

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

**Africa solidarity festival opens in Venezuela**

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 71/NO. 45 DECEMBER 3, 2007

## Venezuela forum debates prospects for revolutionary change in U.S.

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

CARACAS, Venezuela—A five-day rolling panel discussion on “United States: A possible revolution” was the central event at the third Venezuela International Book Fair, which took place here November 9–18.

The 22 panelists, four or five of whom spoke each day, included political activists and writers from the United States expressing diverse political views, as well as a number of U.S. citizens living in Venezuela. Hundreds of Venezuelans and others took part in one or more sessions, with dozens raising questions and making comments from the floor. The forum was covered by Venezuelan television, radio, and newspapers. The issues debated on the character of the working class and prospects for revolution in the United States sparked a political discussion that permeated the book fair. An article on the fair itself will appear in next week’s *Militant*.

The forum kicked off November 10 with presentations by Mary-Alice Waters, a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee and president of Pathfinder Press; Eva Golinger, a Venezuelan-American lawyer and author of *The Chávez Code*; Chris Carlson, a contributor to the

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## Marchers in New Zealand protest police ‘antiterror’ raids, arrests

BY MICHAEL TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Anger at the October 15 “antiterror” raids by the police has continued to spur protest marches and meetings across New Zealand. A national day of action has been called for December 1 to demand “Never again! Repeal the terrorism laws now!”

Several hundred protesters, mainly Maori, marched on parliament in Wellington, the capital, November 14. They then proceeded to national police headquarters, where they chanted, “Who are the terrorists? *Pirihi-mana* [police]!” The protest was led by a delegation that had traveled from the rural town of Ruatoki, a center of the Tuhoe *iwi* (tribe).

During the October 15 raids, police placed Ruatoki under an armed lockdown. Residents say families were dragged from their beds at gunpoint in the early morning and held for hours without food, water, proper clothing, or access to toilets. Women were subjected to body searches in public; houses were ransacked and property seized. Those stopped at roadblocks were photographed by the cops.

Nationwide, some 60 homes were

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## Protesters in Pakistan say: end martial law

U.S., Musharraf press war on Afghanistan border



Reuters/Mian Kursheed

Journalists in Islamabad protest Pakistani government restrictions on media November 19

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON, November 20—Demonstrations against the Musharraf government’s imposition of martial law took place in several cities across Pakistan in mid-November. Concerned about the political unrest, the White House dispatched U.S. deputy secretary of state John Negroponte to Islamabad November 16 to try to

broker a governmental pact between Gen. Pervez Musharraf and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. Washington hopes such a move could stabilize the regime, a key ally in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan.

In northwest Pakistan the army has launched an offensive in Swat, a mountainous area near the border with

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## ‘Militant’ Fund: \$20,000 to go in final week

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—With one week to go in an eight-week campaign to raise \$100,000 for the *Militant*, just over \$20,000 is needed.

The key to making the drive over the next week will be meeting with *Militant* subscribers. Young Socialists members at the State University of New York at

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## 2,500 sign up for the ‘Militant’!

BY PAUL PEDERSON

November 20—As of 9:00 a.m. today, supporters of the *Militant* have signed up nearly 2,500 new subscribers as part of a seven-week campaign to win new readers. More than 390 of these came in during the final week of the international drive.

With one more evening of campaigning left, we have already surpassed the international goal of 2,300. Nearly every local quota has been met or surpassed.

Kenneth Page, a supporter of the *Militant* in New York, was the top seller this week, with 16 subscriptions. Page, who works in the legal department of the Transport Workers Union

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## Cuban 5 win new support at Midwest events

BY JOHN HAWKINS

MILWAUKEE—More than 100 people attended a broadly sponsored meeting at the University of Wisconsin campus here November 12, held to win new support for the campaign to free five Cuban revolutionaries who are serving long prison sentences on frame-up charges.

Other meetings in defense of the Cuban Five, as they are known, were held over the following week in Chicago and several Indiana cities.

The Milwaukee event was sponsored by the campus Latin American Solidarity Committee, the National Lawyers Guild in Milwaukee, Peace Action in

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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 ❖ NEW YORK CITY**

**Among the Speakers**

### OUR TRANSFORMATION & THEIRS

From Subprime to Subhuman,  
the Real Perspective under American Imperialism

Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party

### BE LIKE CHUI, CHOY, AND SÍO WONG

A Chinese View of the Cuban Revolution

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International* magazine and  
*Our History Is Still Being Written*, just back from China

Reception 3 p.m. ❖ Program 4 p.m.

Dinner, refreshments, talk, & dance 7 p.m. on

Armenian Hall ❖ 630 Second Ave. (at 35<sup>th</sup> St.) ❖ Manhattan

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

at 307 W. 36th Street, 10th floor north

- Discussion on Saturday’s presentations for Young Socialists and worker contacts of the Socialist Workers Party 10 a.m.
- Young Socialists national meeting 1 p.m.
- Join ‘Militant’ subscription sales teams Noon
- Pathfinder Print Project volunteers (location to be announced) 9:30 a.m.

Sponsors: New York City and Newark Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists  
For more information: (212) 629-6649 or (973) 481-0077  
Spanish and English translation will be provided

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# Deportation case against L.A. 8 is finally defeated

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—"This is a victory not only for us but for the First Amendment of the Constitution and for the rights of all immigrants," said Khader Hamide in an October 31 statement to the press. He was referring to the defeat of a more than 20-year effort by the U.S. government to deport him and seven others for their political activities. The L.A. Eight, as they came to be known, were targeted for their support of the Palestinian struggle for national self-determination.

On October 30 the Board of Immigration Appeals dismissed all charges against Hamide and Michel Shehadeh, the last two who faced deportation proceedings, after the government agreed to end its efforts to deport them.

Aiad Barakat, another of the eight, was sworn in as a U.S. citizen last year after federal judge Stephen Wilson rejected the government's argument that he should be denied citizenship because of his political associations. The rest have gained permanent residency or are on track to do so.

The L.A. Eight—seven Palestinians and one Kenyan—were arrested in January 1987 and accused of being supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization that Washington brands as "terrorist." They were originally charged with advocating "communism," based on the thought-control McCarran-Walter Act. In 1988, Judge Wilson ruled key sections of the act unconstitutional and the Justice Department then moved to have

the eight deported under immigration regulations.

Over the following two decades, the L.A. Eight won repeated court victories, but the government persisted in its efforts to deport them. "They never really had a case," Hamide told the *Militant*.

"They investigated us for years, but [former FBI director William] Webster admitted in a Senate hearing that they never found criminal wrongdoing, and that if we were citizens we would have never been prosecuted."

The political activities for which prosecutors said they should be deported included distributing newspapers, holding demonstrations, and organizing humanitarian aid fund-raisers for Palestinians. Among the legal victories won during the protracted fight were federal court rulings that noncitizens are entitled to the same First Amendment guarantees of free speech as citizens and that secret evidence cannot be used in deportation proceedings.

In January of this year, federal judge Bruce Einhorn again dismissed the case against Hamide and Shehadeh. He described the government's refusal to turn over evidence favorable to the defendants in the case as "an embarrassment to the rule of law."

"We had incredibly broad support," said Hamide, including from civil rights organizations, churches, and in the Palestinian and Arab communities. "Practically every newspaper in the country wrote editorials supporting our case" including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times*. "These are not pro-Pal-

## Quebec students protest tuition hikes



Militant/Michel Prairie

MONTREAL, November 15—Some 2,000 junior college and university students demonstrated here today against tuition hikes recently announced by the Quebec government. Thirty-eight student associations representing about 58,000 students across the province voted to participate in a strike. The marchers were also protesting the arrest of dozens of students at protests in the preceding days. The lead banner, shown above, says: "Education is a right."

