lost £89 million.

British imperialism’s decline

The end of the British-owned car industry is a reflection of the decline of British capitalism, which has generated a debate in ruling circles. The Blair administration strategy is to hold firmly onto the coattails of U.S. imperialism, using the alliance with Washington as a lever in competition with rivals in the European Union. London has committed British troops for the occupation of Iraq for the long term, making it clear that any reduction of the force will be closely coordinated with Washington. The government is also planning to commit more troops to Afghanistan as part of the U.S.-led operations in that country. The troops will be part of NATO’s Allied Rapid Reaction Corps.

Meanwhile the government is pressing ahead with its reorganization of the UK’s armed forces to bring them into line with the transformation of the U.S. military. The first week of April, Defense Secretary Geoffrey Hoon announced the formation of a new UK Special Forces Regiment. The unit is aimed at ensuring improved support to international expeditionary operations and will come under the command of the Director Special Forces. It will be part of the UK Special Forces group. This sort of initiative was provided for in the 2002 Strategic Defense Review. “Large operations, against foreign states, can only be plausibly conducted if U.S. forces are engaged, either leading a coalition or in NATO,” said a government document published last year. “Our armed forces will need to be interoperable with U.S. command and control structures [and]



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

Celia Pugh (left) campaigning April 9 in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency in London, where she is the Communist League candidate for Parliament.

match the U.S. operational tempo.”

This orientation is favored by decisive sections of the ruling class and backed by the Armed Forces’ top brass. It has put a squeeze on the space available for the Conservative Party, for well over a century the main party of the British rulers. Following its huge defeat in the 1997 election, the Conservatives have been thrown into crisis. The party was again trounced in the 2001 elections. Now led by Michael Howard, the party has had four leaders over the last eight years.

Coarsening of political discourse

The shifting sands of the two main capitalist parties, Labour and Tory, the weakness of British imperialism, and the lack of confidence within the ruling class that either party has a way out of London’s decline are factors in the coarsening of the debate in the bourgeois election campaign. The Labour Party has issued posters with the heads of Tory leaders Michael Howard and Oliver Letwin grafted onto a pig’s bodies and questioning whether the Conservative leaders can be trusted by Muslims.

Howard and Letwin, who are both Jewish, have also been associated by the Labour posters as Shylock or Fagin figures—classic anti-Semitic stereotypes. This poster campaign was attacked for its anti-Semitism and withdrawn.

The Tories, for their part, have waged a months-long campaign targeting Blair as a liar who can’t be trusted.

Britain First framework

The sharper the invective against one another, the more strident the common “Britain First” policies of both parties have become. Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown has delivered a series of speeches defending “Britishness,” the “United Kingdom,” and the British Empire itself. “The days of Britain having to apologize for our history are over,” said Brown, who chose Tanzania as the place to make these statements, with no hint of shame. “I think we should celebrate much of our past rather than apologize for it and we should talk, rightly so, about British values.”

Each of the three major capitalist parties—Labour, Conservatives, and Liberal Democrats—have upped the ante on proposing tightened immigration controls. Under the banner, “It’s not racist to talk about immigration,” Michael Howard has sought to occupy the center stage of the debate. The Conservatives’ proposals, however, are in line with those advanced by Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Home Secretary Charles Clarke claims success in the government having cut asylum applications by 67 percent since October 2002, while strengthening border controls and the stepping up of immigration raids. In response to Howard’s campaign, Labour gave the stage to a former Conservative Party immigration minister who congratulated the government for having prevented 1,000 people a day from coming into the United Kingdom and for the rise in deportations.

The anti-immigrant campaign can be expected to improve the fortunes of rightist formations like the UK Independence Party, the newly formed Veritas, and the fascist British National Party. Each of these groups is presenting election campaigns that center

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U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear appeal of Pennsylvania case on ‘neutral reporting privilege’

BY MICHAEL ITALIE

On March 28, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed a Pennsylvania court’s ruling to stand that restricts the ability of the media in that state to report on statements by public officials without fear of prosecution. The appeal to the high court by the Troy Publishing Co., a newspaper, and a reporter, revolved around their claim of “neutral reporting privilege” in a 1995 defamation suit brought against the West Chester, Pennsylvania, *Daily Local News* by local city council members.

Dismissing the appeal without comment, the U.S. Supreme Court left standing the October 2004 ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that found that “neither the United States nor the Pennsylvania Constitutions mandate adoption of the neutral reportage doctrine.” The neutral reportage standard arose out of court rulings in the 1960s and 1970s that granted the media broad immunity from defamation charges for reporting on the statements—regardless of their truthfulness—of both public officials and those whom the courts described as “public figures.”

Attorneys for more than two dozen of the largest media outlets in the country had urged the Supreme Court to accept *Norton vs. Glenn*, and to find that accurate news coverage should be shielded from prosecution. “The fact that one public official is saying scurrilous things about another is information the public is entitled to,” Lucy Dalglish, executive director of Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, told the Associated Press.

The *Daily Local News* had reported in its April 20, 1995, edition on comments by members of the Parkersburg Borough Council during and after a meeting of the local government body. In the article, titled “Slurs, insults drag town into controversy,” the paper reported on remarks by council

member William Glenn after the meeting that implied that the mayor and another member of the council were “queers and child molesters.”

The trial judge in the case ruled that although Glenn may be sued for his statement, the paper could not be held liable for a factual accounting of his comments. In 2000 a jury found Glenn guilty of defamation and awarded each plaintiff \$17,500 in damages.

The plaintiffs then appealed the dismissal of charges against the paper. In 2002 they won a favorable ruling and an order for a trial against the paper from a state Superior Court.

In its October 2004 decision upholding the Superior Court ruling, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court drew a sharp distinction between the “fair report privilege” and the

neutral reportage privilege. “The fair report doctrine,” Chief Justice Ralph Cappy wrote for the state court, “is a common-law privilege protecting media entities which publish fair and accurate reports of governmental proceedings. At issue here, however, is whether there is a constitutional privilege to publish accounts of statements that were not made in the course of official proceedings.”

Under such conditions, the court ruled, the “actual malice” doctrine applies. This legal standard allows public officials or figures to sue for defamation if they can prove a media report was made “with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not.”

The Supreme Court’s refusal to accept the appeal means the charges of defamation against the *Daily Local News* will go to trial.

Hundreds attend U.S. Women of Color conference

BY LEA SHERMAN

ARLINGTON, Virginia—Some 350 supporters of women’s rights—the majority Black, Latina, and Asian—gathered here April 1–3 for the Women of Color & Allies Summit. The National Organization for Women (NOW) Foundation organized the event.

Many participants were college students. A large number came from New York and New Jersey.

The conference included a plenary panel on women’s health and reproductive rights, as well as workshops, such as “Privatizing Social Security: The Economic Security Threat of a Lifetime,” and “Immigrant Women: Sisters in the Struggle.”

Forty-five people attended the only workshop held in Spanish, titled “U.S.

Terrorism,” which included discussion on racist discrimination and police harassment of immigrants. Zenaida Mendez, one of the conference organizers, told the final plenary session that participants in the workshop called for more translation into Spanish at the next conference. Mendez is Director of Racial Diversity Programs for the NOW Foundation.

A contingent of 28 members of Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1033 took part. The majority are office workers for the state of New Jersey. Several work for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in Trenton.

Karine, one of the DMV workers, described harassment since Sept. 11, 2001. This office has 14 workers, almost all of whom are female and Black, she said. The

state has installed 18 cameras fixed on the workers as they complete forms for driver’s licenses, to prevent “fraud.” The state also hired investigators, mainly former state troopers who are white, who look over and often lean onto the shoulders of workers as they prepare the license, Karine said.

In mid-March, an investigator accused one of the workers of falsifying a license, Karine said, then strip-searched her, and had her handcuffed and arrested. She is now out on \$25,000 bond. Her co-workers are working to have their union take up the case and are making plans for a news release and a picket line.

All those who registered for the conference were invited to attend the NOW national conference, scheduled for July 1–3 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Co-Op miners picket

Continued from front page

of its bosses, Shain Stoddard. Miners say Stoddard is offering between \$5.25 and \$7.00 an hour for underground coal miners at Co-Op. Wages for underground mining in the U.S. average at least \$17 an hour.

The picketing miners were fired December 9 for supporting the UMW. They are demanding their jobs back and ratification of the union representation election held on December 17. The National Labor Relations Board has not issued any decision on the ballots cast by the miners, most of whom back the UMW.

A Co-Op boss, identified by the miners as Shain Stoddard, parked his car in the road, and walked in front of the miners and their supporters to provoke them—without success. “What’s going on here, guys?” he said. Feigning ignorance, he asked the workers, “Who are you picketing?” Stoddard continued asking questions to no response. A haul truck driver delivering coal to the loadout drove

past the picket line and loudly honked his horn in support. Stoddard left.

“We’re here to demand our jobs back with back pay,” said José Contreras, one of the fired miners. Contreras held a sign that said, “Honk for support.”

Miners are pursuing their fight for the union. On April 14, three Co-Op miners will address the meeting of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 9 at the Trapper mine in Craig, Colorado. A delegation of Co-Op miners will also attend the April 18 Changing Woman conference in Farmington, New Mexico, which is sponsored by IUOE Local 953 and the University of New Mexico Law School. The conference will take up discrimination facing women who are working or trying to get jobs in the mines, or who work other non-traditional jobs. It will also discuss how the labor movement can combat such practices.

“Picketing helps show the public that the fight is still on,” said Abel Aragón, a retired miner from UMW Local 9958



Militant/Luis Astorga

Shain Stoddard (left), a boss at C.W. Mining, confronts Co-Op miners picketing C.W. Mining’s Rail Co. Load Out near Huntington, Utah, April 13.

who joined the picket line of 10 people. Aragón invited two fellow UMW retirees, who came to hear news on the Co-Op struggle and express their solidarity just

before the picket line began. All three joined the picket. “This helps get people to support the fight,” Aragón said. “See you next time.”

Regional forums will promote Militant Fighting Fund

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Regional forums will be held in Atlanta, Chicago, and Pittsburgh the next two weeks to help focus efforts on mobilizing support to defeat a lawsuit filed by the owners of a coal company in Utah against the *Militant*, the Socialist Workers Party, and other defendants. Workers at this company, C.W. Mining, have been waging a tenacious union-organizing struggle for 18 months (see accompanying article on this page).

In a telephone interview, Norton Sandler, who is organizing these forums, said that Paul Mailhot from Salt Lake City, Utah, will be the featured speaker at the events in Atlanta on April 16 and in Pittsburgh on April 23. Mailhot is helping to organize the endorsement and fund raising efforts for the Militant Fighting Fund in that area. The fund was set up last year to raise financial resources for the campaign to defend the *Militant* and SWP against this harassment lawsuit.

John Studer, executive director of the Political Rights Defense Fund (PRDF), will speak April 23 at a similar forum in Chicago, Sandler said. PRDF has a history of raising funds and publicizing cases where the Bill of Rights and workers’ rights are at stake dating back to the early 1970s. PRDF has adopted this case and is organizing the Militant Fighting Fund.

The public forums in Atlanta, Chicago, and Pittsburgh will be held in conjunction with national meetings of socialist workers who are members of the UNITE, United Food and Commercial Workers, and United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) unions. Sandler said all supporters of the case and other defenders of democratic rights from nearby cities are encouraged to attend and bring co-workers, friends, and family members along.

C.W. Mining, which manages the Co-Op mine, and the International Association of United Workers Union (IAUWU), which miners describe as a company union, filed a sweeping lawsuit in September 2004 against the UMW and its international officers, 17 miners involved in the hard-fought campaign to organize the UMW at the mine, the major Utah dailies the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News*, the *Militant*, the SWP, Utah AFL-CIO, Jobs with Justice, and other defendants. Last December, attorneys for the plaintiffs submitted to the court an amended complaint. About 24 pages of the 70-page complaint allege defamations by the *Militant*

against C.W. Mining and the IAUWU. The suit names the SWP as a defendant on the basis of the false claim that the party “owns and controls” the socialist newsweekly.

