

# THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

**INSIDE**

**Did September 11 mark 'new stage of world history'?**

— PAGES 8-9

VOL. 65/NO. 38 OCTOBER 8, 2001

## Imperialist forces move to border of Afghanistan: Stop the war drive!

Washington steps up assault on workers' rights, furthers militarization of U.S.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington and Britain have moved troops, warplanes, and an armada of ships into position around Afghanistan, rapidly putting in place plans to launch an imperialist war against the people of that country. According to reports that defense officials will not confirm, infiltration of Special Forces units into Afghanistan "has already begun," the *Financial Times* reported September 25. The *Sunday Times* based in Lon-

don reported that a reconnaissance squad of four British SAS soldiers had been involved in a gun battle with Taliban fighters in northern Afghanistan.

U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers have been deployed to an undisclosed location in the area. The Air Force is also sending an additional 100 to 130 aircraft to the Gulf region, including B-1 stealth bombers and fighters to join some 350 aircraft already in the

Continued on Page 7

## Miners say company at fault in Alabama deaths

UMWA sets 'memorial day' shutdown of union mines in state

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

BROOKWOOD, Alabama—Thirteen miners were killed here September 30 in two explosions at Jim Walter Resources Blue Creek Mine No. 5. Another three workers were injured. Miners this reporter spoke to from Jim Walter No. 5 say they had warned the company for months that high levels of explosive methane gas were creating a death-trap for the workers.

Government figures show the Jim Walter mine owners have a record of disregard for the safety of miners. Between 1995 and 2001 the company was issued 2,987 safety violations and action orders from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and fines of \$594,276.

The *Birmingham News* reported that according to the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, the No. 5 mine received

"significant and substantial" roof-related safety citations and/or action orders four times since August 13.

"I raised total hell with all of Jim Walter

Continued on Page 14

## Cincinnati actions protest cop acquittal



Protests greeted September 26 court decision exonerating cop. See article page 7.

## Unemployed in Panama demand jobs

BY RÓGER CALERO

Hundreds of unemployed workers protested for the third consecutive day in the northern city of Colón, Panama, September 18, demanding jobs and unemployment relief. The protests paralyzed schools and businesses in the port city, located on the Atlantic Ocean by the Panama Canal. The Free Trade Zone of Colón is one of the biggest and most important industrial com-

plexes in the western hemisphere.

The government of Panama declared Colón a "zone of social emergency" September 10 and assigned a commission to find "alternatives" to the problems in the area. More than 7.1 percent of the population of the country lives in the zone. Unemployment has shot up to 23.2 percent, 10 points higher than that of the rest of the country.

Riot police with tear gas attacked unem-

ployed workers on the second day of protests, after workers marched to meet with the zone operators. After the bosses failed to answer their demands for jobs, and facing the refusal of government officials to meet with their representatives, the unemployed workers blocked the streets around the industrial area. Police dispersed them with the use of force. Press reports in-

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## Pathfinder supporters set \$500,000 sales goal

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK—Pathfinder Press has launched a campaign to sell \$500,000 in books and pamphlets over the 18-month period from January 2001 through June 2002. Sales are up 28 percent over last year. At the end of August, orders of revolutionary titles published and distributed by Pathfinder already equal total sales for all of 2000.

"The increased monthly sales—higher than six of the last seven years—register the cumulative impact in the shift in working-class resistance," said Steve Clark, editorial director of the publishing house.

"Pathfinder and its supporters in many countries have been seeing the openness among workers and farmers to radical ideas and solutions—including those presented by the revolutionary and communist leaders Pathfinder publishes—to the devastating impact of the capitalists' offensive worldwide," Clark said.

With the consistent pickup in orders, sales

Continued on Page 11

## Books for working people and youth fighting imperialism and its war drive

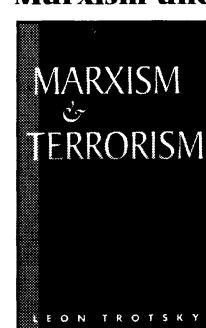
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Ernesto Che Guevara, drawing on his experience as a leader of the Cuban revolution, talks as an equal with youth of Cuba and the world. In English, and Spanish. **\$12** (regular \$14.95)

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*Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*

by Jack Barnes

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Also by Jack Barnes

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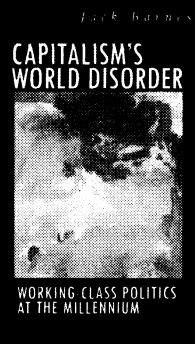
See directory on page 12

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

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from Pathfinder

**Airline bosses target workers with mass layoffs — page 3**

# Youth in New York report on Cuba, Algiers youth festival

BY CRAIG HONTES

NEW YORK—Seventy people who turned out for a meeting here held a wide-ranging discussion on the Cuban Revolution, Washington's war against Afghanistan and assault on workers' rights, and the fight for a socialist revolution in the United States. Sponsored by Casa de las Americas, the meeting featured a panel of youth who participated in the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange and the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students.

Cuban youth and student organizations initiated the exchange by inviting young people from the United States to visit Cuba July 22-30. Nearly 160 youth responded to the opportunity to meet their counterparts in Cuba and gain firsthand knowledge of the revolution. In August a group of youth from the United States joined 6,500 others from around the globe for the world youth festival in Algiers, Algeria. Speaking on the panel were Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange participants Seth Dellinger, Elizabeth Olsen, and Jack Willey, who also attended the World Festival of Youth and Students. Several other youth who participated in the youth exchange spoke from the floor during the discussion.

Luis Miranda from Casa de las Americas opened the event by pointing to the importance of the youth returning from Cuba getting a chance to speak to as many people as possible about what they saw and learned in Cuba. "We live in a city where a disaster took place," Miranda said. "We have to feel very, very sad about it. But we also feel nothing but indignation about those killed in the bombing of Iraq and Yugoslavia, and of the indiscriminate slaughter of the Palestinians. We feel for the children of Vieques, who are terrorized by U.S. Navy bombing. We feel deeply about the question of terrorism because our people in Cuba have faced terrorism for 40 years."

From the bombing in Havana harbor and of a department store in Cuba's capital city as Washington escalated its military and economic aggression in the early 1960s seeking

to overturn the Cuban Revolution, to the uncovering of a plot by CIA-trained terrorist Luis Posada Carriles and several other rightists to assassinate Cuban president Fidel Castro while at the Ibero-American Summit in Panama City last November, the Cuban people have faced violence organized and condoned by Washington for more than 40 years, Miranda said. Cuban officials gave Panamanian authorities detailed information on the terrorists in Panama who were planning to attack Castro and asked they be arrested as swiftly as possible.

Posada boasted to the *New York Times* in 1998 that he had been trained by the CIA to take part in the unsuccessful U.S.-organized invasion of Cuba by 1,500 Cuban-born mercenaries at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. Afterward, he told reporters, he was recruited by the CIA to carry out assassination attempts on Cuban leaders. Together with notorious counterrevolutionary Orlando Bosch, Posada was arrested and sentenced in Venezuela to 27 years for the 1976 midair bombing of a Cubana de Aviación airplane off the coast of Barbados, killing all 73 passengers and crew, many of them teenage members of Cuba's fencing team. Posada, who had connections both in the CIA and Venezuelan secret police, was allowed to escape prison in Venezuela in 1985.

Miranda also spoke about the case of the five Cubans convicted in Miami for gathering information on individuals and organizations in Florida responsible for terrorist attacks on Cuba (see article page 13). "This they were doing and do not deny it," Miranda said. "However, they did not do many other things they are accused of, such as spying on U.S. space missions."

## Battle of ideas

Seth Dellinger, a participant in the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange, spoke about what is known today in Cuba as the "battle of ideas." He said that Cuban youth organizations such as the Union of Young Communists were carrying this out in a number of ways, such as through "promoting a dialogue about



Militant/Laura Anderson

Seventy people participated in a September 22 reportback meeting, hosted by Casa de las Americas, from the Cuba-U.S. Youth Exchange and youth festival held in Algiers.

which social system is better for the majority of working people: socialism or capitalism. Members of the delegation were also able to see new social programs being developed, such as the Latin American School of Medicine, where young people without financial resources from around the world come to study medicine and then return to their communities to serve as doctors. Another example is the school of social work," Dellinger said, "where young people work with other youth who have become alienated and have dropped out of school or gotten in trouble and ended up in jail. Over all, I was impressed by the openness I found among government officials on all levels to discuss the social problems Cuba faces and how they can be resolved."

Dellinger said that what he learned in Cuba helped prepare him to understand how to respond to Washington's war moves in the wake of the September 11 events. "Cuba is able to look at this attack, deplore it, and then talk objectively about the problem of terrorism in the world, including how the U.S. itself uses terror when it thinks that will serve its purpose, whether it is the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki or carrying out attacks in Cuba. The U.S. government can only use the attack to step up its military interventions abroad," he said.

Pointing to recent protests and vigils in New York where people have raised placards saying "Islam is not the enemy," and "War is not the answer," Dellinger asked, "What is the enemy? Not 'fanaticism.' And what is the answer? Cuba is the answer and what happened in Cuba can happen here."

Describing his experience at the world youth festival in Algiers, Jack Willey said, "More than 6,000 fighters against imperialism from around the world came together at the event." When the news came of a massive Israeli military assault against Palestinian areas in the occupied West Bank, a spontaneous demonstration erupted at the main discussion center of the festival. There were wide-ranging discussions on the struggle for land by peasants around the

world, he said, such as in Brazil, where members of the Movement of Rural Landless Workers spoke about the occupations of estates by peasants and rural workers. Festival participants from South Africa and Namibia also helped highlight the pressing need for a land reform across southern Africa. The land reform in Cuba, he said, made possible through the socialist revolution in the early 1960s, was seen as an example to many participants in the festival.

Following the festival Willey and others were able to visit the refugee camps of Western Sahara, organized by the Polisario Front, which is leading the Sahrawi independence struggle. This, and other struggles for national liberation and against imperialist oppression and exploitation, marked the Algiers meeting, Willey said.

"The World Trade Center attack is being used by the U.S. government to go after workers' rights," he said. "This is coming at a time of spreading resistance by workers and farmers. The 'homeland defense' that the rulers are putting together will be used to accelerate the militarization of the United States and ultimately be used to go after the political rights of workers and farmers."

## 'That's just the way it is'

"Before I went to Cuba I decided not to go with any pre-conceived notions in order not to be disappointed or to see things that weren't really there," said Elizabeth Olsen. But what she saw there made a deep impression on her, such as the land reform, the high level of literacy and importance of education, availability of health care, the human approach of doctors to their work, the lack of homelessness and access to housing, and the level of political awareness, even among the youngest generations of the population.

"In the United States," Olsen said, "you are always told, 'there is poverty, prejudice and racism and that's just the way it is, these things will always be with us.' But in Cuba, no one talks like this. In Cuba they do something about it and there is hope that the world can be different."

## THE MILITANT

### Workers fight for safety on the job

From coal mines, meatpacking plants, and workers in the nuclear industry; from North America to Europe and Asia, read about the fight by unionists and workers against the bosses' disregard for safety on the job and the lives and well-being of working people. Read the 'Militant' every week and introduce it to a friend or co-worker.



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# Airline bosses target workers with layoffs

BY JACK WILLEY

Airline companies have announced layoffs of more than 100,000 workers across the United States at the same time that Boeing, the largest aerospace company in the world, said it will cut up to 30,000 jobs, a third of its commercial aircraft workforce, by the end of next year. Untold thousands of additional airport and aviation industry workers face the ax as aerospace bosses expect production of passenger aircraft to fall by 50 percent in the next two years.

Airline companies quickly took advantage of the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington to carry out in one fell swoop a massive downsizing they had been planning for some time.

It is widely acknowledged that the sharp drop in airline bookings in August—even with discounted fares in place—was the latest sign of extensive excess capacity in the industry. For example, the *Washington Post*, writing about the debate on Capitol Hill about how far the government should go to bail out the industry, admitted, “Even before the disastrous hijackings, the airline industry already was one of the weaker sectors of the economy. The general economic slowdown had dampened business travel, and with less money coming in the gate, the airlines struggled to repay debt they had run up buying fleets of new jets.”

But for months the airline bosses have feared the response by workers—many of whom have been working years under expired union contracts—to mass layoffs and concession demands.

In the latest in a string of moves, Northwest Airlines as many as 10,000 workers no notice that they are out on the street. Tearing up union contract provisions that supposedly guaranteed notice of layoff and unemployment pay, Northwest bosses issued a “Notice of Reduction in Force” September 21 notifying thousands of employees they would be laid off at the end of the day’s shift. The form letter, addressed to “Dear,” invoked contract provisions saying, “In the event a reduction in force is caused by circumstances over which the Company has no control, such as these, no advance notice of layoff or pay in lieu thereof is required.

“Similarly, Article 22 of the AMFA [Airline Mechanics Fraternal Association] Agreement provides that in the event of a war emergency, or a temporary cessation of work because of circumstances beyond the Company’s control, layoff pay will not be provided. Unfortunately, the disastrous and unforeseen consequences of last week’s attack require application of this provision in order to preserve the long-term survival of the Company.”