—KATY LEROUGETEL AND MICHEL PRAIRIE

estinian papers," he noted. "They recognized that this represented an attack on the First Amendment, a chipping at constitutional rights."

Marc Van Der Hout, an attorney with the National Lawyers Guild who has represented the L.A. Eight from the be-

ginning, said the government's decision to drop all charges "is a monumental victory for all immigrants who want to be able to express their political views and support the lawful activities of organizations in their home countries fighting for social or political change."

## Backers of Turkish gov't in Cyprus attack paper opposed to foreign troops

BY NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, November 3—Rightist and other forces supporting the Turkish government assaulted the offices of the newspaper *Afrika*, which has long supported the unification of Cyprus and opposes the presence there of British, Turkish, Greek, and other foreign troops.

The attack took place October 24 during a march by pro-Ankara forces in the town of Lefkosa in northern Cyprus, which is occupied by Turkish troops. The march was called to back Turkish military attacks, on both sides of the border with northern Iraq, against guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

The featured speaker at the Lefkosa rally was Rauf Denktash, who was president of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus from 1985, when that entity was set up, until 2005. Den-

tash accused Washington of aiming to "dismember Turkey" by not taking action against Kurds who seek autonomy there.

The demonstrators proceeded to the offices of *Afrika*. Waving Turkish flags, they shouted, "Close down the PKK mouthpiece in Cyprus" and "Cyprus is and will always be Turkish." The demonstrators attempted to enter the premises but were prevented by police. The newspaper's offices and equipment have been wrecked in previous attacks by chauvinist forces.

In an article the following day, *Afrika* editor Sener Levent stated, "Even those who speak out when chauvinism against the Greek-Cypriot side flares up are silent when it comes to the Kurds."

The journalists' union in the north of Cyprus condemned the attack on *Afrika*.

## THE MILITANT

Keep up on news from Venezuela

The 'Militant' brings you eyewitness news and analysis on the struggles in Venezuela by workers and peasants for land, literacy, jobs, and an end to imperialist oppression.

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Peasants who have seized land at the El Charcote ranch in San Carlos, Venezuela.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

# Communist League candidate in Australia denounces racist attacks on African immigrants

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia—“Our campaign condemns the racist actions and comments against African immigrants by the federal government,” said Alasdair Macdonald, the Communist League candidate for the seat of Parramatta in the November 24 federal elections here. Macdonald, whose name will appear on the ballot, was speaking at a pre-election community forum November 3 organized by Lingap Migrante (Migrants’ Aid), a Filipino rights association.

The forum, attended by 60 people, was held in Blacktown in western Sydney, where many African immigrants live and where Macdonald works at a meatpacking plant. Members of the Sudanese community attended the meeting, in response to an invitation to discuss the “racist and discriminatory pronouncements” made by immigration minister Kevin Andrews to Sudanese refugees.

In the first week of October Andrews announced that the govern-

ment would not accept any more refugee applications from Africans until at least July of next year. According to *The Australian*, “Andrews said the inability of Africans to adjust to the Australian lifestyle was a factor in the decision.” In August the government slashed the annual quota of Africans to 30 percent of Australia’s total refugee intake, down from 70 percent for 2004–05.

Andrews said that a large number of African refugees are “young,” have “low levels of education,” and are thus having trouble integrating into a culture “that is vastly different from the one they came from.” He also claimed there was a particular problem with violence among young African migrants.

Samuel Kuot, president of the Sudanese Community Association of Australia, said Andrews’ comments “discriminated against” Sudanese and encouraged “the people who did not want us to come to this country [to] now turn against us.”

Leaflets attacking Sudanese and



Militant/Linda Harris

Alasdair Macdonald, Communist League candidate for Parramatta in November federal elections in Australia, speaks at community forum organized by Filipino group Lingap Migrante.

other African communities have been distributed in Sydney suburbs in recent months. In Melbourne, two incidents of racist violence against Sudanese youth occurred within a couple of weeks. On September 26, Liep Gony, 18, was bashed and left to die at Noble Park railway station. Ajang Gor, 17, was attacked October 9 by three men who stole his mobile phone, which they used to send racist comments to his brother.

At a Militant Labor Forum here October 27, Macdonald condemned the racist attacks and the way the government has used them to deepen its assault on working people.

“The Communist League campaign calls for the labor movement to fight against all restrictions on immigrant workers,” he said. “Such a fight can help to cut across the divisions the rulers try to sow in the working class along race and religious lines.”

# Maori rights supporters in New Zealand protest ‘antiterror’ raids

Continued from front page

raided by 300 police, who seized computers, cell phones, clothing, cars, and other items. Sixteen people were arrested on firearms charges, including prominent Tuhoe activist and long-time Maori rights campaigner Tame Iti, a resident of Ruatoki.

Police also sought to bring charges against Iti and 11 others under the 2002 Terrorism Suppression Act, the first time that act has been used. In face of ongoing protests, however, Solicitor General David Collins ruled November 8 that the police could not proceed under the 2002 act, which he called “complex, incoherent, and as a result almost impossible to apply to the domestic circumstances.” At the same time, he sought to justify the police actions, saying they had “brought to an end what were very disturbing activities.” He proposed the act be reviewed by the Law Commission.

## 16 face frame-up charges

Following Collins’ ruling, Tame Iti and nine others were released on bail. All 16 facing charges under the Arms Act will appear in court in Auckland on December 3.

At a November 12 press confer-

ence and gathering of supporters in Ruatoki, Iti thanked all those worldwide who had protested the police raids and arrests. Speaking in Maori, he noted that the authorities had “spent \$8 million in an operation to arrest me.” He asked, “Why didn’t they just come and ask me?”

Police allege that Iti and his 15 fellow defendants had engaged in “military-style” training involving firearms at camps in the Urewera mountain range, near Ruatoki. The Tuhoe people have lived and hunted in these mountains for hundreds of years. “We were not hiding any of our activities,” Iti told the gathering.

According to media reports, the police obtained warrants under the Terrorism Suppression Act to spy on Iti and associates over a period of 18 months. They followed individuals and recorded conversations, tapped phones, intercepted e-mails, bugged cars, videotaped homes, and placed surveillance cameras in the Urewera mountain bush.

This material is unlikely, however, to be admissible as evidence for the police charges brought under the Arms Act. According to the *New Zealand Herald*, the October 15 police raids resulted in the seizure of only four rifles and 230 rounds of ammunition. These items are the basis of charges against only two people, Tame Iti and one other.

While the courts have suppressed information gathered under the Terrorism Suppression Act, detailed summaries of the police allegations have been leaked and reported by newspapers and television.

At the same time, Prime Minister Helen Clark has asserted publicly that there was “paramilitary training in the Ureweras by disaffected people” who “at the very least have illicitly used firearms, constructed Molotov cocktails, and trained themselves in how to use napalm.” Police Associa-

tion president Greg O’Connor branded those arrested as “violent extremists.”

Clark has indicated that the Law Commission will be given a wide brief when it reviews the Terrorism Suppression Act, with a view to strengthening police powers. An amendment to the act, already before parliament, was passed 108 to 13 on November 13 with the support of both main parties, Labour and National.

The amendment creates a new offence, “committing an act of terrorism,” which carries a penalty of life imprisonment. It gives the prime min-



November 14 march in Wellington, New Zealand, against raids.

ister the power to designate groups and individuals as terrorists, without right of appeal to the courts.

# Luis Miranda: 50 years of organizing support for the Cuban Revolution

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

NEW YORK—Luis Miranda, who spent more than half a century organizing solidarity in the United States with the revolutionary movement in Cuba, died here November 13. Miranda, president of Casa de las Américas since 1987, was 79.