Salt Lake City attorneys Randy Dryer and Michael Petrogeorge represent the *Militant* and the SWP. The two lawyers have filed a motion to dismiss the case. The plaintiffs’ response to this motion is due by April 15. Attorneys for the *Militant* and the SWP will then have seven days to submit their rebuttal. Judge Dee Benson, who is presiding over the case, will subsequently set a schedule for oral arguments on the motions to dismiss filed by the various defendants in this lawsuit.

On April 7, company and IAUWU attorneys Carl Kingston and Mark Hansen notified the court that they were stipulating that their case against University of Utah professor Hans Ehrbar had been dismissed without prejudice because they had not served him with notification of the suit within the time limit required by Utah law.

“We will use the upcoming forums to explain the issues involved in this case, which will get a hearing from defenders of freedom of the press and freedom of speech everywhere,” said Sandler. “Coming out of these forums we will launch a drive to win endorsers for PRDF’s Militant Fighting Fund and to raise the tens of thousands of

dollars needed to cover legal expenses for defending the *Militant* and the Socialist Workers Party.

“The initial funds raised to defend the *Militant* and the SWP have been exhausted,” Sandler noted. “Thousands more will be spent in preparing the next legal brief and in getting ready for a hearing before the presiding judge. And, we must prepare for the expenses for legal work and publicity to continue regardless of the outcome of the first round of decisions on the lawsuit,” he said.

“The bosses at Co-Op and the IAUWU are challenging the right of workers involved in a struggle to reach out for support and talk to the press about the conditions they face at the Co-Op mine, safety on the job, and their meager wages,” Sandler continued. “They accuse the UMW of being a ‘rabid labor union’ and the workers at the mine as not being a reputable source for newspapers to quote. These are issues that can impact any struggle for a union, as workers attempt to defend themselves more and more.

“The battle at the Co-Op mine that began in September 2003 has drawn wide attention in Utah and elsewhere,” Sandler said. “But the bosses ask the court to view this as a private matter between them and individual miners. They challenge First Amend-

ment protections for newspapers reporting on what has become a very public dispute between a company intent on maintaining exploitative conditions and mine workers fighting for a union, better wages, safety, and dignity.”

C.W. Mining insists that anything but their own interpretation of decisions by government bodies like the National Labor Relations Board is slanderous, Sandler explained.

“They also claim the IAUWU is a real union, even though the workers insist it has never represented their interests and has always sided with the bosses and is run by relatives of the owners,” he continued. “The NLRB has ruled that not a single officer of the IAUWU is eligible to have their vote counted in the union representation election held at the mine last December, because of the family ties those individuals have to the bosses and shareholders of the company.”

Sandler said he urges all defenders of democratic rights in the broad regions around Atlanta, Chicago, and Pittsburgh to attend the upcoming forums and donate to the Militant Fighting Fund.

To find out how to help, or to make a contribution, contact PRDF at Box 761 Church Street Station, New York, NY 10007, or by e-mail at prdfinc@gmail.com.

Utah coal bosses pursue harassment lawsuit C.W. Mining lawyers answers miners’ motion to dismiss case

BY PAT MILLER

SALT LAKE CITY—“Defendants offer no evidence to controvert the allegations of the Amended Complaint,” opens the reply by C.W. Mining to 17 coal miners who have asked a federal district court in Utah to dismiss a lawsuit aimed at thwarting their efforts to unionize and win better conditions (see article above).

The lawsuit launched by coal bosses at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah, in September 2004 states that the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), its officers, and 17 individual Co-Op miners are guilty of unfair labor practices and defamation; and that the *Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News*, the *Militant* and Socialist Workers Party, Utah AFL-CIO, Jobs with Justice, and numerous individuals have slandered C.W. Mining and the company-affiliated International Association of United Workers Union (IAUWU).

The bosses claim that fraud and conspiracy are involved in the actions by the UMW, the miners, and the other defendants, and that the federal district court, not the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), is the proper jurisdiction to review their allegations. They ask the court to grant them discovery and the new brief filed by the company makes several references to the prospect of a jury trial.

The charge of unfair labor practices hinges on the company’s contention that the IAUWU is a legitimate union that represents workers at the mine. The bosses say efforts of Co-Op miners to bring in the

UMWA constitute an illegal practice by the UMW and individual miners involved in that effort. Co-Op miners have testified that the IAUWU is a fraud and has no record of coming to the aid of individual miners against company attacks on safety, work conditions, or pay.

The NLRB has ruled that no officer of the IAUWU or any other relatives of the owners working at the mine could vote in the union representation election held Dec. 17, 2004. The votes of 27 miners challenged by the company are being reviewed by the NLRB and have yet to be counted. C.W. Mining fired these 27 miners before the union vote, saying they had refused to show additional proof of eligibility to work in the United States. Most workers at the mine are originally from Mexico and had been employed by C.W. Mining for years. Workers counter that the company had the same work documents for them throughout their employment and fired them a week before the union vote to retaliate against their union-organizing efforts.

Mine owners and company union brief

In the bosses’ reply to the miners’ motion to dismiss the lawsuit, C.W. Mining’s attorneys detail statements of each miner published in newspapers that they claim are defamatory. For instance, this latest brief quotes Celso Panduro, one of the leaders of the UMW organizing effort, saying, “Every time we had asked for better working conditions they told us to keep our heads down and keep working or we could be out the door.” Gonzalo Salazar, another

worker at the Co-Op mine involved in the efforts to win the union there, is quoted as saying, “If I call in sick for just one day, I lose my bonus for as long as the bosses want me to lose it.”

According to C.W. Mining attorneys, such “statements were made with knowledge of their falsity, or with reckless disregard as to their truth or falsity, and made with malice.”

Co-Op miners say they have nothing to retract about what they have told the media. They insist their statements are truthful and are the reasons why they have been fighting to bring in a real union at the mine. The Co-Op miners’ struggle began in September 2003 after the company tried to fire supporters of the UMW working at the mine. C.W. Mining locked out 75 workers who protested these company actions, but was forced to rehire them 10 months later after an NLRB-brokered agreement between the company and the UMW. The coal bosses later fired nearly all supporters of the union shortly before the union representation vote in December.

“We had a leadership meeting of the Co-Op miners last week where we talked about the C.W. Mining lawsuit,” said Bill Estrada, one of the leaders of the union-organizing fight at the mine. “All of us found it incredible that the bosses challenge everything we have said about our wages, treatment, and conditions at the mine. They say what we have said is defamation, but we have simply stated what we know from experience and the reasons we have put up such a fight for the union at the mine.”

**Defend Workers Rights,
Freedom of the Press,
and the Right to Free Speech!**
Support the fight by the *Militant* and the
Socialist Workers Party against the
Co-Op coal bosses harassment lawsuit.
April 16—Atlanta: hear Paul Mailhot.
For information call (404) 768-1709.
April 23—Pittsburgh: hear Paul Mailhot.
For information call (412) 365-1090.
April 23—Chicago: hear John Studer,
Political Rights Defense Fund executive di-
rector. For information call (773) 890-1190.

‘New International’ sales campaign off, running

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

The campaign to sell *New International* is off and running. Campaigners have been going to mine portals in northern Appalachia, university campuses in New Jersey, Iowa towns affected by firings of immigrant workers, and elsewhere to get the two newest issues of the Marxist magazine into the hands of working people and youth.

In the first two weeks of the five-month campaign, 852 copies have been sold of the magazine’s new issues in English and Spanish (see front-page ad). These issues feature “Capitalism’s Long Hot Winter has Begun” and “Our Politics Start with the World,” which present a strategic understanding of the class struggle to help chart a course for working people to organize and change the world in the interests of the vast majority.

In coal country in western Pennsylvania, socialist workers from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Hazleton, Pennsylvania, visited mine portals and mining communities to spread the use of these political weapons.

Tony Lancaster from **Pittsburgh** writes that a laid-off coal miner there “bought the two *New Internationals*. He pointed to a peace flag in his yard he had erected when Washington launched the war on Iraq. When he looked at the charts and graphs in *New International* no. 12, showing facts and figures about U.S. military spending and deployment, he said, ‘I’ve got to have this.’”

Similarly, in **Atlanta**, Arlene Rubinstein reports that a co-worker in the garment shop where she works has already started reading “Their Transformation and Ours” and discussing it with her. Originally from Eritrea, he commented on the charts “on the number of bases and installations under consideration on African soil”—where Washington is preparing for future wars of plunder.

Near **Miami**, at the Point Blank Body Armor plant, fellow garment workers were pleased to see their successful union-organized fight mentioned in *Nueva Internacional* no. 6, says Eric Simpson. This drew their interest in the magazine’s explanation of the bosses’ antilabor offensive, the weakened state of the unions today, and the need to use and extend union power. One of the workers there “picked up her copy as soon as it became available,” Simpson said.

Supporters of the magazine from the Midwest spent a weekend campaigning in several towns in **Iowa** after mass firings of foreign-born meat packers by the bosses at Tyson Foods in Perry and Waterloo. In

a transparent attempt at intimidating the workforce, the bosses fired dozens of workers they alleged did not have valid Social Security documents, regardless of previous employment screening or years of service.

A construction worker in West Liberty bought *Nueva Internacional* no. 7 after studying its graphic depicting the swath of darkness that covers much of the semicolonial world because of the lack of electricity. He was interested because it not only showed the brutal gulf in conditions in the world, but that there is a way for working people to “unify to fight these conditions and ultimately to take power,” said Mike Ellis from Chicago.

Local areas have adopted quotas that add up to 2,427, but initial results show this is well below what can be achieved for a five-month campaign running through August 15. In the first two weeks, a number of areas have already sold a third or more of their quotas, and many are planning to rediscuss and increase them. The *Militant* will wait a couple of weeks to report the overall goal, taking into account the revised quotas.

Nearly 300 subscribe in first week of ‘Militant’ sub drive

BY PAUL PEDERSON

Militant supporters around the United States and in other countries have kicked off the seven-week subscription drive with a bang. They sent in 291 subscriptions to the socialist newsweekly to the business office by the end of the first week of the drive. This is 8 percent, or 98 subscriptions, ahead of schedule.

On top of the chart in the United States are distributors in Newark, New Jersey, who netted 44 percent of their seven-week quota of 55 subs over the last seven days. This “target week” of the circulation campaign coincided with the first week of campaigning for Socialist Workers Party candidates for New Jersey governor and state assembly.

“We had a fabulous start to the circulation drive,” said Angela Lariscy, the SWP candidate for governor in New Jersey. “By next week supporters in Newark will discuss by how much to raise our quota.”

SWP campaign supporters sold six subscriptions and three copies of the new issues of the Marxist magazine *New International* (see front-page ad) at an all-day table at Rutgers University’s New Brunswick campus.

“A student who bought a subscription and a copy of the Spanish translation of *NI* no. 13 came that evening to a meeting of students and other youth organizing to attend the world youth festival in Caracas, Venezuela,



Militant/Sara Lobman

Michael Ortega, SWP candidate for New Jersey State Assembly District 28, campaigns April 10 in Morristown, New Jersey, using *Militant* and *New International*.

in August,” Lariscy reported. “The next night she came to the Militant Labor Forum in Newark and brought two friends, one of whom bought a subscription and a copy of *New International* no. 12.”

Partisans of the *Militant* in Los Angeles took the paper to a British Petroleum-operated refinery in Carson, California, to talk to workers about the explosion that killed 15 workers at BP’s facility in Texas City, Texas. Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy union members told the socialists the bosses had organized a safety meeting that day where they

discussed the refinery blast in Texas City. The unionists reported that the bosses’ main message at the meeting had been that the workers are responsible for their own safety.

“That’s the real story,” one of them commented, pointing to the headline in the *Militant* article that places responsibility squarely where it belongs: on the bosses and their speed-up to increase profits at the expense of workers’ lives and limbs. Two workers decided to subscribe to the *Militant*. One also purchased both of the new issues of *New International*.

Militant Fund quotas now top int’l goal

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Last week, partisans of the *Militant* in Los Angeles increased by \$1,000 their quota for the paper’s \$90,000 spring fund drive. The quota in San Francisco has been raised by \$300. Supporters of the socialist newsweekly in France adopted a quota of \$300 and those in the United Kingdom increased theirs by \$200. These welcome changes mean that local quotas from *Militant* supporters in some 30 cities around the world now add up to \$91,335—above the international target.

