

# THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 73/NO. 38 OCTOBER 5, 2009

## Meeting in Miami supports Cuban Five

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

MIAMI—Some 90 people, mostly Cuban Americans, attended a September 13 meeting here to protest the continued incarceration in U.S. jails of the Cuban Five. “Yesterday marked 11 years since the five were arrested,” said Andrés Gómez, a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, who opened the meeting. The event was one of many held around the world.

Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González, and René González—known internationally as the Cuban Five—were arrested in 1998 and convicted in 2001 on frame-up charges ranging from “conspiracy to commit espionage” to, in the case of Hernández, “conspiracy to commit murder.” The five were in Florida monitoring rightist Cuban exile groups that have carried out armed attacks against Cuba with Washington’s complicity.

Gómez referred to the importance of the Miami meeting since three of the five were moved to a jail here at

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## U.S. generals seek to shore up Afghan war

Imperialist armies seen as occupiers



Reuters/Shamil Zhumatov

U.S. soldier and Afghanis meet during U.S. “road clearance” patrol in Molahel village in Afghanistan’s Wardak province July 4.

BY SETH GALINSKY

An assessment by the U.S. government’s top general in Afghanistan August 30 calls for sending more troops to the war that has raged on now for eight years.

It proposes a profound shift in strat-

egy, drawing on counterinsurgency lessons from the Iraq war and the ongoing transformation of the U.S. military aimed at developing a more effective force to fight the kind of wars the U.S. rulers will increasingly face.

In the report Gen. Stanley McChrystal says that the U.S. military must change its strategy—to what he calls an “integrated civilian-military counterinsurgency campaign”—or it will risk losing, no matter how many more

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## Mexico conference to discuss Lincoln, Martí, Juárez legacy

BY STEVE WARSHELL

HOUSTON—The October 15–17 conference in Monterrey, Mexico, on the contributions of José Martí, Benito Juárez, and Abraham Lincoln is bringing together academics, students, and others from Mexico, the United States, Cuba, Canada, and other countries.

Martí was the central organizer of Cuba’s final independence struggle against Spanish colonial rule, and warned about U.S. designs on Latin America as the imperialist epoch began in the late 19th century. Juárez led Mexico’s 1858–61 democratic revolution and the 1862–67 war to defeat a French invasion backed by European monarchies.

Lincoln, elected president of the United States in 1860, marshaled the forces that assured victory in the Civil War—the second American revolution—which overthrew the Southern slavocracy, and backed Juárez’s forces in Mexico.

Drawing on the ideas represented by these three leaders and the legacy of the revolutionary democratic struggles they led, the conference will “promote an Alternative for the Americas Inspired by the Ideas of Martí,” the organizers said in a conference announcement.

The event is sponsored by Monterrey-based institutions, including José Martí Cultural Society, José Martí Institute of Higher Education, and the Autonomous University of Nuevo León; the Center for the Study of Martí in Havana; and other academic and cultural groups in Mexico, the United States, and Cuba.

The international conference will include panels on topics such as “Martí and the Literacy Campaign in 1961 Cuba,” “The Teachings of Juárez in the Fight for a Better World,” “Martí,

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## Workers subscribe to ‘Militant’ for explanations of capitalist crisis

BY TOM BAUMANN

Some 275 new readers signed up for subscriptions to the *Militant* in the first week of the international subscription campaign.

“We sold 8 subscriptions in a working-class neighborhood in Aurora, Illinois,” writes Alyson Kennedy. “Many of the Mexican workers who bought subscriptions related recent run-ins with immigration cops. Several other new subscribers expressed dislike for the health-care ‘reform’

bills and were attracted by the *Militant* headline saying ‘guarantee medical care for all.’”

“Another worker said he has been searching the Internet to read different views on the cause of the economic crisis. He was looking forward to reading the *Militant* coverage,” Kennedy says.

Chicago supporters sold 16 subscriptions in all, including 4 in working-class neighborhoods of South

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## U.S. shift on missile ‘shield’ aims at Iran

BY RÓGER CALERO

The White House announced September 17 that it was suspending construction of a ground-based antimissile system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Instead, President Barack Obama ordered the development of a land- and sea-based system focused on stopping short-range missiles that could be fired by Iran toward Europe.

Moscow had described the plan to place missiles in Poland and a radar station in the Czech Republic, which was first announced during the administration of George W. Bush, as a “provocation.” Its suspension removes a bone of contention between Washington and Moscow. The White House hopes that Moscow will respond by backing new economic sanctions on Tehran if the Iranian government refuses to abandon its nuclear program.

In August 2008, the Bush administration signed the deal with the Polish government to place 10 interceptors at a base near the Baltic Sea.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, U.S. officials said that more important than the missiles was “getting U.S. military personnel on Polish soil.”

The new system, White House of-

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## Washington conducts strike against Islamists in Somalia

BY BEN JOYCE

U.S. special forces attacked two vehicles in Somalia September 14, killing six leaders of al-Shabab, an armed Islamist group contending for power there. The strike was part of Washington’s efforts to impose more control over the unstable Horn of Africa.

Among those killed was Saleh Ali

Saleh Nabhan, a key figure in al-Shabab. Washington accuses him of playing a role in the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, which killed 212 people, and organizing the 2002 suicide bombing of an Israeli-owned hotel in Mombasa, Kenya.

The strike was authorized by an executive order signed by President

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# Canada communist urges asylum for Tamil refugees

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL—"The Communist League campaign condemns the complicity of the federal government in the war by the Sri Lankan government against the Tamil people," Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate for mayor of the Montreal borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension," told a crowd of 100 people September 12, most of them Tamils.

The event, a commemoration of the thousands of Tamils killed by the Sri Lankan army last spring, was organized by Tamil organizations here. It featured expositions on the history of the struggle of the Tamil people against national oppression and for self-determination.

"On behalf of Michel Prairie, the Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal, and myself, I call on Ottawa to open its doors to the thousands of Tamils being held in virtual concentration camps in Sri Lanka today," said Bernardo.

The next day Bernardo joined Prairie at a campaign rally and celebration of the opening of the Communist League's new campaign headquarters in central Montreal. The election takes place November 1.

"The talk of recovery by government spokespeople, central bankers, and economists doesn't square with the reality that hundreds of thousands of working people are living through," said Bernardo, describing the growing loss of jobs in manufacturing, construction, and the forest industry.

"There are important examples of resistance to these worsening condi-

tions," she said, pointing to the major strike by 3,000 nickel miners centered in Sudbury against the huge Vale Inco company, the recent one-day strike by 5,000 Montreal blue collar city workers, and the determination of locked-out newspaper workers at the *Journal de Montréal* after months on the picket line.

"Ottawa is putting enormous resources into the imperialist war in Afghanistan with the support of all parties in Parliament under the guise of defending women's rights there and so-called Canadian values," said Prairie. "Domestically this war drive is reflected in intensifying attacks against the democratic rights of working people through increased use of imprisonment without charges, secret courts, electronic monitoring, house arrests, and other measures—all justified by their 'war on terrorism.'"

"Our campaign calls for the immediate withdrawal of Canada's imperialist troops from Afghanistan," he said. "Working people need to take political



Militant/John Steele

**Beverly Bernardo, Communist League candidate for mayor of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension, speaks at event commemorating Tamils killed by Sri Lankan army last spring.**

power in order to reorganize society from top to bottom in the interests of workers and working farmers."