Miranda came to the United States as a young man in 1948. In 1955 he became a founding member of the July 26 Movement, initiated by Fidel Castro to overthrow the U.S.-backed Batista tyranny. Castro visited New York and other U.S. cities that year to organize Cubans living here into the revolutionary struggle. The triumph over the dictatorship in 1959 opened the road to the first socialist revolution in the Americas.

Miranda was a founder of Casa Cuba,

an organization of Cuban revolutionaries in New York that in 1962 became Casa de las Américas.

Members of Casa, overwhelmingly workers, campaigned actively in defense of the Cuban Revolution. Casa also became a center of support for battles by working people in the United States and liberation struggles from Vietnam to South Africa to Puerto Rico. Miranda championed Casa’s proud traditions of solidarity and nonexclusion, where all political viewpoints were welcome in the common struggle for justice. In a coming issue the *Militant* will run a fuller account of Miranda’s life.

A meeting to celebrate Miranda’s life and political contributions will be held in New York in early 2008.

## — CALENDAR —

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**China and the Diaspora: The United States and Beyond.** Speakers: Prof. Marlon Hom, Asian American Studies; Prof. David Lee, Political Science; Prof. Bernard Wong, Anthropology; Mary-Alice Waters, president, Pathfinder Press. Wed., Nov. 28. 7:15 p.m.–8:55 p.m. *San Francisco State University, 19th Ave. and Holloway St., HSS Building, Room 154.*

**THE MILITANT**  
online  
[www.themilitant.com](http://www.themilitant.com)

# Young Socialists join Latin American student conference in Ecuador

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel.: (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

## YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

BY MICHAEL ORTEGA

QUITO, Ecuador—A delegation of Young Socialists joined more than 2,600 youth at the 15th congress of the Continental Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Students (OCLAE), held here November 12–17. They came to join the discussions taking place across the continent on how to advance the fight against imperialism and to contribute their experiences in the class struggle in the United States.

The Young Socialists were invited to speak on a panel in a workshop titled “Experiences in the anti-imperialist struggle: New experiences of the student movement.” Michael Ortega of the YS in Los Angeles spoke on the activities of young revolutionaries in the United States.

“At the heart of the class struggle in the U.S. today has been the proletarian movement for legalization of immigrant workers,” said Ortega, who has taken part in numerous immigrant rights mobilizations. “That struggle has been fueled by the capitalist rulers’ brutal assault on working conditions. From this struggle we’ve seen a vanguard develop whose increased combativity has been an example for the U.S. working

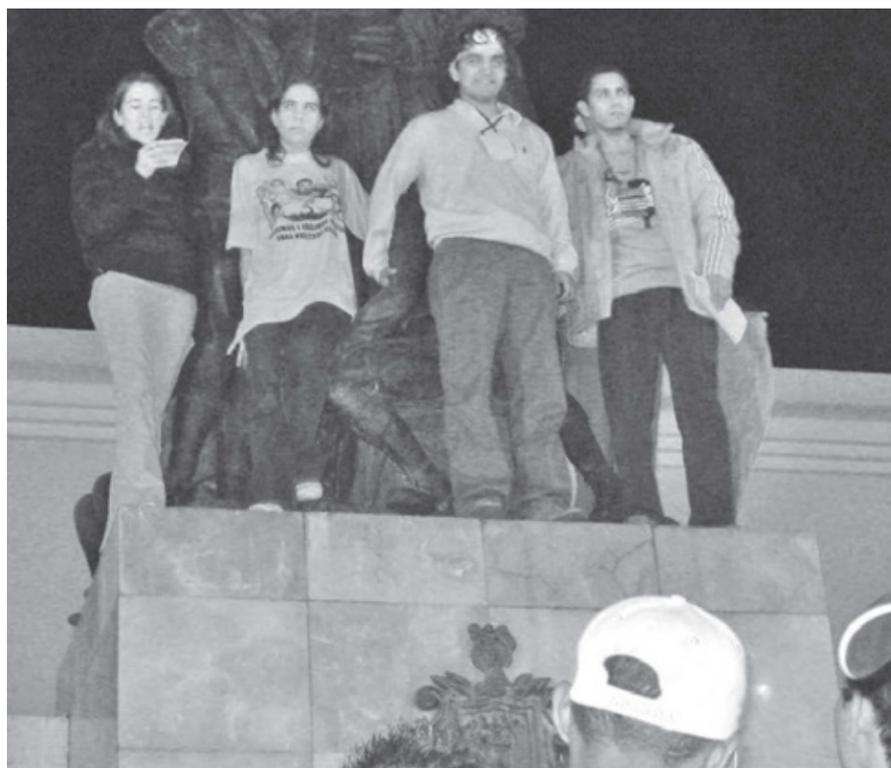
class. The Young Socialists have been a part of building and explaining the importance of this struggle. We point to how this movement helps strengthen the working class as a whole to be able to fight in our interests.”

Other panelists included two leaders of the Federation of University Students of Ecuador (FEUE) and a delegate from Colombia. Many delegates were both glad and surprised to hear of the class struggle in the United States, and of young revolutionaries fighting in the main bastion of imperialism.

The YS was also invited by the FEUE to speak on a panel before a group of university students in the philosophy department at the Central University of Ecuador.

“Most of us in Ecuador know nothing about the harsh conditions that workers face in the United States. This is why I wanted to make sure your organization spoke to some of the students here at the Central University, so they will really know what it’s like,” said a FEUE leader.

Emily Paul, a member of the YS from New York, was one of the speakers at a



Militant/Jacob Perasso

Young Socialist Emily Paul (left) speaks at November 15 student march, part of the OCLAE congress in Quito, Ecuador. Next to Paul are Irma González, daughter of René González, one of the Cuban Five; a representative of the Federation of University Students of Ecuador; and a leader of Cuba’s Federation of University Students.

march by students at the OCLAE congress that highlighted the anti-imperialist themes of the meeting.

“We are here in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Latin America to combat imperialism,” she said. “We fight against imperialism, alongside other workers, students, and youth from inside the belly of the beast—from the proletarian fights for immigrant rights

to struggles against racist attacks, and to defend workers’ rights and strengthen the unions.

“We also join with others to oppose imperialist war and in the campaign to win the freedom of the five Cuban political prisoners in the United States, who are in prison for defending the Cuban Revolution. Today they are on the front lines of the class struggle in the U.S.”

## Nearly 2,500 new ‘Militant’ subscribers!

Continued from front page

Local 100, sold many of the subs to coworkers and friends.

“It’s amazing all the folks you talk to in the elevator, or on the street about all the problems in the world,” he said. “It was easy to convince many of them to get this paper.”

Seth Dellinger, a supporter of the paper in Washington, D.C., came in second with 12 subscriptions—half the subs sold by supporters of the paper in that city during the campaign’s final stretch.

Dellinger and fellow *Militant* supporter Tim Mailhot visited a mechanic who recently renewed. After some discussion, he bought the Spanish editions of four Pathfinder books: *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*; *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*; *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*; and *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. His son, a construction worker, took copies of the paper and subscription forms to show around to coworkers.

In Houston, partisans of the *Militant* combined campaigning with the paper with outstanding sales of Pathfinder books. In October, while they were building a meeting on campus to discuss *Our History Is Still Being Written*, they sold 89 Pathfinder titles, including many on the University of Houston campus. (See *Militant* #42 for a report on that meeting.)