American, Continental, and other airlines are also carrying through similar firings. North Carolina-based Midway Airlines

## Oregon labor protests anti-terrorism force

The *Militant* received the following letter September 26. In April, U.S. president George Bush appointed David Sazdy the National Counterintelligence Executive, also known as the counterintelligence czar. Sazdy was the head of the Portland, Oregon, Field Division of the FBI, who spearheaded the formation of the “Anti-Terrorist Task Force” discussed below. The task force is charged with identifying, targeting, and prosecuting groups responsible for “criminal terrorism within the traditional criteria of Right Wing or Left Wing movements.” There are about 30 such task forces across the country and the Justice Department is now moving to establishing them nationwide.

❖

Salem, Oregon  
September 12, 2001

Dear Friends,

The Oregon AFL-CIO convention in Seaside was held over the weekend and this week. One of the resolutions presented and debated was to get rid of the Portland based “Anti-Terrorist Task Force,” which is a spy agency involving local cops, FBI, and CIA.

However, with Tuesday’s events in New York and Washington, D.C., I do not know whether it passed due to the kind of patriotic/panic backlash. I do know that it was discussed on the floor on Tuesday.

If the local and federal spy agencies would butt out of interfering with labor and

**Continued on Page 12**

closed its doors for good September 12, putting 1,700 employees on the streets.

Pat Friend, president of the Association of Flight Attendants, condemned the layoffs and accused the airlines of trying to create political pressure on Congress to approve a multibillion dollar bailout package for the companies. “Their greed and antipathy toward workers are needlessly going to hurt thousands more working families,” she said.

On September 21, 10 days after Reagan National Airport in Washington was shut down under the pretext of security concerns of flight paths near government buildings, hundreds of defiant airport workers held a protest, chanting, “Open Reagan now!” and “Hey, hey, ho, ho, let the airplanes come and go!” Nearly 10,000 people lost their jobs at the airport and, the *Washington Post* reports, an additional 70,000 hotel, restaurant, and travel industry employees connected to the airport are at risk of being laid off.

But on the whole, airline and aerospace bosses have been able to carry out massive layoffs—and set the stage to try to drive through concession contracts from workers “to preserve the long term survival of the company”—with scant protest from trade union officials.

IAM president Thomas Buffenbarger issued a pro-war and jingoistic statement September 12 that let the bosses off the hook by blaming “terrorists” for the layoffs. Under the headline “Vengeance,” Buffenbarger stated, “It was *our* planes that were used as weapons of mass destruction. It was *our* members who were forced to endure the unimaginable nightmare. It was *our* members who were among the murdered. And we will have our vengeance.... Today, IAM members return to work. They will be prepping the planes that can just as easily carry troops to the farthest reaches of the earth. They will be building the F-15, F-16, F-18 and F-22’s that will impose a new reality on those who have dared attack us. For it is not simply justice we seek. It is vengeance, pure and complete.”

The IAM officialdom also got in some protectionist proposals, calling for an end to all aircraft repair work overseas. IAM vice

president, Robert Roach, Jr., stated September 21 that “foreign aircraft repair stations should not perform work on any of our aircraft while a single U.S. aircraft technician is out of work due to the current crisis.”

The IAM bureaucracy’s stance is consistent with their support for the U.S. rulers’ moves to develop and deploy an antiballistic missile system. In the feature article headlined “Bombs Bursting in Air” on the cover of the spring 2001 *IAM Journal*, the Machinists officialdom emphatically backed the U.S. government’s militarization campaign.

Although the airline companies have faced increasing overcapacity and declining revenues all year, they have used the September 11 events to push through Congress a \$15 billion federal bailout for themselves while throwing tens of thousands of airline workers out of work.

Hand-in-hand with the restructuring and layoffs are sharply increased security measures targeting workers. Some \$3 billion in federal funds has been approved for carrying out new “criminal” checks on all baggage handlers, food service workers, and other airport and airline employees; placing federal sky marshals on flights; and beefing up airport security. Airline workers at the United Airlines maintenance base in San Francisco report being told by the company to report to work up to an hour before their shift begins to line up for daily searches of their belongings before clocking in. These measures are aimed primarily at restricting workers’ rights and further weakening union protections on the job.

Although the big-business press is filled with stories blaming the September 11 events for a sudden economic downturn and the current binge of layoffs, the U.S. economy was already slowing down, with declining revenues, a stock market slide, and rising unemployment for the last year. The September 10 issue of the *Washington Post* reported, “With unemployment rising, stock prices retreating, corporate profits in free fall and consumers showing signs of pulling back on spending, a number of economists now say the U.S. economy has stopped growing and that prospects for an autumn

rebound are rapidly disappearing.” The U.S. economy was affected by “a European economy that has suddenly stalled and the onset of recession in Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore.”

Unemployment is steadily climbing, rising half a percentage point to 4.9 percent in August. U.S. corporations had already announced layoffs of 1.1 million workers by the end of last month. In July, telephone equipment manufacturer Lucent Technologies announced layoffs of up to 20,000 jobs, and third-quarter loss of more than \$3 billion. Technology companies’ profits have taken a steep nose dive and a rash of bankruptcies swept the industry over the last year. J.P. Morgan and Deutsche Bank both project zero growth in the economy in the fourth-quarter.

Auto manufacturers, in face of low sales and a growing glut of excess cars and trucks, are shuttering factories around the world. Five U.S. steel companies went belly up in 1998 and LTV, the third largest in the country, filed for bankruptcy last December. In February, DaimlerChrysler eliminated 26,000 jobs in the United States, Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil—a total of 20 percent of the work force in face of sagging auto sales.

The speculative balloon in stock prices had also begun to deflate well before September 11. After peaking at more than 11,900 points last December, the New York Stock Exchange had steadily declined before taking a major drop in September, hovering between 8,500 and 9,000. The Nasdaq index, largely made up of technology stocks, has plummeted from a high of 5,000 last December to around 1,500 in September.

Along with the slowdown in the United States, economic growth in Germany came to a standstill by mid-2001 and has slowed sharply in France. Interest rates in Brazil, the largest economy in Latin America, have soared and Argentina is teetering on the edge of financial collapse under \$130 billion debt burden. The Mexican economy, where trade with United States accounts for more than 80 percent of all exports, entered a recession last spring.

## Protests of U.S. war held in Pakistan, Indonesia

BY RÓGER CALERO

Tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets across Pakistan September 21 condemning the announcement by the government in that country that it would support Washington’s military assault on Afghanistan.

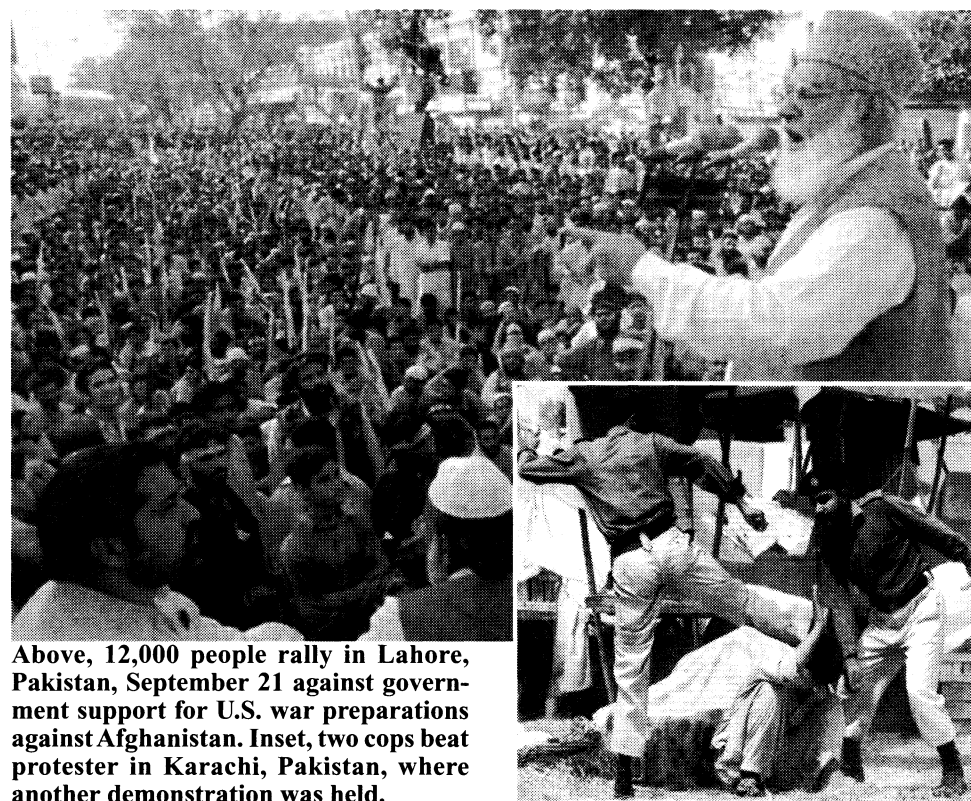
In Peshawar, a city located on Pakistan’s northern border with Afghanistan, 10,000 people marched, chanting slogans against the U.S. and Pakistani governments. Many had earlier listened to the televised statement delivered from the Taliban embassy in Islamabad, in which Afghan government officials said they would not hand over Osama bin Laden to the United States unless Washington provides proof of his responsibility for the September 11 attack against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

“When America was fighting Russia, Osama was their freedom fighter,” said a student at the demonstration in Peshawar. “Why are they suddenly calling him a terrorist?” Osama bin Laden was a key ally in the 1980s when Washington organized and armed various groups fighting to topple the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

The demonstration in Peshawar, in addition to rejecting Washington’s war against Afghanistan, also condemned U.S. support to Israel’s repression of the Palestinian people. “Islam teaches us peace; but every Muslim is a brother. If a Muslim is persecuted, whether in Afghanistan or Palestine or Kashmir, it is our duty to defend him,” said a student at the demonstration. A one-day general strike in the city shut down most markets. Hundreds watched the march from rooftops and balconies.

The government has also sealed a crossing point near Peshawar, seeking to stop large numbers of refugees fleeing Afghanistan. Most people in Peshawar are Pashtun, the same ethnic group that extends into Afghanistan and is the base of the Taliban regime. The city is seen by government authorities as a likely flashpoint for an uprising in favor of the Taliban if war breaks out.

The Pakistani regime has responded to the growing protests and highly volatile situ-



Above, 12,000 people rally in Lahore, Pakistan, September 21 against government support for U.S. war preparations against Afghanistan. Inset, two cops beat protester in Karachi, Pakistan, where another demonstration was held.

ation by deploying the tightest security the country has seen in years. A Pakistani official told the press: “We are not taking any chances. We cannot allow these protests to succeed.” For example, 70 demonstrators were arrested and one was killed in Karachi, Pakistan’s biggest city and commercial hub, when police fired tear gas and attacked demonstrators September 21.

In Lahore, 12,000 people rallied outside a mosque where they heard leaders of Pakistan’s main religious parties denouncing any attack on Afghanistan.

Indonesia, a largely Muslim country, has also been the scene of protests. The government has deployed hundreds of snipers and military personnel to U.S. facilities in response to the growing mobilizations.

The *Jakarta Post* reported that some 200 students held a protest at the U.S. consulate

in the capital city Jakarta where they presented a “Terrorist Award” to the diplomatic mission there. Holding banners reading, “America is The Great Terrorist,” and “Bush, Big Boss of Terrorists,” the students read a statement deploring all forms of terrorism and Washington’s policy towards Palestine, and demanded that the U.S. protects the rights of Muslims.

In the city of Palu students rallied in a number of locations in the downtown area, blocking traffic for several hours and attracting hundreds of onlookers.

In Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia, thousands attended a march and rally September 23. CNN reported that the organizers of the protest said that the action was not directed as a show of support for bin Laden, but a stand against U.S. policy towards both Israel and Muslim nations in general.

# Pathfinder reprints fill classroom orders

BY BARBARA BOWMAN

Pathfinder reprinted eight titles during the first three weeks of September—six books and two pamphlets. A major effort was mounted to get these titles off the press in time to fill a number of classroom orders for the fall semester.

These are: *February 1965: Final Speeches* by Malcolm X, *American Labor Struggles* by Samuel Yellen, *Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed, *Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution* by Tomás Borge, *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* by Malcolm X, *From Lenin to Stalin* by Victor Serge, *Cuba for Beginners* by RIUS (Eduardo Del Rius), and *Revolution in the Congo* by Dick Roberts.

The first four titles listed have been selected as Pathfinder books of the month for October. They will be available to Pathfinder bookstores at a 60 percent discount and may be purchased by members of the Pathfinder Readers Club at a 25 percent discount through October 31.

*February 1965: The Final Speeches* by Malcolm X contains interviews and speeches by one of the 20th century's outstanding revolutionary leaders, given in the last three weeks of his life. Malcolm's condemnation of U.S. military intervention in the Congo and Vietnam are particularly relevant given the war Washington is launching against Afghanistan today.

