

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

How capitalists used Pinochet  
tyranny in Chile to boost profits

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 3

JANUARY 22, 2007

## Biggest escalation of war since U.S. invasion of Iraq

Well over 20,000 additional troops to be deployed  
Behind partisan rhetoric, bipartisan support for war is firm



AP/Darko Vojinovic

U.S. troops during December 24 firefight in New Baghdad, eastern part of Iraqi capital.

BY SAM MANUEL  
AND JACOB PERASSO

WASHINGTON, January 10—In a nationally televised speech from the White House tonight, U.S. president George Bush announced the biggest escalation of the imperialist war in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

Bush said the Pentagon, beginning

**TROOPS OUT NOW!  
BUILD JAN. 27 MARCH!**

—Editorial, p. 9

**Fill Buses for D.C. Rally!**  
—Young Socialists column, p. 6

this week, is deploying more than 20,000 additional troops to Baghdad and nearby Anbar province, bringing the number of U.S. forces in the country to 160,000. The goal of the escalation, Bush said, is to assure victory for Washington and its allies in the conflict in Iraq, the outcome of which “will determine the direction of the global war on terror and our safety

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## U.S. forces bomb southern Somalia

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

January 10—U.S. Special Forces warplanes carried out bombing attacks in southern Somalia January 8–10 against supporters of the Somalia Islamic Courts Council, who had taken refuge in that area. They had been routed from Mogadishu, the country’s capital, by Ethiopian and Somali troops.

The Pentagon also sent the *USS Eisenhower* aircraft carrier to join three other warships in “antiterror” operations off Somalia’s southern coast. U.S. officials said they are targeting al-Qaeda leaders.

U.S.-backed Somali troops are fighting combatants who fled to the Kenyan border area, including the town of Ras Kamboni. Meanwhile, demonstrations took place in Mogadishu to protest the presence of the Ethiopian troops.

In 2004 Washington and European powers sponsored the creation of a “transitional” regime in Somalia, where there has been virtually no central authority since 1991. The interim government, patched together among clan leaders, was so weak that it operated out of the western town of Baidoa, not the strife-torn capital.

Last June Somalia Islamic Courts

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## 220 workers arrested in Swift raids are charged with ‘identity theft’

BY FRANK FORRESTAL  
AND GABRIELA MOREANO

WORTHINGTON, Minnesota—Officials of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have announced that

**‘Jail killer cops!’  
say protesters at  
N.Y. 50-day vigil**

BY SALM KOLIS

JAMAICA, New York—“We are here to let them know we are standing up for justice,” said retired tool and die maker George Taggart outside the 103rd Police Precinct here January 4. Taggart is one of dozens holding a 50-day vigil to protest the November 25 police killing of Sean Bell, a 23-year-old Black worker.

“The cops must be held accountable for killing Sean,” said Taggart, a Bell family friend. “They are not above the law.”

The round-the-clock vigil began January 1 at 4:56 a.m., the time Bell was killed. Initiated by Valerie Bell, Sean’s mother, the action demands the immediate prosecution of the cops who killed Sean Bell and calls for a special prosecutor. It spans one day for each shot fired on Bell and his two friends as they left Bell’s

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220 workers of the nearly 1,300 rounded up December 12 in raids of six Swift meatpacking plants around the country face criminal charges including “identity theft.” All the arrested workers face civil immigration charges.

Workers have responded angrily that the government’s claim that the raid—the largest in U.S. history—was an effort to target an “identity theft ring” is simply an attempt to criminalize undocumented immigrants. Thousands of people have been affected by the raids—workers deported or in prison, as well as family members left without income.

“ICE destroyed families,” said a worker

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# Labor group backs head-tax redress for Chinese Canadians

BY STEVE PENNER  
AND NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—“No compensation could be enough to make up for the suffering caused by the head tax and the Chinese Exclusion Act,” Nora Butz told the 1,100 delegates at the British Columbia Federation of Labour convention.

The head tax was imposed on all Chinese immigrating to Canada beginning in 1885. It was raised from \$50 a person to \$100 then to \$500. In 1923 it was replaced by the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned Chinese immigration completely, remaining in effect until 1947.

Butz spoke in a November 30 discussion at the convention on a resolution calling for “negotiations between the Canadian government and representatives of the [82,000] head tax families for redress to acknowledge the suffering of individual Chinese Canadians, their families and the entire Chinese community.” The resolution was adopted.

A union representative of the United Food and Commercial Workers for Vancouver Island, Butz reported that her grandmother paid the head tax when she came to Canada in the early 1900s. Butz said her mother, who was born in Canada, was “stripped of her Canadian citizenship” when she married a Chinese man in Hong Kong.

In 1939, on the eve of the Japanese government’s invasion of Hong Kong, her mother tried to return to Canada but was denied entry because of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Her parents then fled to China to escape the Japanese invasion, Butz explained. Three of their children died in the war.

She told the *Militant* that her parents again applied to immigrate to Canada

after the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed but weren’t approved until 1952.

Butz said it’s wrong that the government is offering compensation only to the 400 surviving head tax payers and their spouses. She insisted every family who paid the head tax and suffered its consequences should be compensated even if almost all of those who paid it—like her grandmother—are no longer alive.

That’s what the Chinese Canadian National Council, which has been leading the fight for head tax redress for more than two decades, is demanding.

Eugenia Au, a hospital worker in Vancouver, came to Canada from Hong Kong. The Hospital Employees Union member said that before she came, “I didn’t know Canada was so racist.”

When she arrived here, Au told delegates, she learned that the Chinese had to face a series of racist laws and practices in addition to the head tax and Chinese Exclusion Act. They were denied the right to vote, legally excluded from many jobs, barred from being lawyers and pharmacists, and prevented from living in exclusive white neighborhoods.

Au recounted how thousands of Chinese workers, who helped build the Canadian Pacific Railroad through the Rocky Mountains, were paid 10 cents an hour “to do the dirty work.” That was much less than the white workers made. The Chinese workers were given an extra five cents an hour to plant dynamite under totally unsafe conditions. Hundreds of Chinese workers were killed.

Some people argue that the head tax is history and should be forgotten. To the contrary, argued Au, the exploitation of migrant farm workers, who are brought into Canada as cheap contract laborers, shows “that they’re doing the same thing



Militant/Steve Penner

**July 1 protest in Chinatown in Vancouver, British Columbia, demanding redress to Chinese Canadian families over head tax previously imposed on Chinese immigrants.**

to them that they did to the Chinese.”

The migrant workers “don’t have any rights. . . . The government and the bosses take advantage of them,” she told the *Militant*. “They live in shacks in really bad conditions” and aren’t given

proper medical care. Au said the huge immigrant rights demonstrations in the United States on May Day showed the way forward. The protesters are “letting people know they’re not taking this kind of treatment any more,” she said.

## N.Y. vigil protests cop killing of Sean Bell

**Continued from front page**  
bachelor party.

Five plainclothes cops gunned down Bell as he, Joseph Guzman, 31, and Trent Benefield, 23, sat in Bell’s car outside a Jamaica nightclub. Both Benefield and Guzman were shot multiple times; Guzman is still recovering at a Queens hospital. All three men were unarmed.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown convened a grand jury to investigate the shooting January 2. The 23-member panel has a six-month term and will not begin reviewing evidence for weeks, according to the *New York Daily News*. Once they do that, jurors are expected to spend at least a month reviewing material from more than 40 witnesses, and from one of the cops who fired the shots.

“The fact that the grand jury has been impaneled doesn’t change our demand for a special prosecutor,” said Bell family attorney Neville Mitchell. “We have no faith in District Attorney Brown.”