“During the course of the drive, the federal Minister for Immigration announced a severe reduction in the intake of African refugees, claiming an ‘inability’

of Africans to adjust to the Australian lifestyle,” *Militant* supporter Manuele Lasalo reported from Sydney, Australia. Partisans of the paper there went over their goal. “We responded to these racist comments. On stalls and at work, our campaign got a response—

selling seven *Militant* subscriptions together with five new books by Thomas Sankara and two Sankara pamphlets to African immigrants.”

In next week’s issue we will print the final chart and list the three top sub-sellers of the campaign.

## Final stretch of ‘Militant’ Fund

Continued from front page

Albany did just that. “Subscribers on campus see a political need for the paper and so they contribute,” said Ben Joyce, who was part of the effort that put Albany on track to make its goal.

At the end of the seventh week, we have received a total of \$79,347. Many local fund organizers report that they are confident they will meet their goals. Many local areas have already collected enough to meet their quotas and plan to use the coming week to exceed them.

Organizers of the *Militant* fund effort in Australia surpassed their goal of \$1,400, collecting \$1,650. They took the initiative to raise their quota to \$1,750—cutting in half the previous gap between local quotas and the international goal.

In Miami, 25 participants in a November 5 *Militant* Fund event contributed \$900, reports Bernie Senter. The featured speaker was veteran Socialist Workers Party leader Tom Leonard, who spoke on “How the Socialist Revolution in Cuba Took Up the Fight to End Anti-Chinese Racism.”

Supporters of the *Militant* here in Washington have visited several subscribers. Ernesto Garcia, an operating engineer and long-term *Militant* reader, gave \$30 to the fund and purchased a copy of *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*.

To make a contribution, contact local distributors listed on page 8 or

send checks payable to the *Militant* at the address listed on page 2. The fund ends November 25. To allow for mail delivery, contributions received by November 29 will be counted in the final scoreboard, which will be printed in the December 10 issue.

Fall ‘Militant’ Subscription Drive Sept. 29 – Nov. 18 ♦ Week 7 Final chart will be printed next week			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
NEW ZEALAND*	65	72	111%
AUSTRALIA*	45	49	109%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	80	88	110%
Edinburgh	50	52	104%
UK Total	130	140	108%
CANADA*	125	134	107%
SWEDEN	30	31	103%
UNITED STATES			
Philadelphia	105	111	106%
Atlanta*	135	141	104%
Washington, DC*	160	167	104%
Des Moines, IA*	145	151	104%
San Francisco*	120	123	103%
Los Angeles*	100	102	102%
Boston	60	61	102%
Newark, NJ*	130	132	102%
Pittsburgh*	65	66	102%
Houston*	90	91	101%
Seattle*	100	101	101%
Chicago*	90	90	100%
Miami*	140	139	99%
Twin Cities*	130	129	99%
Carrollton, GA	135	133	99%
New York*	315	306	97%
Denver*	12	10	83%
Albany, NY	20	12	60%
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>101%</b>
<b>Int’l totals</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>108%</b>
<b>Should be</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>100%</b>
*Raised goal			

\$100,000 ‘Militant’ Fund Drive Sept. 29 – Nov. 25 ♦ Week 7 of 8			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
FRANCE	250	238	95%
AUSTRALIA*	1,750	1,650	94%
CANADA	4,100	3,751	91%
NEW ZEALAND	3,000	2,569	86%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	600	667	111%
London	1,500	1,009	67%
UK total	2,100	1,676	80%
UNITED STATES			
Newark, NJ	3,500	3,278	94%
Miami	3,000	2,785	93%
Philadelphia*	4,300	3,930	91%
Albany, NY	125	113	90%
Des Moines, IA	2,000	1,807	90%
Carrollton, GA	4,500	3,948	88%
San Francisco	11,000	9,460	86%
Los Angeles*	9,000	7,673	85%
New York	15,000	12,685	85%
Seattle	7,000	5,647	81%
Washington, D.C.	2,800	2,055	73%
Chicago*	7,000	4,845	69%
Boston	2,800	1,798	64%
Atlanta	4,500	2,812	62%
Houston	3,000	1,755	59%
Twin Cities	4,700	2,655	56%
Pittsburgh	3,500	1,914	55%
U.S. total	87,725	69,160	79%
SWEDEN	700	303	43%
<b>Int’l totals</b>	<b>99,625</b>	<b>79,347</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Goal/Should be</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>87,500</b>	<b>88%</b>
* Raised goal			

## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Northwest Airlines workers in Minneapolis protest concessions

Some 100 Northwest Airlines ground service workers, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), held a 10-minute protest October 17 on the ramp during their shift at the Minneapolis airport, workers told the *Militant*. This was one of a number of job actions organized over the last several months to demand that Northwest restore benefits and wages that the union agreed to give up while the airline was in bankruptcy proceedings.

Bosses reportedly tried to intimidate workers from participating in the protest. They read the company code of conduct to individual workers, took down names, videotaped the gathering, and threatened to discipline workers—up to termination—if they did not disperse.

On October 23, more than 100 workers jammed the manager's offices and hallway to defend coworkers when the company began to interview protest participants for possible disciplinary action. Union officials and workers met with the company operations manager. The company said it would continue the disciplinary interviews but that disciplines would be minimal if at all.

On October 30 IAM members held informational picketing in front of the

Minneapolis/St. Paul airport terminal throughout the day.

In August Northwest, which emerged from bankruptcy in May, agreed to improvements in its contract with the pilots' union after months of high flight cancellations and delays caused by pilot staffing and absenteeism.

—Paul Pederson

### Rail workers in France strike over pension cuts

November 17—Rail workers in France resumed strikes November 14 against pension concessions being demanded by the government for half a million public sector workers.

Currently these workers can retire with pension after 37.5 years. The government plans to extend that to 40 years.

The strikes have disrupted public transit in Paris. On November 16 the unions calling the strike divided over whether to continue it. One of the unions involved, CFDT-Cheminots, urged its members to return to work. The national rail company claimed that two-thirds of the workforce had returned to the job.

In 1995 the government tried to carry through a similar attack on pension benefits, but was pushed back after three weeks of strikes.

—Paul Pederson

### Scotland: day care workers resist cutbacks



Militant/ Hugh Robertson

EDINBURGH, Scotland—Striking workers at Glasgow day care centers and their supporters protested outside the Scottish parliament here November 9. Since mid-October, 267 members of the trade union Unison have been on strike. "We are facing pay cuts of at least £3,000 [US\$6,100] a year and Glasgow City Council are refusing to negotiate," striker Collette Hall told the *Militant*. The workers operate 12 centers for around 900 adults and children with learning difficulties. The City Council plans to cut the number of centers to five.

—TONY HUNT

## N.J. beef recall highlights unsafe meat industry conditions

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEWARK, New Jersey—Seventy-seven workers, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, were permanently laid off October 5 by Topps Meat Co. in nearby Elizabeth. The company, which went out of business, was the largest U.S. maker of frozen hamburger patties.

Topps closed its doors after the recall of 21.7 million pounds of frozen meat found to be contaminated with *E. coli* bacteria. It was the second-largest U.S. beef recall.

The company waited at least 11 days from the time the first *E. coli* case was reported until it began the nationwide recall, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) acknowledged at a news conference. The Associated Press reported that 40 people in eight states became sick with *E. coli* infections from meat processed by Topps.

Two years ago, an eight-year-old girl in upstate New York became sick from Topps meat. The USDA now confirms that instead of increasing its tests, the company cut testing on its finished ground beef from once a month to only three times a year. In addition, it sometimes mixed tested and untested meat in its grinding machines. USDA inspectors, who were in the plant for only an hour or two every day, never once cited Topps for any violations.

Five days before Topps closed down, Richard Raymond, the USDA's under-secretary of food safety, declared on a CBS-TV program, "The American meat supply is the safest in the world."