"We had a situation where a plane was dropping bombs on African villages. An African village has no defense against the bombs. And an African village is not a sufficient threat that it has to be bombed.... When these bombs are dropped on African villages in the Congo, they are dropped on Black women, Black children, Black babies. These human beings are blown to bits. I heard no outcry, no voice of compassion, for these thousands of Black people slaughtered by planes.

"Why was there no outcry? Why was there no concern? Because, again, the press very skillfully made the victims look like they were the criminals, and the criminals look like they were the victims.

"They refer to the villages as 'rebel held,' you know. As if to say, because they are rebel-held villages, you can destroy the population, and it's okay."

The U.S. ruling class's willingness to



Textile workers in Gastonia, North Carolina, rally during strike in 1929 for a union. Pathfinder Book of the Month *American Labor Struggles* tells the story about this labor battle in the United States and many others from the 1870s to the 1930s.

unleash violence against working people within the United States too is graphically portrayed in *American Labor Struggles: 1877-1934* by Samuel Yellen. This book tells the story of 10 strikes—from the 1877

rail workers strike to the 1934 strike of longshoremen on the West Coast. Yellen describes the violence used to crush a strike in Gastonia County, North Carolina, during the 1929 strike wave by textile workers throughout the South. There had been "a good-sized flurry in unionization among the southern textile workers during the World War" of 1914-17, Yellen says, but "practically every trace had been stamped out in the two years following the war."

The Gastonia strike was led by members of the Communist Party, which at that time—politically disoriented by the Stalinist misleadership, which by then had expelled revolutionists from its leading bodies—was carrying out an ultraleft course, including in the labor movement. The bosses resorted to intense red-baiting and racist demagoguery from the start.

"Across the front page of the *Gastonia Daily Gazette* was printed a picture of an American flag with a snake coiled at its base, and the inscription: 'Communism in the South. Kill it!...' Handbills were distributed: 'Bust up your Russian union and let's go back to work' and 'Would you belong to a union which opposes White Supremacy?'"

The issues of communism and race equality were drummed up until soon Gastonia was ripe for intimidation and violence."

Yellen goes on to describe the attacks by police, courts, the National Guard, and vigilantes on the union and the heroic and tenacious resistance of the strikers. Harking back to the imperialist slaughter of the previous decade, mill president R.W. Baldwin commented on one of the murderous assaults, in which six workers were killed and 18 wounded. "I read that the death of each soldier in the World War consumed more than five tons of lead. Here we have less than five pounds and these casualties. A good average, I call it."

The strike was lost. Yellen's book does not provide an accurate political assessment of the leadership factors contributing to the defeat, or the disastrous consequences of the factional course of the Communist Party leadership in organizing the defense of the 100 workers arrested during the strike, seven of whom were convicted of second-degree murder. For that, readers will have to go to another Pathfinder book, *James P. Cannon: Writings and Speeches 1928-31—The Left Opposition in the U.S.* Cannon was a founding leader of the Communist Party who, after his expulsion from the party in 1928, continued to lead the fight to build a communist party in the United States until his death in 1974.

Evelyn Reed, a veteran socialist and longtime advocate of women's equality, wrote *Problems of Women's Liberation* as the second wave of feminism was emerging in the 1960s. Reed identifies the source of women's oppression by tracing its economic and social roots from prehistoric society to modern capitalism. Her conclusion is that a socialist revolution is necessary to win total emancipation. Reed explains how disastrous it is for women to look to the capitalists to defend their equality instead of depending upon themselves and their allies.

"During a capitalist war women can be taken out of their homes by the millions and put to work in the factories. But when they are no longer needed as producers, they are sent back home to become primarily consumers. In both instances, what is decisive is not the needs of women as human beings but the interests of the monopolists. These masters of America shape the lives and livelihoods of womanhood and the whole family according to their own corrupt and corrupting aims.

"Women's destiny cannot be fundamentally transformed until this truth is understood and acted on. The feminists of the past could achieve their limited reforms within the framework of a still-ascending capitalism. But today it has become dead-end capitalism.... [Women] should now become socialist-minded, because only a root-and-branch change in the whole venal system can save us all from further dehumanization."

Along these lines, *Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution*, by Tomás Borge—at the time a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front—shows the role a workers and farmers government can play in the fight for women's liberation even while fighting a war against the U.S.-backed contra army. In this 1982 speech Borge pledges, "The Nicaraguan revolution must unleash all the energies and capacities of women so they can become full members of the new society with full rights."

## Pathfinder volunteers produce books for proletarian campaign against imperialism

BY PEGGY BRUNDY

SAN FRANCISCO—In a note sent last week to the Pathfinder Reprint Project steering committee, reprint volunteer Gale Shangold wrote: "Last week I was extremely grateful to be spending time indexing a Pathfinder book as it became clear September 11 what was rapidly shaping up and what U.S. imperialism had in store for workers here and around the world. More supporters will want to dedicate and rededicate time, energy, and their skills to the reprint project as the antiwar work it is."

The books that Pathfinder Press publishes are essential materials in the working-class campaign against imperialism and its war drive. Pathfinder books explain why war in many different forms is an integral part of capitalist society and why the only road to peace is through the struggle for socialism. Pathfinder publishes books that make the continuity of the communist movement, the line of march of the working-class, and a Marxist explanation of today's world accessible to vanguard workers and farmers.

For the past three years more than 150 volunteers in nine countries have been contributing time and skills to keeping these books in print and easily accessible to today's vanguard fighters by turning each Pathfinder title into digital computer files on a compact disc. These are used by the printshop of the publishing house, which has the latest computer-to-plate technology in making plates for the printing presses. As volunteers digitize each book they update the typography and graphics, greatly enhancing the appearance and readability of the title. The new technology also makes possible rapid printing of short runs to respond to demands in the class struggle.

A steering committee, currently composed of Jerry Gardner, Laurel Kelly, Peggy Brundy, Ruth Cheney, and Tom Tomasko,

coordinates the work of the volunteers according to the publishing needs of Pathfinder Press. They meet each week with SWP leader Norton Sandler to discuss priorities. Project volunteers around the world are organized into seven production teams: scanning, proofreading, graphics, formatting, index concordance, CD production, and on-line book promotion.

Because of the efforts of Pathfinder Press and the reprint project, around 55 percent of the books in Pathfinder's catalog are now digitized, on CDs, and ready to print at a moment's notice. However, that leaves 45 percent yet to go, including some that would be very valuable to the working-class campaign against imperialism and its war against Afghanistan.

In a recent communication to the reprint project steering committee, Pathfinder prioritized a number of out-of-print books that need to be digitized in order to get them into the hands of workers and farmers in face of the imperialist assault: *Nueva Internacional* no. 1: "Los cañonazos iniciales de la tercera guerra mundial: el ataque de Washington contra Iraq" ("Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq"); *New International* No. 2: "The Working-Class Road to Peace"; *Israel: A Colonial-Settler State?; FBI on Trial; Fighting Racism in World War II; Israel's War against the Palestinian People; and Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International*. Project production teams will be working out how to prioritize these books in their work.

The events today help highlight the relevance of the international volunteer effort to get these books back in print. Anyone interested in helping out on this aspect of the working-class campaign against imperialism and its war drive can contact Ruth Cheney at ruthchen@pacbell.net. We'll put you right to work!

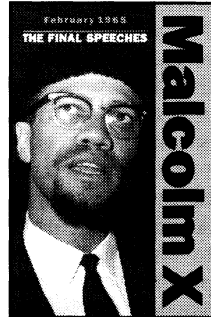
### OCTOBER Pathfinder Readers Club Specials

25% discount

#### February 1965: The Final Speeches

Malcolm X

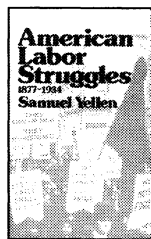
Speeches from the last three weeks of the life of this outstanding leader of the oppressed Black nationality and of the working class in the United States. A large part is material previously unavailable, with some in print for the first time. **Special offer \$14.20** (regular price \$18.95)



#### American Labor Struggles: 1877-1934

Samuel Yellen

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#### Problems of Women's Liberation

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#### Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution

Tomás Borge

The effort, in the early years of the Nicaraguan revolution to lead, organize, and educate in the fight for women's rights. **Special offer \$2.25** (regular price \$3.00)

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12



# Miners, students respond to 'Militant'

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

The campaign to win new readers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* is off to a good start. After only three days into the drive, 72 *Militant* subscriptions and 24 *PM* subscriptions have been received in the Militant Business Office, with Tucson, San Francisco, and Detroit leading the pack.

Socialist workers, Young Socialists, and other partisans of the *Militant* are responding to the imperialists' war against Afghanistan and assaults on workers' rights at home by deepening their involvement in the class struggle, taking the two socialist publications, Pathfinder books, and *New International* with them.

"We went out to Rochelle, Illinois, to follow up with meat packers who purchased subscriptions during their strike against Rochelle Foods last spring," wrote Pattie Thompson, a meat packer in Chicago. "First we sold the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* at the plant gate to workers going in for the afternoon shift. Four bought the October issue of *PM* and one the latest issue of the *Militant*. These workers expressed various opinions on the September events, including one who said he thought something had to be done to stop terrorism. Another said the U.S. government is using this as a pretext to bomb entire peoples. The team visited another worker who decided to get a subscription and the pamphlet *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*."

Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York, Martin Koppel, joined two teams that set up literature tables in front of union garment shops in the Garment District in Manhattan this past week. "We handed our campaign statements against Washington's war on Afghanistan and in defense of workers' rights in this country to every worker who came by the table," said Koppel. "They are going to attack our jobs and human rights," an Ecuadoran worker told the candidate.

At the Hunts Point Cooperative Market in the Bronx, a meatpacking and produce processing center for restaurants and businesses around the city, supporters of the campaign sold two copies of the *Militant* and one copy of *Perspectiva Mundial* to truck drivers and meat packers at a plant gate sale.

"We sold one of our subscriptions to one of our co-workers in a United Auto Workers-organized plant where we work," wrote Ilona Gersh. "We're making an effort to show the *Militant* to a broad layer of co-workers."

Socialist workers in western Colorado sent a report on their trip to Kemmerer, Wyoming, where they were able to have discussions with miners they had met during the strike against the Pittsburg and Midway Coal Co. last year. "The discussions we

would start out with the past strike and how the bosses had attempted to fire and discipline workers for various work rule violations. When we talked to them about the U.S. war drive they said something had to be done about those who killed innocent men and women," the report stated. "We responded by explaining the nature of the war drive, what U.S. imperialism is, what the 'homeland defense' is all about, and what we need to do here is to fight for a government of workers and farmers. We did not convince any of the miners of our opinion but helped them to think about this and four of them renewed their subscriptions to the *Militant*."

The two-week renewal effort was a modest success with 133 *Militant* readers renewing their subscriptions and 22 renewing their subscriptions to *PM* in the United States and other countries. Since June, 306 people have renewed their *Militant* subscriptions and 38 renewed their *PM* subscriptions.

## Goals set, *New International* added

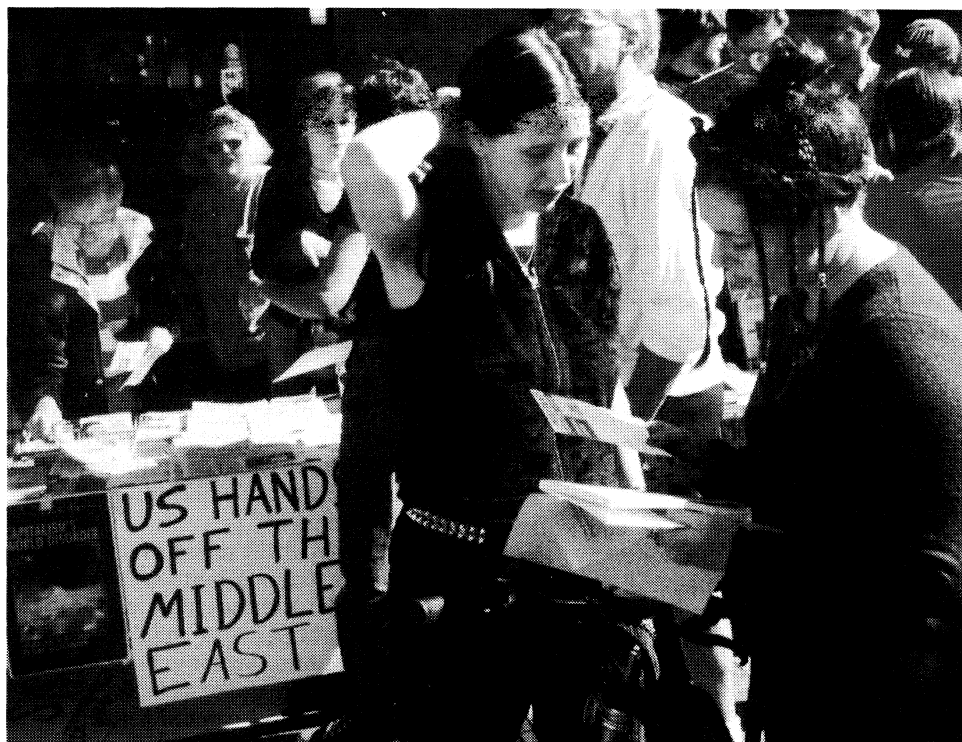
After receiving goals adopted by socialist workers, members of the Young Socialists, and other participants in the working-class campaign against imperialism and war around the world, the *Militant* has set a goal of selling 1,100 *Militant* subscriptions and 500 subscriptions to *PM* over the next eight weeks. A special target week is scheduled for October 6-14 in order for every area to carry out concentrated sales to get the drive on—or ahead—of where it should be.