Norton Sandler, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, also spoke.

## U.S. embargo against Cuba: What do they fear?

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"The only country in the world where they prohibit the travel of Americans is to Cuba," said Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodríguez September 16. "Why? Are they afraid that they could learn firsthand about Cuban reality?"

President Barack Obama had signed a measure two days earlier formally extending for the next year Washington's nearly 50-year-long economic

embargo of Cuba.

The embargo is based on the 1917 Trading with the Enemies Act, which bars commercial relations and travel. This act is currently applied only to Cuba, notes the Cuban daily *Granma*.

In a memo sent to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Obama wrote, "I hereby determine that the continuation for one year of the exercise of those authorities with respect to Cuba is in the national interest of the United States." Action by Congress is required to end the embargo.

Rodríguez called on Washington to end the embargo now. He pointed out it has cost Cuba \$96 billion in economic losses since 1962.

Extension of the anti-Cuba embargo came about two weeks after the Treasury Department formally lifted nearly all U.S. restrictions on travel by family members to Cuba and on the amount of money they can send to the island. Obama had announced these changes in

April. Previously, U.S. citizens and residents with family in Cuba were limited to visits once every three years.

The U.S. government also eased regulations prohibiting telecommunications and satellite links between the United States and Cuba and licensing requirements for individuals engaged in agricultural and medical sales, reported the *Washington Post*.

However, Washington is denying U.S. scientists permission to travel to Cuba to attend the 20th International Congress of Orthopedics and Traumatology, scheduled for September 21-26 in Bayamo, reported *Granma* September 6. Among those participating are some 400 physicians from about 150 countries.

In another development, Cuban and U.S. officials held talks in Havana September 17 over reestablishing direct mail service, which has been suspended since August 1963. Currently letters sent between the two countries will not arrive unless they pass through a third country first.

## THE MILITANT

### Defend abortion rights!

*Attempts by rightists and the government to push back women's right to choose abortion shows the need to rebuild a movement to defend and extend abortion rights. The 'Militant' covers these and other struggles for women's emancipation. Don't miss an issue!*



Militant/Maggie Trowe

Picket at closed clinic in Wichita, Kansas. Facility was operated by Dr. George Tiller, who was killed by rightist in May.

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Editor: Sam Manuel

Managing Editor: Martín Koppel

Business Manager: Angel Lariscy

Editorial volunteers: Tom Baumann, Róger Calero, Seth Galinsky, Cindy Jaquith, Ben Joyce, Omari Musa, Doug Nelson, Jacob Perasso

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# Iran: protests erupt anew for more political space

BY SAM MANUEL

Tens of thousands in Iran took the opportunity of an annual day of marches and demonstrations for Palestine to press for more democratic rights in Iran and to denounce repressive measures taken by the government of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The September 18 protests took place in Tehran, the capital, as well as other major cities despite warnings by officials against any political actions or slogans in variance with the official program. “Free the political prisoners” was among chants by opposition demonstrators. As in previous protest demonstrations, young people and women participated in large numbers.

Quds (Jerusalem) Day was established by the Iranian government in 1979 a few months after the massive, revolutionary upheaval that overthrew the U.S.-backed shah. In that insurrection the Israeli embassy in Tehran, viewed as one symbol of the shah’s submission to U.S. imperialist interests, was stormed and turned over to the Palestinian movement.

The September 18 protests marked the first large rallies by opponents of Ahmadinejad since a crackdown in mid-July on demonstrations against the official results of the June presidential elections. Ahmadinejad was rapidly declared the winner by a landslide in that vote, angering many supporters of his closest rival, former prime minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, who ran promising more democratic rights, easing of censorship and jailing of political dissidents, and for less restrictions on women’s rights. Many consider the result of the election fraudulent.

As in protests following the election, many government opponents marching on Quds Day chanted, “Death to the Dictator,” a reference to Ahmadinejad. As the president addressed a meeting at Tehran University before Friday

prayers, thousands of demonstrators could be heard several blocks away chanting “Resign! Resign!” reported the *New York Times*.

According to the Iranian press, 35 antigovernment protesters were arrested but police largely allowed the opposition marches to take place. The day before the protests the Pasdaran, the main military force in Iran, issued a statement that such protesters would be considered “Israeli spies.”

Anti-Semitic demagoguery was a feature of Ahmadinejad’s speech at the main Quds celebration in Tehran. He called the Holocaust a lie and said that “Zionism” seeks to build a global empire to dominate the whole world, according to the Iranian Labour News Agency. “If the Holocaust, as you claim, is true, why don’t you allow a probe into the issue?” Ahmadinejad asked.

The Iranian clerical-dominated bourgeois regime has used Quds Day and support for Islamist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah as leverage as it competes for influence in the region against rival Arab capitalist regimes. Today some bourgeois opponents of Ahmadinejad are questioning the resources devoted to funding these two organizations and the conflict that has sharpened with Tel Aviv and Washington as a result. That was reflected in at least one slogan chanted by some antigovernment protesters, “Not Gaza, not Lebanon—My life is for Iran.”

In the election campaign Mousavi pre-



Tens of thousands in September 18 demonstration in Tehran, Iran. Using opportunity of marches organized by government around Palestine issue, people pressed for democratic rights.

sented the view that Ahmadinejad’s Holocaust denial demagoguery is an unnecessary provocation handed to Washington and its imperialist allies. In a televised debate prior to the election Mousavi assailed Ahmadinejad saying, “AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], the biggest Zionist institution in the U.S., sees this policy as a blessing.”

## Divisions over imperialist threats

The ongoing divisions among Iranian rulers are over how best to advance their interests in the face of imperialist pressures—in particular their pursuit of development of energy sources, including nuclear ones.

Washington has led a campaign among its imperialist allies to block Iran’s access to development of nuclear technology, charging that Tehran actu-

ally seeks to build a nuclear bomb. Ahmadinejad’s opponents say they can better negotiate with the imperialist powers on Iran’s nuclear programs and avoid the imposition of further sanctions.

President Barack Obama’s administration has said it will join with its imperialist allies in talks with Iranian officials on a broad range of issues, reported ABC News.

Around the same time, Obama announced that the U.S. government would set aside an anti-missile system based partly in Poland and the Czech Republic. Moscow, whose support Washington needs in its campaign against Iran, viewed the anti-missile system as a threat to Russia’s security. The system will be modified to more effectively target Iran, U.S. officials said. (See story on front page.)

# U.S. commandos strike in Somalia

## Continued from front page

Barack Obama. Commandos flew in on at least four helicopters, according to villagers who were eyewitnesses, and used .50 caliber machine guns to take out the convoy.

The operation represented a tactical shift for the U.S. rulers’ military course in Somalia. In recent years operations like this have been carried out using cruise missiles and other weapons capable of striking from a distance, often resulting in many civilian deaths. “One American adviser,” the *New York Times* reported, “said the decision to use commandos and not long-range missiles in this case may reflect a shift by the Obama administration to go to greater lengths to avoid civilian deaths.”

The toilers of Somalia have been subjected to nearly two decades of civil war between competing bourgeois Islamist forces. After U.S.-backed dictator Siad Barre was overthrown in a 1991 coup, central authority in Somalia collapsed. Imperialist-fostered divisions based on clan rivalries have left the ruling class fragmented among six major clans, each vying for political influence.