The vigil, the latest in a string of protests since the shooting, features a large canvas banner with Bell’s picture in the center. Scattered around his image are 50 numbered gunshots and the words “NEVER AGAIN.”

People come by to show support and bring coffee, fruit, and other snacks.

Passing drivers wave or honk in solidarity. Visitors sign a book with messages of support. Vigil organizers distribute canvas vests with the same image as the banner to those joining the action. “People have come from as far away as New Orleans to show their support,” said Jason Powell, a close friend of Bell. “We are demanding the prosecution of the cops. If it was one of us, we would be prosecuted the next day.”

Meanwhile, the New York Police Department (NYPD) continues its efforts to justify the actions of the officers involved. The Police Foundation hired the consulting firm Rand Corp. to “review” NYPD’s weapons training. The six-month, \$500,000 study will “look at the latest technology to improve officer responses in highly stressful situations,” Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly told the media.

On January 5, the NYPD invited reporters to participate in a weapons-training drill “to illustrate the tough split-second decisions cops make on the streets,” reported WABC-TV News. The report noted that “police officers want us and you to understand” the “high stakes, high stress moment.”

New York cops killed a total of 13 people last year, compared with nine in 2005.

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March in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Nov. 25, 2006, for right to free and safe abortions.

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CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT,  
306 W. 37TH ST., 10TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018.

## The Militant

Vol. 71/No. 3

Closing news date: January 10, 2007

Editor and circulation director:  
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Published weekly except for one week in January and two weeks in June.  
The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.  
Telephone: (212) 244-4899  
Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: [themilitant@mac.com](mailto:themilitant@mac.com)

Website: [www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: for one-year send \$35 to above address.

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# Escalation of war in Iraq

Continued from front page  
here at home.”

Despite partisan rhetoric of “opposition” to the escalation, statements by top Democratic Party politicians indicated that bipartisan support for the imperialist war aims remains firm.

Prior to Bush’s speech, Sen. Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the plan the president was expected to announce a “tragic mistake.” But the senator also “contended Congress was constitutionally powerless to second-guess Bush’s military strategy because lawmakers had voted to authorize the commander in chief to wage war,” reported the January 8 *Washington Post*.

“As a practical matter, there’s no way to say, ‘Mr. President, stop,’” Biden said.

In the televised Democratic response that followed the president’s speech, Sen. Richard Durbin said, “We remain committed on a bipartisan basis to providing our soldiers every resource they need to fight effectively and come home safely. But it’s time to begin the orderly redeployment of our troops so they can begin coming home soon.”

Responding to questions by reporters after his remarks, Durbin reiterated Biden’s claim that the Democratic majority in Congress has its hands tied. “A commander in chief has extraordinary authority to move troops to certain places in the world, and the president’s going to use that authority,” he said.

The “new strategy” Bush described had been largely outlined in a study by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a conservative think tank. It was authored by Frederick Kagan, an AEI military analyst, working with Jack Keane, a retired U.S. Army general and de facto operational advisor of the Bush administration. Kagan and Keane coauthored a number of articles and opinion columns arguing for the plan in recent weeks.

The day before Bush’s speech, U.S. and Iraqi forces completed a highly publicized trial run of operations to come, battling “hundreds of Sunni Arab insurgents . . . in one of the fiercest clashes in the capital in recent memory,” the *Washington Post* reported January 10. U.S. fighter jets “strafed rooftops with cannons while the

Apaches [attack helicopters] fired Hell-fire missiles” in a downtown Baghdad neighborhood.

“It was a day to remember,” Capt. Robert Callaghan said, according to the *Post*.

## U.S. naval buildup in Gulf

In addition to the influx of troops, which will be largely drawn from five National Guard combat brigades and two Marine battalions, Bush said, “I recently ordered the deployment of an additional carrier strike group to the region.”

The buildup of U.S. naval forces in the Arab-Persian Gulf has been going on since late last year. The Pentagon is now sending a second aircraft carrier, the *USS John C. Stennis*, and its escort ships to the Gulf, reported the January 3 *Defense News*, “as a warning to Syria and Iran and to give commanders more flexibility in the region.”

Washington’s success in Iraq “requires defending its territorial integrity,” Bush said, and this “begins with addressing Iran and Syria. These two regimes are allowing terrorists and insurgents to use their territory to move in and out of Iraq. Iran is providing material support for attacks on American troops. We will disrupt the attacks on our forces. We will interrupt the flow of support from Iran and Syria. And we will seek out and destroy the networks providing advanced weaponry and training to our enemies in Iraq.”

Bush said governments in the region had a stake in backing the U.S.-led war. “Countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and the Gulf States need to understand that an American defeat in Iraq would create a new sanctuary for extremists—and a strategic threat to their survival,” he stated.

The *Stennis* group will join the *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower*, which entered the Gulf in December. Each carrier is accompanied by a half-dozen warships, including destroyers, cruisers, and attack submarines, carrying fighter jets, bombers, and guided missiles.

The *Stennis* will bring the number of sailors on ships in the Gulf to 16,000. There are now about 45 warships in the Gulf and across the region from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean, a third of them from “coalition” forces, which this month includes Australia, Bahrain, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Pakistan.

In the month leading up to his speech, Bush chose new military commanders for Iraq and the region, as well as other key personnel, such as the ambassadors to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the United Nations, to implement the White House plan.

Admiral William Fallon is replacing Gen. John Abizaid as head of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), which supervises the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Fallon commanded a carrier wing in the 1991 Iraq war, led a naval battle group in NATO operations in Bosnia, and currently commands all U.S. forces in the Pacific.

Lt. Gen. David Petraeus is replacing Gen. George Casey as the top U.S. commander in Iraq. Petraeus had previously been a division commander in Iraq for more than two years. He headed operations of the 101 Airborne division in Najaf, Karbala, and Hilla and its occupation of Mosul, a former stronghold of Saddam Hussein’s Baath party. Posted in Kansas since 2005, he recently completed



Reuters

**Iraqi in downtown Baghdad January 10 searches through rubble of his apartment destroyed by U.S. air strike. U.S. and Iraqi forces waged highly publicized attack on “Sunni Arab insurgents” in the area the day before Bush’s speech, in a trial run of operations to come.**

the Pentagon’s new counterinsurgency manual.

## Not ‘surge’ but long-term operation

Many politicians and much of the media have described the increase in troops Bush announced as a “temporary surge.” Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, however, the new U.S. operational commander in Iraq, said the war might last another “two to three years” with the increased level of troops, according to the January 8 *New York Times*.

There are indications that the Pentagon plans to take advantage of widespread outrage in Iraq and worldwide at the vigilante-style execution of Saddam Hussein, in which supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr were prominently involved, to target such groups. Al-Sadr leads a Shiite militia that operates in and outside the Iraqi government and has a record of murdering opponents and Sunni civilians, much like Sunni-led death squads are doing. Al-Sadr’s forces are one of the bases of support of Iraqi prime minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki.

Strategic Forecasting, a U.S. private intelligence service, said January 10 that the troops sent to Baghdad will “focus on the Shiite militias—particularly that of Muqtada al-Sadr—that represent the most serious challenge to a political settlement.”

In his speech Bush said that soon after the 2005 Iraqi elections “al-Qaeda terrorists and Sunni insurgents . . . blew up one of the holiest shrines in Shia Islam—the Golden Mosque of Samarra—in a calculated effort to provoke Iraq’s Shia population to retaliate. Their strategy worked. Radical Shia elements, some supported by Iran, formed death squads. And the result was a vicious cycle of sectarian violence that continues today.”

According to figures released January 7 by the Iraqi health ministry, nearly 23,000 Iraqis were killed in the war last year—17,000 in the second half of 2006.