In response to the imperialists' war drive, we have also decided to concentrate on selling three issues of *New International* along with the subscriptions. These are issue no. 7 with the feature article "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq"; issue no. 10, which includes "Imperialism's March toward Fascism and War" and "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold"; and issue no. 11, which contains "U.S. Imperialism has Lost the Cold War," among other articles. Each of these issues is also published in French and Spanish. Pathfinder is making them available at a special discount price of \$10 for new subscribers to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Those participating in the subscription drive are encouraged to discuss goals for selling these *New Internationals* and send them into the *Militant*. These publications contain the best material for understanding political developments unfolding in the world today.

## Socialist candidates speak against war

The working-class campaign against imperialism and its war includes the Socialist Workers election campaign. "Very shortly



Militant/Scott Breen

Young Socialists and socialist workers selling *Militant* subscriptions and Pathfinder books at rally in Seattle protesting U.S. war moves.

after the events on September 11, Tom Fiske and I sold two copies of the Spanish edition of *NI* to two co-workers," said Francisco Picado, a meat packer in St. Paul, Minnesota. "Discussion is widespread and the campaign of Fiske, who is the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of St. Paul, is getting noticed. One co-worker who may be called up to fight in the war has really started listening to what we have to say, especially when we told him about the article '1945: When U.S. Troops Said "No!"' that explains how U.S. GIs rejected being kept in the Pacific to fight another war after World War II had ended."

In Des Moines, Socialist Workers candidate for city council, Edwin Fruit, told the audience at a September 20 meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce that the U.S. rulers will use the attack on the World Trade Center to deepen the assault on "working people both here and around the world, using the U.S. military to attack our class wherever we resist," wrote Kevin Dwire.

## Sales on college campuses

Sales of the *Militant* and Pathfinder literature has picked up on campuses across the country. One sales team went to Boulder, Colorado, where they set up a table on the campus at the University of Colorado on the day of a protest of 500 people against Washington's war moves. The team sold four *Militant* subscriptions and \$150 worth of Pathfinder titles, including two copies of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning*, two copies of *Capitalism's World Disorder*, and a copy of *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*.

"Members of the Socialist Workers Party, the Young Socialists, and supporters helped organize two Militant Labor Forums here since September 11," wrote Al Duncan from Los Angeles. "One on September 14 was attended by 35 people. The following week more than 50 people turned out. A sizable number of the people attending both programs were new and many were young."

"One of the fruits of joining several protests in the area, getting out literature tables, and organizing the forums is winning five new subscribers to the *Militant* as well as nearly \$300 in Pathfinder literature," he said. "Our best sellers are *New International* numbers 7 and 10, and the pamphlet *Marxism vs Terrorism*. About 50 new people have signed up wanting to be informed about upcoming activities."

Wendy Lyons, who works in a garment plant that employs hundreds of workers in Los Angeles, reports that as the character of the war becomes clear the sentiment concerning it has started to shift. "In the days immediately after the attack on the World Trade Center and on the Pentagon there was much more support for the war moves by the rulers among my co-workers," she said. "In addition to all the other stuff going on in support of the war, the company held a rally in the parking lot a few days after the bombing, had foremen go around handing out American flags to people on another day."

"But now, through discussions I'm able to have, a growing number of my co-workers are starting to agree that this war is being waged for the profits of a few. This coupled with the sweeping measures against the rights of immigrants is starting to convince many that the government intends to carry out a war against them as well."

## Militant/PM subscription campaign Sept. 22–Nov. 18

	Militant	PM
Country	Goal	Goal
<b>Australia</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Canada</b>		
Montreal	12	5
Toronto	17	5
Vancouver	15	2
<b>Canada Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>New Zealand</b>		
Auckland	10	1
Christchurch	7	1
<b>NZ Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>United States</b>		
Allentown	25	5
Atlanta	36	15
Birmingham	20	3
Boston	27	11
Brooklyn	60	30
Charlotte	16	6
Chicago	35	30
Cleveland	25	4
Des Moines	30	20
Detroit	35	10
Grand Junction	30	8
Houston	30	15
Los Angeles	50	30
Miami	20	20
Newark	45	30
NY Garment Dist	100	50
Omaha	11	15
Philadelphia	25	10
Pittsburgh	40	5
San Francisco	50	25
Seattle	25	10
Tampa	12	5
Twin Cities	35	20
Upper Manhattan	65	50
Washington	25	20
Tucson	7	1
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>448</b>
<b>International Total</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>480</b>
<b>International Goal</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>In the unions</b>		
<b>United States</b>		
UAW	5	
UFCW	55	55
UMWA	40	5
UNITE	35	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>95</b>
Australia		
AMIEU	3	
MUA	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	

## U.S. Navy resumes Vieques bombing

BY RÓGER CALERO

The U.S. Navy's John F. Kennedy battle group began military exercises in the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico September 24, despite general opposition by the island's residents, and under tight security measures in expectation of protests against the bombing practices.

A Navy destroyer, one of twelve warships in the military exercises scheduled to last for 23 days, began strafing the Vieques bombing range with five-inch practice shells early in the morning of September 25, while jet fighters fired 500-pound and 25-pound inert bombs at ground targets, according to Navy officials.

Organizations involved in the struggle to get the U.S. Navy out of the island called a moratorium on civil disobedience actions following the September 11 events. They are planning a town meeting September 26 to discuss future actions, including a call for a general strike in Vieques October 4. A small demonstration was held in front of the main gate of the naval base the day before.

Some groups have pointed to the tight security at the navy base as a reason for holding off on civil disobedience actions, but have said that they plan to enter the restricted areas anyway. The Puerto Rican daily *El Vocero* said that so far not one protester has ventured onto the shooting range. Police said September 23 that some 60 feet of the wire fence around the base had been cut up.

Carlos Zenón, a leader of the island's fish-

ermen, told *El Nuevo Día* September 25 that his organization is evaluating whether to enter the firing range or not since the "so-called moratorium" on civil disobedience included a request to U.S. Navy officials to halt the bombings. "We cannot call for a moratorium when the Navy has a free hand to continue preparing to carry out the barbaric acts, such as the ones they carry out in wars," said Zenón.

According to the *Daily News*, the battle group was expected to be deployed to the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf regions to be part of the U.S. military campaign against Afghanistan.

The general strike announced for October 4 has already received the support of the electrical and water workers unions, and of some local businesses in addition to other organizations in Vieques. A march from the center of Vieques to the gates of Camp García at the naval base is being organized to take place at the end of the strike.

Robert Rabin, spokesperson for the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques, said in *El Nuevo Día* that the strike was to highlight the concerns of the people of Vieques about the military maneuvers.

He said the Navy maneuvers represent a continuing violation of the will of the people, as expressed in a referendum last July 29. In the vote, organized by the local government, residents of Vieques registered by a 68 percent majority their desire for the U.S. Navy to leave the island immediately.

# Meat packers demand workplace safety

BY TED LEONARD

CHELSEA, Massachusetts—"We demand safety and better working conditions," explained Wilmer Sosa to a September 20 rally here calling for an end to dangerous and unhealthy working conditions at Kayem Foods. "Change is possible if all workers get together and fight for our rights," Sosa said. The rally, held across the street from the plant, drew 100 union members and other supporters of workers at the plant who have been fighting to organize a union for several years.

The rally also called for an end to the antiunion attacks by the company. The United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW) recently won rulings by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in 38 of the 42 unfair labor practices charges it had brought against the company following the loss of a union recognition vote last November.

Kayem Foods produces hot dogs and deli meats. The plant employs 320 workers, mostly from Latin America but also from Bosnia and Poland.

The march and rally was organized by the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH), Massachusetts AFL-CIO, UFCW 1445, Chelsea Human Services Collaborative, Chelsea Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Jobs with Justice, Chelsea Latino Immigrant Committee, and the Massachusetts Interfaith

Committee for Worker Justice.

Carrying signs demanding "Safety for Kayem workers," "Kayem workers have the right to organize," and "We support Kayem workers," participants marched from City Hall to the plant before the rally.

MassCOSH, which is partly funded by the government and by the unions, released a report at the rally about a health and safety assessment it made of Kayem in response to reports by "numerous workers about widespread injuries and health problems caused by unsafe and unhealthy work conditions at the plant."

Injuries cited in the report were finger and fingertip amputations, burns to the eyes and faces, shoulder and back injuries due to the falling of unstable racks weighing several hundred pounds, hearing loss, crushed ankles, respiratory and other health ailments due to exposure to extreme temperatures, and falls and other injuries caused by slippery floors and obstructed walkways.

The report explained further that MassCOSH undertook this investigation, "after several workers reported that they had spoken to management about hazards in the workplace, but that their concerns had been repeatedly ignored. Workers also reported that the vast majority were afraid to speak up due to fear of losing their jobs and/or fear it would affect their immigration status."

Sosa, quoted in a press release by MassCOSH on the march and rally, said,

"It's been made very clear to us that production is more important than safety at Kayem. When someone is injured, they seem more concerned about the product's survival than that of the workers."

Gladys Vega from Chelsea Human Services chaired the rally and explained she had sent a letter to Kayem Foods president Ray Monkiewicz expressing concern over conditions in the plant. Vega said they have not received a reply from Mr. Monkiewicz. During the rally a delegation of religious, union, community, and elected officials went to the plant to ask for a meeting with Monkiewicz, but were blocked by local police who told them, "The owner does not want to speak to you."

Officials at Kayem Foods also declined to talk to a *Boston Globe* reporter. A good-sized article on the rally appeared in its September 21 issue.

Meat packer Brock Satter, who has been involved in the union organizing drive and is a worker at the plant for one year, also spoke at the rally. "I salute my co-workers who came out here today knowing that the company is watching us," he said. "To get safety we have to look out for each other and that is what a union is about." Satter also explained the company had tried to fire him a week earlier, but had to pull back because a delegation of a dozen co-workers approached company officials and urged them to rehire him.

Robert Haynes, president of the state

AFL-CIO, spoke at the rally, and Rick Sharette, president of UFCW Local 1445. Local 1445 has 17,000 members in New England. It is currently on a drive to collect cards again for union recognition at Kayem Foods.

Ted Leonard works at Kayem Foods.



Militant/Linda Marcus

Wilmer Sosa, worker at Kayem Foods, speaks at September 20 rally in front of plant demanding end to dangerous working conditions.

## Firefighters in Miami suspended for protesting American flag on truck

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MIAMI—Three Black firefighters here have been suspended from their jobs for protesting the American flag. On September 15, the three men objected to the presence of a large American flag on the truck they were assigned to.

According to their supervisor, one of the men "stated that the flag was a symbol of oppression to the Black man." Miami-Dade County fire chief Dave Paulison responded by ordering all county trucks to fly the flag "as a symbol of unity, national pride, and patriotism," according to the September 20 *Miami Herald*.

Firefighters Terry Williams, William Clark, and James Moore were subsequently suspended with pay "pending an investigation." Twenty-nine-year-old Williams told the *Herald* he objected to the flag "as a Black man in this country, as someone being subjugated, as my ancestors who have been mistreated so." According to the paper, Williams said he and Moore removed a

large flag from a fire truck they were about to board because it blocked their view and because of their "political view about the country's situation."

Clark, with 18 years in the fire department, said, "We are in no way insensitive to the feelings of those who lost loved ones. I, like the other two gentlemen, have friends and people who lost loved ones in the attacks on the World Trade Center." But, the firefighter continued, "This is hypocrisy. The American flag is supposed to mean freedom and justice and equality for all who are protected by the laws of this country. It is supposed to protect those who have a difference of opinion, except in this case."

Clark pointed out that their opinion of the flag in no way affected their ability to do their job. Moore, a firefighter for 20 years, also hit on the denial of democratic rights. Because of his opinions about the flag, he explained, "Right now, I can't go to work. No one will speak to me. You have freedoms here as long as it goes along with the program."

for further reading

### The Struggle for a Proletarian Party

James P. Cannon

A founder of the communist movement in the U.S. and leader of the Communist International in Lenin's time defends the proletarian program and party-building norms of Bolshevism on the eve of World War II. "The workers of America have power enough to topple over the structure of capitalism at home and to lift the whole world with them when they rise," wrote Cannon. **\$21.95**

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Farrell Dobbs

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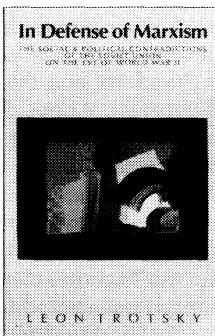
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Founding document of the modern working-class movement, published in 1848. Explains why communism is derived not from preconceived principles but from facts and from proletarian movements springing from the actual class struggle. **\$3.95**

### Fighting Racism in World War II

C.L. R. James, George Breitman, Edgar Keemer, and others  
A week-by-week account of the struggle against racism in the United States from 1939 to 1945. **\$20.95**



From bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

## Unemployed in Panama rally for jobs

Continued from front page

dicate more than 200 people have been arrested and two people have been shot in the three days of protests. The government has issued a warrant for the arrest of the leaders of the coalition that organized the actions. A march and vigil was organized to demand the release of the five detained leaders.