The day after Topps went out of business, the Sam's Club warehouse chain took ground beef patties produced by Cargill off its shelves, after four children in Minnesota were reported to fall ill from *E. coli* bacteria. Cargill recalled more than 840,000 pounds of frozen patties produced at its plant in Butler, Wisconsin.

Some meat plants sterilize carcasses

with steam; others test meat once an hour, but many have not adopted even these feeble measures because the owners consider them too expensive.

According to government estimates, up to 73,000 U.S. residents a year are sickened with *E. coli*.

In 2002 the USDA issued more controls for the meat industry after incidents of bacteria-contaminated meat. "We're beginning to feel that the 2002 guidelines have not been enacted to the maximum," USDA spokesman Raymond said in a recent *New York Times*

interview.

The government's response now, after the meat recalls at Topps and Cargill, is simply to conduct surveys of meat plants on what they are doing to tackle the *E. coli* problem. USDA officials also announced plans to send "special assessment teams" into plants they determine are "lagging" in safety enforcement, the *Times* reported October 23.

In discussing the reasons for the safety problems in the meat industry, government officials omit mention of the

drive to speed up production and other brutal job conditions faced by workers at Topps and elsewhere in the meat industry.

Two years ago this reporter applied for a job at Topps, and was told by management that 14-hour days were the norm.

Alberto Narvaenzi, a supervisor at Topps for 23 years, gave a small glimpse of the work conditions there. "The whole [last] year, there was a lot more pressure" by the company to crank up production, he told the *Times*.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



December 3, 1982

DENVER—An important victory for Chicano rights took place here on November 20 when the jury in the trial of Francisco "Kiko" Martínez took only a few hours to find him not guilty. He was charged with mailing letter bombs to opponents of Chicano rights in Denver in 1973.

The trial, which began in early October, lasted until November 19 when both the prosecution and the defense presented their final arguments. This trial was the latest episode in a decade-long attempt to convict the Chicano activist and lawyer of the frame-up charges.

The charges against Martínez were brought in 1973 at the height of a government-orchestrated media campaign to smear the fast-growing Chicano movement as violent.

At that time, Martínez, one of the few Chicanos who won a law degree despite a discriminatory educational system, defended victims of police brutality and the rights of farm workers.



December 2, 1957

America's ruling class, seemingly so confident a few months ago, now is gripped by a mood of crisis. The daily press continuously speaks of Wall Street's and the government's "jitters."

The "jitters" followed the first Soviet Sputnik, which marked an end to the clear-cut U.S. military lead. But it would be wrong to attribute the tremors of America's financial, political, and military leaders to any real fear of Soviet armed aggression. "Loss of American prestige," "unstable allies," "growing lack of confidence in the U.S. economy" are the type of concerns more and more expressed by business and political commentators.

In a recent speech, Vice President Nixon complained that the Soviet Union has opened "a massive non-military offensive aimed at the overthrow of all free governments." This same fear of a "non-military" advance by the Soviet Union is stated more explicitly in a recent N.Y. Times editorial.



December 3, 1932

Two militant Left Oppositionists were arrested here last night following a mass meeting conducted by the Pittsburgh branch of the Communist League (Opposition). They have been officially charged with violating some city ordinance by spreading printed matter calling for support of the Hunger March to Washington. The meeting had been called as part of the Communist League's participation in the Unemployed United Front movement here.

The two arrested workers, comrades Pete Vomvas and Nick Lepirs, have been sentenced to the workhouse without trial and are being held incommunicado at the Allegheny County penitentiary.

The International Labor Defense, although offering technical aid, has refused the request of a representative of the Communist League (Opposition), to appeal the sentence. George Martin, District Organizer of the I.L.D., explained that his organization does not pay fines as a matter of policy and considered an appeal inadvisable for reasons not stated.

# Venezuela forum debates 'U.S.: a possible revolution'

Continued from front page  
venezuelanalysis.com website; and Tufara Waller, cultural program coordinator of the Highlander Center in Tennessee. The issues joined at that first session remained at the center of the debate the following four days. (See "Venezuela book fair theme: 'U.S., a possible revolution'" in last week's *Militant*.)

In addition to the forum panelists mentioned below, others included Bernardo Álvarez, Venezuela's ambassador to the United States; former University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill; August Nimtz, a University of Minnesota political science professor; William Blum, an author who has written a number of books opposing U.S. foreign policy; ex-Maryknoll priest Charles Hardy; and Dada Maheshvarananda, yoga instructor and founder of the Prout Institute.

## Debate over immigrant workers

The political perspectives most sharply debated over the five days were, first, the impact and importance of millions of Latin American immigrant workers in the United States, and, second, the history of revolutionary struggles of working people in the United States and the lessons of those struggles for revolutionary prospects. In a striking way, the discussion registered that those living and engaged in the class struggle in the United States generally expressed greater confidence in the revolutionary capacities of working people there than did those—both U.S. citizens and many Latin American participants—living outside the United States.

Several panelists are active in work to expand rights for immigrants in the United States. These included Diógenes Abreu, a Dominican-born community organizer who currently lives in New York; Luis Rodríguez, a Chicano activist in California's San Fernando Valley; and Gustavo Torres, an organizer for the immigrant rights group Casa de Maryland. Several of them gave a vivid and accurate picture of conditions of life for immigrant workers in the United States and the growing resistance and confidence manifested in strikes and ongoing street mobilizations against raids and deportations.

Both Torres and Antonio González, president of the Southwest Voter Education and Registration Project, said the

road to "empowerment" is organizing Latinos to vote. "What does a revolutionary do in the U.S. today?" asked González. "Take power wherever you can" by electing Latinos to city, state, and federal offices. His PowerPoint presentation highlighted the growing number of Latino voters.

During the discussion periods day after day, a number of participants from Venezuela and elsewhere in Latin America took exception to the evidence that immigrant workers resisting the superexploitation they face in the United States are an important force in the working-class vanguard that is emerging there. In various ways, several said that Latin Americans living and working in the United States are simply there to get "a piece of the pie."

"They are only there to get passports," said one participant. "Once they get them they'll stop marching." Many characterized immigrant workers as sellouts who have bought into the "American dream" at the expense of fighting for political, economic, and social change in Latin America.

In the discussion, Carlos Samaniego, a packinghouse worker from Minnesota, countered this view. He described the vanguard role that immigrant workers are playing in struggles in the United States—from coal mines in the West to union struggles in Midwest slaughterhouses.

## America's revolutionary heritage

The other hotly debated question was the revolutionary history of toilers in the United States and, by extension, prospects for a Third American Revolution, a socialist revolution.

"America was created by revolution," said panelist Lee Sustar, labor editor of the *Socialist Worker* newspaper, which reflects the views of the International Socialist Organization. Speaking at the November 13 session, he referred to the U.S. Civil War as "the completion of the bourgeois democratic revolution" that had won independence for the 13 British colonies some 80 years earlier.

"There has never been a revolution in the United States, and anyone who thinks there has been is ignorant of their own history," responded panelist Richard Gott, a British author and journal-



Militant/Ben O'Shaughnessy

An audience member speaks from the floor during November 11 session of forum on "United States: A possible revolution" during Venezuela International Book Fair in Caracas.

ist. Gott said the American Revolution, which defeated British colonial rule, could not be considered a revolution. Rather, it was a war to take land from Native American tribes, whose territory, he said, was being protected by the British royal army.

"No, a revolution is not possible in the United States," said Gott. "It is conservative and reactionary. The only hope is Latin America."