That’s progress. The challenge remains, however, to speed up the pace of collections to meet the goal by the May 22 deadline while having a weekly flow of contributions coming in.

Frank Forrestal, who helps organize the fund effort in the Los Angeles area, said 43 individuals have made pledges there amounting to \$7,825 towards the local quota of \$9,000. They are planning a fund event for early May and have sent out a mailing to long-term subscribers to solicit contributions to the fund.

As this issue goes to press, the *Militant* has received \$9,475 from contributions—some \$13,000 short of the mark the second week of the drive. For the remaining six weeks of the campaign, about \$13,500 is needed weekly to meet the goal. A regular flow of income is necessary to meet basic operating expenses, which in addition to costs for rent and utilities, include travel to cover the struggles of workers and farmers in the United States and around the world.

The *Militant* is funded solely through the contributions of workers, farmers, and others who value the paper’s irreplaceable role in growing fights for the right to organize unions and to use them to oppose productivity speed ups, weakening of safety provisions, wage cuts and the broader attacks by the wealthy rulers to squeeze out more profits by driving down the standard of living of workers and farmers worldwide. *Militant* readers are encouraged

to send in accounts of their progress each week that can be included in this column. Checks or money orders should be made out to The Militant, earmarked “Spring Fund Drive,” and sent to the *Militant* at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.



New International sales campaign

March 26 – August 15

Country	Goal	Sold	%
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	30	26	87%
Christchurch	20	7	35%
N.Z. total	50	33	66%
CANADA	60	22	37%
UNITED STATES			
NE Pennsylvania	40	24	60%
Cleveland	30	16	53%
Miami	60	30	50%
Atlanta	100	48	48%
Seattle	60	28	47%
Washington, D.C.	80	35	44%
Houston	80	34	43%
Philadelphia	75	31	41%
New York	250	102	41%
Pittsburgh	80	31	39%
Price, UT	50	19	38%
Chicago	100	38	38%
Omaha	25	9	36%
Los Angeles	200	71	36%
Detroit	60	21	35%
Tampa	55	19	35%
Boston	120	33	28%
San Francisco	175	46	26%
Craig, CO	40	10	25%
Newark	125	30	24%
Des Moines	80	17	21%
Twin Cities	105	21	20%
Birmingham	50	6	12%
U.S. total	1,990	719	35%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	35	14	40%
London	120	39	33%
UK total	155	53	34%
AUSTRALIA	50	15	30%
SWEDEN	40	7	18%
ICELAND	32	3	9%
Int'l totals	2,427	852	35%

'Militant' Subscription Drive			
April 2–May 22			
Week 1 of 7			
Country	Goal	Sold	%
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	20	11	55%
Christchurch	15	4	27%
N.Z. total	35	15	43%
SWEDEN	16	5	31%
UNITED STATES			
Newark	55	24	44%
Twin Cities	70	23	33%
Des Moines	50	16	32%
Chicago	65	20	31%
Washington, D.C.	55	16	29%
Omaha	25	7	28%
NE Pennsylvania	40	10	25%
San Francisco	25	6	24%
Boston	60	14	23%
New York	115	26	23%
Houston	50	10	20%
Tampa	30	6	20%
Detroit	28	5	18%
Los Angeles	90	16	18%
Atlanta	40	7	18%
Cleveland	35	5	14%
Seattle	35	5	14%
Miami	65	8	12%
Craig, CO	20	2	10%
Price, UT	50	5	10%
Birmingham	25	2	8%
Philadelphia	50	4	8%
Pittsburgh	50	4	8%
U.S. total	1128	241	21%
AUSTRALIA	30	6	20%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	20	3	15%
London	40	9	23%
UK total	60	12	20%
CANADA	60	11	18%
ICELAND	20	1	5%
Int'l totals	1349	291	22%
Goal/Should be	1350	193	14%

\$90,000 Militant Fund			
March 26–May 22: Week 2 of 8			
	Goal	Paid	%
ICELAND	200	20	10%
CANADA	1,230	100	8%
NEW ZEALAND *			
Auckland	1,750	183	10%
Christchurch	800	26	3%
SWEDEN	800	40	5%
AUSTRALIA	750	10	1%
FRANCE	300	0	0%
UNITED KINGDOM*	700	0	0%
UNITED STATES			
Other	700	200	29%
NE Pennsylvania	1,500	400	27%
New York	11,000	2,586	24%
Philadelphia	3,000	700	23%
Detroit	2,500	475	19%
Price, UT	4,000	600	15%
Los Angeles *	9,000	1,100	12%
Seattle	6,000	700	12%
Newark	3,750	390	10%
Omaha	355	35	10%
Des Moines	1,100	100	9%
Washington	3,000	245	8%
Chicago	4,000	320	8%
Boston	3,300	250	8%
Houston	3,500	250	7%
San Francisco*	9,500	500	5%
Pittsburgh	2,500	100	4%
Miami	1,400	50	4%
Twin Cities *	4,800	90	2%
Atlanta	4,300	5	0%
Birmingham	1,300	0	0%
Cleveland	1,000	0	0%
Craig, CO	1,800	0	0%
Tampa	1,500	0	0%
Totals	91,335	9,475	10%
Should be	90,000	22,500	25%
Raised goal *			

World War II: Three wars in one

The following consists of major excerpts from an article that first appeared in the summer 1959 issue of the *International Socialist Review*, a predecessor of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory. We are publishing it here as the fifth installment of this column that will appear regularly this year—the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II—to tell the truth about the second worldwide interimperialist slaughter and its outcome.

The article was originally published under the headline, “World War II: Three Wars in One,” and the subheading, “Do the political patterns of World War II suggest lessons in the struggle for peace today? The record offers a way of testing some current issues in dispute.”

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BY DANIEL ROBERTS

Among many people friendly to the Soviet Union the belief exists that the only practical hope for peace lies in Washington and Moscow reaching an agreement to give up war as an instrument of policy. As spokesmen of the Communist Party often put it, all that is needed to end the cold war and the danger of nuclear conflict is to restore the alliance that existed between America and the Soviet Union during World War II.

They blame [President Harry S.] Truman for breaking off Roosevelt’s alleged policy of friendship for the USSR. They blame [Secretary of State John Foster] Dulles for worsening the anti-Soviet trend.

Their program for rectifying this situation boils down to a simple prescription: work within the Democratic Party. By helping Democrats to win office, they maintain, it is possible to influence the party in the direction of a “people’s coalition”—such as existed in America under “FDR” during World War II—thus strengthening the “forces for peace.”

Against this policy of class collaboration, the Socialist Workers Party advocates following socialist principles in the struggle for peace. These begin with opposition to capitalist candidates, no matter what demagogic labels they may wear. The SWP favors doing everything possible to popularize socialism, including running socialist candidates for office. The SWP opposes company unionism in the political struggle as well as the wage struggle and supports the trends in both fields toward independence and militancy. The SWP seeks, as the alternative to war, a socialist America.

These views are attacked by CP leaders as “sectarian,” “divisive,” “utopian” and worse.

Struggle for peace, road to socialism

Who is right? The question is not unimportant, for it involves the struggle for



British cavalry advances against Axis powers in North Africa. “Desert campaigns” in World War II were fought for redivision of colonies among imperialist powers.

peace and the road to socialism. The fate of tens of millions, in fact the fate of all mankind, hinges on coming up with a correct answer.

The CP’s proposals hark back to an earlier appraisal of the problems of war, peace, defense of the Soviet Union and the struggle against reaction. This was their analysis of the character of World War II and their estimate of the Allied camp as a “democratic,” “people’s” coalition against fascism.

The present policy of the CP is an extension of that position, just as the SWP’s policy today is an extension of the position it took during World War II. It can therefore prove useful to review the differences of that time, for it is possible to check them against what actually happened and thus see who turned out to be right. Obviously this is highly relevant to the CP’s insistence upon a return to the political patterns of World War II.

Even more important than who was right, however, study of the actual course of history in the light of prognosis can offer us better understanding of the class forces involved in World War II, how that colossal conflict affected them, and what direction they are moving in today. On that basis it should prove considerably easier to work out realistic political policies for the period before us.

Were they imperialists?

A basic premise offered by Communist leaders under Stalin’s influence was that the powers allied to the Soviet Union in World War II became historically progressive through their pact with the workers state. From September 1939 to June 1941 this proposition benefited the Axis powers.

British, French and American war aims were denounced as imperialistic—which they certainly were; German war aims were presented as in the interests of national self-defense—which they certainly were not.¹

When Hitler attacked the Soviet Union and Stalin hastily concluded an alliance with Britain and the United States, signs were at once reversed.² The Axis countries alone now pursued reactionary imperialist objectives, whereas the American-British-Russian alliance pursued democratic, national-liberationist—in short, historically progressive—goals.

This still remains the official CP version of the character of the second world war.

In order to justify such switches, Communist Party leaders had to discard completely Lenin’s conclusions about the nature of imperialism. They had to revive, in effect, the notorious position propounded by the Social Democratic theoretician Karl Kautsky during World War I; namely, that imperialism is but one of alternative policies that the major capitalist powers are free to follow, that it is

“Interlaced with the utterly reactionary fight between the imperialist wolves—the Axis and the Allies—were two other wars of entirely different character: defense of Soviet Union and colonial revolts.”

not organic to the stage of big business rule. In World War I, German, French, British, Italian, Russian and American “socialists” utilized Kautsky’s arguments to justify support for their respective governments....

Highest, last stage of capitalism

To refute Kautsky, Lenin showed by painstaking economic and historical analysis that “imperialism...represents a special stage in the development of capitalism”; i.e., imperialism is synonymous with Western capitalism since the turn of the twentieth century; that it is, in fact, the last or highest stage of capitalism itself.³

According to Lenin, one of the features of imperialism is the rule of financial oligarchies (such as America’s sixty wealthiest families) in the major capitalist countries. The foreign policy pursued by any of the major capitalist powers cannot be anything but imperialistic; that is, designed to exploit other countries. Wars between major capitalist powers are inevitably conflicts involving “redivision” of the world. They have no progressive content and can acquire none. Imperialism threatens civilization with total destruction. Its wars spread untold misery. Consequently, said Lenin, “Imperialism is the eve of the proletarian social revolution. This has been confirmed since 1917 on a world-wide scale.”

At bottom of the dispute over the war question between the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party—between Stalinism and Trotskyism—involved the validity of Lenin’s characterization of imperialism. It is still involved in the dis-

pute over how best to fight for peace. The Socialist Workers Party has adhered to the Leninist criteria; the Communist Party has abandoned them.⁴

It should be emphasized that whether or not workers ought to defend the Soviet Union from imperialist attack is not at issue. From the beginning, the Socialist Workers Party has supported unconditional defense of the workers state, regardless of its leadership. Likewise not at issue is the right of the Soviet government to make military alliances with one group of imperialist powers against a different group—or to switch alliances if need be. What is in dispute is whether or not socialists should offer political support to the imperialist ally of the Soviet Union and whether or not they should help expose that ally’s true war aims and oppose them.

In proposing that socialists give no political support to any of the major capitalist powers during the war, the Socialist Workers Party held to Leninism, which taught in the first years of the Soviet Union’s existence that while the workers state might be compelled to sign a temporary agreement with one or another imperialist power, this must not be permitted to alter socialist opposition to the imperialist government.

Big business rules ‘democracies’

Some substantial facts in World War II spoke for the correctness of this position. In Britain, France and the United States, big business ruled as unquestionably as in Germany, Italy and Japan.... [I]n the U.S. the Smith “Gag” Act was passed in 1940 and applied shortly thereafter against eighteen leading members of the Socialist Workers Party and of the Minneapolis Truck drivers Local 544-CIO [for leading labor opposition to entering the imperialist war].

In their colonies and semi-colonies, British, French and American imperialism ruled with totalitarian brutality. The U.S., for example, governed through military dictators in most of Latin America....

Both the Axis and the British-French-American powers sought either to retain or to acquire colonies, markets, sources of raw material and areas of cheap labor where capital could be invested at a high rate of profit. This substantiated once again what Lenin had noted about the tendency to imperialist redivision of the world among the great powers.