Panamanian president Mireya Moscoso said in response that she will not "give away" checks to those that don't work for it. Vice President Arturo Vallarino blamed the unemployment problem in Colón on the lack of skilled labor, saying there are not enough bilingual people in the province. "They are not capable of maintaining a conversation in English," he stated.

Prospero Brown, a spokesperson for one

of the organizations of the unemployed, told the Panamanian daily *La Prensa* that in the absence of concrete answers from the government, the unemployed are being forced to take to the streets to demand jobs.

In addition to the wave of protests by unemployed workers, 200 banana workers blocked the Pan-American highway near the city of David for nine hours before they were attacked by the police. The workers were demanding to be paid wages withheld for the last six months, payment of an end-of-the-year bonus, and vacations for 1,500 workers employed at four plantations.

The workers occupied the road in order to speed up negotiations with the owners of the plantations. Six hours later the bosses agreed to pay both the wages and bonuses.

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# U.S. military forces near Afghan border

Continued from front page

region. The U.S. ruling class has also deepened its assault on workers rights, from widespread security checks to the Bush administration's stated intent to seek authority to detain and deport individuals because of their political beliefs and association.

In a speech to a joint session of Congress September 20, U.S. president George Bush announced the creation of the Office of Homeland Security, which will oversee the work of 40 federal agencies and departments, including FBI and CIA domestic and international spying operations. The agency, which will be a cabinet-level office, is being created by presidential executive order. His appointee to the post, Thomas Ridge, will not need to be presented to the Senate for confirmation, which is unlike other cabinet positions. Ridge is the Republican governor of Pennsylvania, and a strong advocate of the death penalty who has been seeking to put framed-up Black activist Mumia Abu Jamal to death.

The U.S. Constitution prohibits the U.S. military from operating on U.S. soil. Notes the *New York Times*, "Any military employment has to be under civilian authority, which could be Mr. Ridge."

## U.S. troops on former Soviet territory

As part of its war against Afghanistan, the U.S. rulers have succeeded in winning agreement to station their military forces preparing for combat for the first time ever in several of the republics of the former Soviet Union, including Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan.

According to the Russian Interfax news agency, three U.S. Air Force transport planes have arrived in Uzbekistan, carrying about 200 U.S. troops and reconnaissance equipment. Uzbekistan has the largest standing army is a major in Central Asia. The region's largest air base is located at Termez near the Afghan border and there are airbases near almost all big cities in the country.

A number of heavily armed U.S. attack helicopters are also stationed on a military base about 25 miles from Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

The regime in Uzbekistan welcomed Washington's moves, seeking to reinforce its own repressive "anti-terrorist" measures. A *Financial Times* article stated, "The government is accused of locking up and torturing thousands of Uzbek citizens on suspicion of aiding or supporting militants."

The president of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, announced the opening of his country's air space for U.S. military operations. He also made clear that military bases and airfields—just 200 miles away from Afghanistan—would be provided to Washington if requested.

The government in Tajikistan has also expressed its willingness to cooperate with Washington, which is planning to place what it calls "rescue and recovery" troops inside its borders. Russia currently has 25,000 troops stationed in Tajikistan, with 10,000 of them right on the Afghanistan border.

The rulers in all the former Soviet republics near the border with Afghanistan have gotten the nod of approval from Russian president Vladimir Putin who pledged cooperation "in the widest sense of the word" with the U.S. military operations there.

Putin declared September 24 that the Russian government would open its airspace to what he called search and rescue operations in Afghanistan, and share "intelligence" information with U.S. spy agencies. He also vowed to step up support to the anti-Taliban group, the Northern Alliance. The forces making up this opposition coalition were overthrown by the Taliban in 1996. They currently control a sliver of Afghanistan, mainly in the northern part of the country.

Putin also took the opportunity to declare his own "war on terrorism" in the Russian-controlled province of Chechnya. He set a 72-hour deadline for rebels in that region to begin discussion with Russian officials on disarming.

In its drive to overthrow the Taliban government in Afghanistan, Washington is also stepping up its backing of the Northern Alliance. At a White House news conference September 25, Bush called for working with those in Afghanistan "who may be tired of having the Taliban in place." With wind in

their sails with new backing from Moscow and Washington, the Northern Alliance has stepped up its military battles with Taliban forces. Recent clashes are reported to have occurred some 25 miles north of Kabul.

The U.S. military brass plans to use the assault on Afghanistan to test a new generation of spy drones, which have already begun to be deployed over Afghanistan. One of them, according to Washington, has already been "lost" over Afghan territory. These spy planes include the Global Hawk, which can target in on an area with radar and infrared images from 65,000 feet above ground; the RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft, which can eavesdrop on communications; and the U-2 high-flying aircraft.

Under pressure from Washington, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates broke diplomatic ties with Afghanistan, leaving Pakistan as the only country that still recognizes the Taliban government. While opening up its air space and military bases to Washington, the government in Pakistan has expressed its unease with the U.S. rulers' backing of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance.

What the Pakistani military regime is really worried about is their own ability to stay in power as reaction mounts inside the country to Washington's war drive. Due to the opposition in the country, Washington has not yet officially asked Islamabad for permission to station U.S. troops in the country, and may seek to establish instead a base just inside the Afghan border.

According to the *Financial Times*, Washington and the United Kingdom are planning to wage a "bombs and bread" military campaign against Afghanistan. Their aim is to utilize the distribution of food supplies as a weapon to convince Afghans who already face food shortages due to a severe drought to join their side. According to UN figures, prior to the U.S. government's military buildup in the region, about one-fifth of Afghanistan's 25 million people depended on food and other aid from abroad.

This "will not be an antiseptic war, I regret to say. It will be dangerous. The likelihood is that more people may be lost," stated Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, using Pentagon double-talk to declare his intention of getting workers in uniform killed in the U.S. imperialist war.

A similar but more frank assessment was offered by Brig. Gen. Reinhard Gunzel, who commands an elite special forces unit in Germany. He said that what would occur in Afghanistan is a "bloodbath." According to an article in the *London Telegraph*, "The Brig. Gen. insisted that troops with a 'western philosophy' and a will not to die would have 'little chance against men who are willing to give their lives in a fight.'"

At a meeting with U.S. president George Bush at the White House September 25, Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi pledged his support to Washington's war on Afghanistan.

A *Financial Times* article notes that some



of Koizumi's proposals "would authorize the most ambitious expansion of the role of the Self Defence Forces, Japan's military," which the country's constitution limits to a defensive role.

## Castro speaks out on U.S. war moves

In a speech presented September 22, Cuban president Fidel Castro spoke about the U.S. rulers' war moves. "The first victims of whatever military actions are undertaken will be the billions of people living in the poor and underdeveloped world with their unbelievable economic and social problems, their unpayable debts and the ruinous prices of their basic commodities; their growing natural and ecological catastrophes, their hunger and misery, the massive undernourishment of their children, teenagers and adults," he stated.

"We have all been ordered to ally either with the United States government or with terrorism," the Cuban leader said.

"Cuba, the country that has suffered the most and the longest from terrorist action, the one whose people are not afraid of anything because there is no threat or power in the world that can intimidate it, with a high morale Cuba claims that it is opposed to terrorism and opposed to war. Although the possibilities are now remote, Cuba reaffirms the need to avert a war of unpredictable consequences whose very authors have admitted not to have the least idea of how the events will unfold. Likewise, Cuba reiterates its willingness to cooperate with every country in the total eradication of terrorism," Castro said.

## Assault on workers rights

Among the moves at home, the federal government has arrested and has under indefinite detention more than 350 people, supposedly in connection with the September 11 events. Another 400 others are still being sought for questioning. Most are being detained on immigration charges and traffic violations, and virtually none has been publicly identified. "Thus far we cannot connect any of those people that we're looking at to any of the 19 hijackers, admitted an unnamed senior law enforcement offi-

cial to the *New York Times*.

Rightist assaults on individuals from Arab and South Asia backgrounds has continued. According to the Sikh Council on Religion and Education, more than 200 attacks have taken place just against Sikhs since September 11.

New powers granted to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) under previous laws allows INS agents to arrest non-citizens without a warrant, and immigration courts don't provide lawyers for those who are indigent.

In the name of fighting terrorism, the Bush administration has submitted a package of proposals that would expand the government's wiretapping authority and its power to monitor online communications; authorize surveillance of non-U.S. citizens in the country for up to a year; allow disclosure of secret grand jury information to FBI, CIA, or other secret government police agencies; permit courts to use information gathered by foreign governments even if it was obtained illegally; and allow the government to detain indefinitely immigrants suspected of terrorism. In addition, the attorney general would have the power to place immigrants in detention merely because of suspicion without any evidence against them.

Though support for the war drive is bipartisan, passage of this legislative package has been slowed over concerns by some in Congress over the constitutionality of the measures. "We've got to get these guys. But indefinite detention has never been allowed by the courts," commented Rep. John Conyers, the leading Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee.

Leaders of countries belonging to the European Union are also now moving forward on adopting more restrictive legislation that had been under discussion for some time. EU justice and interior ministers at an emergency meeting September 20 backed the introduction of a Europe-wide arrest warrant. The warrant will replace the current system of extradition between member states. It would also allow persons in custody to be handed over directly from one judicial authority to another.

# U.S. gov't increases cops at border checkpoints

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Crossing the border into the United States from Mexico and Canada has become much more difficult for millions of working people, as the U.S. government has beefed up the presence of INS cops and National Guard troops at border checkpoints since the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

"For the foreseeable future," stated a September 22 *Economist* article, "American customs officers are at 'Level 1' alert. That means checking every single vehicle crossing the border." At the busiest highway crossings, people face a wait of up to four hours.

INS agents are now stopping and questioning many more people, seeking to verify the identity of every person who crosses the border. Vehicles are searched more thoroughly and documentation papers closely scrutinized.

Last year nearly 130 million people—both U.S. citizens and immigrants—crossed the border into the United States from Canada at six of the busiest checkpoints.

New laws and regulations are in the pro-

cess of being put in place that will further restrict the rights of immigrants beyond what was put into effect in 1996 under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. The INS, for example, is starting to put in place a computerized database of the estimated 500,000 people

who traveled to the United States on student visas.

In another move, Senator Edward Kennedy, a Democrat from Massachusetts, has introduced legislation to provide U.S. consulates access to the FBI's criminal database.

# Cincinnati protests condemn acquittal

BY RÓGER CALERO

Working people took to the streets in downtown Cincinnati and elsewhere in the city September 26 in response to the acquittal of police officer Stephen Roach on all charges relating to his fatal shooting of 19-year-old Timothy Thomas April 7. Cincinnati mayor Charlie Luken declared a state of emergency and imposed an overnight curfew in response to the protests.

Officer Roach had been charged with two misdemeanors for shooting unarmed Thomas once in the chest after he was chased down by 12 cops to an abandoned building. The cops claimed they chased Thomas because he was wanted for failing to ap-

pear in court for 14 misdemeanor charges, 12 of them traffic violations, including one for not wearing a seat belt.

Chanting "No Justice, No Peace," and carrying signs reading "Stop Police Brutality" outraged community residents demonstrated in the Downtown area and in the Black community of Over-the-Rhine. More than 100 people gathered at a prayer-vigil at the New Prospect Baptist Church that night.

"Simply stated, this city must get control of the streets," said Cincinnati mayor Luken. "We must send a clear signal of who is in charge. We must send a clear signal that law and order is the rule and anything else won't be tolerated," he added.

# Did September 11 mark 'new stage o

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

Commentators in the media as well as capitalist politicians have struck a constant theme in the aftermath of the September 11 attack: "The day the world changed," they say. That phrase, taken from the headline of the British *Economist* magazine, is one example. Washington, London, and other imperialist governments are hoping to convince working people and middle-class layers that a new world has dawned, and that their moves to war in Afghanistan, the militarization of the United States, restrictions on workers' rights and constitutional liberties are being taken simply in response to the attacks in New York and Washington.

The reality, however, is that the response of the Bush administration to the September 11 attacks, far from being a break with the recent past, is consistent with the accelerated trajectory of the handful of superwealthy families who rule the United States over the last decade and a half, under successive Republican and Democratic presidents. The Bush administration has simply seized on the events to try to push further and faster along this course.

Working people will find the origins of the U.S. rulers' war drive and assault on their rights not in the September 11 events, but in the very marrow of the imperialist system, and more specifically in the "mold-shattering changes that swept world politics between the October 1987 near-meltdown of the world's stock markets, and the so-called Mexican peso crisis that hit in December 1994," as Mary-Alice Waters write in the introduction to *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium*. The book is a collection of speeches by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes published by Pathfinder in 1999. Waters adds:

From the fall of the Berlin Wall to the disintegration of the Stalinist apparatuses in the Soviet Union; from the defeat of the white-minority apartheid regime in South Africa to the strengthening of socialist Cuba's world vanguard role; from the brutal and destabilizing imperialist assault on Iraq to the opening of the twenty-first century Balkan Wars; from the bursting of the Japanese economy's miracle 'bubble,' to the sharpening economic and social indigestion suffered by the German

capitalist rulers as they tried to swallow whole the east German workers state—the post-World War II pattern of the twentieth century came to a convulsive end."