"I want to express my total agreement," interjected Haiman El Troudi, the moderator of the panel that day. "There never has been a revolution in the United States and never will be!" El Troudi has held several offices in the Chávez government and written books including *Being Capitalist is Bad Business* and *History of the Bolivarian Revolution*.

"It is impossible for a revolution to begin in the United States," said a Venezuelan participant from the floor. He pointed to what he considered U.S. workers' complicity with Washington's wars against Iraq and Afghanistan as proof that working people there are desensitized to injustice.

But in remarks during the November 11 panel, ex-Marine and founder of Iraq Veterans Against the War Jimmy Massey described his evolution from a prowar patriot to a staunch opponent of the war in Iraq. He walked through day-to-day experiences in Iraq that led him to oppose U.S. policies in the Middle East and to organize fellow soldiers to do the same.

Another idea frequently expressed by speakers from the floor and by a few panelists was that "change has to come from the South," referring to Latin America. Many said the only hope was to wait until enough countries in Latin America close their doors to imperialist penetration so as to cause a collapse in the U.S. economy. The fact that nowhere in Latin America but Cuba have working people yet successfully carried through to victory the kind of revolutionary struggle necessary to end imperialist domination received scant attention.

Some participants argued that U.S. capitalism would be thrown into crisis if enough leftist governments were elected in Latin America and refused to sign

bilateral "free-trade" agreements with Washington or join the U.S.-initiated Free Trade Area of the Americas. Others pointed to popular struggles in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Nicaragua as being the key to educating working people in the United States. Despite different arguments and emphases, the point of agreement was that no initiative could be expected from working people inside the imperialist bastion.

A contrasting point of view was presented by Héctor Pesquera, a leader of the Hostosiano Independence Movement of Puerto Rico. "The Puerto Rican struggle is connected to the North American revolution," he said. Pesquera summarized the worsening conditions facing both working people in Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans living in New York. Pointing to the movement that forced Washington to withdraw its naval bases from the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, Pesquera noted that this blow to the U.S. rulers had strengthened social movements in the United States.

"I'm going to take issue with what every one of you has said," stated Amiri Baraka, a poet from Newark, New Jersey, speaking from the audience. Baraka, a panelist on the closing day of the event, has been active in Black nationalist, Maoist, and Democratic Party politics since the 1960s. Attacking Sustar for not identifying himself as a "Trotskyite," and falsely accusing fellow panelist George Katsiaficas of introducing himself as a former member of the Black Panthers, Baraka's intervention was the first time in four days of sharp debate that the tone of civil discourse was breached.

## Final session

"When I first heard the theme of this forum, I thought it was a joke," said Steve Brouwer, an American living in Venezuela and writing a book on peasant cooperatives. Brouwer was a panelist at the final session. "But the more I thought about what is happening in the world, the more I listened to my Latino brothers here, the more I became convinced that revolutionary change in the U.S. is possible."

## For further reading

### CUBA AND THE COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by Jack Barnes

"There will be a victorious revolution in the United States before there will be a victorious counterrevolution in Cuba."

That 1961 statement by Fidel Castro remains as true today as when it was spoken. This is a book about the class struggle in the U.S., where the revolutionary capacities of workers and farmers are today as utterly discounted by the ruling powers as were those of the Cuban toilers. It is about the example set by the people of Cuba that revolution is not only necessary—it can be made.

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# ossible revolution'

Brouwer said that working-class complacency in the United States in the 1920s had given way to labor battles in the 1930s that shaped U.S. politics for 45 years. He cited a "mildly progressive" Democratic Party, influenced by these developments in the labor movement, as key to what he called a progressive course that ended with the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980.

Amiri Baraka and Amina Baraka were also panelists at the final session.

Amina Baraka, introducing herself as "a Black woman who is a communist who uses the cultural arena," spoke about her work and read a poem.

Amiri Baraka came back to the previous day's discussion, disagreeing with Gott and others who denied the two great revolutions in U.S. history. He also disagreed with Sustar's characterization of the Civil War as the completion of the bourgeois democratic revolution.

"That revolution has never been completed," Baraka said. "There is still no democracy for Blacks." He proposed that Blacks and Latinos, including the "progressive" Black bourgeoisie, unite around a program to abolish the electoral college; establish a unicameral parliamentary system; ban "private money" from election campaigns; make voting compulsory; and restore voting rights to felons. Such constitutional reforms, he said, would shift power towards "people's democracy" in the United States. Revolutionary goals could then be put on the agenda.

What has derailed all previous revolutionary struggles in the United States, Baraka argued, is "white privilege." He cited the defeat of Radical Reconstruction following the Civil War, the failure of the 1930s labor upsurge to go further, and the decline of the mass movement that brought down Jim Crow segregation as three examples. Moreover, "white privilege" and the failure of the "white left" to fight it remain the primary obstacle to struggles today.

Baraka also renewed his attack on Katsiaficas, who had spoken about Asian student struggles on the panel the previous day. Baraka accused him of being an agent trying to stir up support in Venezuela for student marches against the government of Hugo Chávez.

Baraka concluded by reading his poem, "Somebody Blew Up America," a Spanish translation of which was distributed to participants. Written after September 11, 2001, the poem presents a long list of historical atrocities, interlacing anti-imperialist and anticapitalist rhetoric with conspiracy theories of history and anti-Semitism. "Who decide Jesus get crucified," the poem asks. "Who knew the World Trade Center was gonna get bombed / Who told 4000 Israeli workers at the Twin Tower / To stay home that day / Why did Sharon stay away?"

During the opening day of the panel, a participant from Panama had said during the discussion that Jews are the main problem facing working people in the world today because "they have all the money" and control everything. Norton Sandler, a member of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, spoke from the floor the next day and pointed to the danger of scapegoating and Jew-hatred for the working-class movement.

After Baraka's remarks the final day, Mary-Alice Waters took the floor to thank the organizers of the book fair "for bringing together diverse forces for such a broad variety of views for the discussion that took place here." She stressed the importance of civil debate, noting that "the poison of agent- and race-baiting should be rejected by all."

Some prominent speakers invited to take part in the central forum were unable to make it during that event, but joined the discussion in the following days.

A November 17 program on "Liberation, Imagination, Black Panthers" featuring Kathleen Cleaver, former national spokesperson for the Black Panther Party, was one of the larger events of the fair outside the central forum. A video interview with Noam Chomsky, the well-known author, anarchist, and a linguistics professor, was played after the conclusion of the forum, and a booklet containing a translation of his comments was distributed for free.

Ramón Medero, president of Venezuela's National Book Center, the sponsor of the fair, expressed his appreciation to all the panelists whose efforts had contributed to the success of the event, and satisfaction that the fair served to open a much-needed political discussion.

## Africa solidarity festival opens in Venezuela



Militant

CARACAS, Venezuela, November 19—Delegations from 21 countries in Africa and 17 in the Americas participated in the opening of the Second Cultural Festival with the People of Africa today. Workshops will discuss how to deepen solidarity between the peoples of the two continents. The place of Afro-Venezuelans in popular struggles to expand access to education, healthcare, and land are also part of the discussions. Venezuelan artists, workers, and students will participate in music, dance, and other cultural events being held in different parts of Caracas and other cities. The festival is a prelude to the second Summit of African and South American Countries, to be held in Venezuela in 2008.

—RÓGER CALERO

## Book on Cuban 5 launched in Caracas

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

CARACAS, Venezuela, November 16—*From Solitude and Hope*, a collection of essays, poems, and drawings by many of Cuba's best known writers and artists dedicated to the Cuban Five, was presented at the third Venezuela International Book Fair here today. The event was hosted by the ALBA Cultural Fund and chaired by the fund's vice-president, Zuleica Romay.