Axis, Allies hate October Revolution

As the vast slaughter unfolded, the SWP called attention to important additional facts. Each of the warring capitalist camps displayed in turn its mortal enmity to the land of the October 1917 Revolution. Thus in 1940, when the Soviet Union attacked Finland, the French, British and American imperialists prepared to intervene militarily in defense of their outpost....

Foreshadowing American postwar policy of “containing communism” within a network of military bases, Roosevelt’s Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, declared that “the U.S. must police the world for the next hundred years.” In anticipation of the type of rule they wished to impose in Europe, the Allies maintained a stable of kings, queens and capitalist politicians of every variety heading up “governments-in-exile.” At the end of the war, the Allies foisted a number of them on European peoples against their will (for instance, in Greece)....

In Japan, [General Douglas] MacArthur carefully protected the divine Mikado from popular resentment....

But didn’t the U.S. alliance with the Soviet Union mark a departure from imperialist policy? Didn’t it reflect democratic forces in American government, which came to recognize the menace of Nazism and to see the need for united action to defeat it?

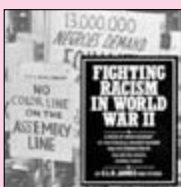
Imperialist statesmen are quite capable of giving revolutionary forces a temporary assist if they calculate that it will serve their own ends. The Kaiser provided Lenin with a sealed train, let it be recalled; yet it never occurred to Lenin to regard this as evidence of a “democratic” ingredient in the Hohenzollern dynasty. When Lenin’s government came to power, too, imperialist powers concluded temporary agreements

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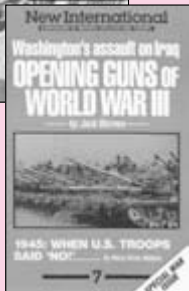
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with the workers state for the sake of advantages against imperialist rivals. (These, of course, also brought advantages to the Soviet Union.) The most famous of them in the early days of the Soviet republic was the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which German imperialism decided would secure the release of armies from the Russian front for use in the western trenches. That was not taken as a reflection of “democratic” forces in the German General Staff. (Even Hitler signed a pact with Stalin that meant conceding considerable territory to the Soviet Union.)

In World War II, pursuing its goal of ultimate world domination, American imperialism had to decide whether it should seek to destroy the Soviet Union before or after reducing its rivals to the status of vassals. (Hitler was compelled to make a similar choice at the beginning of the war.)

American imperialism elected to defeat its imperialist rivals first, taking a chance on carving up the Soviet Union later. Once the Axis had been defeated, American imperialism lost no time in regrouping its capitalist foes and allies alike in a world crusade against “communism.” The cold war thus did not represent a reversion to imperialism but simply the succeeding phase of a policy aiming at exploitation of the entire globe. What other rational explanation can be offered for the rapidity with which America’s rulers shifted in 1945 from alliance with the Soviet Union to construction of a military machine equipped with sufficient nuclear poisons to “overkill” all mankind sixty or seventy times?

World War II essentially imperialist

World War II was thus essentially imperialist in character. But interimperialist rivalries, while predominant, were far from exclusive in the sanguinary conflict. In this it differed from World War I except for the closing phase of that slaughter. Interlaced with the utterly reactionary fight among the imperialist wolves were two other wars of quite different character.

These two wars were the Soviet Union’s defense against Germany and China’s struggle for national liberation from Japan. That both the Soviet Union and China were allied with a reactionary imperialist bloc did not lessen the progressive character of their struggles just as it did not lessen the reactionary character of their allies.

In addition, a number of other essentially independent working-class and independent colonial-freedom movements took shape or developed at heightened speeds during the second world war.

To take a correct position on these struggles, socialists had to separate them out and consider them on their own merits; that is, in relation to their class content and their effect on the world-wide movement for socialism....

Defense of the Soviet Union

[The Socialist Workers Party and world movement it was part of] kept in sight the basic economic and social institutions that were established by the October Revolution—state monopoly of foreign trade, the planned economy, the anti-capitalist structure of government, the socialist outlook of the masses. No matter how deeply these had degenerated under Stalin’s regime, [they] held that the Soviet institutions still added up to a workers state. From this it followed that the socialist opposition to Stalinism could in no way accede to imperialist intervention in Soviet affairs. It was the job of the Soviet working people—and no one else—to get rid of Stalinist tyranny and restore proletarian democracy. Those in socialist opposition to Stalinism, in fact, in order to advance the worldwide struggle for socialism, were duty-bound to serve as the best defenders of the Soviet Union.

In 1940, after the outbreak of World War II, [Bolshevik leader Leon] Trotsky wrote: “Those who cannot defend old positions will never conquer new ones.... The defense of the USSR coincides in principle with the preparation of the world proletarian revolution.”

Heroic resistance of toilers in USSR

Events have fully confirmed the view that the possibility of new revolutionary conquests was linked to the defense of “old positions.” The heroic resistance of the Soviet workers and peasants saved the USSR after Stalin’s policies had brought the work-

ers state to the verge of catastrophic defeat.⁵ With the first Soviet victories, a resistance movement that had already begun to take shape in many parts of Europe against the Nazis and the collaborationist bourgeoisie gained revolutionary scope. Partisan forces began operating throughout Eastern Europe, reinforcing Soviet guerrillas behind the German lines.

In Yugoslavia, partisans, spearheaded by proletarian brigades, pinned down considerable German forces even before the Nazi invasion of the USSR. The Yugoslavs, under Tito’s leadership, rendered valiant aid in the defense of the Soviet Union. But they too needed the further inspiration of Soviet victories to forge ahead to their own victory and the establishment of a workers state.

In Greece, another mass revolutionary movement—the ELAS partisans—in 1943 gained control of the entire country except for Athens, then lost it when the Greek Communist party leadership obeyed Stalin’s orders to yield power to the British in accordance with the secret deal he had made at Yalta and Tehran with the imperialist statesmen Churchill and Roosevelt.

Impact of Soviet victories

The impact of the Soviet victories decisively shaped the political evolution of the French resistance movement. The working class gained ascendancy within it, and the Communist Party acquired effective leadership. In Italy, too, the Soviet victories

“The heroic resistance of workers and peasants saved USSR after Stalin’s policies had brought workers state to the verge of catastrophic defeat.”

spurred the revolutionary movement that toppled Mussolini in August 1943 and that continued to unfold against both the German occupation in the north and the Allied occupation in the south.

In Germany, the accumulation of military catastrophes broke the apathy that had settled upon the working class following Hitler’s victory in 1933. The beginnings of a revolutionary movement appeared as the Nazi regime collapsed.

The Soviet victories were an element in the resurgence of socialist sentiment among the British workers. In 1945 they booted Churchill out of office and put the Labour Party in power....

Stalin and the Communist Party leaders who made a cult of his personality did not agree with Trotsky that “The defense of the USSR coincides in principle with the preparation of the world proletarian revolution.”

As a caste enjoying special privileges in the Soviet Union, the Stalinist bureaucracy feared that victorious socialist revolutions in Western Europe would inspire the Soviet workers to oust them from power. One of the reflections of this fear was the Stalinist theory that socialist aims had to be discarded in World War II, or indefinitely postponed, since the conflict—again according to Stalinist theory—was essentially a struggle between democracy and fascism. Therefore, to believe this leadership, the struggle for socialism could only play into the hands of the fascists. This outlook received its most glaring expression in Stalin’s chauvinistic manner of waging the war. All appeals to socialist sentiments were dropped. Russian patriotic traditions replaced them. Hatred for the German people was a dominant theme in Soviet propaganda, a policy that did much to reinforce the Nazi hold on the German masses.

Stalin’s secret deals with imperialists

Other equally reactionary consequences followed. Stalin’s secret deals with Roosevelt and Churchill called for retaining capitalism in power throughout Europe, with the Soviet Union allotted the buffer zone, which it had taken anyway in Eastern Europe for purposes of military defense.

Even in Bulgaria and Rumania, the



Getty Images

In the five-month battle in 1942–43 to defend Stalingrad from attack by Nazi-led army, more than 1 million Russians died. The defeat of the German imperialist army was a turning point in defending the Soviet Union and pushing back Hitler’s offensive.

USSR’s immediate neighbors, decrees were issued as the Red Army marched across the border that “the existing social structure” was not to be altered, although the working people were organizing strikes, dividing up landlords’ estates and getting rid of the fascist officials.

Only after American imperialism—with the help of the Communist parties—had stabilized capitalist rule in Western Europe to some degree, had launched the cold war, was testing atomic bombs in the Pacific and stockpiling nuclear weapons, did the Kremlin reluctantly take the defensive measure of abolishing capitalist rule in Eastern Europe by bureaucratic-military means....

Defense of China

The third war, intermingled with the imperialist conflict between the Allies and the Axis, was China’s struggle against Japan....

Japanese capitalism had reached the imperialist stage. China was a semi-colony that had yet to achieve the stage of an integrated nation. Lenin long ago pointed out that the working class in the imperialist centers had everything to gain from making common cause with the colonial bourgeoisie in such struggles while retaining political independence due to the limitations inherent in a bourgeois nationalist leadership. Applying this concept, the Trotskyists remained in political opposition to the Chiang [Kai-shek] dictatorship but subordinated this opposition to the defense of China.

How well the Trotskyist estimate corresponded to the objective course of this war can be seen in retrospect. The Chinese people sought from 1931 to resist the encroachments of Japanese imperialism, and, by shaking off the Japanese yoke, to win national liberation from all imperialist powers, including the U.S. Chiang’s incredibly corrupt regime repeatedly sought compromise with Japanese imperialism but the costly concessions did not halt the Japanese advance. It was only the revolutionary resistance of the Chinese people that prevented Japan from consolidating its conquests and overrunning all of China.

Chinese revolution

The [Chiang Kai-shek regime’s] do-nothing record, its outrageous exactions from the peasants, its looting and plundering,

and its increasingly abject dependence on American imperialism lost it any measure of acquiescence it might have enjoyed among the masses during the war. With China’s victory, the people set out to get rid of this hated government.

In accordance with the Kremlin’s characterization of World War II, the Chinese followers of Stalin did not steer toward socialist aims. They did everything possible to bolster Chiang Kai-shek despite repeated brush-offs from the dictator. China in their opinion was not ripe for an economic and social overturn. Chinese capitalism still had a historic mission to accomplish and they were willing to do what they could to maintain it.

When the Chinese people took the road of economic and social revolution, however, the Communist Party found itself propelled into leadership. As in the case of Tito in Yugoslavia, Mao disregarded Stalin’s directives. (At the outset of the civil war, Stalin recognized Chiang Kai-shek’s regime as the legitimate Chinese government and urged Mao Tse-tung to make a deal with the dictator.) Mao also disregarded his own theories. The alternative was to be flattened by the revolutionary steamroller.

Thus China—coveted prize of both Japanese and American imperialism—continuing the struggle begun against Japan, underwent a profound social and economic revolution, escaped all would-be imperialist overlords and emerged as an independent power, a result Roosevelt had not anticipated when he included China in his wartime alliance.⁶ ...

India’s anticolonial revolt

In August 1942 when mass strikes
Continued on Page 9

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Women and the 1983 Burkina Faso revolution

Below are excerpts from *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. This speech was given by Thomas Sankara to a rally of several thousand women held in Burkina Faso on March 8, 1987, on the occasion of International Women's Day. Sankara was the central leader of the Aug. 4, 1983, popular uprising in the West African country of Upper Volta—a former French colony—ushering in one of the deepest revolutions in African history. The country was renamed Burkina Faso, "Land of the Upright," one year later. On Oct. 15, 1987, Sankara was murdered in the course of a counterrevolutionary military coup that destroyed the revolutionary government. Copyright © 1990 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY THOMAS SANKARA

On October 2, 1983, in the Political Orientation Speech, the National Council of the Revolution laid out clearly the main axis of the fight for women's liberation. It made a commitment to work to mobilize, organize, and unify all the active forces of the nation, particularly women.