## 1987 stock market crash

The 1987 stock market crash signaled not just the collapse of the balloon of paper values that had built up in the previous half-decade, it also registered the international capitalist economy had entered the downward side in a long curve of capitalist development, as seen in a historic decline in the rate of profit following the end of the postwar expansion and profit boom more than a decade earlier.

"To reenter a road of accelerating and self-feeding capital accumulation, the exploiters must inflict crushing defeats on the working class; drive under giant quantities of the weakest and most outmoded capitals at home and abroad in a ruthless competition for markets and profits; and invest in new industries and technologies that qualitatively expand their productive capacity" said the SWP's 1998 resolution, "What the 1987 stock market crash foretold."

"This course would require the capitalists to jack up the rate of exploitation of the working class to a degree that could only be achieved by longer hours of work and intense speedup," the resolution added, which is exactly what the employers pushed to achieve in the 1990s. But to accomplish this, "would require chronic unemployment and defeats of the unions on a massive enough scale to sap workers confidence," and deal blows to working people around the world, the resolution added.

## U.S. imperialism lost the Cold War

The imperialists suffered another objective blow within the next couple of years with the fall of a succession of Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

At first, the U.S. rulers celebrated the defeat of these ruling parties. But, "As time



Farmer in Serbia stands in house hit by NATO bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999. With the deepening of the capitalist crisis and interimperialist conflicts registered from 1987 on, Washington accelerated its drive to use its military might, and to boost its domestic powers for use against struggles by workers and farmers.

passes, we hear less and less of such triumphalist language," Barnes wrote in *Capitalism's World Disorder*. Many capitalist figures had hoped that, with the application of imperialist advice, pressure, and some investment, capitalist property relations would be rapidly reinstated. But experience quickly showed that the conversion to a market economy faced historic obstacles.

Referring to the 1917 overthrow of the rule of the Russian landlords and capitalists, Waters and Barnes wrote in the introduction to *New International* no. 11, which featured the report "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War."

"What was opened by the October revolution in Russia cannot be finessed out of history. Capitalism can only be established in those lands through bloody counterrevolution." Washington's defeat in the Cold War impelled it to prepare, "with cold-blooded awareness, for what it is convinced must eventually be done.... The state power of the working class must still be overthrown by military might."

The U.S. ruling class had maintained the hope that the "Cold War" could wear down the working class and weaken the workers states enough to make it possible over time to move in for the kill. "But they failed," Barnes says. "The bureaucratic caste was not an adequate surrogate. It had contradictory, not identical interests to those of the imperialists. Most important, it could not defeat the working class in the workers states" nor could it "permanently limit the degree to which the colonial peoples encroached on the prerogatives of capital," he writes. "And now imperialism, in a much weakened position compared to half a century ago, finds itself still confronting the working classes in these horribly degenerated workers states, as well as the communist-led socialist revolution in Cuba—but without the ability to rely on the massive counterrevolutionary apparatus of Stalinism as a buffer against uncontrolled forces in the world class struggle."

In pursuit of that objective, Washington has pushed to expand NATO, the European military alliance dominated by the U.S. imperialists, eastward to the very borders of the old Soviet Union. The U.S. rulers' actions have increased conflicts between Washington and its European allies and rivals, as well as within the anything-but-unified European Union.

Meanwhile, the crippling blow dealt to Stalinist regimes, and the parties they sponsored abroad, by the events of the late 1980s, opened the possibility for workers and farmers to begin to link up with their brothers and sisters internationally, and to reknit the continuity with revolutionary communism that had been torn apart by the Stalinist counterrevolutionaries.

"The disintegration of the bureaucratic castes, abandoning all pretense to speak for communism or represent the interests of the working class and its allies internationally, has removed an enormous roadblock that for decades stood in the way of revolutionary fighters finding their way to Marxism,"

wrote Waters and Barnes.

## Assault on Iraq

As these changes were gaining momentum, Washington organized its massive assault on Iraq, beginning with a several-month embargo and blockade, and building up to a massive offensive by air, land, and sea. It is useful to remember, in face of the hypocritical statements of U.S. ruling figures over the past weeks, that the U.S.-organized "air assaults inflicted massive death and destruction, and 150,000 or more Iraqis were cold-bloodedly massacred during the one-hundred-hour invasion and 'turkey shoot' that culminated the war," said Barnes in *Capitalism's World Disorder*.

"This slaughter," said Barnes, "along with similar unreported operations during [the first President] Bush's heroic hundred hours ranks among the great atrocities of modern warfare."

The refusal of the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein to organize effective national defense—saving its best armed units for the crushing of the national and popular rebellions that followed the war—guaranteed the imperialists a military victory. "Nonetheless," says Barnes in *Capitalism's World Disorder*, "The outcome of the Gulf War was not the big victory that Washington initially pretended." Among other things, Washington had hoped to put far behind it the widespread distrust among working people of capitalist institutions, including the officer corps, and disbelief in their rationale for their brutal military adventures mood often referred to as the "Vietnam syndrome."

The kind of alliance cobbled together by Washington for that war would not be put together again. An alliance of all the imperialist powers and many bourgeois governments in the Gulf region and Middle East, with open backing in the United Nations Security Council from Moscow and Beijing, had come together to support Washington. But such a combination of powers would never again come to agreement on a war or similar major military operation.... Conflicts will accelerate internationally and open up the next stage of world capitalist disorder.

The failure of Bush's attempts to draw any active support in its "war of terrorism" from other imperialist powers, outside of the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, or to form a pro-war alliance of governments in the Middle East, confirms the accuracy of that assessment.

One of the key political conclusions of *Opening Guns of World War III* rings particularly true today: "Washington's Gulf war and its outcome did not open up a new world order of stability and UN-overseen harmony," as claimed by Bush in the first short-lived flush of victory. "Instead," wrote Barnes, "it was the first war since the close of World War II that grew primarily out of the intensified competition and accelerating instability of the crises-ridden old imperialist world order. It is the increasing internal strains within this declining order that drove Washington to launch its murderous military adventure."

## Clinton—a war president

The administration of Democratic president William Clinton deepened and expanded the course represented by the Gulf War. Under Clinton, the White House pressed towards the greater use of its military forces abroad, and began preparing in earnest for their use alongside other repressive institutions at home, in the expectation of deepening class struggles on U.S. soil.

Speaking in 1993, Barnes described Clinton as "a war president." "That includes international economic and financial wars that will end up destabilizing capitalism and

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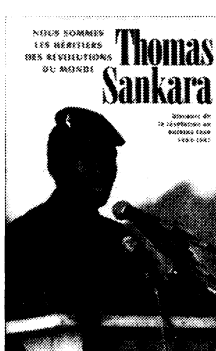
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# f world history'?

threatening real wars, as they always have throughout the history of capitalism," he said in *Capitalism's World Disorder*. "It will include the cold-blooded use of assaults against oppressed and exploited peoples and nations, in order to further advance Washington's dominant position in the imperialist feeding chain."

"U.S. imperialism will use its weight," continued Barnes, "be it police power, be it economic coercion, be it grinding pressure on the job, be it threats abroad, be it organizing direct military intervention or precipitating bloody struggles in other countries it pretends to stand above—in order to try to compensate for the disintegration of the stability of an expanding, self-confident capitalist social and economic order.... Economic instability, social dislocation, and political radicalization—right and left: that is what all of us are slowly but surely being pulled into."

During the eight years of Clinton's rule, U.S. armed forces were sent to Somalia and Yugoslavia; cruise missile attacks were launched on Sudan and Afghanistan, under the pretext of punishing "terrorists" accused of attacks on U.S. embassies in Africa; and regular air strikes were conducted in the no-fly zones imposed on Iraq after the Gulf War—a practice continued by Bush's government.

## Attack on workers at home

The Clinton administration was marked by a simultaneous offensive against the rights of working people at home. Federal death penalty laws were demonstratively broadened. Congress bolstered the legislative weaponry at the disposal of the courts and the cops, including powers of indefinite "preventive detention" and measures aimed first at immigrant workers, including the summary deportation of alleged "illegal" immigrants.

Clinton's anti-working-class measures included a 1996 act that gave terrorism a broad definition, raising the prospect of such a charge being leveled against those involved in struggles by unions, farmers, or against imperialist war.

Under the banner of the fight against drugs, Clinton's 1994 crime bill weakened protections provided under the Fourth Amendment against unreasonable search and seizure. The same banner provides the rationale for the buildup of U.S. military involvement in a number of Latin American countries—a buildup aimed at the struggles of workers and peasants against local landlords and capitalists, and the governments that serve them.

In expanding these attacks on democratic rights, Bush has used the full range of legislation introduced by Clinton, from the anti-immigrant measures—some of which have been modified in the face of the dependence of U.S. capitalists on immigrant labor, and under the impact of a succession of equal-rights and other struggles by immigrants and the labor movement—to the death penalty, and frame-up trials of alleged "spies."

Commenting on these moves in talks published in the Pathfinder title *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, Barnes stated that there is no "reason to anticipate some tidal wave of repression right around the corner. But the U.S. rulers are already shifting gears from the last decade. They know they will face more and bigger battles as international capitalist competition drives them to slash wages, extend the workday, intensify speedup, cut social security protections, and crush the unions. And they are preparing to defend their class interests."

Before a joint session of Congress September 20, Bush announced the formation of the Office of Homeland Security, a move, like the massive and unprecedented military deployments on U.S. soil over the prior nine days, was prepared under the Clinton administration. The Pentagon changed its structure for the first time during Clinton's presidency to include a North American Command and began training military forces for use inside the United States. Congress authorized the Pentagon in 1999 to place specially trained National Guard units in the largest population centers for possible deployment.

## The reality of imperialist rule

Washington's assaults abroad and abrogation of rights at home serve the same end: to maintain the imperialist order and the super profits that it shovels into the pockets of the ruling class. This system exacts a terrible toll on the vast majority of working people of all countries.

"Americans, think why you are hated all over the world" read a banner held by Pakistani working people protesting the looming attack on Afghanistan. Writing earlier this year in the *Militant*, in a series of articles entitled "*Communism and Labor's Transformation of Nature*," Steve Clark noted the enormous disparity of resources across the globe. "Roughly 2 billion people," he wrote, "have no access to modern energy—either to electricity, or to modern sources of fuel for cooking and heating."

Altogether the imperialist countries of North America, Europe, and the Pacific, with 14 percent of the world's population, consume 57 percent of the electricity. Excluding Japan and China, on the other hand, the countries of Asia and the Pacific, with 31 percent of the world's population, consume only 10 percent of the electricity; and the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, with nearly 10 percent of the world's population, consume only 1 percent of the electricity.

This system was established through, and has been marked by, a series of brutal wars. Imperialist conflicts took at least 100 million lives in the 20th century.

## 'We' and 'they'

Workers and exploited farmers in the United States have no common interests, in wartime or peacetime, with the imperialist rulers, Barnes explained in "*The Opening Guns of World War III*." During the Gulf War, he said, "we explained to our co-workers and others why the U.S. government is not 'our' government, but the government of the employers, of the capitalists, of the imperialist exploiters and oppressors of working people the world over—their government. He returned to this theme in *Cuba and the Coming American revolution*:

Our class enemy is the capitalists themselves and the two-party system that in the United States serves as the central political prop of their rule. We have no common interests with the capitalists. Everything they try to tell us about "our country," "our way of life," "our language," "our industry," "our factory" are lies. The "our" is the heart of the lie. It's a diversion aimed at dividing us from those with whom we do have common interests—the workers, farmers, and exploited toilers of all countries. All of us share the same class enemies: the imperialist ruling classes, and the domestic landlords and capitalists dominated by imperialism the world over. That's the only "we" and "they" that has any meaning for working people.

In wartime pressures mount on vanguard workers, farmers, and anti-imperialist fighters to fudge this fundamental question. Let "us" mourn the tragedy "together" goes one refrain often heard in New York, for example. Many forces who claim to speak for the working class and for socialism have adopted that framework.

"The terrorist attack on September 11 has shaken all of us," said Sam Webb, the national chair of the Stalinist Communist Party, USA, in a September 21 statement. "Indeed, people are questioning long held assumptions that inform how we think about our lives, our families, and our nation's future." Webb adds, that "no country, not even ours, is an impenetrable fortress able to safeguard people's livelihoods and lives. This lesson has been brought home with enormous force." This, the CPUSA chair says, signals "a sea change has occurred in our nation's life."