Panelists included César López, winner of Cuba's National Literature Award in 1999; Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press; and Ben O'Shaughnessy, organizer of the

Young Socialists National Steering Committee in the United States. Some thirty people attended.

The Cuban Five—Gerardo Hernández, René González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González—were arrested in 1998 for "conspiracy to commit espionage" and other frame-up charges, including, in the case of Hernández, "conspiracy to commit murder."

The five revolutionaries had been tracking the activity of counterrevolutionary groups in Florida that have carried out murderous assaults in Cuba with Washington's complicity. Convicted in a 2001 federal trial in Miami,

they were given sentences ranging from 15 years to a double life term.

López described Washington's imprisonment of the five as "another turn of the screw, not just against Cuba, but against Latin America, against humanity." *From Solitude and Hope* came about, he said, through the initiative of Cuban writers and artists who wanted to make the fight for freedom of the five more broadly known. The book will soon be published in English, he said, because "the work to free them has to be worldwide, and the language to communicate with the majority of the world is English."

"There are well over 2 million prisoners in the United States," said Waters, "and the five Cuban revolutionaries now find themselves in the midst of this giant population of the working class in the United States." She talked about the political questions the five Cubans get from other prisoners and read excerpts from some of the letters they have written her looking for books to help them answer issues raised—from the origin and character of ultrarightist, racist, and anti-Semitic groups in the United States, to the history of the U.S. Civil War and the defeat of Radical Reconstruction, to the impact of the Cuban Revolution within the United States.

O'Shaughnessy described the work inside the United States to free the five, detailing meetings and other activities. "Many young people who hear about the case for the first time readily identify with the compañeros," he said. He pointed to the support they have won from student groups, academic departments, immigrant rights groups, and others.

In closing the program, López read a poem he had written included in *From Solitude and Hope*.



Militant/Olympia Newton

Cuban poet César López reads a poem during November 16 launch of *From Solitude and Hope* at the Venezuela International Book Fair. The book, a collection of works by some of Cuba's best-known artists and writers, is dedicated to the Cuban Five. Seated on either side of López are fellow panelists Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, and Ben O'Shaughnessy, a leader of the Young Socialists in the United States.

# The Bolsheviks and the origins of American communism

Below is an excerpt from *The History of American Trotskyism*, one of *Pathfinder's Books of the Month* in November. The author, James P. Cannon, was a founding leader of the communist movement in the United States and member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International in 1922. A founder of the Socialist Workers Party, he served as SWP national secretary until 1953 and national chairman until 1972. Copyright © 1944 Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Russian soldiers demonstrate, 1917. The banner says: "Armored detachments for freedom." The revolutionary victory by the toilers of Russia opened the road to revolutionary Marxism for millions around the world, including in the United States.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

The Communist Party, which took organizational form in 1919, was originally the Left Wing of the Socialist Party. It was from the Socialist Party that the great body of Communist troops came. As a matter of fact, the formal launching of the Party in September 1919 was simply the organizational culmination of a protracted struggle inside the Socialist Party. There the program had been worked out and there, within the Socialist Party, the original cadres were shaped. This internal struggle eventually led to a split and the formation of a separate organization, the Communist

Party.

In the first years of the consolidation of the Communist movement—that is, you may say, from the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 until the organization of the Communist Party in this country two years later, and even for a year or two after that—the chief labor was the factional struggle against opportunist socialism, then represented by the Socialist Party. That is almost always the case when a workers political organization deteriorates and at the same time gives birth to a revolutionary wing. The struggle for the majority, for the consolidation of forces within the party, almost invariably limits the initial activity of a new movement to a rather narrow, intra-party struggle which does not end until the formal split.

The new party continues to seek proselytes in the old. It takes time for the new party to learn how to stand firmly on its own feet. Thus even after the formal split had taken place in 1919, through the force of inertia and habit and also because the fight was not really ended, the factional struggle continued. People remained in the Socialist Party who were undecided and who were the most likely candidates for the new party organization. The Communist Party concentrated its activity in the first year or so to the fight to clarify doctrine and win

over additional forces from the Socialist Party. Of course, as is almost invariably the case in such historical developments, this factional phase eventually gave way to direct activity in the class struggle, to recruitment of new forces and the development of the new organization on an entirely independent basis.

The Socialist Party Left Wing, which later became the Communist Party, was directly inspired by the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. Prior to that time American militants had very little opportunity to acquire a genuine Marxist education. The leaders of the Socialist Party were not Marxists. The literature of Marxism printed in this country was quite meager and confined almost solely to the economic side of the doctrine. The Socialist Party was a heterogeneous body; its political activity, its agitation and propagandistic teachings were a terrible hodgepodge of all kinds of radical, revolutionary, and reformist ideas. In those days before the last war, and even during the war, young militants coming to the party looking for a clear programmatic guide had a hard time finding it. They couldn't get it from the official leadership of the party, which lacked serious knowledge of such things. The prominent heads of the Socialist Party were American counterparts of the opportunist leaders of the

Social Democratic parties of Europe, only more ignorant and more contemptuous of theory. Consequently, despite their revolutionary impulses and spirit, the great mass of young militants of the American movement were able to learn little Marxism; and without Marxism it is impossible to have a consistent revolutionary movement.

The Bolshevik revolution in Russia changed everything almost overnight. Here was demonstrated in action the conquest of power by the proletariat. As in every other country, the tremendous impact of this proletarian revolutionary victory shook our movement in America to its very foundation. The inspiration alone of the deed enormously strengthened the revolutionary wing of the party, gave the workers new hope, and aroused new interest in those theoretical problems of revolution which had not received proper recognition before that time.

We soon discovered that the organizers and leaders of the Russian revolution were not merely revolutionists of action. They were genuine Marxists in the field of doctrine. Out of Russia, from Lenin, Trotsky, and the other leaders, we received for the first time serious expositions of the revolutionary politics of Marxism. We learned that they had been engaged in long years of struggle for the restoration of unfalsified Marxism in the international labor movement. Now, thanks to the great authority and prestige of their victory in Russia, they were finally able to get a hearing in all countries. All the genuine militants rallied around them and began studying their writings with an interest and eagerness we had never known before. The doctrine they expounded had a tenfold authority because it had been verified in practice. Furthermore, month by month, year by year, despite all the power that world capitalism mobilized against them, they showed a capacity to develop the great revolution, create the Red Army, hold their own, make gains. Naturally, Bolshevism became the authoritative doctrine among revolutionary circles in all the workers political movements of the world, including our own here.

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## 'War on terror' targets working class

The October 15 police raids in New Zealand against Maori rights fighters, which resulted in the arrest of 16 people under the "Terrorism Suppression Act," are another example of how such laws, ostensibly targeting "foreign terrorists," are primarily aimed at working people inside the imperialist centers.

This is the first time the New Zealand government has tried to use the 2002 law. The raids and arrests are strikingly similar to "antiterrorist" police operations familiar to workers in other countries. After a year and a half of surveillance, an army of cops invaded the Maori community, rounded people up, and seized personal property said to be evidence of "military-style" activity on the part of the activists. Their methods—from dragging people out of bed in the early morning hours to subjecting their victims to public humiliation, to holding people for hours without food, water, or access to toilets—are not unlike what immigration cops have carried out in raids across the United States.

A government-orchestrated media campaign has labeled those arrested as "violent extremists." The case is a frame-up of Maori rights activists for their political views and their work to combat discrimination against the Maori, an oppressed nationality in New Zealand. It should be condemned and the charges dropped.