Over the last year “there were not enough Iraqi and American troops to secure neighborhoods that had been cleared of terrorists and insurgents” in Baghdad, Bush said. “And there were too many restrictions [placed by the Iraqi government] on the troops we did have.” Now, however, he said, U.S. and Iraqi forces “will have a green light to enter” neighborhoods where al-Sadr’s forces operate.

In addition to the Baghdad reinforcement, some 4,000 of the additional U.S. troops will be deployed to Anbar province to target al-Qaeda operatives and their allies, the U.S. president announced.

Bush’s plan includes steps to prevent

religious and national divisions from tearing apart prospects for a stable regime in Iraq friendly to U.S. interests in the region. These measures include provincial elections to give Sunnis more control in regions they dominate, strengthening autonomy for the Kurds, and ensuring what Washington calls the sharing of oil revenues by Shiite, Kurdish, and Sunni authorities. It also calls for the Iraqi government to relax the policy of “de-Baathfication”—the exclusion of former Baath party members, the vast majority of them Sunnis, from the government and many civil service positions.

In his speech, Bush also promised further “economic assistance” for Iraq that is supposed to result in “visible improvements in neighborhoods and communities,” more jobs, and greater “Iraqi self reliance.”

## No alternative in ruling class

No influential voice in the ruling class has presented any serious alternative to the White House plan.

Top Democrats said before Bush’s speech they would hold a “symbolic” vote to express opposition to an increase in troops. Some have threatened action to cut funding for the new deployment, such as Sen. Edward Kennedy, who introduced a bill that would require the president to seek congressional authorization before sending more troops.

House speaker Nancy Pelosi hinted that cutting funding for the war might be considered. But this is something the Democrats did not even do late in

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# —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

**NEW YORK  
Manhattan**  
**Rising Death Toll of Construction Workers in New York.** Speaker: Maura DeLuca, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Jan. 19. Dinner, 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 307 W. 36th Street, 10th floor. (use the north set of elevators). Tel. (212) 629-6649.

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The Militant January 22, 2007 3



# Three states suspend execution by injection

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—Florida governor John Ellis Bush ordered the suspension of executions in that state December 15 after it took 34 minutes and two lethal injections to kill Angel Nieves Díaz.

Two other states, California and Maryland, also suspended executions by lethal injection because of procedural and constitutional challenges.

A legislative commission recommended January 2 that the death penalty be abolished in New Jersey and replaced with life imprisonment in a maximum security facility without possibility of parole.

The time it took Nieves Díaz to die was more than twice the normal 15 minutes. Following the autopsy, the medical examiner concluded the injections had been improperly administered. The needles had been pushed through the inmate's veins, sending the deadly chemicals into his flesh. He had large chemical burns on both arms.

The execution struck a nerve in Puerto Rico, where Nieves Díaz was born, among opponents of the death penalty and supporters of Puerto Rico's independence from U.S. colonial rule. Puerto Rico's constitution outlaws capital punishment.

Approximately 100 people, including members of Nieves Díaz's family, attended the viewing of his body after its return to the island.

Nieves Díaz had been sentenced to death for the 1979 murder of a bar manager in Miami. There were no eyewitnesses to the killing. The state's key witnesses included Angel Toro, an accused accomplice, and a jailhouse informant, Ralph Gajus.

Toro cut a deal with prosecutors in exchange for a life sentence. Gajus received a lesser sentence in a separate case but has since retracted his testimony against Nieves Díaz.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in California ruled December 15 that the state's current procedures for death by lethal injection violate a state ban on cruel and unusual punishment. In a 17-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel said that there are serious problems in the way California carries out such executions—from poor training of those injecting the chemicals to sloppy handling of the deadly drugs.

The ruling delayed the execution of Michael Morales, whose attorney had challenged California's lethal injection procedures. There are more than 650 death row inmates in California—the largest number in any U.S. state.

Maryland's highest court halted ex-

ecutions December 19, saying that the state's rules for death by lethal injection had been adopted improperly. The state agency in charge of executions had adopted a "lethal injection checklist" but was not following its own procedures. New regulations must be published in the state's register, submitted to a legislative committee, and discussed at a public hearing, the court said.

In New Jersey the legislative commission's report found "no compelling evidence" that capital punishment serves a legitimate purpose, and increasing evidence that it "is inconsistent with evolving standards of decency."

The last execution in New Jersey was in 1963. There are currently nine men on death row in that state.



AP/Andres Leighton

Dec. 13, 2006, protest in San Juan, Puerto Rico, against execution of Angel Nieves Díaz (inset), in Florida. Banner reads: "Death penalty: It's not worth it."

## United Mine Workers contract ratified; ends retiree health coverage for new miners

BY CLAY DENNISON

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama—Members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) voted December 20 by a 4-1 majority to accept a five-year contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

For the first time the pact includes a two-tier provision for new miners, who will not be eligible for retiree medical coverage, and gives companies the option to set work schedules for new miners with fewer workdays. The agreement includes a 20 percent pay increase, or \$4.50 an hour, spread over five years; a \$1,000 bonus; and higher pensions. It also maintains the same health-care provisions for working miners with some improvements for retirees' health care.

The contract covers only miners employed by Consol Energy, the one remaining company in the BCOA. The UMWA is presenting the pact to other unionized coal operators as the industry-

wide pattern. Miners continue to work at these operations under the old contract.

One significant concession in the contract affects miners entering the industry for the first time. In lieu of the free retiree health insurance paid for by the coal operators, which assures medical care for coal miners after their working life, companies will now pay \$1 per hour into a tax-deferred savings account for new miners. Working miners can also elect to give up their retiree health benefit in exchange for the same \$1 per hour company contribution to an individual savings account. Miners who are disabled will receive the health insurance.

The UMWA represents about 17,000 active miners today, according to press reports, a fraction of the nearly 80,000 working miners. Coal production at union-organized mines is 20 percent of the U.S. total. Over the past two decades coal bosses have opened many new operations nonunion, shifted production to

unorganized subsidiaries, and used bankruptcy courts to break union contracts. Much of U.S. coal production has shifted to the largely unorganized coalfields in Wyoming and other western states.

Coal prices are now high and mine operators have been driving to increase production the last three years, with record output in 2005 and an expected increase in total tonnage for 2006. Many miners, at nonunion and union-organized mines alike, are working 10-hour days, six days a week.

In the midst of the bosses' "productivity drive," 47 coal miners died on the job last year, more than twice the previous year's toll and the highest since 1995. And the carnage continues. The first mine fatality in 2007 occurred January 6 when Jeremy Garcia, 26, was killed in the Elk Creek Mine near Somerset, Colorado.

Clay Dennison is a member of UMWA Local 2133 at a mine near Birmingham.

## 'A life is worth more than a ton of coal' Sago miners' relatives say state report on disaster is 'a joke'

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH—"It's a joke," said Peggy Hyre, sister-in-law of Tom Anderson, one of the miners who died in the Jan. 2, 2006, Sago Mine disaster. Hyre spoke to the press as she walked out of a meeting with West Virginia officials, who made a second attempt to get the families of the deceased miners to accept the state report on the blast, reported the December 21 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

The December 20 meeting followed another one on December 11, when a two-inch-thick document was dumped in their laps and state officials responded to questions by relatives of the miners with "Read the report." The miners' families'

outcry forced the state to withdraw it.

"I don't believe the explanation," said Sara Bailey, daughter of deceased miner George "Junior" Hamner. "Basically, all they have is a hypothesis. They are not telling us anything new."