## Sea change in working-class politics

But long before Sept. 11, 2001, workers and farmers in the United States and around the world had already gone through a sea change. In the opening chapter of *Capitalism's Word Disorder*, entitled "A Sea Change in Working-Class Politics," Barnes



Members of Teamsters union in California rally in 1997 during strike against UPS. After more than half a decade of retreat following the Gulf War, workers and farmers began to weave a "new pattern in struggle." The upturn in resistance and the development of a vanguard "resisting indignity and isolation" were among the elements of this sea change in working-class politics.

describes the upturn in resistance, and the development of a vanguard of workers and farmers steeled in recent struggles. Speaking in 1998, he contrasts this to the immediate aftermath of the Gulf War.

"Battered by the way imperialism's brutal assault on Iraq ended, without a fight, and lulled by the extension of the Reagan-Bush economic expansion, our class went into retreat for more than half a decade," he said. This period had passed, said Barnes in the 1998 speech. A sea change in working class politics had already occurred, he emphasized. "The most important aspect of it," he said, is "that a shift in mass psychology is taking place in the working class in the United States of America"

The sea change had begun by early 1997, at the latest, he said.

That's when it became clear that no matter what the legacy—in an industry, in a union, in a region, among any segment of working people—no matter how limited the results of previous struggles, what happens now in any struggle has less and less connection to earlier defeats...

A new pattern is being woven in struggle as working people emerge from a period of retreat, resisting the consequences of the rulers' final blow-off boom, of 'globalization'—their grandiloquent term that displays impe-

rial arrogance while it masks brutal assaults on human dignity the world over. The emerging pattern is taking shape, defined by the actions of a vanguard resisting indignity and isolation, whose ranks increase with every single worker or farmer who reaches out to others with the hand of solidarity and offers to fight together.

As the imperialists accelerate their offensive at home and abroad, the stakes in linking up with this vanguard in formation rise.

Seven years earlier, Barnes had described how communist workers tackled the same tasks during the Gulf War. Writing in "*Opening Guns of World War III*," he explained that in carrying out this campaign against imperialism and its war drive:

We have consciously avoided the political trap of functioning as communist workers in peacetime, and then sliding toward acting as radical pacifists in wartime. We act as the communist component of the vanguard of the working class, at all times and under all conditions. We have been confident that a working-class campaign carried out in this way will be politically attractive to and will draw in fighters—whatever their social background, especially among the youth—who oppose imperialist war, who want to understand the roots of such wars, and who seek ways to act on their convictions."

## Deepen a working-class campaign against imperialism and its war drive today

New York City, Sun., September 30

## Communists and the World Struggle against Imperialism Today

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National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party

#### Jack Willey

National Committee, SWP

#### Mary-Alice Waters

Editor of *New International*

#### Steve Clark

Editorial director, Pathfinder Press

- ❖ Growing divergence of anti-imperialist struggles in the colonial world and radical politics in the imperialist countries
- ❖ The Algeria world youth festival: a step on the road to a new communist international
- ❖ Energy, science, and agriculture: uniting toilers of town and country worldwide
- ❖ The disintegration of Stalinist forces and their convergence with anarchism
- ❖ The place of Pathfinder books and pamphlets: from Algeria to Cuba, factory gates and mine portals, to street corners in workers districts, to the 'Lumumba' film show

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# How state of Pakistan came into existence

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The recent agreement by Pakistani president Gen. Pervez Musharraf to open up the country's air space and other facilities to Washington for its imperialist military assault on Afghanistan will inevitably accelerate class divisions and conflicts throughout the South Asian subcontinent. Already some significant protests have occurred in Pakistan against that government's backing of the U.S. rulers' war preparations.

Recently the Pakistani rulers closed their borders with Afghanistan, though there are still some 2 million Afghan refugees living in camps in northwest Pakistan. Another 2 million Afghan refugees live in Iran, where the government has also sealed its border with Afghanistan. The United Nations describes the Afghan refugees as the world's largest refugee population.

Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan, Iran, India, China, and the Arabian Sea, is a nation of 144 million people—the seventh largest population in the world—with the vast majority living in dire poverty. In fact, according to official government statistics, 40 percent of the population lives below the government-declared poverty line. The country's main exports are textiles, rice, and other agricultural products, with 24 percent of its exports going to the United States. Pakistan is saddled with a \$38 billion debt owed primarily to banks in the imperialist countries. Making interest payments on this debt totals nearly 50 percent of government expenditures.

The current ruler of the country, General Musharraf, took power in a military coup in October 1999. One of his first moves was to dissolve Parliament. Seven months later, Pakistan's Supreme Court legally sanctioned the coup and granted Musharraf executive and legislative authority through October 2002. This past June, Musharraf, following the pattern of three of Pakistan's previous military rulers, appointed himself president and formal head of state. The country has been ruled by military dictators for nearly half of its 54-year existence.

The nation of Pakistan came into existence in August 1947 as a result of the British rulers' divide-and-rule policies as they scrambled to keep imperialist domination of the Indian subcontinent in place in the face of a massive rise of the anticolonial struggles that broke out in Asia and Africa following the end of World War II.

As part of a widening battle for independence from British colonial rule, a strike wave spread across India in 1946 and '47. A May 1946 article in the *Fourth International* magazine by Robert Birchman titled, "Revolutionary Developments in India," described these momentous events. "The termination of hostilities in the Pacific marked a stormy resurgence of the working-class movement in India," he wrote. "This vast subcontinent has witnessed strikes in virtually all the major cities—Bombay, Calcutta, Allahabad, Delhi, Madras, etc. At the beginning of this year this strike wave assumed a highly political character. The Indian working class swept to the forefront as the decisive force in the struggle of the Indian people for independence from the British yoke."

Facing strikes, demonstrations, and even a mutiny of the Indian navy, the British rulers decided they had to move towards some form of nominal political independence for India. In seeking to maintain as much as possible of their imperialist economic, military, and social domination of the subcontinent, the British ruling class began to divide up colonial India into two countries along religious lines. A Muslim state of Pakistan was created—separated into east and west sections 1,000 miles apart—and a largely Hindu state of India.

A June 14, 1947, article in the *Militant* titled "British Capitalists Hail Deal to Chop Up India," by Joseph Hansen describes in further detail the British imperialists' decision. The plan provided for splintering up India into a gerrymandered Hindu state (Hindustan), two segments of a Muslim state (Pakistan), and some 563 "princely states," that were developed as British military bases, explained Hansen.

The British rulers "deem haste now to be of the utmost necessity—not to give India her freedom—but to still the rumblings of revolt that have been shaking the entire subcontinent of India the past year and more," wrote Hansen. "It is precisely their fear that the young Indian working class under mili-

tant leadership, can lead all of India in a socialist revolution that drove the Indian capitalists to accept the position of junior partnership with the British imperialists in ruling India. By partitioning India, they hope to divide and separate and split up the people, thus breaking the bonds of unity now being forged among the Indian masses."

In implementing this partition scheme the British imperialists sought to fan the flame of religious divisions even further, since some 50 million Muslims were still living in India and 10 million Hindus in Pakistan. Following the 1947 partition, London's criminal policy sparked vast migrations and religious riots, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths and the creation of millions of refugees.

Fighting was especially fierce in Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim state ruled by a Hindu aristocracy. Kashmir remains partitioned to this day with Indian government troops occupying two-thirds of the territory and troops from Pakistan the rest. The regimes in India and Pakistan have fought two further fierce battles over the province in 1965 and 1990.

Following in the footsteps of the British imperialists, the U.S. rulers in February 1954 began sending military aid to Pakistan,

which was aimed at fortifying the capitalist regime there, for future conflicts with the workers state of China. In 1962, when the first frontier incidents broke out between India and China, Washington likewise sent arms to India for the same purpose.

In 1971 the conflict between India and Pakistan exploded into a full-scale war as the struggle of the people of East Bengal (East Pakistan)—who since 1947 had been part of the Pakistani state—began to make advances toward winning independence for what became the nation of Bangladesh.

Ever since the 1947 partition, East Bengal was politically and economically subjugated by Pakistan virtually as a colony. The development of this eastern state was stunted so that it would remain a supplier of raw materials—especially jute—and foreign exchange to enrich the Pakistani capitalists.

India announced its recognition of the government of Bangladesh in hopes of further weakening Pakistan and extending its own political influence in the area. In this dispute Washington sided with Pakistan, which was led by Yahya Khan, then the dictator of the country. The capitalist rulers in all three states were opposed to the struggle against national oppression and for self-determination of the people of East Bengal.

## Socialist candidate gains ballot spot in Houston

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

HOUSTON—"Today, my campaign submitted 3,000 signatures gathered by supporters throughout the city, including from fellow meat packers where I work," Anthony Dutrow, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Houston, told reporters September 24 on the steps of city hall after submitting petitions to place his name on the ballot. Dutrow is running against Mayor Lee Brown and Republican and Democratic party politicians Orlando Sanchez and Chris Bell.

At the press conference Dutrow spoke out against the attacks on workers' rights, such as arrests and indefinite detention by federal officials of immigrants, and the wave of anti-Arab and Muslim violence across the country, including attacks on businesses run by immigrants in Houston and a killing in Dallas of a person originally from Pakistan.

*El Dia*, Houston's Spanish language daily, reported the press conference in its September 25 issue. Under the title "A meat packer with aspirations for mayor," *El Dia* reported Dutrow demanded, "Washington keep its hands off Afghanistan and immediately withdraw all its warships, planes, and troops from the Mideast and South Asia."

"My campaign calls on all democratic-minded individuals to oppose government trampling on rights, such as arbitrary searches and seizures, and to defend the right to the presumption of innocence and due process," the article quoted Dutrow as saying. It describes the socialist candidate's experiences defending rights of workers, participating in actions against police brutality, discrimination against gays, and the

EL CUARTO CANDIDATO

## Un empacador de carnes con aspiraciones de alcalde

*El Día / Marcos Piller*



HOUSTON TX. Anthony Dutrow de 58 años, un trabajador que se desempeña como empacador de carnes, tiene aspiraciones de convertirse en alcalde de Houston, apoyado por el Partido de los Trabajadores Socialistas, convirtiéndose en el cuarto candidato a esta posición, junto con el actual alcalde Lee Brown y los concejales Chris Bell y Orlando Sánchez, quienes también inscribieron sus respectivas candidaturas.

Según voceros de su campaña Dutrow ha promovido la solidaridad entre la clase trabajadora, participando en numerosas líneas de huelgas, entre ellas: con los trabajadores víctimas del cierre patronal de la empresa Crown Petroleum de Houston, los obreros siderúrgicos de Kaiser en Louisiana, trabajadores de los astilleros Avondale en Nueva Orleans y con otros trabajadores defendiendo sus derechos.

Por otra parte ayudó a organizar protestas para exigir el encarcelamiento de los policías de Houston que participaron en el asesinato de Pedro Oregón, un inmigrante mexicano; ha organizado protestas en defensa del derecho de la mujer al aborto y en oposición de la guerra israelí en contra del pueblo palestino.

En entrevista concedida a *El Día*, Dutrow dijo que los trabajadores enfrentan condiciones cada día peores, una escalada de brutalidad policíaca, racismo, creciente desempleo, ataques a los derechos y a los sindicatos, pero que en cada país los trabajadores están resistiendo esos ataques.

“Mi campaña está a la orden de los trabajadores para que nos sirva como voz y apoyo en la lucha en contra de la explotación y la opresión. Mi campaña forma parte de la lucha para forjar un liderato en este país que pueda llevar a la clase trabajadora a una lucha revolucionaria, para reemplazar al gobierno de los poderosos de Washington, por uno formado por obreros y agricultores,” afirmó Dutrow.

Integrantes de la campaña de los Trabajadores Socialistas, manifestaron apoyar la igualdad de los derechos de los inmigrantes, además de exigir una amnistía y un alto a la demagogia de los servicios médicos para los trabajadores indocumentados; se declaran a favor de la educación bilingüe; que el derecho de obtener una licencia de conducir no dependa de un número de seguro social; y la acción afirmativa con cuotas de empleo y educación.

También dicen ser partidarios en el alto a la discriminación en contra de homosexuales y lesbianas; la abolición de la pena de muerte, y por el derecho de la mujer de escoger el aborto.

“Como candidato de los Trabajadores Socialistas a la Alcaldía de Houston, exijo que Washington no intervenga en Afganistán y que retiren de inmediato todos sus buques de guerra, aviones y tropas del Medio Oriente y del Sur Asiático.

Mi campaña invita a toda persona de orientación democrática a oponerse a los atropellos cometidos por el gobierno, como el registro e incautación arbitrarios, y a defender los derechos como la presunción de inocencia y las garantías procesales”, subrayó Dutrow.

ANTHONY DUTROW, COMPETIRÁ con Brown, Bell y Sánchez, por la alcaldía de Houston.

"Washington keep its hands off Afghanistan and immediately withdraw all its warships, planes, and troops from the Mideast and South Asia," said socialist mayoral candidate Anthony Dutrow, as reported in Houston's Spanish language daily *El Día*.

death penalty, and backing the struggle for a woman's right to choose abortion. It also features the Socialist Workers campaign's defense of immigrant rights.

"My campaign is part of the struggle to forge a leadership in this country that can

lead working people in a revolutionary struggle to replace the government of the superwealthy minority in Washington with one of workers and farmers," affirmed Dutrow.