The Somali Islamic Courts Council took power in June 2006, but fell to a U.S.-backed invasion by Ethiopian troops that December. A weak “transitional” imperialist-backed government has held Mogadishu, the country’s capital, ever since, but major sections of the country are controlled by rival clans.

There is currently a garrison force of 3,400 African Union (AU) troops stationed in Mogadishu, propping up the transitional government. On September

17, two vehicles rammed through the gate of the headquarters of the AU’s mission in Somalia, killing at least 21 people including the mission’s second in command. Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack.

The U.S. military supplies weapons to the Somali army and provides training and support to AU forces. Somalia’s strategic position in the Horn of Africa is of great interest to U.S. imperialism for military reasons and because it is an important trade route between Europe and Asia. As many as 21,000 ships pass through the area each year.

## 1,300 march against police in Illinois after Black youth slain

BY LAURA ANDERSON

ROCKFORD, Illinois—Some 1,300 people marched to protest police brutality and unemployment here September 12. This was the second march to protest the August 24 police killing of Mark Barmore, a 23-year-old African American.

Rockford police shot and killed Barmore in a church day care center. Barmore was not armed. The two white cops involved have been placed on administrative leave.

Demonstrators also drew attention to Rockford’s unemployment, which is among the highest in the country for a metropolitan area, officially at 15 percent.

Damesha Barmore, the slain youth’s cousin, said, “They figure they got a badge and can do whatever

On August 21 Gen. William Ward, head of the U.S. military’s Africa Command (Africom), pledged support to the Somali government and the AU mission during a visit to Nairobi.

Africom was set up in late 2007 as part of a transformation of the U.S. military command structure. It is responsible for military affairs on the African continent, except for those pertaining to Egypt. The only African government that has publicly stated its willingness to host the Africom headquarters is that of Liberia. Thus the command remains based in Germany.

they want. They should get the same treatment as everybody else who killed someone.”

Rev. Jesse Jackson and NAACP president Ben Jealous also addressed the crowd.

John Lyke, Jr., the attorney for the family, along with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the NAACP, has called for an investigation into the case by the Department of Justice.

City officials and the police have actively campaigned to justify the cops’ action. One thousand people marched in support of the cops in downtown Rockford September 19.

The Illinois NAACP has called for a march for justice for Barmore on October 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the Discovery Center, 711 North Main Street, Rockford.

## —CALENDAR—

### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

**Protest the Day of the Resentencing of the Cuban Five!** Join us as we demand the freedom of the Cuban Five! Tues., Oct. 13. Picket, 5 p.m. 26 Federal Plaza. (Take the 4,5,6,J,M,Z subway to Brooklyn Bridge–City Hall.) Tel.: (718) 601-4751.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**Bosses’ Attacks on Workers, Unions Meet Resistance: U.S. Labor Today.** Speaker: Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for San Francisco city attorney. Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**Afghanistan: Political Instability Limits U.S. War Aims.** Fri., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 719 NE 79th St. (one block east of Biscayne). Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**The Deepening World Crisis of Capitalism and Spreading Wars.** A meeting to benefit the fund to build the Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. 4800 W 34th St. Suite C-51A. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.



# Meeting on Cuban Five

**Continued from front page**  
the end of August in preparation for a re-sentencing hearing October 13. In 2008 a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the convictions of all five but also ruled that the sentences for Labañino, Guerrero, and Fernando González were excessive.

Labañino and Guerrero were each given life sentences for “conspiracy to commit espionage.” Fernando González was sentenced to 19 years for acting as an unregistered foreign agent, conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent, and charges related to possession of false documents.

A brief letter was read to the meeting from Fernando González. He wrote that the three had been released from solitary confinement as of September 1. González said they were very happy to hear about the Miami meeting in their defense.

Max Lesnik, director of Radio Miami and a leader of Alianza Martiana, a coalition favoring normalization of relations with Cuba, described how the judge during their 2001 trial refused defense attorney requests to move the trial out of Miami, “the one place where the five could definitely not get a fair trial.”

U.S. government officials and the Miami media whipped up a sensationalist campaign about a “spy network” that “threatens national security.” Right-wing Cuban groups orchestrated a campaign of protests aimed at intimidating jurors during the trial.

“We need to be in the streets in Miami with our signs and caravans,” stated Lesnik, referring to recent car caravans here protesting U.S. restrictions on travel to Cuba. “We can’t get health care here but 90 miles away health care is guaranteed for all the Cuban people. They don’t want people to see the difference between what’s in Cuba and here.”

Gómez noted recent changes in U.S. Treasury Department regulations that allow Cuban Americans to more freely travel to Cuba and called for a stepped-up campaign to get rid of all travel restrictions on U.S. residents going to Cuba.

Gómez made special mention of the several Haitian activists who attended the meeting and that there was translation of the talks to Creole. The meeting ended with many crowding the front of the room to hear greetings from Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba’s National Assembly, via phone hook-up.



Militant/Bernie Senter

September 13 meeting in Miami received message from Fernando González, one of Cuban Five prisoners recently transferred to a jail there for resentencing.

## San Francisco leads in first week of SWP fund campaign

BY JAMES HARRIS

Supporters in San Francisco of the party-building fund drive to raise \$95,000 for the Socialist Workers Party are leading the way in the opening week. They have sent in just over

\$2,500 to the fund.

The fund runs until November 10. So far, \$91,700 has been pledged. A scoreboard showing where the drive stands will appear in next week’s issue.

The opening stage of the worldwide economic depression is more and more showing the unvarnished face of capitalism to workers who are being forced to bear the brunt of the crisis through increasing unemployment, declining wages, speedup, and shorter hours for those who are working.

As these conditions worsen it becomes clearer that Democratic and Republican politicians have no answers for working people.

The Socialist Workers Party unflinchingly tells the truth about what capitalism has in store for working people. It explains that working people have to take political power out of the hands of the ruling rich. The SWP is funded through contributions by workers and farmers. The money is needed to expand the reach of the party as working people begin to fight against the worst economic crisis in our lifetime.

At a September 19 party-building fund meeting in Newark, New Jersey, Norton Sandler, a member of the SWP National Committee, urged participants “to think in class terms” when they are reading bourgeois media coverage about the “economic recovery.”

“This kind of talk belies the reality for the world’s toiling majority,” said Sandler. “To resolve the crisis, the capitalist class must destroy capital. They also must junk massive amounts of plants and equipment. In the coming years the bosses will continue to press down on workers. The rulers will start trade conflicts and wars.”

Supporters of the SWP in Des Moines, Iowa, will host a fund event September 26 featuring Ben O’Shaughnessy, a leader of the Young Socialists, speaking on “The World Crisis of Capitalism and the Working-Class Road to Power.”

Contributions to the fund can be sent to 306 W. 37th Street, 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. Checks and money orders should be written out to the Socialist Workers Party.

## Workers subscribe to ‘Militant’ for answers

**Continued from front page**  
Chicago and one to a college professor interested in bringing speakers from Cuba to U.S. campuses.

Supporters of the *Militant* in San Francisco sent in 25 subscriptions to kick off the drive. Betsey Stone reports that eight workers got introductory subscriptions in Vallejo, California, a working-class community some 30 miles north of the Bay Area. Many were drawn by a Socialist Workers campaign sign calling for guaranteed health care for all and wanted to discuss the anti-working-class provisions of the current bills in Congress, including those attacking immigrants.