Helen Winans, the mother of deceased miner Marshall Winans, walked out of the meeting too. "Get off of the lightning," she said, referring to the claim in the state report that a lightning strike was the cause of the explosion. "They might as well put a pig in there and let the pig run around the mine and say the pig caused it. You'd get as much sense."

Pam Campbell, sister-in-law of Marty Bennett, said she was particularly frustrated that the state report "is a mirror image of the report from International Coal Group," the company that owns Sago Mine. "The trouble is the coal industry wants the dollar from the coal," Campbell said. "The coal is more important than a life. And that is the bottom line here. And we have to make sure that lives are more important than a ton of coal."

Campbell added, "We were treated like little children." The presentation on

the report was several hours long and those present were not allowed to ask questions until it was completed.

The day after the presentation, Ronald Wooten, director of West Virginia's Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training, and a former Consol Energy boss, told a reporter, "As far as I know ... it (Sago) was a well-operated coal mine."

Randal McCloy, the sole survivor of the Sago disaster, objected. Wooten's comment was "inappropriate and irresponsible," his media spokeswoman said. She added, "The findings and the citations issued contradict the idea it was a well-run mine."

"An outrage" is how Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers of America, described Wooten's comments. "The Sago mine had a pattern of significant safety problems, and those problems existed at the time of the explosion. For the state of West Virginia's highest mine safety official to say otherwise in the face of these facts is inexcusable."

The Sago Mine had been cited by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration 273 times for safety violations in the two years prior to the disaster.

### For further reading

#### The Changing Face of U.S. Politics Working-Class Politics and the Trade Unions



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# — YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION —

**Fill buses for January 27 march in Washington against Iraq war**

**BY MAURA DELUCA AND ROSS HOGAN**

NEW YORK—The Young Socialists is calling for an all-out mobilization for the January 27 march on Washington against the U.S. war in Iraq. We will be joining with fellow students, young workers, and others to demand immediate withdrawal of U.S. and other coalition troops from Iraq, Afghanistan, and all other countries

where they are deployed.

Far from being a temporary “surge,” the moves to substantially increase U.S. troop levels in Iraq are a major escalation of the war for the foreseeable future. No wing of the Democratic or Republican parties offers any alternative course.

This is an imperialist war to defend the profits and domination of the wealthy U.S. rulers. It is against the interests of working people and youth, in Iraq and the United States. The offensive in the Mideast by the U.S. ruling class is directly connected to the

employers’ attacks against the living and working conditions of workers and farmers at home. Young people experience these assaults on a daily basis, such as in the recent killing of Sean Bell at the hands of the New York police, and the raids by *la migra* targeting undocumented workers around the country. The Young Socialists is active in fighting alongside workers resisting these attacks.

The day after the Washington march, we are inviting youth and others to join us in a public meeting in New York

to discuss “Imperialism’s Spreading Wars and Financial Disorder in Face of Irreversible Strengthening of the U.S. Working Class.” The event is sponsored by the Young Socialists and the Socialist Workers Party.

For more information about the Young Socialists, contact us at [youngsocialists@mac.com](mailto:youngsocialists@mac.com), or Young Socialists, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018, or call (212) 629-6649.

*Ben O’Shaughnessy contributed to this article.*

## Steelworkers approve contract ending Goodyear strike

**BY ANTHONY DUTROW**

HOUSTON—Some 14,000 Goodyear workers in 12 plants across 10 U.S. states approved by more than a 2-1 majority a new three-year agreement, the United Steelworkers (USW) announced December 29. Workers at each of four unionized plants in Canada also approved contracts.

Through their 86-day strike workers were able to push back some but not all of the concessions the company demanded. Goodyear is the world’s third largest tire maker. It employs 80,000 workers at 100 plants in 29 countries.

“About half of us came back to work January 2, the rest still have two weeks to report back,” said Travis Jasper, who works in the gum rubber department at the Tyler, Texas, plant. Workers there are represented by USW Local 746L.

“Inside the plant the company people said they were glad to see us back, then started in on us again about how we had to ‘pay more attention’ to the product,” Jasper said. “I think this strike was all about keeping our health benefits, not about money. We held out for that, and it was worth it.” The unionist added that during the strike only 42 workers crossed the picket line at Tyler.

“The company still hasn’t given a date when they’ll offer us the retirement buyouts, which will apply only to those who have 10–20 years,” Jasper said. “It’ll be a lot tougher on the younger ones, and those with less years in the plant.” He was referring to the fact that the new contract stipulates the closing of the Tyler factory by early next year.

On October 5, the day the walkout began, the bosses publicly announced their plans to close the Gadsden, Alabama, and Tyler plants, which they claimed were unprofitable.

In the new contract, Goodyear agreed to postpone the closure of the Tyler plant to Dec. 31, 2007, and to offer some of the workers there retirement buyouts.

The contract includes lower wages and benefits for new hires. According to the *Birmingham News*, the agreement “reduces labor costs through redesign of incentive systems and immediate implementation of market-based wage and benefit levels for new hires.”

The Goodyear bosses demanded steep cuts in health-care coverage for retirees, and wanted current workers to pay more and face steep reductions in the prestrike level of medical coverage for themselves and their families. The agreement stipulates the company will set up a \$1 billion trust to cover current and future retired workers.

While workers received widespread solidarity on the picket lines, the company went out of its way to pressure the unionists into accepting concessions.

Goodyear put \$1 billion in a war chest to cover the costs of its strikebreaking



The Stretch/Joe Wyatt

**Steelworkers rally in front of Goodyear Tire in Tyler, Texas, October 27 to oppose plan to close factory.**

strategy, which included hiring scabs, running plants with supervisors and temporary workers, and importing additional tires to fill orders. The bosses waged a media campaign to demoralize strikers, claiming that these plants were operating at “near normal production” during the walkout. Union estimates put this figure at about 20 percent of prestrike levels.

The company and government also floated open strikebreaking moves, invoking “American patriotism.”

The December 17 *Financial Times* ran an article referring to the Pentagon’s “concern” for a backlog of replacement tires for its Humvee vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan. These tires are produced at the Topeka, Kansas, plant.

“According to Duncan Hunter, [former]

chairman of the House of Representatives armed services committee, the strike has cut output of Humvee tires by about 35 percent,” the *Times* said. “Mr Hunter said the army was exploring a possible injunction under the Taft-Hartley Act to force the 200 Kansas workers back to their jobs. He proposed that they return under their current terms of employment, on the understanding that any settlement would be extended to them.”



**BY JOHN STEELE**

TORONTO—Some 400 striking workers at Goodyear Tire and Rubber in Toronto, Owen Sound, and Collingwood, Ontario, began to return to work January 2 after voting by a large majority to accept a “take it or leave it” offer from the company. Goodyear had already reached a settlement with the United Steelworkers (USW) in the United States, where 14,000 workers were on strike.

A few days later, Goodyear announced its intention to close its tire production factory in Valleyfield, Quebec, by mid-2007, throwing onto the street 800 of the 1,000 workers at the plant. The remaining employees will run a materials mixing center. Workers at the Valleyfield plant are members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP), and were not part of the USW strike, which affected 16 plants in North America.

## — 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



**January 22, 1982**

A federal jury in Washington, D.C. has found FBI and local police officials liable for violations of constitutional rights of antiwar and Black rights activists to the tune of nearly three-quarters of a million dollars.

The jury decided December 23 that fourteen G-men and city cops have to pay \$711,937.50. The sum will be divided among seven individual activists and the Washington Peace Center.

The jury found that the FBI and the city’s “Red Squad” had conspired to violate the civil rights of plaintiffs through FBI disruption operations, known as COINTELPRO and city police use of provocateurs.