The Political Orientation Speech had this to say specifically in regard to women: "Women will be an integral part of all the battles we will have to wage against the various shackles of neocolonial society and for the construction of a new society. They will take part in all levels of the organization of the life of the nation as a whole, from conceiving projects to making decisions and implementing them. The final goal of



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Thomas Sankara, central leader of the Burkina Faso revolution, speaking March 8, 1987, on the occasion of International Women's Day.

this great undertaking is to build a free and prosperous society in which women will be equal to men in all domains."

There can be no clearer way to conceptualize and explain the question of women and the liberation struggle ahead of us. "The genuine emancipation of women is that which entrusts responsibilities to them and involves them in productive activity and in the different struggles the people face. Women's genuine emancipation is one that exacts men's respect and consideration."

What is clearly indicated here, sister comrades, is that the struggle to liberate women is above all your struggle to deepen our democratic and popular revolution, a revolution that grants you from this moment on the right to speak and act in building a new society of justice and equality, in which men and women have the same rights and responsibilities. The democratic and popular revolution has created the conditions for such a liberating struggle. It now falls to you to act with the greatest sense of responsibility in breaking through all the shackles and obstacles that enslave women in backward societies like ours and to assume your share of the responsibilities in the political fight to build a new society at the service of Africa and all humanity.

In the very first hours of the democratic and popular revolution we said that "eman-

cipation, like freedom, is not granted but conquered. It is for women themselves to put forward their demands and mobilize to win them." The revolution has not only laid out the objectives of the struggle for women's liberation but has also indicated the road to be followed and the methods to be used, as well as the main actors in this battle. We have now been working together, men and women, for four years in order to achieve success and come closer to our final goal. We should note the battles waged and the victories won, as well as the setbacks suffered and the difficulties encountered. This will aid us in preparing and leading future struggles.

So what tasks does our democratic and popular revolution have in respect to women's emancipation? What acquisitions do we have, and what obstacles still remain? One of the main acquisitions of the revolution with regard to women's emancipation was, without any doubt, the establishment of the Women's Union of Burkina (UFB). This is a major acquisition because it has provided the women of our country with a framework and a solid mechanism with which to wage a successful fight. Establishing the UFB represents a big victory in that it allows for the mobilization of all politically active women around well-defined and just objectives, under the leadership of

the National Council of the Revolution. The UFB is an organization of militant and serious women who are determined to change things, to fight until they win, to fall and fall again, but to get back on their feet and go forward without retreating. This is the new consciousness that has taken root among the women of Burkina, and we should all be proud of it. Comrades, the Women's Union of Burkina is your combat weapon. It belongs to you. Sharpen it again and again so that its blade will cut more deeply, bringing you ever-greater victories.

The different initiatives directed at women's emancipation that the government has taken over a period of a little more than three years are certainly inadequate. But they have put us on the right road, to the point where our country can present itself as being in the vanguard of the battle to liberate women. Women of Burkina participate more and more in decision making and in the real exercise of popular power. They are present everywhere the country is being built. You can find them at every work site: in the Sourou [Valley irrigation project], in our reforestation programs, in vaccination brigades, in Operation Clean Town, in the Battle for the Railroad, and so on.

Step by step, the women of Burkina have gained a foothold everywhere, are asserting themselves and demolishing all the male chauvinist, backward conceptions of men. And this process will go on until women are present in Burkina's entire social and professional fabric. For three and a half years our revolution has worked to systematically eliminate all practices that demean women, such as prostitution and related activity, like vagrancy and female juvenile delinquency, forced marriages, female circumcision, and their particularly difficult living conditions.

By working to solve the water problem, by building windmills in the villages, by assuring the widespread use of the improved stove, by building public nurseries, carrying out daily vaccinations, and encouraging healthy, abundant, and varied eating habits, the revolution has no doubt greatly contributed to improving the quality of women's lives....

We must collectively remain alert to women's access to productive work. It is this work that emancipates and liberates women by assuring them economic independence and a greater social role, as well as a more complete and accurate understanding of the world.

April

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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WWII: Three wars in one

Continued from page 7

and demonstrations swept India, and the Congress Party of the Indian capitalists called for a civil-disobedience campaign to win independence from England, the Trotskyists supported the struggle. The Indian Communist Party leadership, while paying lip service to India's objective of independence, opposed the actual struggle. In common with Churchill, the U.S. State Department and the British Labour Party brass, the CP declared that the Indian people's rising interfered with the Allied war effort and thus offered objective aid to Japanese imperialism.

This prognosis turned out to be somewhat inaccurate. The August 1942 strikes did not help the Japanese at all, but they did aid the cause of Indian freedom and the revolutionary struggle to liquidate imperialism in general. By 1945 the British were compelled to grant India her independence or face a revolutionary movement far more powerful and determined than even the August 1942 uprising.

But the Communist Party was so discredited by its wartime position in India that it lost its opportunity to become a leading force. Still worse, it brought discredit on communism itself. The result was that the Congress Party filled the vacuum and won domination of Indian politics. The Indian bourgeoisie was able to arrest the logical course of the revolutionary ferment, preserve the capitalist structure, and survive as a ruling class. India is paying for this today with abysmal poverty, the constant threat of famine, and economic stagnation.

Were the miners right?

Besides the three wars already considered, it will prove instructive to bring into sharper focus still another conflict—the class struggle in America during World War II.

The capitalists did not forget their class interests during the war. On the contrary, as always, they utilized the bloodbath to advance their interests, beginning with those that could be added up in bank accounts in the form of profits. Through Roosevelt in the White House and through the Democratic-Republican coalition in Congress they sought to “contain” the labor movement under threat of massive retaliation.

The Socialist Workers Party called attention to this elementary fact again and again, and, in the fighting socialist tradition of Eugene V. Debs, advocated that the working people should defend their interests despite the war. This was the positive content of socialist opposition to the imperialist conflict. It was that simple in essence.

The American workers were resolutely against fascism anywhere, any time, at home, in Italy, in Germany, in Spain. They tended to support the war in the mistaken belief that Roosevelt was telling the truth about fighting for democracy and for “four freedoms.”

But the fraud of Roosevelt's “equality of sacrifice” program, which froze wages in the face of inflation while profit-taking reached astronomical heights; revelations of how the giant corporations honored their lucrative cartel obligations with German firms while German and American workers were killing one another; the evident intentions of the employers, operating from the vantage point of government boards, to rob workers of their union gains—all these prompted the American working people to look to their own interests.

The miners led the resistance. In an epic series of coal mine strikes in 1943, the United Mine Workers stood up to the combined pressure of the employers, the Roosevelt administration, the courts, the big business press, lynch-minded professional patriots

“The capitalists did not forget their class interests in the war. On the contrary, they used the bloodbath to advance them.”

and the AFL and CIO bureaucracy.⁷...

Organized labor in America owes its existence today to the success of the wartime mine workers strikes. Emboldened by what the miners had gained through militant struggle, rank-and-file unionists everywhere pressed for similar concessions from the employers and their government. The postwar union-busting schemes of the monopolies were drowned in the great strike wave of 1946 when almost two million workers walked the picket lines at one time.

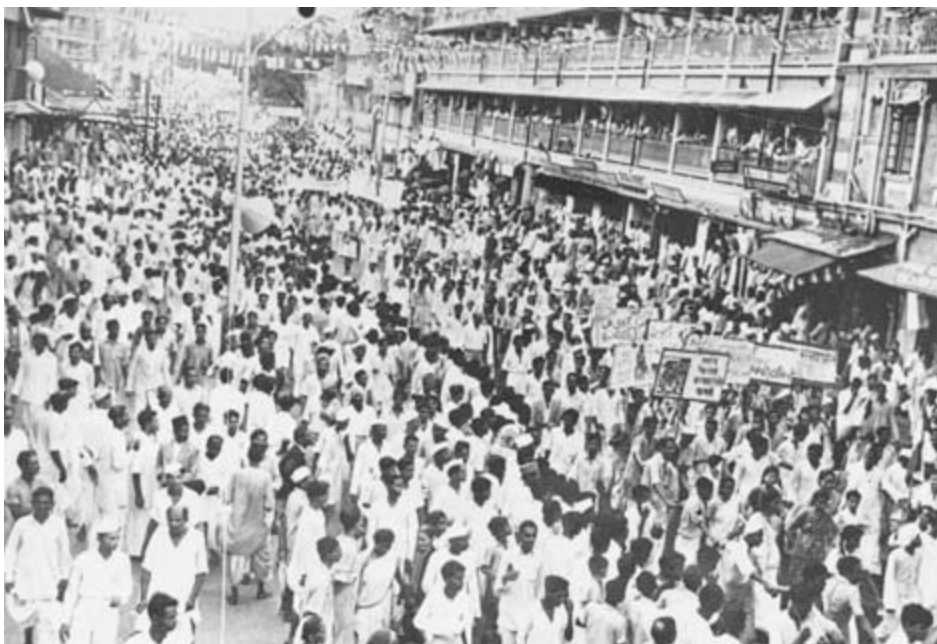
GIs demand: ‘Get us home!’

The class struggles touched off by the mine strikes paid off in another direction as well. They inspired the “Get Us Home” demonstrations of American troops in the European and Pacific theaters following V-J Day. Big business had different plans for the servicemen. It wanted the GI's to police the world and ready themselves to march against the Soviet Union. The draftees, led by union men in the ranks, frustrated these plans. The brass hats had to accede to the servicemen's demands. The War Department was forced to curtail the size of its armed forces abroad and to replace the veterans with unseasoned drafted youths. That slowed down American imperialism's timetable for World War III, a fortunate occurrence from which we benefit to this day.

CPUSA outvied professional patriots

In contrast to the revolutionary socialist course of supporting such militant struggles, the Communist Party leadership joined in making a cult of Roosevelt and of outlying the professional patriots in broadcasting the Churchill-Roosevelt-Stalin propaganda about a war for democracy and “four freedoms.” The Communist Party became notorious in the labor movement for its “win-the-war” zeal.

They backed the Nazi-like “relocation” of Japanese-Americans in concentration camps because of their color and ancestry; they told the Negro people that under no circumstances must the struggle for equality be



Mass march in the streets of Bombay August 1947 celebrated Indian independence from British colonial rule. India had been the “crown jewel” of British imperialism.

pressed during wartime; they frothed at the mouth over the coal miners daring to go out on strike; they shouted hooray for the conviction of the SWP leaders under the Smith Act and urged even stiffer sentences; they took the lead in promoting the no-strike pledge and proposed to extend it after the war; they cheered for the bombs that Truman dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; they fought every manifestation of sentiment for building a labor party. In brief, under the slogan of fighting a war for “democracy,” they opposed the democratic right of the working people to defend their standard of living, their union organizations, and their political interests in wartime.

What this cost the Communist Party in political influence is now apparent to all. When the postwar witch-hunt began, the unfortunate Communist Party victims found themselves without a friend in the labor movement. The wartime record of Stalinism on civil liberties, civil rights, labor solidarity, defense of the working-class standard of living, and defense of the trade unions against employer attack contributed mightily to the catastrophic collapse of the party.⁸

How to defeat fascism

Even at this late date, in face of this eloquent record, one still hears the argument, “But wasn't it necessary to place the defeat of fascism in the front rank of socialist objectives?”

The answer is, “Yes, it was necessary. The problem was *how* to defeat fascism.”

The Socialist Workers Party held that the only effective course is through development of struggles of the working class and its allies. The beginning point is militant defense of democratic conquests that are suffering erosion at the hands of a capitalist class inclined in its old age to resort to fascism. Some of the key issues involve civil liberties, civil rights, the equality of minorities, democracy in the armed forces, freedom of the trade unions from government control, participation of labor in politics in defense of its own interests and through its own political party.

The key is to strengthen the labor movement and this includes defending it from bureaucratic abuses and violations of the democratic process in the unions themselves. The construction of a powerful labor movement able to represent the political interests of the poorest levels of the population, including farmers and small businessmen, prepares the way for socialism—the only enduring guarantee against reaction, fascist or otherwise.

The Communist Party took the opposite course—to utilize the anti-fascist sentiments of the working class to instill trust in “liberal” capitalists in general and the Democratic Party in particular....