“The case of Troy Davis, framed up for killing a cop, struck a chord with a number of workers who have had their own experiences with police abuse,” said Stone, “including at checkpoints cops have set up in Vallejo to entrap and arrest immigrant workers without papers.”

In New York City, campaigners for Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, signed up six workers at an African-American Day Parade in Harlem for introductory subscriptions. Many at the parade appreciated the newspaper’s coverage of the frame-up of Troy Davis and the truth about how the Grenada revolution was overthrown, noted Willie Cotton.

Norton Sandler reported that the discounted Pathfinder titles on sale with the subscription made the deal especially attractive for workers at the parade.

Titles on sale with a *Militant* subscription include *New International* no. 10 and no. 14 for \$10 each, as well as *Problems of Women’s Liberation*, *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*,

and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution* for 50 percent off.

*Militant* supporters in Minneapolis sold three subscriptions at a march called by Local 26 of the Service Employees International Union to demand a halt in firings and deportations of undocumented workers. In the course of helping build the solidarity action, another nine subscriptions were sold.

Distributors of the *Militant* are getting to know workers, students, and others who want to discuss politics or join in activities that advance the interests of the working class. Two distributors from Des Moines, Iowa, traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to spend time talking with a new subscriber they first met during actions to defend an abortion clinic in nearby Bellevue. The subscriber, who volunteers as an escort for patients at the clinic, decided to purchase the books *Problems of Women’s Liberation* and *Abortion Is a Woman’s Right!*

The eight week drive lasts until November 10.

Supporters in local areas should send in reports and photos to the *Militant* at themilitant@mac.com.

### ‘Militant’ Subscription Drive

Sept. 12 – Nov. 10, 2009			
Week 1			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Newark, NJ	75	18	24%
Twin Cities, MN	130	25	19%
Miami	110	20	18%
New York	230	42	18%
Boston	60	10	17%
San Francisco	150	25	17%
Seattle	90	14	16%
Chicago	110	16	15%
Philadelphia	75	11	15%
Los Angeles	100	13	13%
Atlanta	130	14	11%
Washington, DC	100	9	9%
Des Moines, IA	110	7	6%
Houston	90	4	4%
TOTAL	1560	228	15%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	35	9	26%
London	75	16	21%
TOTAL	110	25	23%
Canada	100	7	7%
NEW ZEALAND	65	13	20%
AUSTRALIA	50	0	0%
SWEDEN	25	2	8%
Total	1,910	275	14%

### Special offers with subscription!



**New International magazine—issue 10**  
**\$16. \$10 with ‘Militant’ subscription**  
Includes: “Imperialism’s March Toward Fascism and War,” “Defending Cuba, Defending Cuba’s Socialist Revolution” and “What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold”

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# Haitians demand TPS at White House protest

BY OMARI MUSA

WASHINGTON—Chanting “TPS for Haitians now,” nearly 400 Haitians protested here September 16 across from the White House demanding Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and a halt to deportations. The action was both spirited and disciplined.

The government designates TPS for immigrants living in the United States who “are temporarily unable to safely return to their home country because of ongoing armed conflict, an environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions,” according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.

The program is run by the Department of Homeland Security. Citizens of several countries in Central America and Africa have been granted temporary protected status because of civil wars and environmental disasters.

Mary, who asked that her last name not be used, from Fort Myers, Florida, and Jermain from Palm Beach both said that 30,000 Haitians face deportation. “They live in terror. They can’t work. What are they going to do if deported? That’s why we need TPS now,” Jermain said.

He pointed out that Haiti was devastated by hurricanes in 2004 and 2008. “These were truly disasters for the Haitian people,” he said. “That is supposed to be one of the reasons to grant TPS, according to the U.S. government. But rather than giving us TPS, we get deported.”

The majority of participants rode 16 hours on buses from several cities in southern Florida, including Palm Beach

County, Fort Myers, and Miami. Others came from Orlando, Florida; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; and Boston.

Many carried signs stating, “One thing the U.S. can do is grant TPS for Haitians.” Others said, “Obama: TPS for Haitians Now.” One of the most popular chants was, “What do we want? TPS now!”

Eli Zephizen, an unemployed worker from Pompano, Florida, told the *Militant*, “We can’t work without TPS. We can’t get drivers licenses without TPS. And we can be deported.”

He noted that many Haitians have children who are U.S.-born and deportation divides their families.

Many participants noted that President Barack Obama promised to change this situation when he was a candidate running for president. But so far nothing has changed. Gary Lucien, a coalition leader from West Palm Beach, pointed out, “We qualify for TPS according to the immigration laws. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Haiti and promised to work for TPS. What’s the holdup? It’s either politics or racism or both.” He further commented, “If they don’t grant



Militant/Paul Pederson

**September 16 demonstration across from White House demands Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants, 30,000 of whom face deportation.**

TPS we’ll be back in the thousands.”

Marleine Bastien, a leader of Haitian Women of Miami, said, “We are here to remind President Obama of his promises to us. So far the policies are

the same as under the Bush administration. Granting TPS for Haitians does not require an act of Congress. Obama can do it with the stroke of the pen. We demand he do it now.”

## Washington teachers end strike over class size

BY JOHN NAUBERT  
AND MARY MARTIN

KENT, Washington—Some 1,700 teachers ended an 18-day strike here over class size September 14.

Teachers accepted the district’s offer of smaller classes for kindergarten through sixth grade. Although

this fell short of their demand for caps on class sizes for all grades, the new contract means two students fewer per class in the lower grades than previously.

The agreement also provides for salary increases of 2.75 percent the first year and 1.6 percent the second year, depending on the teacher’s level of experience.

The Kent school district is the state’s fourth largest with more than 26,000 students at 40 schools.

“They’ve put us in such a hard situation,” Patty Burn, an eighth-grade science teacher at Mattson Middle School, told reporters. She has 33 children in one of her classes but only 32 desks.

Teachers said the district could af-

ford to lower class size, pointing to \$21 million in a reserve fund. On September 7 teachers voted by a 74 percent margin to defy the injunction handed down by Judge Andrea Darvas that declared their strike illegal. By state law, teachers as public employees are prohibited from striking.

On September 10, Darvas threatened a \$200 retroactive fine per day per teacher and a \$1,500 fine against the teachers union, the Kent Education Association, if the strike did not end by September 14.

More than 100 supporters, including parents, students, and teachers from other school districts, cheered as teachers arrived September 7 for the vote on whether to continue striking.

## California auto plant to close, cutting jobs of 4,700 workers

BY LEA SHERMAN

FREMONT, California—Some 4,700 workers at the New United Motor Manufacturing Incorporated (Nummi) will lose their jobs when Toyota shuts down its plant here in March 2010.

“Without Nummi, how can we afford to pay our mortgage, our car payments, our health insurance?” Marcela Alvarez, a passenger seat assembler, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

With three children and a husband out of work she was protesting the closing in front of Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s office in San Francisco. Her union, United Auto Workers Local 2244, organized two rallies with hundreds of workers participating.

Unlike other UAW members, workers at Nummi have no contract provision for extra benefits after being laid off and they cannot transfer to another Toyota plant with their seniority. Severance pay and post-layoff benefits would be up to plant management.

With an unemployment rate of 12.2 percent in California, estimates are that some 30,000 to 50,000 more jobs will be lost because of the plant shutdown. More than 1,000 companies supply parts to this auto assembly plant, the only one left on the West Coast.