The decision by the all-Black jury is the most important of its kind to date. Several similar suits have been settled out of court as a result of lawyers’ arguments that such cases can’t be won at trial.



**January 21, 1957**

In the community of Johannesburg, South Africa, in the month of December, 153 educators, clergymen, writers, and labor and political leaders were arrested en masse in pre-dawn raids. The sole charge against them was that they had been among some 4,000 delegates to a Congress of the People in June 1955, which had proclaimed a ringing Charter of Freedom, proposing the abolition of Apartheid (racial segregation), and popular control of industry, banks, and other socially necessary services.

This round-up of freedom-fighters climaxes the whole policy of the Nationalist government which came to power several years ago, continually increasing the burden of oppression of the eleven million non-white peoples by the two million Europeans, and rejecting all attempts by the Africans to place their grievances before the government.



**January 23, 1932**

Reports from the mine fields tell of a reestablishment of the influence of the U.M.W.A. in recent months.

The new influx of membership into the union will undoubtedly revive the Left wing within it and open up real possibilities for militant action among the miners on a nation-wide scale.

The present situation in Illinois is surely heading toward another movement that will be fought bitterly. The contract expires March 31, 1932. The Illinois district represents the last semblance of absolute job control in any mining field in the country. We can go farther by saying that it is the last section of the American unskilled working class that has job control. The union is at stake. The miners’ organization in this state will not be fighting for better conditions, nor to hold what it has, but it will fight for its very rights to exist as a union.



# Chicago worker denounces gov’t effort to deport her

BY ROLLANDE GIRARD

CHICAGO—“I am an optimist and I will fight to the end,” said Elvira Arellano in a December 28 TV interview. The Mexican-born worker has refused to report for deportation to the Department of Homeland Security. Since August she has taken sanctuary in the Adalberto United Methodist Church here with her eight-year-old son Saúl, a U.S. citizen.

Arellano, 31, a former airplane cleaner, has lived in the United States since 1997. FBI agents arrested her at home in December 2002 as part of a raid against workers at O’Hare airport for allegedly using false Social Security numbers.

In response, Arellano and her supporters launched a public campaign for her right to live and work here, which gained broad support in Illinois and beyond. She was then granted three one-year stays of deportation. In August 2006, when her last stay ended, she was ordered to report for deportation. Instead, Arellano took sanctuary in the church. She said her action was also aimed at helping to stop deportations of all immigrants.

On December 26, neighbors of the church reported that they saw U.S. marshals taking pictures of the front and back of the building. Suspecting that the immigration police might be preparing to raid the place, Centro Sin Fronteras, the immigrant rights group that organizes Arellano’s defense campaign, called a press conference.

When this reporter visited the church December 28, three TV stations were there to interview Arellano. One reporter asked if she thought the government would carry out a raid during the holidays. Speaking in Spanish, Arellano replied, “Immigration is capable of that. Just look at what they did on the Day of the Virgin Guadalupe—they carried out many raids and arrested 1,300 people.

And on Christmas Eve they arrested and deported Martin Barrios,” referring to a worker seized in Chicago. The Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a major Mexican holiday.

Tim Counts, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, told the Chicago *Sun-Times*, “We estimate there are more than 660,000 fugitives [in the United States] and she is one of them.” He said she would be deported “at the appropriate place and time.” Police officials denied they were conducting an investigation at the church.

A Pew Hispanic Center report states that 2 million families in the United States have some members who are undocumented.

Arellano’s son Saúl leaves the church regularly to go to school, but she hasn’t stepped outside since August 15. Opponents of immigrant rights have criticized Arellano because her son has traveled to Washington, Miami, Los Angeles, and



Militant/Rollande Girard

Elvira Arellano, who is fighting deportation, at the Adalberto United Methodist Church in Chicago, where she has taken sanctuary since August 2006.

Mexico to gain support for his mother’s case and for the fight to stop the separation of immigrant families.

“Those who criticize me now didn’t say

anything when the immigration police came to my door, forced their way in and arrested me in front of my son, who was then four years old,” she said.

## Packing workers charged with ‘identity theft’

Continued from front page

on his way out of the Worthington plant January 6. “Last week my wife and I drove the children of a detained coworker to stay with relatives in Texas. There’s no one here to care for them.” He asked that his name not be published.

At the Worthington plant, 230 workers were arrested by ICE agents. Many have been deported, pressured into signing “voluntary departure” papers. Often, relatives found out their whereabouts only when their loved ones called home from abroad. Baida González Alvarez told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* that “she spoke to her husband on Sunday for the first time since the raid and found out he has been deported to Guatemala.”

The remaining workers from Worthing-

ton are being held at a federal detention center in Atlanta awaiting deportation hearings. About 20 of them have been indicted on criminal charges.

Mariesa Gómez, a meat packer at Swift here, told the *Militant* her son-in-law is being held in Atlanta. She said conditions there were horrible and the detained workers were talking about going on a hunger strike.

Similar experiences were reported in the Colorado *Rocky Mountain News* about the conditions of Swift workers from the plant in Greeley, Colorado, who are being held in immigration jails. One worker, released on bond December 26, told the paper that “he was put in a room at the Aurora jail with 27 other inmates when the capacity is for nine people. He

had to sleep standing up.” He was denied access to a phone for four days.

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 7, which represents workers at the Greeley Swift plant, has filed a federal civil lawsuit charging that the ICE raid violated workers’ constitutional rights. On January 5 the union submitted affidavits from more than a dozen detained workers before a federal judge in the U.S. district court in Denver. The suit accuses the government of denying workers due process by blocking their access to lawyers or family, lying about deportation documents they were told to sign, and keeping them in crowded cells. Dozens were shipped off to a jail in Texas, separated from their families.

On January 7 a community meeting of 300, mostly Swift workers and their families, was held here at Prairie Elementary School. The gathering was organized by community groups and UFCW Local 1161, which represents workers at the Swift plant. It was held to show support for workers arrested and their relatives.

Yolanda Cano, a former Swift worker, said she appreciated the event but more had to be done. “We should get together to discuss what to do concretely, like how we can help the people who are still jailed.” Hilda Mazariegos, who also used to work at Swift and whose husband is imprisoned in Atlanta, said, “I am thankful for the presents, but no matter how many toys they give us that is not the solution to the problem.”

## Hundreds buy ‘Militant’ at packing plant gates

BY FRANK FORRESTAL  
AND GABRIELA MOREANO

WORTHINGTON, Minnesota, January 6—During the afternoon shift change at the Swift plant here today, dozens of workers driving out of the slaughterhouse stopped to talk to workers distributing the *Militant*. Many pulled their cars over in response to the team’s placard that read: “No Deportations!” in English and Spanish. They were eager to talk. Some had earlier issues of the paper in their cars.

In two hours, packinghouse workers bought 96 copies of the *Militant*. One

worker, a mechanic with 12 years at Swift, bought a six-month subscription. Another two individuals bought introductory subscriptions.

Following the plant gate sale, *Militant* supporters met with Nelson Gómez at his home. He works on the cut floor at Swift. At a previous plant gate sale Gómez had renewed his subscription to the *Militant* for six months. Gómez said he appreciated getting the paper and has been recommending it to other workers. In addition, the meat cutter bought the Spanish-language editions of two titles published by Pathfinder Press: The book

*Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* and the pamphlet *The 1985–86 Hormel Meat Packers Strike in Austin, Minnesota*.

In Austin supporters of the *Militant* sold 22 copies of the paper at the Hormel-owned Quality Pork Processing (QPP) plant during the afternoon shift change the same day. Another three workers bought introductory subs there. One QPP worker, Jesús Rodríguez, who bought a subscription, said he was glad to see people distributing the *Militant*. He brought sodas for everyone on the sales team. The following day, Rodríguez met the sales team at his restaurant, where he picked up a copy of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs and the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*.