To recapitulate: It is not true that sectarian considerations motivated the Socialist Workers position in World War II. Opposition to the imperialist conflict derived from general revolutionary socialist principles tested for more than a century. They were applied, moreover, with careful consideration to the complex intertwining of three wars involving highly contradictory forces. Experience verified the correctness of supporting the Soviet Union, the colonial countries and the struggles of the American workers in wartime; and of opposing with utmost resoluteness the imperialist powers that ventured to plunge

mankind into this fearful carnage.

The positions taken in World War II retain their importance today for the insight they offer to current attitudes in the struggle for peace and as a guide for correct ways of opposing the cold war. Militant workers have much to gain from studying them as they consider how to avert the nuclear conflict which American imperialism began preparing as a direct consequence of its victory in World War II.

NOTES

¹For instance, the *Sunday Worker*, Feb. 25, 1940, stated: “The Soviet Union's pacts with Germany rescued the German people from the worst of counter-revolutionary wars and ditched the predatory plans of the Allied war-makers against both the Soviet and the German peoples.” The Comintern press spoke of the Anglo-French alliance as the “imperialist bloc against the German people.” A main slogan of the American Communist party was, “The Yanks Are Not Coming!” Roosevelt was denounced as an imperialist warmonger, a characterization closer to the truth than his later designation as a champion of peace, democracy and American-Soviet friendship.

²In August 1939, Stalin signed a nonaggression pact with the Nazi government of Germany, which freed Hitler's hands for the invasion of Western Europe.

³V. I. Lenin. *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*, written January-July, 1916, with prefaces to new editions, April 20, 1917, and July 6, 1920.

⁴The viewpoint of the Socialist Workers Party is well expressed in a resolution adopted by the Tenth National Convention in October 1942. Another key document is the manifesto of the Fourth International, *Imperialist War and the Proletarian Revolution*. For a defense of the position under fire, *Socialism on Trial*, the official record of James P. Cannon's testimony in the first Smith Act trial, is recommended. [It can be obtained from Pathfinder Press.]

⁵In his speech at the secret session of the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist party, Khrushchev referred to some of Stalin's crimes. His list included debilitation of the command of the armed forces in the blood purges of the 1930's and Stalin's refusal to believe reports that the Nazis were planning to attack. In 1941 the Trotskyist movement pointed to these as among the major reasons for the initial costly defeats suffered by the Soviet Union.

⁶For a vivid account of how China's struggle, thrown on its own resources, developed stage by stage to the profoundest overturn since the October 1917 Revolution in Czarist Russia, the reader is referred to Jack Belden's *China Shakes the World*.

⁷See the excellent account by, Art Preis, “How the Miners Won,” in the spring 1959 issue of *International Socialist Review*.

⁸In Atlanta Penitentiary as a victim of the Smith Act, John Gates, a top leader of the Communist Party, read how Debs, who had been sentenced to the same prison as a witchhunt victim in World War I, had been able to run an effective campaign for President from behind bars and had been eventually freed by a huge mass movement in his behalf. In painful contrast to this, Gates observed, there was an “almost complete absence of popular concern over our imprisonment.” (*The Story of an American Communist*, Thomas Nelson & Sons, New York.) Gates failed to note that Debs followed a policy of socialist opposition to World War I.

FOR FURTHER READING

The Struggle for a Proletarian Party

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On the eve of World War II, a founder of the communist movement in the U.S. and leader of the Communist International in Lenin's time defends the program and party-building norms of Bolshevism. Also available in French. \$21.95

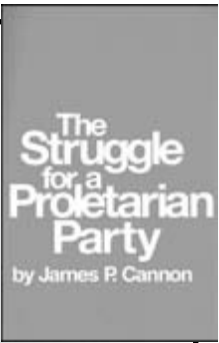
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EDITORIAL

Killing of Diallo *was* a crime

We are using the editorial space this week to publish the statement below released April 5 by Martín Koppel, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York City, in response to remarks by Democratic Party candidate Fernando Ferrer that the 1999 killing of Amadou Diallo by New York cops “was not a crime.”

Our campaign condemns the statement by Democratic mayoral candidate Fernando Ferrer that the police killing of Amadou Diallo was “not a crime” and that the cops were “overindicted.” We join in the outrage expressed by many others who protested in the streets to demand the cops be jailed for murder after this West African-born worker was gunned down in 1999.

The shooting of Amadou Diallo *was* a crime. He was killed in a hail of 41 bullets, at the entrance to his apartment building, when four cops from the notorious Street Crimes unit accosted him. They claimed they thought he pulled out a gun, but had only taken out his wallet to show his ID.

The trial that acquitted the cops was a travesty of justice. It signaled open season by the cops on working people, especially those who are Black and other oppressed nationalities. The cops should have been convicted and jailed.

The main defense of the killer cops was that Diallo fit the “generic description” of the criminal they were supposedly looking for. In other words, he was a Black man in a working-class neighborhood. This is how cops approach working people and oppressed nationalities—as criminals or potential criminals.

The Diallo verdict is not an example of how the U.S. judicial system malfunctions. This *is* how the capitalist justice system works. As the judge explained to the jury, the existing laws and police regulations make it legal for cops to act as on-the-spot executioners in cases like this. The laws are such because the entire system of police, courts, and prisons is designed to protect the rule and property of the tiny class of billionaire families and keep working people in check—from cops who arrest strikers on picket lines to the U.S. military police who torture those locked up in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. What the cops who killed Diallo did was part of carrying out that job.

Democratic politician Ferrer’s remarks are consistent with his role as a loyal defender of big-business interests. He above all wants to reassure the wealthy rulers of New York that he will unswervingly carry out that task if elected mayor. The same is true of Democrat Virginia Fields, Republican Michael Bloomberg, and any of the other capitalist candidates. On Mayor Bloomberg’s watch, police continue to carry out brutality against working people, such as the unprovoked killing of Timothy Stansbury, a Black teenager, last year.

The Socialist Workers campaign stands with those fighting police brutality and other struggles of working people. We point to the need to act independently of the bosses’ government and parties—the Democrats and Republicans—and rely on our own strength and mobilization, especially on our organizations, the unions, to advance the interests of the vast majority.

‘No U.S. exit strategy’ from Iraq

Continued from front page

a new government. The presidential council—comprising President Jallal Talabani, who was appointed president April 6, and his two deputies—named as new prime minister Ibrahim Jaafari, a leader of the United Iraqi Alliance and a Shiite Muslim. A week later, Talabani called on Washington to maintain its forces in Iraq for at least two years. “We are trying to build, as soon as possible, our military,” Talabani told CNN. “Within two years we can do it.”

On April 9, tens of thousands of supporters of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi militia staged rallies in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq demanding the withdrawal of the U.S.-led occupation forces.

In the northern city of Mosul, Iraqi troops now patrol a sector of two square miles in the heart of the city. It is one of two Areas of Operations Iraq, covered by the U.S.-trained Iraqi armed forces. The other area is around Haifa Street in Baghdad. U.S. troops are on call nearby for emergency support, according to the *Washington Post*.

Last November, some 8,000 U.S.-trained Iraqi police and National Guardsmen were overrun in the city by forces loyal to the former Baath Party regime of Saddam Hussein. Baathist forces, including units of Hussein’s former military, staged the attack in Mosul in a failed effort to divert American forces from a ground assault on their stronghold in Fallujah.

In addition, the U.S. military claims it continues to takes steps in dismantling the Baathist-led armed groups. It has captured or killed several top leaders, including close lieutenants of Hussein, and of al-Qaeda in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. On April 10, Iraqi authorities announced the arrest of Hussein’s cousin, Ibrahim Sabawi, reported the *Daily Times* of Pakistan. Sabawi is accused of channeling funds to antigovernment forces for attacks on U.S. troops and Iraqi security forces. As of early April, more than 17,000 men and women are being held by U.S. and Iraqi forces—most without charges—on suspicion of involvement in armed groups, according to the *Daily Times*.

Meanwhile, on April 7 Talabani appointed United Iraqi Alliance (UIA) leader Ibrahim Jaafari as prime minister. The alliance won a slim majority of the 275 seats in the National Assembly in the January elections. The UIA negotiated for two months with the slate led by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Kurdistan Democratic Party in order to form a coalition government. Talabani is the PUK’s central leader.

Iyad Allawi, the outgoing prime minister in the U.S.-picked interim government, announced that his bloc in the assembly would join the new regime. Allawi’s Iraqi Accord slate ran a distant third, gaining 40 seats.

Tens of thousands of supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr marched in Baghdad on the second anniversary of the overthrow of the Hussein regime, as the cleric seeks to increase his leverage with the new regime. The protesters demanded a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, release of leaders of their group from prison, and more rapid steps toward a trial of Hussein. Moayed Kharzaji, a speaker at the protest, added another demand: that Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, no longer be a day off, the *Washington Post* reported. Al-Sadr’s militia suffered substantial losses in fierce battles with U.S. troops last year. In September, al-Sadr signed a peace accord and agreed to disarm the militia. His supporters participated in the elections but won few seats in the National Assembly.

Many of the marchers came from the Sadr City suburb of Baghdad. Others reportedly traveled from as far away as Amara, Nasiriyah, and Basra in the south. Overwhelmingly Shiite, demonstrators rallied in Fridos Square, where two years earlier U.S. troops tore down a huge statue of Saddam Hussein. “No America, No Saddam, Yes to Islam,” they chanted. The same day, about 1,500 people, mostly Sunnis, reportedly protested around similar demands in Ramadi.

As Talabani and Rumsfeld indicated subsequently, however, the U.S.-backed government and Washington and its allies have no plans to meet the main demand of the protesters any time soon.

Communist League campaign in UK

Continued from Page 3

on British nationalist and anti-immigrant themes.

Joining the Britain First chorus is former left Labour Member of Parliament George Galloway, now leader of a new formation called Respect the Unity Coalition. Galloway is contesting the Bethnal Green and Bow constituency and has declared his organization—which involves the British Socialist Workers Party and other left-wing groups—the “ghost of Labour’s past.”

“The Royal Navy ships should be brought back from the Gulf to patrol our shores in order to stop the entry of drugs into our country,” Galloway said during the BBC London Radio election debate that featured Bethnal Green and Bow candidates. The war against Iraq should be replaced by a “war against drugs,” the Respect leader stated.

“The campaign against immigrants has been joined in an attempt to scapegoat foreign-born workers for the crisis of the profit system,” Celia Pugh told a packed audience of 150 at an April 3 assembly organized in London’s Elephant and Castle by the Frente Latino (Latin Front). Also addressing the assembly were La-

bour MP Harriet Harman and local councillors.

“Through threats of deportation, the bosses and capitalist politicians aim to intimidate immigrant workers from fighting back against low pay,” Pugh added. “But they’re failing in their efforts.” The Communist League candidate described the victory of cleaners employed at the giant Canary Wharf office building complex in London’s docklands area who have recently won union recognition. Office cleaners in London are overwhelmingly immigrant, principally from Latin America. “The fight by the cleaners shows how immigration strengthens the working class as a whole,” Pugh said. She explained that her party calls for an end to factory raids and deportations.

“There are an estimated 400,000 immigrants from Latin America in Britain,” said Frente Latino organizer Gloria Gómez, about 40 percent of whom are estimated to be undocumented. “We have to stop being invisible, we must lose our fear, and fight openly for our rights,” Gómez said to applause. She announced that the new organization, formed just six months ago, is growing rapidly.

China-Japan conflict

Continued from front page

escalation of the aggressive posture of the two imperialist powers towards China. At the same time, Tokyo is working closely with Washington on the deployment of a “missile defense” shield—which would give the U.S. rulers and their allies first-strike nuclear capacity—and other moves to ratchet up the pressure on north Korea.

Tokyo’s nationalist campaign

To justify their increasingly aggressive posture, Japan’s rulers are waging a campaign to foster nationalism among the population. To succeed they must prettify the history of Japanese imperialism.

During the first half of the 20th century, in their competition with their imperialist rivals in Europe and the United States, the Japanese rulers occupied and sought to colonize Korea, large sections of China, the Philippines, and a large part of South Asia. At its height, the Japanese empire extended throughout the nations of the South China Sea, including territories that today make up the Philippines, Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

The Japanese occupation forces were notoriously brutal. In Korea, for example, during the 1910–45 occupation, the Japanese overlords sought to wipe out the Korean language and culture and impose the Shinto religion on the Korean people. They also suppressed in blood all nationalist movements.