Nummi was started as a joint venture between General Motors and Toyota in 1984. GM pulled out of the plant last June.

The factory, the first plant that Toyota

opened in the United States, is their only unionized one. The production of the Toyota Corolla will move to Canada and Japan. The Tacoma pick-up trucks, also manufactured at the plant, will be moved to Toyota’s plant in San Antonio, Texas.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



**October 5, 1984**

On September 18, President Reagan announced several measures he claimed will lessen the burden on debt-ridden farmers. Timed to occur two days before a campaign trip to Iowa, Reagan’s proposals were designed to bolster the sagging opinion many U.S. farmers have of his administration’s farm policies.

But as is to be expected from an administration that has responded with stony indifference to the demands of tens of thousands of protesting farmers for relief from high debts, skyrocketing interest, and farm foreclosures, Reagan’s election campaign initiatives offer precious little to working farmers.

These measures are too little, too late for working farmers. Thousands have already been foreclosed and forced off their farms. The scope of the mortgage debt owed by many farmers is so great that Reagan’s remedy will not have much effect.



**October 5, 1959**

An eyewitness account of a typical case of police brutality in Detroit has aroused wide sympathy for the victim.

On September 10 at 16th and Magnolia some police saw a group of teenagers sitting in a car, which belongs to the mother of one. Not liking their looks, the cops ordered them out of the car and started to search and arrest them. When one of them tried to get away, the cops got rough and—to their surprise—got as good as they gave.

John W. Coury, assistant prosecutor, tried to exaggerate the situation when he said “there might have been a couple of dead officers” if several other scout cars hadn’t arrived.

In the police garage, Thaddeus Steel, 16, accused of hitting one of the cops with a chair, was dragged out of a scout car by his neck.



**October 6, 1934**

The Spanish working class has answered a threat of fascist rule by the declaration of a revolutionary general strike.

The political crisis, long developing, came to a climax this week when the Samper government presented its resignation at the opening session of the [legislature]. A new government has been formed under the “radical republican” Lerroux, representing a coalition of the blackest reactionary elements of the country, with the inclusion of Fascists (Popular Action) in three ministries.

Everything is tied up throughout Spain, armed clashes have taken place, the country is being placed under martial law. As this issue of the *Militant* goes to press, the death toll has reached 50. Workers of every tendency in the labor movement are fighting side by side in the streets against the fascist danger now clothed in the vestments of governmental authority.



# Paris attacks immigrants, claims defense of women

BY NAT LONDON

PARIS—France's National Assembly has established a parliamentary committee to investigate the role of the *burqa* in France and its links to "radical Islam," a step towards further attacks by the French rulers on the rights of workers who are Muslim. The *burqa* is the garment worn by some Muslim women that covers the entire body from head to foot, including the face. It is commonly worn by women in Afghanistan but rarely in France.

A resolution calling for such a committee was adopted by the lower house of the legislature. It deplores seeing "imprisoned women in Iran, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia or some other Arabic countries. This is already intolerable. It is unacceptable on the soil of the French Republic."

The resolution also accuses Islamic imams in France of being "anti-Western, racist against white people, and anti-France." It supports the 2004 law forbidding Islamic head scarves in schools.

A court decision in June refused French citizenship to Faiza Silmi. Born in Morocco and married to a French citizen, Silmi was denied citizenship because she wore a full veil that covered her face. The resolution judges this to be "incompatible with essential values of the French community." New legislation now requires candidates for French citizenship to pass an exam on "French values" as well as the French language.

The deputies also point the finger at workers who are Muslim as being responsible for the war in Afghanistan. French participation in the war has come under criticism as casualties have begun to mount. There have been 31 French soldiers killed in Afghanistan. Ten French soldiers were killed last year in one battle alone. Two more soldiers were killed in September of this year.

The committee aims to deepen divisions between workers in the midst of rising unemployment and efforts by the French government to raise the retirement age and shift a larger part of the costs of medical care onto the backs of the working class. There are an estimated 5 million Muslims in France, most of them workers.

## CP mayor backs restrictions

French Communist Party leader André Gerin is playing a central role in promoting the anti-immigrant attacks. "How can a Western secular republic accept keeping a woman's face in a cloth prison?" he wrote in an open letter addressed to Prime Minister Francois Fillon last June. "Aren't we lending support to Salafism, a radical Islamic doctrine that is waging a struggle that is both anti-France and anti-white? . . . We see imprisoned women, entirely veiled, in our market places, our stores and places of recreation. . . . This is something which should be prohibited because it turns its back on a unique and universal France, with its right to asylum and hospitality."

Gerin is a deputy in the French parliament and for the last 25 years has been mayor of Vénissieux, a major working-

class suburb of Lyon. He complains that over half the population of Vénissieux is foreign-born, coming mostly from North Africa.

Gerin has made a name for himself over the years calling young unemployed immigrants in Vénissieux the "Talibans of the suburbs." He calls for expelling from France the entire families of "young delinquents." Recently a family in Vénissieux was refused public housing because a woman in the family wore a full veil.

Gerin's open letter called on the government to adopt measures against the wearing of the *burqa*.

## Further restrictions on Muslims

Gerin chairs the new parliamentary committee, a majority of which is comprised of supporters of French president Nicolas Sarkozy. Its members regularly make anti-Islamic statements in the public press while probing the possibilities of imposing further limits on the demo-



Protest in France against ban on head scarves in schools in 2004. New government attack on *burqa* is aimed at dividing working people in midst of capitalist economic crisis.

cratic rights of workers who are Muslims. Committee members have already indicated that they will propose more anti-Islamic legislation in their final report, perhaps including a law to forbid the wearing of the *burqa* in any public place.

The Communist Party has not disassociated itself from Gerin's initiative nor

criticized the openly racist passages in his open letter and in the resolution to parliament. The party's daily newspaper, *l'Humanité*, has joined in the chorus denouncing the *burqa* as a "social problem" in France. The paper has not said whether the party would support legislation officially banning the garment from public places.

# Book explores roots of women's oppression

*Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed, 129 pages. Pathfinder. \$15.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

*Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed is essential reading for those seeking to advance the fight for women's rights. Its materialist analysis of the roots of women's oppression and how to end it is especially important for the new generation of women and men joining the fight to defend abortion rights.

The book is one of several offered at a 50 percent discount to those purchasing subscriptions to the *Militant* during the

## IN REVIEW

fall circulation campaign.

In a compilation of six articles and speeches, Reed refutes the myth of women's inferiority. She explores the economic and social causes of women's oppression from prehistoric society to modern capitalism. Reed explains why the oppression of women is a product of specific property relations, not relations between men and women.

Women's oppression arose with the emergence of class society several thousand years ago. The development of new productive forces destroyed the collectivist relations that existed in primitive

society, replacing them with a system founded on private property, the family, and the state.

"It is not nature but class society which robbed women of their right to participate in the higher functions of society and placed the primary emphasis upon their animal functions of maternity," states Reed in a chapter titled "The Myth of Women's Inferiority."

Primitive society was organized as a matriarchy where women played the leading roles. This included food gathering and preservation, leather-making, the transport of heavy loads, and scientific advances. Women discovered agriculture and domestication of cattle and other large animals, emancipating men from their hunting life.