These have been typical reactions to the *Militant* among meat packers and other workers in the Midwest over the last month. Since the December 12 immigration raids at six Swift plants, supporters of the *Militant* in Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois have sold 1,000 copies of the paper and nearly 90 subscriptions to workers and others. Some 600 copies and 30 subscriptions have been sold at plant gates, many of them at the Swift plants that immigration agents raided.



Militant/Carlos Samaniego

*Militant* supporters sell the socialist press January 6 at Swift packing plant in Worthington, Minnesota. Many pulled over in response to placards that read, “No deportations!”

### Corrections

In the January 8 issue, the caption for the photo box “Tufts University meeting discusses ‘Cuba Today,’” misspelled the name of one of the panelists. Her name is Melissa Fuster.

In the same issue, a few lines were missing from the article “Relatives of deceased Sago miners angry at state report.” The final paragraph should read: “United Mine Workers of America spokesman Phil Smith told AP that the the union doubts the theory, but if the state sticks with it, it should begin drafting regulations that require miners to be evacuated when storms approach.”



# Eastern Airlines strike was gain for all workers

*Below is an excerpt from The Eastern Airlines Strike, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month in January. On March 4, 1989, 8,500 members of the International Association of Machinists went on strike against Eastern Airlines. By the time the battle ended 22 months later, the rank-and-file Machinists had defeated Eastern's attempt to create a profitable nonunion airline. Ernie Mailhot was a ramp worker and cleaner at Eastern Airlines and a rank-and-file leader of the strike. Copyright © 1991 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### BY ERNIE MAILHOT

After 686 days on strike against Eastern Airlines, rank-and-file members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and our supporters registered the final piece of our victory against the union-busting drive of the employers when the carrier folded at midnight on January 18, 1991.

On that day, as they left work at airports throughout the United States, grim-faced managers and scabs from Eastern Airlines were greeted by strikers from the IAM. This was something the so-called



Militant/Susan Lamont

**Machinists picket line at airport during strike against Eastern Airlines. Strikers determination to last "One day longer" defeated effort to create a profitable nonunion airline.**

replacement workers had become used to in the twenty-two-month-long strike at Eastern Airlines. But Friday night, January 18, was different.

Martin Shugrue, the government trustee running Eastern, announced the next day that Eastern had "run out of time and resources." After sixty-two years, Eastern, one of the first and one of the largest airlines in the world, was ending its operations.

Eastern strikers from coast to coast, from Puerto Rico to Canada, reacted by calling to congratulate each other and going to the airport to celebrate.

Mark McCormick was one of the Eastern strikers who made his way to New York's La Guardia Airport the night of January 18. "I wouldn't have missed this for the world," he said, as he stood watching management personnel walk out. With a big smile on his face, he suggested to the managers that they "take tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow off."

Over the next few hours, strikers and our supporters showed up—many with

handmade signs—at rowdy picket lines. The sign I think expressed our feelings the best was the one at the Miami airport that read, "We said we'd last 'One day longer.'"

The big-business press, which for many months had referred to the strike only in the past tense, sent reporters to airports and interviewed strikers. Now they referred to Eastern in the past tense as they interviewed us in the present.

A typical question to strikers was one asked by the *New York Times* reporter: "Why do you seem happy?"

The next day the *Times* answered its own question in an article that said, "The hatred and passions stirred by the long strike of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers lie at the heart of why Eastern was forced" to park its 170 planes and begin selling its assets.

The twenty-two-month strike of the IAM had defeated Eastern's attempt to create a profitable nonunion airline and set an example for all bosses who want

a "union-free environment" if they can get away with it.

To strikers and other working people, the scope of the accomplishments and victories scored in the Eastern strike are measured by what we were up against.

In 1981 U.S. president Ronald Reagan tried to set in motion union busting on a national scale when he broke the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO). A pattern soon developed of union-busting drives by the employers in major industries, with Frank Lorenzo's destruction of striking unions at Continental Airlines in 1983 spearheading the assault.

Takeback contracts, permanent replacement workers, and union busting itself became the order of the day. In the airline industry, nonunion airlines were established and strikes, such as that of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants at TWA in 1986, were crushed.

On March 4, 1989, when we went on strike at Eastern Airlines, we looked back on almost a decade of many more defeats than victories for labor—defeats that more often than not came without a real fight by union members.

We faced Frank Lorenzo, the number one union buster in the United States. We faced government agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, that continually backed Eastern management in the face of massive union documentation of safety violations at the airline.

We faced the federal government and its proven track record of siding with big business, a course backed by the Democratic and Republican parties alike. In Lorenzo's case the cozy relationship between his airline holding company, Texas Air Corporation, and the federal government was well known. One example that we all talked about was that of the judge who presided over the Continental Airlines bankruptcy in the early 1980s. He was later hired by Texas Air for a cushy post. Thanks, Your Honor.

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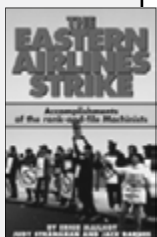
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# How capitalists used Pinochet dictatorship in Chile to boost profits

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Obituaries in the international big-business press have offered a “balanced” assessment of Gen. Augusto Pinochet’s blood-drenched record. Pinochet, who led a 1973 military coup against the elected government of Salvador Allende and imposed a U.S.-backed military dictatorship in Chile until 1990, died December 10, in Santiago, the capital, at the age of 91.

The editors of the *Wall Street Journal* said Pinochet was a “military dictator,” but one who “supported the free-market reforms that have made Chile prosperous and the envy of its neighbors.”

“The official death toll of the Pinochet dictatorship is some 3,197,” they noted in a December 12 editorial. “Civil liberties were lost and opponents tortured. But over time, with the return of private property, the rule of law and a freer economy, democratic institutions also returned.”

The business paper argued that Pinochet’s role “can’t be understood without considering the behavior of the Allende government he deposed.” It accused Allende of “unlawful assault on private property.”

In a December 13 editorial, the *Dallas Morning News* cited approvingly former Reagan administration official Jeane Kirkpatrick’s argument “that authoritarian nations, however objectionable, are to be preferred to totalitarian ones, because they can more easily make the transition to liberal democracy.” An “authoritarian”

Pinochet was preferable to a “totalitarian” Cuba, it said.

## 1970s working-class upsurge

In September 1970, at a time of ascending working-class struggles and radicalization in Chile and throughout South America, Chilean Socialist Party leader Salvador Allende was elected president. He was the candidate of the Popular Unity coalition, made up of the Socialist and Communist Parties as well as two capitalist parties.

Encouraged by Allende’s election, Chilean workers and farmers mobilized to fight for jobs, land, improved living standards, and expanded rights. When capitalists sought to sabotage production, workers in some cases took over factories and ran them without the bosses. Newly formed councils of workers—*cordones industriales* (industrial belts)—began to coordinate struggles.

In face of growing popular demands, the Popular Unity government nationalized U.S. copper mines and other foreign-controlled industries, and carried out other social reforms.

The social democratic SP and the Stalinist CP, however, promoted a course of subordinating the needs of working people to an alliance with “progressive” capitalists. They politically disarmed workers and peasants, fostering the illusion that the military brass was on their side.

Chilean and foreign capitalists, alarmed by the popular upsurge, organized a campaign to destabilize the economy, demoralize working people,



Chilean army troops guard prisoners in Santiago during September 1973 military coup. Bloody Pinochet dictatorship cracked down on mass working-class upsurge.

and topple the government. Washington cut off aid to Chile except funding to the military. The Nixon administration financed bosses’ “strikes,” including one by truck owners.