The resistance by the Chinese to the Japanese occupation was a struggle of great magnitude and took a tremendous human toll. Some 3 million Chinese soldiers and 9 million Chinese civilians died defending their country during the 1931–1945 invasion by Tokyo. This struggle gave impetus to the national liberation movement that developed into a socialist revolution in China and north Korea following World War II. The demands for a public apology by Tokyo and justice and restitution for the victims, like the women subjected to sex slavery, continue to spark protests in both countries.

Some of the most brutal crimes of Japanese imperialism during that period go almost without mention in the new history textbooks. In 2001, six out of the eight history textbooks mentioned a specific death toll in the 1937 Nanking Massacre in China, where some 100,000 to 300,000 Chinese were killed. Only one of the newly approved texts mentions the death toll, saying the dead “may have numbered as many as 200,000,” according to the *International Herald Tribune*.

Sex slavery

Likewise with sex slavery. Only one of the newly approved texts contains a reference to this practice by the Japanese army, compared to three of eight in 2001, and all history textbooks prior to that, the *Herald* reported. Similarly, only three of the newly approved texts say that Asian laborers taken to Japan were brought “forcibly”—an undisputed historical fact, which was previously acknowledged in school books.

The textbooks also categorically state that the Tokdo islets claimed by both Korea and Japan belong to Japan and were illegally occupied by south Korea. This has provoked outrage in Korea.

The publishers and supporters of the new textbooks openly admit that Japanese imperialism’s crimes are deliberately downplayed or painted over to instill patriotism in Japanese youth. “Great Britain committed war crimes. America too,” said Professor Nobukatsu Fujioka, a defender of the new textbooks, according to the British daily *Independent*. “My concern is that Japanese children are taught to hate their country. They are taught that only Japan was wrong in the war. Don’t all countries use history to instill pride in students?”

As part of this campaign, the Tokyo metropolitan government has begun punishing teachers who refuse to stand and sing Japan’s national anthem—a symbol of militarism to many in Japan and the rest of Asia. During this spring’s graduation ceremonies, 53 teachers were punished.

A national holiday that was once called “Emperor’s Day” had been changed to “Green Day,” following the 1989 death of Japanese emperor Hirohito. This year the Japanese government is renaming it “Showa Day,” to explicitly commemorate the birthday of Hirohito, who led Japan during its conquest of Asia and is a revered figure in the Japanese rightwing.

Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi has begun making regular visits to the Yasukuni Shrine for Japan’s war dead. The memorial is the burial place for Japanese officers who oversaw some of Tokyo’s worst crimes during its imperial expansion.

Protests in China, Korea

About 20,000 people gathered at Japan’s embassy and in an electronics district in Beijing April 9 to protest the new textbooks. Demonstrators hurled rocks at the embassy and at Japanese businesses and called for a boycott of Japanese products. Similar mobilizations occurred over that weekend in Chengdu, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen. The protests were the largest such rallies in China since the U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade during the war in Yugoslavia in 1999.

In Guangzhou, 10,000 protesters marched the following day to the offices of the Japanese consulate-general.

In south Korea, Gil Won Ok, 77, one of the surviving Korean “comfort women” led a protest to the Japanese embassy over the same weekend, denouncing the campaign to whitewash Tokyo’s crimes. “Atone for the past and let me die in peace,” she told the rally.

China’s ambassador to Japan Wang Yi criticized the protests, saying “the government does not agree with extreme action,” according to press reports. Chinese government officials pleaded with protesters to express themselves in a “calm and sane” manner.

While the protests against Japan’s crimes are deeply popular, the Chinese government has moved to clamp down on them for fear that demonstrators may also use the political opening to level criticisms at China’s bureaucratic regime. On April 9, students rallying in front of the Japanese embassy were prevented by the police from moving to Tiananmen Square, where large student-led protests were bloodily suppressed by the Chinese military in 1989. Students have reported moves by the administration at some universities to block them from joining the anti-Tokyo actions.

N.Y. bus drivers strike over early retirement

BY WILLIE COTTON
AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

YONKERS, New York—Nearly 600 bus drivers and mechanics have been on strike here for six weeks against Liberty Lines. They are fighting for the right to early retirement without a big cut in pension benefits, and against increased costs for medical insurance.

The strikers, members of Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100, have shut down the Bee-Line, the public bus service in Westchester County, which is operated by Liberty Lines, a private company. They have not only stood up to the owners’ intransigence but to attacks by county officials, a pro-company propaganda campaign by the big-business media, and arrests by the police.

“If you’ve worked here for 25 years or more, you should be able to retire at 57. That’s not an unreasonable demand,” said picket captain Angel Giboyeaux, on the line the evening of April 5. “Some people develop serious health problems over time. Driving a bus is a stressful job and there’s a lot of wear and tear.”

Giboyeaux, a bus driver with 16 years’ service, told the *Militant* that under the old contract, if workers retire at 57 instead of

62, the company permanently cuts nearly 25 percent off their retirement benefits.

Other pickets noted that New York City transit workers, also members of TWU Local 100, can already retire at 55 with full benefits under their contract.

They reported that last September one of their co-workers, John Toneske, with 27 years behind the wheel, was felled by a heart attack. Under the contract, however, Toneske, 52, would have had to put in another 10 years to be able to retire with full benefits.

The unionists are also resisting the company’s attack on their health care. They report Liberty Lines has demanded that workers pay 5 percent of their health insurance. This means that, as the costs of health care continue to skyrocket, the amount workers have to pay will keep increasing.

The company has also proposed that for each emergency room visit workers pay stiff fees—\$200 for themselves and \$400 for their spouse and each child.

One striker reported that the day before the strike began, both his wife and child had to go to the hospital emergency room. “This would now cost us \$800 off the bat.



Militant/Willie Cotton

Bus drivers and mechanics striking Bee-Line/Liberty Lines in Westchester County, New York, picket Yonkers garage April 5. They walked out six weeks ago to protest bosses’ attempt to cut health care and maintain steep penalties for early retirement.

From where?” he asked, pointing to his pockets.

The bosses also want to double the amount workers pay for medicine and to drop retirees’ medical benefits entirely, pickets reported. Giboyeaux said, “The company offered us this contract and said, ‘Take it or leave it.’ We said: No way!”

The unionists say the company is pleading poverty. In response, at a recent rally the strikers displayed a giant inflatable cockroach depicting Liberty Lines boss Jerry D’Amore. It carried a sign saying, “Hey Jerry, open the books, you crook.”

County Executive Andrew Spano and the local media have also ganged up on the TWU members, trying to pit other working people against the strikers. County transportation commissioner Larry Salley recently blamed the strike for “children

whose education is being jeopardized, elderly people trapped in apartments, and people that can’t get to work.” Day after day, the *Journal News* publishes articles suggesting that on account of the strike, working-class families now have to choose between buying food or spending money on cab fare to get their kids to school.

Unionists have organized pickets to block buses that Liberty Lines is using to train replacement workers. Cops have arrested more than 40 pickets during these actions, strikers said. The workers face charges of “disorderly conduct.”

The TWU members have held several rallies to mobilize support. Their actions have been joined by members of the Teamsters, Painters, Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union, and other unions.

Socialists organize ballot drives

Continued from front page

are trying to open up mines nonunion out here. That’s not right.” This miner said the bosses were planning to reopen nonunion a formerly union mine he had worked at in Cadiz, Ohio.

During the last two weeks of June, campaigners for Chris Hoeppner, SWP candidate for mayor of Seattle, plan to collect about 3,000 signatures—double the requirement—to put his name on the ballot.

That effort will be followed by a more ambitious petitioning campaign in New York, which will start July 12 and conclude at the beginning of August. The Socialist Workers Party, which nominated Martín Koppel as its candidate for New York City mayor on April 4, named other candidates for its citywide slate a week later. These are Arrin Hawkins for Manhattan borough president, Peter Musser for Bronx borough president, and Dan Fein for city comptroller. Campaigners project collecting more than 15,000 signatures—well above the required 7,500—for this ballot effort.

Socialist Workers campaign supporters in New York have been distributing hundreds of copies of a statement by Koppel on the need to fight police brutalization of working people (see page 10). Many workers were glad to see such a response.

“Good, this is one of us running,” an equipment repair worker in Manhattan’s Garment District told Koppel after reading the statement. The worker said he has plenty of experience with cops routinely harassing young workers in his neighborhood in the Bronx, and he himself was arbitrarily arrested once in what the police later shrugged off as a case of “mistaken identity.”

Koppel and two campaign supporters took part in an April 8 mid-Manhattan rally by hospital and nursing home workers organized by Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union. More than 1,000 workers mobilized to oppose cuts in hospital funding by the New York state government.

“Our campaign got a lot of interest among these workers,” Koppel said. “We pointed out that the employers have been driving down wages and working conditions factory by factory and industry by industry. But that’s not enough to turn around the bosses’ declining profit rates and radically shift the relationship of forces between capital and labor. That’s why the ruling class and both of its main parties—the Democrats and Republicans—are going after Social Security and other programs that are not only a social extension of our wages but boost class solidarity.”

The SWP platform points above all to workers’ need to organize unions and mobilize union power to defend themselves from this unrelenting antilabor offensive, Koppel said.

Working people need to organize inde-

pendently of the employers’ class, not only on the economic level but in the political arena too, he added. “When workers go on strike they often go up against not only the company but the cops, the courts, the government, and all its agencies. That helps underscore why we need a labor party, based on a fighting union movement, that defends the interests of workers and farmers 365 days a year,” Koppel said in an exchange with some hospital workers who asked what his campaign stood for.

“We wouldn’t let the boss into our union. Likewise, we can’t let the bosses’ parties speak for working people,” Koppel said.

“Our campaign presents demands that help unify working people in struggle, such as a massive public works program to rebuild schools and hospitals, repair the subways, build affordable housing, and other pressing projects that meet human needs and can create jobs for tens of thousands,” the socialist candidate continued. “These demands are part of a strategy that instills the need for workers and farmers to organize a struggle to take power out of the hands of the capitalist class.”

While soapboxing April 10 in Inwood, a working-class neighborhood in upper Manhattan, Koppel told youth and workers who stopped by: “We’re always told to think like ‘Americans.’ But there isn’t one America—there are two Americas. That of the tiny handful of superrich families who rule this country, and that of working people. These classes have irreconcilable interests.”

The Socialist Workers campaign begins with the world, Koppel said. Workers and farmers in the United States have common interests with working people and the oppressed around the globe. “We oppose the campaign by the U.S. rulers, under the banner of opposing nuclear proliferation, to prevent semicolonial countries from developing the sources of energy they need for economic development, including through nuclear power,” Koppel said.

“Our campaign also calls for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of central Asia, Colombia, Korea, the Balkans, and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.”

Other SWP candidates announced in early April include James Harris for mayor of Atlanta; Margaret Trowe for mayor and Laura Garza for city council in Boston; Romina Green for mayor of Cleveland; Ilona Gersh for mayor of Detroit; and Jacob Perasso for mayor and Rebecca Williamson for city council in St. Paul, Minnesota. On April 11, a Socialist Workers conference in Miami named Omari Musa as the party’s candidate for mayor of that city.

To join Socialist Workers candidates in campaigning activities or to volunteer to help get them on the ballot, contact the campaign center nearest you (see directory on page 8).

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Transformation of the U.S. Military, 100,000 AK-47s for Venezuela, and the Prospects for Building a Revolutionary Movement. Speaker: Argiris Malapanis, editor of the *Militant*. Sat. April 16. Dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. Donation. 4339 S. Central Ave. (323) 233-9372.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The killing of Amadou Diallo by the N.Y. police was a crime: An answer to the Democratic and Republican candidates. Speaker: Martín Koppel, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York. Fri. April 15. Dinner 7:00 p.m., program 8:00 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 307 W. 36th St. (north elevators) 10 flr. (212) 629-6649.