"We can only regard the labor and social contribution of the women as decisive," wrote Reed. "It was their achievements in the fields of production, cultural, and intellectual life that made civilization possible."

With the development of productive forces and emergence of class society, the matriarchal system was replaced by a patriarchal one. The role of women was degraded with their worth sinking to its lowest point under capitalism, Reed writes.

She draws upon the writings of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, founders of the modern communist movement, as well as numerous anthropological studies about the social relations that existed

in matriarchal society. When European conquerors came in contact with the Iroquois Indian tribe, for example, they were astonished to find that their approach to children was not based upon family units. Asked by a missionary how he could be so fond of children who were not "his," a tribe member replied, "Thou has no sense. You love only your own children; We love all the children of the tribe. . . . We are all father and mother to them," the book recounts.

Marriage and the family, institutions so prominent in capitalist society, did not exist in pre-class society. Marriage first emerged as a class institution solely for the wealthy, to protect their property interests and pass them on to their children. It was extended to a section of the lower classes under feudalism and became a mass institution with the rise of the industrial wage-slave system, explains Reed. Legal marriage relieved the capitalists of all social responsibility for the welfare of the workers and dumped heavy economic burdens upon the individual family instead of society as a whole.

Reed's explanation of pre-class society is not aimed at glorifying the epoch of savagery, the lowliest stage of human development, where the economy was based on hunting and food-gathering. But it's important to recognize that male and female relations in that society were fundamentally different from today. What has existed for several thousand years of class society is not permanent or unchangeable.

In a chapter titled "Women: Caste, Class, or Oppressed Sex?" Reed makes clear that women are oppressed as a sex that transcends class lines. However, the source of women's oppression, which is class society, "cannot be abolished by women alone, nor by a coalition of women drawn from all classes. It will require a worldwide struggle for socialism by the working masses, female and male alike, together with every other section of the oppressed, to overthrow the power of capitalism," she emphasizes.

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## Problems of Women's Liberation by Evelyn Reed

Explores the economic and social roots of women's oppression from prehistoric society to modern capitalism. Reed explains why the oppression of women is a product of specific property relations, not relations between men and women. In refuting the myth of women's inferiority, she points the road forward to emancipation.

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# Havana concert highlights decline of Miami rightists

BY ERNEST MAIHOT  
AND ROLLANDE GIRARD

MIAMI—The latest attempt by right-wingers in the Cuban American community here to intimidate people and slander the Cuban Revolution has failed, reflecting their weakening grip and dwindling influence.

A concert in Havana organized at the initiative of Juanes, a popular musician from Colombia who lives in Miami, won widespread interest and open support among many in this city and beyond.

More than 1 million Cubans attended the September 20 event. In addition to Juanes, a Latin Grammy award winner, the “Peace without Borders” concert featured a lineup of well-known musicians from Cuba and several other countries, including Puerto Rico, Spain, Ecuador, Italy, and the United States.

For weeks before the concert rightist groups in Miami and South Florida had denounced and slandered the event and participating musicians.

The three main Spanish-language stations in Miami, including *Univisión* and *Telemundo*, covered the concert live, which is unprecedented. The next day on some Spanish-language radio talk shows, including “La tarde se mueve,” callers complained that the TV stations constantly interrupted the program with commentary against the Cuban Revolution, including by Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. Despite this, callers overwhelmingly said they thoroughly enjoyed the concert and it was a success.

Vigilia Mambisa, an ultrarightist Cuban American group, organized a protest of the concert outside the Versailles Restaurant on Eighth street in the Little Havana section of Miami, a hangout for many Cuban American businessmen and others. It only drew a few dozen people. Reminiscent of past actions by the rightists to stifle cultural expression and intimidate artists who openly oppose their views, the demonstrators used a steamroller to crush CDs and photos of Juanes and other artists who performed with him in Havana.

The TV stations gave prominent coverage to this action, which was attended

mostly by older Cuban Americans. At one point there was a strong verbal confrontation between a woman walking by the Versailles who supported the concert. Not long after this aired, a very vocal crowd of mostly younger Cubans and other Latinos began forming across the street, outnumbering the counter-revolutionaries.

They yelled at the rightists, waved Cuban flags, held hand-lettered placards, and chanted, “Viva Juanes!” Some were interviewed and said they were for Juanes but not Fidel Castro. Others said the rightists were from the past and that the concert in Havana was about music and was great.

“I’m 100 percent for Juanes. For his courage and love of Cuba,” demonstrator Diosele Muñoz, 18, told the *Miami Herald*. “We are with him [Juanes]!” said Yanisel Ortigosa, 16, who was waving a Cuban flag, “because everyone wants peace.”

The rightists were clearly taken aback by the spontaneous demonstration



Carlos Miller/CarlosMiller.com

**Counterdemonstration in Miami by mostly Cuban Americans displays youthful support for concert in Havana. Spontaneous rally formed outside Versailles restaurant, historically a popular gathering place and political center of wealthy right-wing Cuban Americans.**

against them, which showed their continued weakening in Miami.

Silas Jean-Baptiste, a Haitian worker from Ft. Lauderdale who watched the concert on TV, said, “This shows that

Cuba is not isolated. For a long time people protested against Cuba on Calle Ocho but now others came to protest against them. We have not often seen something like this before.”

## U.S. gov’t ‘poverty’ report masks scope of crisis

BY DOUG NELSON

A close look at U.S. Census Bureau report released in September gives some indication of the effects the economic crisis had in its first months on the living standards of working people in the United States, as well as how the government works to cover up the depth of this reality.

The report, titled “Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2008,” is based on data collected in spring 2008, a few months after the official start of the recession in December 2007—in reality the opening stages of a worldwide economic depression.

According to the report, median household income declined by 3.6 percent between 2007 and 2008, to about \$50,300. For Hispanics it dropped by 5.6 percent to \$37,900, reflecting a sharp decline in construction and other sectors with concentrations of immigrant labor. Median household income for Blacks remains the lowest in the country, falling to \$34,200.

Those living below the official poverty line—set at about \$22,000 for a household of four in 2008—rose from 12.5 percent in 2007 to 13.2 percent. The rate for Blacks and Hispanics is nearly double the national rate.

Between March 2008, when the data was collected, and August 2009, the most recent available statistics, bosses have cut more than 6.4 million jobs, increasing the downward pressure on wages. During this period the combined percentage of those forced into part-time work and the total unemployed—including those the government doesn’t count because they haven’t looked for work in the last month—rose from 9.1 percent to 16.8 percent.

Given the sharp rise in joblessness alone, the income and living standard of working people has already fallen much more since the period covered in the report.

The poverty threshold set by the Labor Department is an arbitrary figure adjusted annually according to the official inflation figures as measured in the Consumer Price Index. The CPI itself

is calculated to mask the real impact of rising prices on workers standard of living and to justify lower Social Security payments.

While the rise in the poverty rate gives some indication of what is happening to the working class under the initial impact of the economic crisis—limited and distorted as that figure is—a closer look at how the government defines poverty is perhaps more revealing. Particularly when you consider the government uses this definition as a means test to restrict access to various social benefits.

The poverty threshold was first set by the Social Security Administration in the mid-1960s. It was based on the “economy food plan,” the cheapest of four such plans devised by the Department of Agriculture. It was considered to be the minimum necessary for sustenance and “designed for temporary or emergency use when funds are low.”