Under these conditions, many small property owners and other middle-class layers were won over to the side of the counterrevolution. Middle-class and wealthy women held *cacerolazos*, pot-banging rallies, to protest the economic crisis. As the military openly plotted a coup, the SP and CP blocked workers’ demands for arms and initiatives to organize militias.

## Reign of terror under Pinochet

Military officers staged two coup attempts. The second one, on Sept. 11, 1973, succeeded. In the attack on the presidential palace Allende was killed. Gen. Augusto Pinochet set up a military junta, backed by Washington, that unleashed a reign of terror.

Thousands of unionists, political activists, and others were slaughtered or tortured. During Pinochet’s rule

250,000 people were imprisoned and an estimated 1 million forced into exile. The junta shut down Congress, censored the media, and banned workers parties and trade unions.

This outcome was a defeat for the working class whose effects were felt for years, both in Chile and internationally.

## Employers in Chile profit

The regime turned over many nationalized industries to former owners, privatized banks and utilities, freed up prices and interest rates, and slashed import tariffs. It implemented the “free-market” policies advocated by the “Chicago boys,” disciples of Milton Friedman at the University of Chicago. The pension and social security system was privatized—what today is hailed as the “Chilean model” by U.S. officials who advocate steps toward dismantling Social Security and Medicare.

In other words, naked repression allowed bosses in Chile to boost their profits by brutally driving down workers’ living standards through high unemployment, low wages, jacked-up prices, and regimented labor. That was the basis for the much-touted “success” of Chile’s economy.

The Pinochet regime was a loyal ally of imperialism. It backed London’s war against Argentina in 1982, and was part of Operation Condor, a campaign of kidnapping and assassination of political activists in other South American countries. Pinochet also received support from the Stalinist regime in China, eager to cultivate its ties with Washington (see article on this page).

By the mid-1980s Pinochet had outlived his usefulness to the Chilean capitalists and their U.S. backers. A bourgeois democratic government took office in 1990. Today another Socialist Party leader, Michelle Bachelet, runs the capitalist government.

Media talk about Chile’s “success” is measured by hefty profits for foreign investors and domestic bosses. It’s a different story for workers and peasants. By the time Pinochet left office, 40 percent of the population lived below the official poverty line, double the number from 1970, and real wages were slashed by 40 percent.

Today, the wealthiest 10 percent of Chileans account for nearly half of Chile’s income, while the poorest 10 percent receive less than 2 percent. These conditions fuel the ongoing struggles by working people in that country.

## Chinese bureaucracy offered support to Pinochet

*The following first appeared in the Dec. 8, 1975, issue of the magazine Intercontinental Press, under the headline, “Peking Wins Good Word from Pinochet.” We are publishing it because of the facts it reveals about the record of the Chinese ruling bureaucracy.*

At a time when the Pinochet dictatorship’s murderous repression of political opponents has isolated it internationally to the point that the blood-soaked regime is even a public embarrassment to the White House, help has arrived from the Maoist bureaucracy in Peking.

“The Chilean military junta, increasingly isolated and beleaguered at home

and abroad, is seeking stronger ties with China, one of its few remaining friends,” Hugh O’Shaughnessy reported in the November 23 issue of the *Observer*.

“Commandant Gaston Frez, head of Codelco, the Chilean State copper corporation,” O’Shaughnessy continued, “announced in Santiago last week that China would increase its imports of Chilean copper from 8,000 tons this year to 34,000 tons in 1976.”

A substantial loan from Peking is reported to be part of the deal. In a recent interview with Pinochet, *New York Times* columnist C.L. Sulzberger asked if there were any truth to a rumor he had heard that “Chile was discussing with Peking a \$58-million loan to this tottering economy” as part of the copper negotiations.

“Much to my surprise,” Sulzberger said in his November 29 column, “he confirmed this.”

According to Sulzberger, Pinochet “said discussions with the Chinese had begun during the Allende era but were being continued now, after having been suspended. ‘The matter remains open and the loan is still pending,’ he added.”

Sulzberger, apparently still skeptical, sought verification of Pinochet’s statement, with the following results:

“I confirmed this in conversa-

tion with the Chilean who has been a principal negotiating contact with Peking’s ambassador, a man he describes as ‘very, very patient.’”

Pinochet has every reason to be pleased with Peking’s diplomatic representatives.

Following the coup in September 1973, the Chinese embassy in Santiago closed its doors to all political refugees. While working people were being gunned down by the thousands and political prisoners were being executed and tortured, Peking’s embassy turned desperate refugees away, leaving them to the mercy of the Chilean gorillas.

Furthermore, in face of a worldwide outcry against the slaughter, Peking refused even to break off diplomatic relations with the regime.

Instead, on October 11, 1973, Peking told the pro-Allende ambassador to China, Armando Uribe, that he was no longer recognized as Chile’s representative. By November 5, a representative of the military dictatorship was reported to be in Peking to take Uribe’s place.

For the sake of diplomatic and trade concessions, Peking has once again betrayed the most elementary principles of proletarian internationalism. In doing so it has won approval from Pinochet.

“China has behaved well,” he told Sulzberger.

## Fidel Castro on Chile

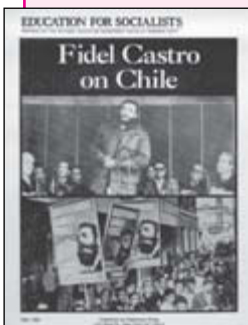
by Fidel Castro

### in Education for Socialists Bulletin

Speeches and interviews from Fidel

Castro’s 25-day visit to Chile in 1971.

Castro warns of impending counterrevolution and stresses the example of Cuba, where workers and farmers mobilized to defeat imperialist intervention. \$16



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# All out to build January 27 march!

All out to build the January 27 march in Washington demanding: U.S. and all “coalition” troops out of Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and other countries where they are carrying out brutal military operations! Not one penny, not one man or woman, for the U.S. armed forces!

The mobilization in Washington, and actions in San Francisco and other cities the same day, are a needed response to the major escalation of the murderous U.S. war in Iraq announced on nationwide TV by President George Bush as the *Militant* went to press.

The billionaire families that rule the United States have no intention of walking away from their strategic economic, political, and military interests in winning the war in Iraq. That’s not how empires survive and expand. The U.S. rulers have no alternative to a long-term increase in troop levels and broadening of their military aims.

They are directly taking on armed Shiite and Sunni squads standing in the way of Washington’s goal: stabilization of a bourgeois Iraqi regime subservient to its interests. And this time, as Bush stressed, “Iraqi and American forces will have a green light” to hunt down militias like those of Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr.

This is not a “surge” but the biggest escalation of the Iraq war since the U.S. invasion in March 2003. It is coupled with a substantial naval buildup in the Arab-Persian Gulf—what Bush described as “the deployment of an additional carrier strike group to the region.”

The only serious alternative would be immediate withdrawal, which no influential voice from either party in the U.S. ruling class proposes.

Plans by the Democratic majority in Congress for a “symbolic vote” to oppose the new deployment is a charade, as is the bluster by some Democrats about “capping” troop levels or limiting funds for added troops. As Sen. Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, since Congress voted for the invasion, it must leave the conduct of war to the Commander-in-Chief. Any other course, said Biden, would be unconstitutional!

Sen. Edward Kennedy’s talk of cutting off money for

more U.S. troops is bombast too. Neither Democrats nor Republicans in Congress have ever cut funds for the U.S. military in the middle of a war. To the contrary, the Democrats have backed the Iraq war at every juncture since voting to back the invasion in 2003. In the Democrats’ televised “response” to Bush’s January 10 address, Illinois Sen. Richard Durbin even had the imperial gall to boast that “America” has “given the Iraqis so much.... We Americans have protected Iraq [!] when no one else would.”