OHIO

Cleveland

Socialist Workers 2005 Campaign: Romina Green for Mayor of Cleveland. Speaker: Romina Green, SWP candidate for mayor. Sat. April 23. Dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. Donation. 11018 Lorain Ave. (216) 688-1190.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Unintended Consequences of U.S. Offensive in the Mideast: Mass demonstrations in Lebanon Signal Growing Instability. Speaker: Jeremy Rose, Socialist Workers Party. Fri. April 22. Dinner 6:30 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$4 dinner, \$5 program. 5907 Penn Ave., Room 225 (East Liberty—two blocks West of Highland) (412) 365-1090.

TEXAS

Houston

There Is No Peace: 60 Years Since End of World War II. Speaker: Tom Leonard, veteran leader of the SWP, sailed as merchant seaman at end of WWII. Fri. April 22, 7:30 p.m. 4800 W. 34 St., Suite C-51A. (713) 869-6550.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Mobilizations Against Japanese Imperialism in China and Korea. Speaker: Dag Tirsén, Communist League. Fri. April 22, 7 p.m. Bjulevägen 33, 122 41 Enskede. (08) 31 69 33.

LETTERS

Terri Schiavo

Since you cited opinion polls to justify your position concerning “invasion of privacy” in the Schiavo case, will you also agree that we should apply the results of public opinion polls to the issue of gay marriages? And if not, why not?

(Virtually every national poll shows that nearly a 2:1 majority oppose gay marriage.)

Ken Armstrong
by e-mail

Reply from the editor

The *Militant* articles on the Terri Schiavo case used the results of opinion polls on government intervention as one measure of the fact that the campaign by the White House and Congress for the so-called right to life in the Schiavo case backfired on its organizers. In two editorials we expressed

the opinion that the action by Congress and the President in this case was an outright invasion of privacy, which we opposed. We would have held to the same view even if the opinion polls had indicated the reverse results.

Likewise, the *Militant* has consistently advocated opposition to any discrimination against gays and lesbians, including to any laws banning gay marriage, regardless of what bourgeois opinion polls indicate.

—Editor

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

Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

U.S.-Mexico border: vigilantes hunt immigrants

Washington aids antilabor campaign by increasing number of border cops

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

HOUSTON—A few hundred rightist vigilantes, a number of them carrying arms, have taken up positions along the Arizona-Mexico border with the declared aim of assisting Border Patrol cops in preventing undocumented workers from entering the United States. The U.S. government, while criticizing the operation, has done nothing to stop it and has used the opportunity to increase border police in Arizona by 25 percent.

This operation, organized by an outfit called the “Minuteman Project,” is stationed along a 23-mile stretch of border near the Arizona towns of Naco and Douglas. The group has announced that patrols in this area will be organized through the month of April with plans in the works to conduct similar operations in Texas and other states along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border.

The Minuteman Project pitches itself as “Americans doing the jobs Congress won’t do.” It claims these vigilantes are “operating within the law to support enforcement of the law.”

“Many of the volunteers were carrying pistols, taking advantage of Arizona laws that allow people to openly carry firearms, even without a license,” said an April 6 *Houston Chronicle* article. “Some of the border watchers also wore bulletproof vests and camouflaged clothing.”

According to a *Chronicle* reporter on the scene, about 200 people from across the United States participated in the first few days of these patrols. Vigilante leaders had said that more than 400 people took



Bill Breaux of Houston was one of 200 rightist “Minutemen” vigilantes who patrolled a stretch of the border with Mexico in Arizona to harass immigrant workers.

part in the first weekend’s orientation session and rallies. They also claimed 1,300 to take part over the course of the month on a volunteer basis.

“The event also seemed much smaller than advertised,” noted an April 5 *Washington Post* article. “Organizers had promised to place teams of monitors at quarter-mile or half-mile intervals along a 23-mile length of border. But by midmorning Monday, all of the visible activity was clustered around a two-mile stretch, where a dozen or so teams were stationed.”

Chris Simcox, a newspaper owner from the town of Tombstone, Arizona, and a leader of the group, said the majority of the Minutemen are senior citizens, former

police officers, and military veterans. “This is what homeland security should look like from the Gulf of Mexico to the shores of the Pacific Ocean,” Simcox told the *Chronicle*.

The Arizona chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has placed legal observers in the area to monitor the Minuteman vigilantes. “The Minuteman project has created a powder-keg situation with the potential to go beyond harassment and false imprisonment to real violence,” Eleanor Eisenberg, executive director of the Arizona ACLU, told the media.

The *Washington Post* reported that one of the legal observers, Kathryn Ferguson, a Tucson documentary filmmaker, had had “encounters with ‘a lot of verbally aggressive people’ who called her a terrorist or communist.”

Although U.S. president George Bush criticized the Minuteman Project as “vigilante” activity, the White House took the opportunity to further beef up the number of immigration cops on the scene. On March 30, the Department of Homeland Security announced it was assigning an additional 500 immigration police to the Arizona bor-

der—a 25 percent increase.

Mexican president Vicente Fox labeled the Minutemen as “immigrant hunters.” Mexican government representatives said they would file civil suits against anyone who physically assaults Mexican nationals during this border patrol.

On the Mexican side of the border, Grupo Beta, a government-sponsored organization that tries to discourage people from crossing the border without papers and aids those stranded in the desert, began patrolling the area along with armed police officers. “It is our duty to alert our citizens to the danger of armed vigilantes here,” said Bertha de la Rosa, director of Grupo Beta in the border town of Agua Prieta. Across this town, on the U.S. side of the border, Minutemen posed with their pistols for photographers, reported the *Chronicle*.

On April 6, two Minutemen patrollers harassed and held an immigrant worker against his will. José Antonio Sepúlveda, 25, of Sinaloa, Mexico, was forced by Bryan Barton to be photographed and filmed with a T-shirt that read, “Bryan Barton caught me crossing the border and all I got was this lousy T-shirt.” He was also then given some food, water, and \$20, and is now being held in federal custody.

Robin Hvidston, a 50-year-old real estate agent from Upland, California, who has joined this rightist action, wears a button declaring her to be an “Undocumented Border Patrol Agent,” according to Reuters. “The volunteers say they have spotted 300 immigrants and tipped off Border Patrol agents to help catch them” during the first week of the project, Reuters said. “They are planning a ‘Minuteman Two’ later in the year.”

“There is a real problem with assimilation,” Bill Breaux, a Minuteman from Houston, told the *Chronicle*. “Around Houston there are a lot of people who won’t carry American or Texas flags on their car. Instead they carry a flag from El Salvador or Mexico.”

In 2004, immigration cops rounded up about 1.1 million undocumented immigrants along the border area and returned them to Mexico.

In another development, Washington is phasing in a program known as US-VISIT, which requires Mexicans and other immigrants to be fingerprinted and photographed when they enter the United States. Eventually, their departure from the United States will be recorded in this system as well.

Passport control tightened at U.S. borders

BY PAUL PEDERSON

The U.S. government has announced that by 2008 all U.S. citizens traveling to Canada, Mexico, or any other country in the Western Hemisphere will be required to show a passport to reenter the United States. Alongside this move, officials are also redesigning the U.S. passport—and pressuring other countries to follow suit—adding fingerprints and other identifiers that can be used to compile and access police databases and track the movement and other information on passport holders.

“We have announced today a three-year phased implementation of a requirement established under Section 7209 of our Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act,” said Frank Moss, a U.S. State Department official, at an April 5 news conference announcing the move. “This provision means that by January 1, 2008, American citizens returning...from basically anywhere in the Western Hemisphere will be required to have a passport or other documentation...issued by DHS [Department of Homeland Security] to facilitate their return to the United States.”

By the end of this year, U.S. citizens returning from the Caribbean, Bermuda, and Central America will be required to have a passport. By the end of 2006, a passport will be required for all air and sea travel into the United States from every country in the Western Hemisphere. Finally, by 2008 this requirement will extend to the land borders of Mexico and Canada.

The move comes as part of a series of measures to increase the ability of the border cops to use passports to get information on travelers. The DHS has set a deadline of the end of October for the governments of 27 mainly western European countries—whose citizens may enter the United States without a visa—to modify their passports to include biometric identifiers like fingerprints and make them machine readable for use in accessing computer databases.

Since January 2004, visitors to the United States from all except those 27 countries have been fingerprinted and photographed as they enter the country. Last fall these

requirements were extended to the 27 visa waiver countries.

The U.S. government will be implementing similar changes to the passport to include biometric identifiers and other technology this coming year. “We will begin to issue biometric passports this summer and then phase in over the next six to nine months,” said Moss in the April 5 press conference.

About 23 percent of the U.S. population has a passport, Moss said. It currently costs about \$100 to obtain one. Hundreds of thousands of workers cross the U.S. northern and southern borders every day,

now without having to use a passport.

These moves are part of the efforts by the U.S. rulers to boost integration of their various police forces, centralize their security apparatus, and institutionalize a de facto national identification system. From immigration status, to criminal records, to “watch lists,” and Social Security numbers, the aim is to increase the ability of cops and other government agents to access information about individuals. Ultimately such moves strengthen the ability of cop agencies to victimize workers, concoct frame-ups, and harass those the government views as opponents of Washington’s policies.

New Zealand bus drivers fight for better wages

BY TERRY COGGAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—One thousand Stagecoach bus drivers from eight depots staged a 24-hour strike here April 4. The drivers have also carried out job actions, including voluntary overtime bans. They are demanding an immediate wage increase to \$16 (US\$11.50) an hour—a \$2 to \$3 raise—improved meal breaks, and shorter shifts.

On the picket line outside Stagecoach’s Wiri depot in south Auckland, Tramways Union shop steward Brian Webb told the *Militant* the company is offering to increase wages to \$16 an hour by 2007, but insists on the workers paying for the increase by giving up some allowances. “Their attitude, and actions like firing drivers for trivial offences, has made us stronger in our resolve to stand together,” Webb said.

A particular bone of contention is Stagecoach’s system of broken shifts, several pickets said. The system obliges them to take a long unpaid break in the middle of the day between driving during the morning and evening peak passenger periods. “Those drivers are really at work for 12 hours, but get paid for eight,” said Webb.

The company reiterated negotiations April 11, averting a series of rolling stoppages planned to start the same day.

The drivers strike took place alongside actions in support of the “Fair Share—Five in ’05” campaign launched by the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union (EPMU). Pointing to the current economic upturn, the union, the largest in the country with 50,000 members, has said it will not settle for wage increases below 5 percent. Stopwork rallies—attended by 3,000 workers in Auckland on April 5 and more than 2,000 in Christchurch on April 6—have been organized in support of the campaign.

Among the EPMU members who have taken action are 60 workers at Morgan Furniture in Auckland, who picketed the factory on the day of the rally. Sixty-five workers at the Colgate-Palmolive plant in Wellington held 24-hour strikes on March 30 and April 4. A picket line outside the plant attracted solidarity from other workers. A Maritime Union member told the *Militant* that he supports the 5 percent campaign “because we’ve had two or three years of boom time, but there’s been nothing for workers—‘trickle-down’ doesn’t work.”

While the New Zealand capitalist economy is in a period of upturn, workers’ living standards have not kept pace. Although economic growth has added up to 20 percent over the past five years, during the same period the consumer price index has risen

13 percent—2 percent more than wages.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate is below 4 percent, an 18-year low. One recent survey says that two-thirds of employers are experiencing difficulties finding skilled staff.

Writing in the *New Zealand Herald* on February 9, business columnist Brian Fallow commented on news reports that wage growth had begun to accelerate, rising 2.5 percent during the fiscal year that ended in September 2004. The “surprising thing” about the data, Fallow said, “is not that wage growth is accelerating, but that it hasn’t done so sooner or more strongly. A 2.5 percent average increase in wage rates when inflation is running at 2.7 percent represents a pretty lousy growth dividend.

“Wages are still on average 25 percent lower than in Australia,” Fallow said in his column, which was titled “Employers have had it good.”

The Council of Trade Unions, the national union federation, has noted that workers are also facing longer hours. Officials cited a survey last year that found that 52 percent of New Zealand companies had increased overtime in the previous 12 months.

Christine Beresford in Wellington contributed to this article.