Based on other survey data that showed the average family of three spends one-third of its income on food, the poverty threshold was set at three times the “economy food plan” budget. Since 1969 the poverty line has been indexed to the official CPI. This has resulted in a lower-income definition of poverty than would result if some version of the original method was used, as interagency committees began recommending in 1973.

Among the methods used to keep the CPI low are two changes approved by the Clinton administration in 1997 that have kept down the official inflation figure.

The first is “consumer substitution,” which takes into account “the fact that consumers shift their purchases toward products that have fallen in relative price.” The Bureau of Labor statistics (BLS) has been using this calculation since 1999. In one commonly cited example, hamburger meat is substituted for steak when the price of steak rises too high. The BLS denies that it applies this specific substitution.

The second is use of the “hedonic quality adjustment.” This factor, in use since 1998, attempts to account for a supposed increased “pleasure” derived

from more technologically advanced versions of similar products. In one example cited by the BLS, the price of newer televisions is artificially lowered to reflect what a comparable older television model would cost if it had a larger, better screen like that of newer models.

As a result, the CPI increased by only 3.2 percent in late 2007 over the previous year. Without the substitution or hedonics factors it would have increased by 7 percent.

The Labor Department continues to devise schemes to push the CPI down. For example, the BLS intends to refigure the CPI in late September based on an artificial drop in car prices by \$4,500 as a result of the government’s “Cash for Clunkers” subsidy to 800,000 auto buyers.

In 1992 Congress established a panel of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) that made a number of recommendations on how to set the poverty line. The NAS said its proposed changes would more accurately reflect the condition of “poverty” as it was originally defined. But these adjustments would have raised the poverty threshold, and thereby the poverty rate. Not surprisingly, none of the NAS recommendations have been implemented.

Last year the NAS published alternative figures for 1999–2007, taking into account its recommendations.

Two adjustments made by the NAS in particular are worth noting. One is use of the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) in place of the official CPI. The CES collects data on what households actually spend, reflecting the rising relative costs of child care, transportation, communications, rent, etc. Some of the CES data is selectively used as a basis for the CPI.

The second takes into account an estimate of the rising out-of-pocket medical expenses for low-income households.

With these two adjustments the poverty rate, instead of dropping from 12.8 to 12.5 percent between 2004 and 2007, for example, would have increased from 14.1 percent to 16 percent—and this is well before the current crisis officially began.

### CUBA AND THE COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by Jack Barnes

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# Women's liberation and the African freedom struggle

*Printed below is an excerpt from Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for September. This booklet contains speeches by Thomas Sankara, leader of the West African country of Burkina Faso until his assassination in 1987. A 1983 uprising there brought to power a popular revolutionary government that began to combat the hunger, illiteracy, and economic backwardness imposed by centuries of colonial and capitalist rule. The following excerpt is from a speech Sankara gave to a rally of several thousand women in March 1987. Copyright © 1990 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY THOMAS SANKARA

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

The Political Orientation Speech had this to say specifically in regard to women: "They will be involved in all the battles we will have to wage



Militant/Pat Hunt

**Women soldiers on parade in Burkina Faso, August 1985. Central to advancing democratic and popular revolution, explained Thomas Sankara, is struggle to liberate women.**

against the various shackles of neocolonial society in order to build a new society. They will be involved—at all levels in conceiving projects, making decisions, and implementing them—in organizing the life of the nation as a whole. The final goal of this great undertaking is to build a free and prosperous society in which women will be equal to men in all spheres."

There can be no clearer way to conceive of and explain the question of women and the liberation struggle ahead of us. "The genuine emancipation of women is one that entrusts responsibilities to women, that involves them in productive activity and in the different fights the people face. The genuine emancipation of women is one that compels men to give their respect and consideration."

What is clearly indicated here, comrade militants, is that the struggle to liberate women is above all your struggle to deepen our democratic and popular revolution, a revolution that grants you from now on the right to speak and act in building a society of justice and equality, in which men and women have the same rights and responsibilities. The democratic and popular revolution has created the conditions for such a fight. It now falls to you to act with the greatest sense of responsibility in breaking through all the chains and shackles that enslave women in backward societies like ours and to as-

sume your share of the responsibilities in the political fight to build a new society at the service of Africa and at the service of all humanity.

In the very first hours of the democratic and popular revolution we said, "Emancipation, like freedom, is not granted, it is conquered. It is for women themselves to put forward their demands and mobilize to win them." In this way, our revolution has not only laid out the goal to be attained in the struggle for women's liberation but has also indicated the road to follow and the methods to use, as well as the main protagonists of this battle.

We have now been working together, men and women, for four years in order to achieve success and come closer to our final goal. We should be conscious of the battles that have been waged, the successes that have been achieved, the setbacks that have been suffered, and the difficulties that have been encountered. This will aid us in further preparing and leading future struggles.

What work has the democratic and popular revolution accomplished with respect to women's emancipation? What are the strong points, the weak points?

One of the main gains of our revolution in the struggle for women's emancipation has been, without doubt, the establishment of the Women's Union of Burkina. The creation of this organiza-

tion constitutes a major gain because it has given the women of our country a framework and sound tools for waging a successful fight. The creation of the UFB represents a big victory because it makes possible mobilizing all women militants around well-defined and just goals in the fight for liberation, under the leadership of the National Council of the Revolution.

The UFB is the organization of militant and serious women who are determined to work for change, to fight to win, to fall down repeatedly, but to get back on their feet each time and go forward without retreating. This is the new consciousness that has taken root among the women of Burkina, and we should all be proud of it. Comrade militants, the Women's Union of Burkina is your combat organization. It's up to you to sharpen it further so its blade will cut more deeply, bringing you more and more victories.

The different initiatives for women's emancipation that the government has been able to take over a little more than three years are certainly insufficient. But they have made it possible to take some steps, to the point where our country can today present itself as being in the vanguard of the battle to liberate women. Our women participate more and more in decision making and in the real exercise of popular power. The women of Burkina are present everywhere the country is being built. They are part of the projects—the Sourou [valley irrigation project], reforestation, the vaccination brigades, the "clean town" operations, the Battle for the Railroad, and so on.

Little by little the women of Burkina have stood up and asserted themselves, demolishing in the process all the male-chauvinist, backward conceptions of men. And this will go on until women are present in Burkina's entire social and professional fabric. For three and a half years our revolution has worked continually to eliminate all practices that demean women, such as prostitution and related problems, like vagrancy and female juvenile delinquency, forced marriages, female circumcision, and the particularly difficult living conditions women face.

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# The real nuclear arms threat

In suspending construction of antimissile bases in Poland and the Czech Republic, the U.S. rulers are not pulling back from developing an antibal-  
listic missile system in Europe. Instead, they’ve made a political and tactical decision on how best to redesign and more rapidly implement it.

Their current goal is to deploy a system primarily designed to counter short- and medium-range missiles that they claim could be fired by Iran toward Europe.

Iran and North Korea are Washington’s immediate targets because their governments have the economic, engineering, and technical capacities to someday place weapons—including nuclear warheads—on ballistic missiles whose range could at least prevent Washington from attacking those countries with impunity.

The U.S. rulers claim they’re developing an antibalistic missile system for “defense” against “rogue” nations. However, the real aim is to give Washington a first-strike nuclear capacity, enabling the U.S. rulers to use these weapons un-

checked and blackmail any nation not willing to go along with their policies.