The escalation of the conflict in Iraq, like the ongoing occupation of Afghanistan and recent assault by U.S. Special Forces in Somalia, is part of Washington’s “long war” against “terrorism.” Under that banner, the U.S. rulers are leading their imperialist allies in a decades-long conflict targeting working people and any government that doesn’t bow to their dictates.

The underlying crisis is not conjunctural. It does not lie in specific policies of this or that president or Congress. It did not begin with 9/11. It is rooted in the downward tendency of the bosses’ profit rates—renewed in the late 1960s and early ’70s with the exhaustion of the post-World War II capitalist boom—and the sharpening economic competition and political conflicts among imperialist powers over redivision of world markets. What is unfolding is the accelerating crisis of the capitalist world order.

The stepped-up imperialist war has the same source as the U.S. rulers’ assaults on workers at home—from immigration raids, to cop brutality, to the “productivity drive” that has resulted in 48 workers killed over the past year in coal mines alone. Working people resisting these attacks by the employers and their government have a big stake opposing the bosses’ wars abroad as well.

Now is the time to mobilize support among students, workers, farmers, and others whose interests are diametrically opposed to the rulers’ war against working people at home and abroad. Let’s fill as many buses, trains, vans, and cars as possible and maximize the turnout for the January 27 marches to demand:

Bring the troops home now!

## Biggest war escalation since Iraq invasion

Continued from page 3  
the Vietnam War.

Such “opposition” is already fizzling.

“We have to be very careful about blocking funding for any troops because we don’t want to leave our troops short-changed,” said Sen. Mary Landrieu, Democrat from Louisiana.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Democrat from Minnesota, said, “I don’t think we should be pulling back any funds.”

In an indication of the Democrats’ long-standing support for the war, Sen. Durbin claimed today in his rebuttal to the president’s speech that “we have given the Iraqis so much. We have deposed their dictator. We dug him out of a hole in the ground and forced him to face the courts of his own people. We’ve given the Iraqi people a chance to draft their

own constitution, hold their own free elections and establish their own government. We Americans and a few allies have protected Iraq when no one else would.”

In a January 9 editorial, the *New York Times* called for concentrating “enough forces in Baghdad to bring some security to streets and neighborhoods, giving Iraq’s leaders one last opportunity to try to bargain their way out of civil war.” The liberal daily also warned Democrats to “resist euphemistic formulas like ‘phased redeployment,’ which really means trying to achieve with even fewer troops what Washington failed to achieve with current force levels.”

Critics of the White House plan say the military is too stretched to maintain such high force levels. In recent press interviews and again in his speech tonight, Bush said the size of the armed forces will be increased, a step strongly backed by the Democrats. There are currently 507,000 active-duty Army soldiers—down from some 800,000 at the time of the 1991 Gulf War, and 1.6 million during the Vietnam War—and 180,000 active-duty Marines.

In concluding his speech, Bush said a “phased withdrawal of our combat forces” now, which some Democrats advocate, “would force a collapse of the Iraqi government [and] tear that country apart.” He challenged politicians criticizing his road map “to explain how the path they propose would be more likely to succeed.” And he announced that he is acting on the advice of Sen. Joseph Lieberman and other members of Congress to form “a bipartisan working group that will help us come together across party lines to win the war on terror.”

Sam Manuel reported from Washington and Jacob Perasso from New York.

## U.S. bombs Somalia

Continued from front page

Council (SICC) forces took over Mogadishu and much of the south. Then, in late December, Ethiopian troops and forces of the transitional government ousted the SICC. Somali interior minister Hussein Aideed said there are up to 15,000 Ethiopian troops in the country, CNN reported.

On January 8 transitional president Abdullahi Yusuf entered Mogadishu. Under pressure from Washington and the European Union, he called for “reconciliation” with SICC supporters who accepted his regime, while refusing amnesty to those accused of links to al-Qaeda. U.S. officials backed the Ethiopian offensive, saying the SICC included al-Qaeda supporters.

In Mogadishu, hundreds of protesters took to the streets January 6. They burned tires and smashed car windows, the Associated Press reported, “while denouncing the presence of Ethiopian forces and shouting defiance at the Somali government.” Two people, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed.

The next day a similar protest took place in the village of Belet Weyne, 215 miles from the capital, after Ethiopian troops there arrested a Somali military commander who refused to hand over a SICC militiaman.

During a January 7 meeting of clan elders in Mogadishu, Dahir Abdi Kulima, a chieftain of the dominant clan in the south, the Hawiye, said the government’s reliance on Ethiopian forces was causing a backlash.

For more than a century, imperialist powers have used divide-and-rule tactics to control the region, perpetuating rivalries along ethnic and religious lines. Leaders of the Hawiye clan have reportedly supported the SICC, with leaders of the Darod clan backing the interim government. Divisions have also been fostered between Muslim Somalis and Christians in Ethiopia.

Fighting has raged between government and Islamist troops that sought refuge in the jungle areas of southern Somalia, including the town of Ras Kamboni.

The government of Kenya, using troops and helicopters, has sealed off its border with Somalia. Kenyan police have combed refugee camps and arrested individuals associated with the former SICC government, including Mogadishu businessman Abukar Omar, the Chinese news agency Xinhua reported.

Kenyan authorities said they had also arrested several combatants of the Oromo Liberation Front Movement from Ethiopia, which were allegedly supporting the SICC. They denied accusations by UN officials that 600 Somalis seeking asylum had been deported.

On January 8–9 U.S. helicopter gunships shelled the towns of Hayo and Badel on Somalia’s southernmost tip. Somali government officials said the bombing had left “many dead.” U.S. officials said the airstrikes were targeting three al-Qaeda leaders, including Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, whom they accuse of organizing the 1998 attacks on the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. It was the first publicly acknowledged U.S. military action in Somalia since the failed U.S. invasion of that country in 1993–94.

The gunships, operated by the U.S. Special Forces Command, apparently came from the U.S. base in nearby Djibouti. Special forces units from that base “are conducting a hunt for Qaeda operatives” in southern Somalia, the *New York Times* reported January 9.

The attack “is the sort of targeted operation that senior Bush administration officials have been pressing the Special Operation Command, based in Tampa, Fla., to undertake in recent years,” the *Times* reported.

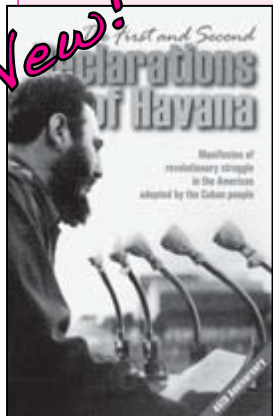
The *Los Angeles Times* reported the same day that “CIA, FBI, and military teams have been tracking” al-Qaeda leaders in the region for years, and that “U.S. officials have secretly been negotiating with Somalian clans who are believed to have sheltered the three embassy bombing suspects.”

Talks were recently held in Kenya involving U.S., European Union, and other officials to discuss the sending of 8,000 “peacekeeping” troops from African countries to help stabilize the new government. The talks were led by the top U.S. diplomat for Africa, Jendayi Frazer. Washington has pledged \$40 million for “development” and military aid to Somalia.

The increased U.S. military presence in the Horn of Africa, including the “counterterrorism” base in Djibouti, has led to recent moves to create a new Africa Command for the Pentagon. Currently, the U.S. European Command is responsible for military operations in most of Africa, while the Central Command covers the Horn of Africa.

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