Capitalist rulers around the world adopted "antiterrorist" laws like New Zealand's in the wake of Sept. 11, 2001, to prepare for coming conflicts with workers and farmers inside their borders. The rulers anticipate greater resistance from working people increasingly

pushed to the wall by the employers' offensive on wages, working conditions, and standard of living. "Anti-terrorist" laws widen police powers of surveillance and detention, curtail defendants' rights at trial, step up the use of federal identification cards, and introduce new sanctions against immigrants without documents.

They go hand-in-hand with moves to win acceptance for the use of federal armed forces at home, such as the U.S. Northern Command; "preventive" detention without charges; secret courts; and deployment of troops and cops at airports, transportation centers, and public buildings. Attacks on democratic rights are justified as a way to protect "us" from "the terrorists."

Public protests, like those that continue to unfold in New Zealand, are needed to oppose these anti-working class "terror laws" and their implementation. Supporters of democratic rights scored a victory when Wellington ruled it would not proceed with prosecution under that law, although the 16 defendants still face other charges. At the same time, the rulers' are working to make the law more palatable to working people.

The "war at home" is the other side of the "war on terror" abroad. The imperialist wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond stem from the same source: the deepening crisis of world capitalism. Only by replacing the capitalist misrulers with rule by the workers and farmers can we disarm the war makers and end their terror against the toilers of the world.

## Illinois students defend right to protest

BY JOHN VOTAVA

BERWYN, Illinois.—High school students won a victory here when officials backed off threats to expel them for taking part in a peaceful sit-in against the Iraq war.

Officials initially charged 38 students with "gross disobedience and mob activity" for taking part in an action in the cafeteria of Morton West High School, in this Chicago suburb. They faced suspensions of up to 10 days and 18 were threatened with expulsion. The school board's action and the students' efforts to defend themselves sparked national attention.

Parents and students protested outside the school November 6. A day later, 120 parents, students, and others attended a school board meeting to oppose the disciplinary actions. Most speakers applauded the students' antiwar protest as a positive event.

Ben Nowakowski, district school superintendent, claimed the students' action had nothing to do with free speech or protest but was a matter of disrupting the school.

Speaker after speaker at the hearing pointed out that there have been fist fights and windows broken recently, yet none of those involved received such harsh disciplinary action, indicating that the matter was indeed a political question of the right to protest.

Angel Cooper, a sophomore who took part in the antiwar protest, said that when she went to her appeal she was asked not about her activities but about the "leaders."

"I don't regret the protest because I brought a lot of people to this question—about Iraq and what it's doing to our country," senior Joshua Rodriguez told the media.

## Cuban 5 win support at Midwest events

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Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba. The featured speaker was Leonard Weinglass, one of the lead defense attorneys.

The federal trial of the Cuban Five, Weinglass said, was a travesty of justice. Their convictions were based on various charges of "conspiracy," including "conspiracy to commit espionage." None of them, however, was found to be in possession of a single piece of classified U.S. government information. Conspiracy was charged, he said, because espionage could not be proven.

Gerardo Hernández, René González, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González have been jailed since their arrest in 1998. Put on trial three years later, they are serving sentences ranging from 15 years to a double life term.

The five were in the United States to gather information on Cuban American counterrevolutionary groups that have organized attacks against Cuba from south Florida with the complicity of the U.S. government. Such terror attacks included a string of bombings of hotels in 1997.

The case of the Five, Weinglass continued, was political and unfair from the start. He compared their convictions and long sentences with the U.S. government's treatment of Luis Posada Carriles and Orlando Bosch, admitted participants in the Oct. 6, 1976, bombing of a Cuban airliner that took the lives of all 73 people aboard. Both of them walk the streets of Miami today.

Following the presentation by Weinglass, members of the audience engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of the issues involved in the defense case and the Cuban Revolution. A number of people there were learning about the case for the first time.

Prior to the Milwaukee event, Weinglass was the featured speaker at November 11 and 12 events on behalf of the Five in Madison, Wisconsin.

### Events in Chicago and Indiana

From November 15 to 18, some 150 people attended meetings to support the Cuban Five in Chicago and in Terre Haute, Hanover, Indianapolis, and South Bend, Indiana.

Organized by the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five and local organizations in each city, the meetings discussed efforts that can be undertaken to win support for Fernando González. Previously jailed at the federal penitentiary in Oxford, Wisconsin, González was recently transferred to the federal prison in Terre Haute.

The meetings featured a showing of *Mission Against Terror*, a documentary film about the case. Gloria La Riva, coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, spoke about the facts in the case and the defense campaign. As an initial show of solidarity, participants in the meetings signed cards of solidarity that will be sent to González.

*Betsy Farley and Harvey McArthur contributed to this article.*

## Pakistan

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Afghanistan. After several weeks of fierce fighting, Islamist militias tied to al-Qaeda and the Taliban reportedly continue to control several towns and roads there.

On November 19 hundreds of students and journalists demonstrated in the capital city of Islamabad against emergency rule. They rallied outside a banned television station to demand a lifting of curbs on the media, the *Daily Times* of Pakistan reported. Journalists have camped out in protest there for the past 10 days.

Students, lawyers, and supporters of left-wing parties rallied the same day in Islamabad. "It is now time to root out military dictatorship once and for all," said Aasim Sajjad, a leader of the People's Rights Movement. A student protest also took place at the Quaid-e-Azam University.

The All Parties Democratic Movement (APDM), a group of anti-Musharraf parties, called for nationwide rallies against martial law on November 23, Bloomberg News reported.

To try to undercut the growing protests, on November 20 the government freed 3,400 of the 15,000 or so people arrested under the emergency decree. It said another 2,000 would be released soon. Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto was released from house arrest the previous week.

Hours after the 3,400 were freed, however, club-wielding cops in the southern city of Karachi attacked a demonstration by journalists, arresting more than 140 people. In Hyderabad police arrested 23 journalist protesters, according to Associated Press.

The Musharraf government has announced elections for January 8. The APDM alliance has threatened to boycott the vote. Bhutto, head of the Pakistan People's Party, which is not part of the alliance, said she was considering a boycott.

Musharraf suspended the constitution and dissolved the Supreme Court after being told the court was going to nullify his re-election as president last month on the basis that he is ineligible to continue while heading the military. On November 20 a newly hand-picked court rapidly rejected all but one challenge to his reelection. Musharraf says that once his reelection is upheld he will step down as army chief while remaining president.

The U.S. government, seeking to stabilize the increasingly isolated regime, sent Negroponte to Islamabad to try to patch together a deal between Musharraf and Bhutto.

Negroponte said that during his meeting with the general, he reiterated the White House's demand to lift the state of emergency and for Musharraf to step down as army chief.

"President Musharraf has been and continues to be a strong voice against extremism," he added. "We value our partnership with the Government of Pakistan under the leadership of President Musharraf."

### Military offensive on northwest border

Meanwhile, the Pakistani army is continuing its military offensive in the northwest border region. Some 15,000 troops were deployed for an assault on Islamist militias in Swat, according to a November 17 AP dispatch. The army said its troops, backed by helicopter gunships and artillery, were attempting to push the militias back into the mountains overlooking the Karakoram Highway, a vital trade route to China.

Militia members of the Movement for the Enforcement of Islamic Laws captured a police headquarters in Alpuri, the *New York Times* reported November 16. Alpuri's mayor said the local police abandoned the headquarters.

At a November 14 press conference, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said the current political volatility in Pakistan posed a threat to U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. He said 75 percent of all supplies for the troops except ammunition goes through Pakistan. That includes 40 percent of fuel shipped directly from Pakistani refineries.

Morrell added that U.S. aid to Pakistan's military, nearly \$10 billion since 2001, will continue. "President Musharraf has been a steadfast ally in the war on terror since 9/11, and we are not stemming the flow of any of our military aid to Pakistan that goes to war on terror operations," he said.