We must never forget that the wealthy rulers of the United States, who possess thousands of nuclear warheads, didn’t hesitate to use nuclear bombs against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, incinerating hundreds of thousands in 1945. This is only time nuclear weapons have ever been used.

The ongoing development of Washington’s antibalistic missile weapons system also occupies a central place in its political offensive to shift the balance of forces against its imperialist rivals as well as vis-à-vis Russia and China.

The Russian and U.S. governments have also resumed nuclear “disarmament” talks. But these talks have nothing to do with ending Washington’s course toward advancing its nuclear weapons capacity. The only way to end Washington’s wars and nuclear threats is for working people to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers.

## Martí, Juárez, Lincoln int’l conference

**Continued from front page**

Juárez, and Lincoln in Face of the Challenge of Education with All for the Good of All,” “Slavery, Lincoln, and the U.S. Civil War,” and “From Bolívar to Fidel: The Liberation Struggle and Regional Integration.”

In addition to academics, organizers are encouraging participation by Chicano, Latin American, Black, and other student organizations, as well as workers involved in the fight for immigrant rights and other social struggles.

María de la Paz Quintanilla of the Juárez-Martí Center for Latin American Studies told the *Militant* that organizers expected about 200 to attend.

Featured speakers will include Miguel D’Escoto, president of the United Nations General Assembly; Gilberto López y Rivas, a well-known anthropologist and columnist for the Mexico City daily *La Jornada*;

and Miguel Concha Malo, a prominent academic, theologian, and human rights activist in Mexico.

The conference will hear a keynote address by Armando Hart, one of the historic leaders of the Cuban Revolution and former minister of education and minister of culture. Today Hart is the director of the Office of the Martí Program in Cuba.

Hart will also speak at a panel on “Culture as the Driving Force of Economic Development.”

Mexican participants will be coming from Mexico City, Guadalajara, Jalisco, and Morelia, Michoacán; and students from the Monterrey, Nuevo León, area. U.S. participants are expected from Austin, San Antonio, Houston, and the Rio Grande Valley in Texas; from Minneapolis, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, D.C. Panelists will also come from Quebec and Ontario, Canada.

## U.S. missile ‘shield’ shift aimed at Iran

**Continued from front page**

ficials said, could be implemented several years earlier than the original plan, and provides greater flexibility to upgrade and adjust further.

The system will be a more advanced version of the U.S. Navy’s Aegis system, expected to be available in 2015. It will operate from ships in the Black Sea, Baltic Sea, or both, and will be supplemented with as many as three land sites in Europe.

The U.S. rulers’ push to establish a missile “shield” in Europe is part of achieving nuclear first-strike capacity. In addition to 30 ground-based interceptors located on sites in Alaska and California, the U.S. military has 21 Aegis-type warships capable of long-range surveillance, tracking, and missile interception deployed in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

A large part of the U.S. fleet is deployed in the Pacific, demonstratively targeting North Korea.

Obama’s decision has been criticized by prominent Republicans in Congress, including Sen. John McCain, who said, “It could undermine U.S. standing in Eastern Europe amid worries there of a resurgent Russia.”

Gates responded, “Those who say we are scrapping missile defense in Europe are either misinformed or misrepresenting the reality of what we are doing,” he said, adding that placing land-based missiles in Poland and the Czech Republic is still in the cards. Russian president Dmitry Medvedev said the Obama administration’s decision was a “positive” one.

Talks for a nuclear arms control deal between Washington and Moscow are currently under way. Russian officials have called for discussing Washington’s development of its antimissile system as part of the negotiations, while Washington has insisted that this be excluded.

## Afghanistan

**Continued from front page**

troops are sent there.

A censored version of the document was released by the Pentagon and posted on the *Washington Post* Web site September 20. It leaves open how many troops should be sent.

“Resources will not win this war, but under-resourcing could lose it,” McChrystal writes in the report. “Resources” mostly means troops but also weapons and civilian personnel to back up the U.S.-led operations.

According to McChrystal, there are three main insurgent groups: the Quetta Shura Taliban, led by Mullah Omar; the Haqqani Network, which he says has ties to al-Qaeda; and the Hezb-e Islami, headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Although all three often work together, they have competing interests and no unified command structure. They are mostly based among Pashtuns, who make up 42 percent of the population.

The document states that the Quetta Shura Taliban has attracted some “popular support” for their “shadow” government. It sets up Islamic religious courts called sharia courts in areas it controls or contests with U.S. forces; levies taxes; appoints its own governors for most provinces; and has established “ombudsmen” who investigate charges of abuse of power by its own delegates and removes those found guilty.

The group is also attractive because it portrays itself as fighting against a corrupt U.S.-backed government and protecting Afghans and Muslims from “foreign encroachment,” the assessment notes.

U.S. troops and their allies must avoid being seen as an “occupying army,” McChrystal says. Towards this end he adds, “Key personnel in ISAF (International Security Assistance Force, the name of the U.S.-led military coalition in Afghanistan) must receive training in local languages.”

Civilian casualties and “collateral damage” to homes caused by the coalition forces, along with the “shortcomings” of the Afghan government have “severely damaged ISAF’s legitimacy,” the report notes.

The report says that the U.S. forces have not been adequately carrying out counterinsurgency doctrine. To do that they need to root out corruption in the Afghan government, promote “good governance,” enact “justice sector reform,” go after opium traffickers, and get some development projects going.

The report spells out the shift under way to increase troops in more heavily populated areas as part of a “clear, hold, and build” strategy that will be combined with a more centralized command structure.

According to the September 22 *Post*, U.S. troops have already pulled out of some sparsely populated areas to be redeployed in larger towns. In the Konar River valley, Washington is spending tens of millions of dollars to pave the valley’s main road.

U.S. military officials are also trying to split Taliban forces. In Nurestan, a province that borders Pakistan, they sent a letter to Taliban leader Mullah Sadiq, asking for his “guidance in developing a plan that will improve security and development” in the area.

The same day the assessment was released by the Pentagon, John King interviewed President Barack Obama on CNN. Obama said that he had not yet made a decision on sending more troops. First, he said, he wants to make sure Washington is “pursuing the right strategy.” Once he has “clarity from the commanders on the ground” he will then ask “how do we resource” the strategy?

Alluding to polls showing that a majority in the United States are against the war, Obama said he was “not going to be driven by the politics of the moment.”

The September 22 *Wall Street Journal* quotes a senior military official who notes that since taking office Obama has “done everything he’s been asked by the Pentagon.”

McChrystal’s request for troops is already prepared, the *Journal* says, but has not yet been officially turned in. In it he reportedly could ask for up to 40,000 additional U.S. troops, which would bring the total to more than 100,000 for the first time since the war began.

## LETTERS

**Juan Almeida**

In the article on Juan Almeida in last week’s issue of the *Militant*, you attribute the quote “No one here gives up!” to Almeida. However, in *Episodes of the Cuban Revolution-*

*ary War*, published by Pathfinder, see the chapter entitled “Alegría de Pío,” where Che Guevara attributes this quote to Camilo Cienfuegos. Che says this again in the chapter called “Camilo.” And this was not a shout to Che, but a more general shout to all the combatants within earshot, among them Che.

*Warren Simons*

*New York, New York*

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ful to read how much prisoners appreciate the best workers paper in the world. I’m enclosing a check for subscriptions to my fellow workers in prison. They look forward to the paper like I do. Thanks to you all.

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