Socialist Workers campaign supporters gathered signatures in working-class neighborhoods and on college campuses. More than one-third of the 3,000 signatures were collected since September 11. Thousands of workers and students discussed Washington's war drive with campaign supporters and signed up to get Dutrow on the ballot. A number of the 200 participants at a September 19 teach-in at the University of Houston on "peace in the Middle East" signed up after hearing Dutrow speak. Campaign supporters also participated in a September 14 protest against the U.S. government's drive toward war against Afghanistan at the federal building, and campaigned in the neighborhood where a 22-year-old Black man was killed by Houston cops.

"The response to a working class, socialist alternative to the Democratic and Republican party politicians has been gratifying," Dutrow told reporters. "Now, more than ever, workers, toiling farmers, youth, and others need a working-class voice in opposition to imperialist war and the increasing attacks on workers' rights."

*Jacquie Henderson is a sewing machine operator in Houston.*

## Workers strike ShopRite in New Jersey

BY GEORGE CHALMERS

PHILADELPHIA—More than 1,400 cashiers, shelf stockers, and baggers are on strike at 10 ShopRite food stores in southern New Jersey. About 80 percent are part-time workers, but pickets say 60-hour workweeks for many union members are common, and mandatory overtime is an issue in the strike. Starting pay is \$6.75 an hour.

The strikers are members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1360. The workers are fighting for part-time workers to have health-care coverage for dependents and against company moves to impose higher medical coverage co-payments on the workforce.

After more than two weeks on strike, which began September 6, pickets remain convinced of the justice of their fight. Business at the struck stores is down by an estimated 80 percent.

According to striker Jason Belfiore, store owners are refusing to negotiate. The stores belong to the Wakefern Co-op, which is

headquartered in northern New Jersey. The company has been busing in supervisors, office workers, and temporary workers to work at the struck stores.

Outside the stores uniformed and jackbooted security cops patrol with video cameras and keep a constant pressure on pickets to keep moving and conform to a court injunction limiting where the strikers can have their picket line.

**Strike during imperialist war buildup**

In face of the imperialist war drive following the destruction of the World Trade Center, the unionists have faced some hostility. Strikers Debbie Goldman and Ryan Masters said union members were spit on or had marbles or quarters thrown at them, along with remarks such as, "Can't you look at what's going on in New York?" Another asked, "Are you trying to terrorize me?"

Belfiore said a hostile passerby told him, "You should be with the rest of union workers helping dig out in New York. It's un-

American to be out here." Jason pointed out that "since ShopRite was open for business I was going to stay right there, on the picket line."

In addition, sister UFCW Local 56 representing 1,000 meat cutters and deli department workers in the same stores have gone back to work after honoring and staffing Local 1360's picket lines for two weeks. According to strike captain Larry Meredith, many members of the local did not want to go back to work; they themselves face a contract renewal in November.

Meredith described how returning meat cutters refused company demands they learn how to run a cash register and put groceries on the shelves. In retaliation, the company cut work hours to four a day and the workers are being threatened with layoffs.

*George Chalmers is a member of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees.*



# Imperialists have sought for decades to rule Afghanistan

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS  
AND GREG MCCARTAN

Afghanistan is a semicolonial country that has been oppressed and exploited by colonial and imperialist powers for two centuries. Washington's war to occupy the capital of Kabul and directly impose its will on Afghanistan's 25 million people is the latest in a string of attempted conquests of the peoples there. Despite the presence of vast gas and iron resources, most of which are untapped, it is one of the poorest countries in the world, with an average annual per capita income of \$800. Only 12 percent of the population has access to safe drinking water.

The country was the scene of a mass revolutionary upsurge as recently as 1978, following a popular revolt five years earlier that led to the ouster of king Muhammad Zahir Shah, who is today in discussions with Washington over the future of the country in his Italian exile. The struggles of peasants, workers, and students in Afghanistan have been connected with revolutions and protests in Iran and Pakistan over the past decades. And battles for national rights by the Baluchi people, who live in areas across Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, and that of the Pushtun peoples, have political resonance in all three countries. The Pushtun people are divided by the boundary line between Afghanistan and what is today Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, an area taken away from Afghanistan by British imperialism at the end of the last century.

Today Washington is organizing a bombing campaign and invasion of a country in which more than one in four children die before the age of five and the average life expectancy is about 46 years, according to 1998 World Bank figures. In contrast, life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa—also one of the poorest regions in the world—is 50 years. Average life expectancy for the world's population is 67 years. The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) reported last year that Afghanistan ranked fourth from the bottom for infant mortality.

Washington's war drive against Afghanistan has exacerbated an already existing social crisis caused by one of the worst droughts in the country's history. The U.S. and British imperialists are preparing to use both "bombs and bread" in their onslaught, noted the *Financial Times*, as they combine their military offensive with the doling out of food aid.

Famine and drought conditions have already driven some 700,000 people—more than 3 percent of the country's population—from their homes. United Nations World Food Program officials estimate that 3.8 million Afghans confront severe food shortages, and report that in every part of the country people are fleeing from their homes. "Many have sold or slaughtered their cows and sheep, because there is not enough to feed neither animals nor men," an Afghan man told one reporter.

"In normal times, the young, the old, so many children go to sleep at night without food. And now what can I say?" said Muhammad Haider Toryali, a neurologist in Afghanistan's capital city Kabul. "I want to ask Mr. Bush how will he rationalize attacks on hungry, innocent people?"

Afghanistan is composed of a number of nationalities of different languages and cultures, including Pushtun, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Hazara, and others. In fact many of them have closer ties to people living in Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan than to others living in Afghanistan.

## Defeat of British occupation

Afghanistan was established by a confederation of Pushtun tribes. Next to the Ottoman Empire, it was the largest Muslim empire during the second half of the 18th century.

In the 19th century Afghanistan was a battleground in the competition between British colonialists and Czarist Russia for control over Central Asia. In three Anglo-Afghan wars British troops were defeated, including in 1839-42 when Afghan fighters overturned a British-installed puppet regime and forced out 4,500 troops along with

12,000 other occupiers. One person made it alive to the border.

Under Washington's newfound ally, Zahir Shah, the great majority of the population were peasants, who also comprised 80 percent of the workforce. The best land had been grabbed by wealthy landlords, while peasants labored under semifeudal conditions and sold shares of their coming harvest to landlords in order to rent land and obtain seeds, animals, and equipment. The dictatorships of the Shah in Iran, Ayub Khan in Pakistan, and Muhammed Shah in Afghanistan—despite divisions and conflicts among them—formed a reactionary bulwark against working people in the region.

The Stalinist regime in Moscow maintained relations with successive Afghan governments in the decades following World War II. In the 1950s, Kabul sought military aid from Washington on a par with its grants to the Pakistani regime. Washington demanded that Afghanistan join the imperialist-inspired CENTO military alliance and drop its support for the demand for a united Pushtunistan. Kabul rejected these dictates and turned to Moscow for military aid, receiving the largest amount granted any capitalist country by the Soviet Union.

In the late 1960s workers' strikes and protests, student demonstrations, and actions defending women's rights occurred in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Peasants, facing the impact of a severe three-year drought and famine, began expressing their discontent.

Seeking to head off a mass upheaval, Muhammad Daud, the king's cousin and former prime minister, overthrew him and declared a republic. Daud named to his cabinet members of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), a party of middle class radical intellectuals. Facing mounting actions by the oppressed and exploited in the country, Daud sought closer ties with the pro-imperialist regimes in Iran and Pakistan.

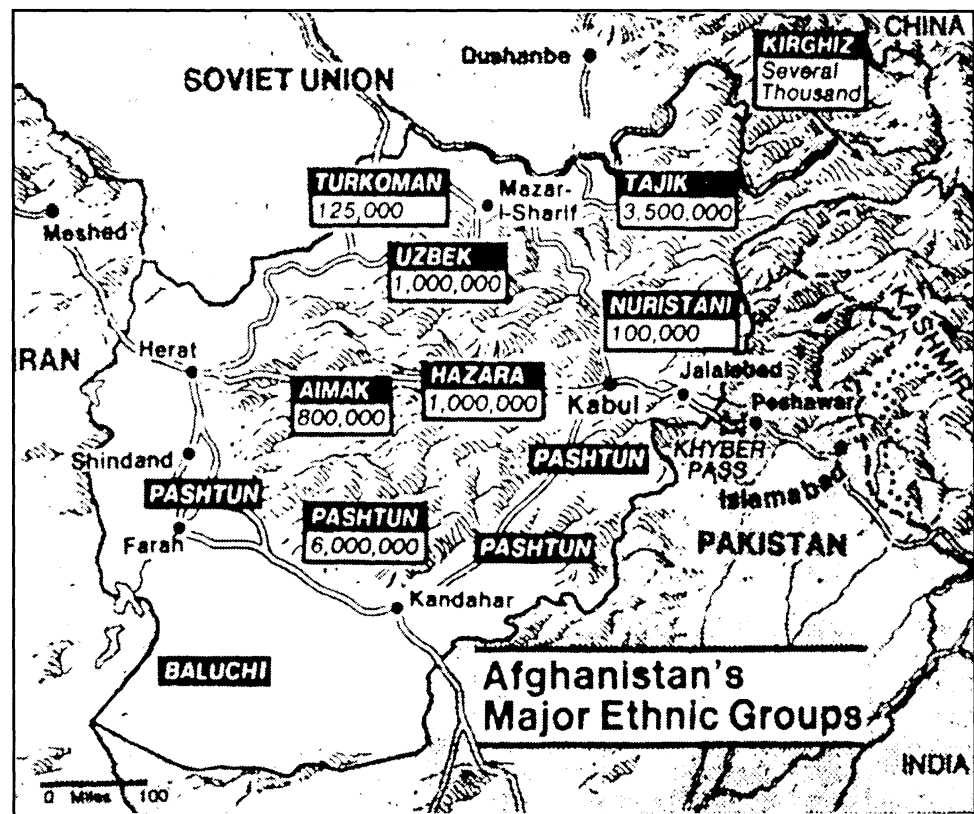
## Revolutionary mobilizations spread

As revolutionary mobilizations spread in Iran, eventually leading to the overthrow of the shah, an April 1978 funeral procession in Kabul for a leader of the PDPA killed by police turned into a protest of 15,000 people, who marched on the U.S. embassy to protest complicity of the CIA and Iranian secret police in the murder. Other mass demonstrations followed. As dissatisfaction spread throughout the country, the PDPA, backed by its supporters in the army, overthrew Daud.

The PDPA, which had developed ties with Moscow, had no significant base among the peasants or the small number of wage workers. Initially its regime won popular support as it announced a program of social reforms, including land redistribution, a literacy campaign, construction of schools, and a ban on child marriage. The government released up to 13,000 political prisoners and burned police files. It proclaimed cultural and education rights for Turkomans, Uzbeks, Baluchis, Nuristanis, and other nationalities, enabling them to publish materials and produce radio programs for the first time in Afghan history.

Removed from the peasantry and the working class, however, the PDPA, with a guiding hand from the Kremlin, began carrying out these policies in a bureaucratic way, implementing them over the heads of working people, and providing an opening for reactionary landlord and capitalist layers to mobilize opposition. Instead of organizing and mobilizing the toilers, the Kabul government attempted to impose sweeping reforms by administrative decrees, and then force, when they were met by landlord-backed resistance. As backing for the regime dwindled, the Kremlin aimed to sustain a friendly capitalist government and used its influence to help maintain stability, spent millions of dollars, and sent increasing numbers of civilian and military personnel to shore up the regime.

Landlord-backed forces began waging an armed struggle and gained support as the Kabul government disintegrated. In December 1979 Moscow airlifted thousands of



Soviet troops into Afghanistan and installed Babrak Karmal, who had been living in Czechoslovakia, as prime minister and president. The number of Soviet troops eventually reached 115,000. The action was another setback to the revolutionary struggle that opened in 1978, and to the class struggle in Iran and Pakistan.

## U.S. rulers back assault on Soviet troops

Washington and its imperialist allies responded to Moscow's occupation of Afghanistan by providing hundreds of millions of dollars of direct aid and military equipment, including shoulder-fired Stinger antiaircraft missiles, to rightist groups. Other aid was channeled through Pakistan, which received \$3 billion from the U.S. government between 1982 and 1986, and Saudi Arabia.

U.S. government officials had worked alongside Osama bin Laden "to help oust the Russians from Afghanistan," wrote *New York Times* reporter Judith Miller. According to a September 18 BBC News report, bin Laden "received training from the CIA itself." While in Afghanistan, he founded the Maktab al-Khidimat, "which recruited fighters from around the world."

By the time the Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan in 1989, an estimated 1 million people had been killed, and another 5

million had fled into exile. More than 3 million refugees went to Pakistan where the Pakistan, U.S. and other governments provided rightist forces with extensive bases and support.

Under a UN-brokered peace agreement in 1992 Burhannudin Rabbani was declared president and Ahmad Shah Masood was named defense minister. In 1994 factional fighting broke out again and the Taliban, backed by Pakistan, carried out its first military operation. Rabbani and Masood were forced out of Kabul in 1996 and the rest of the country was carved up among various factions, many of them mujahedeen commanders establishing virtual fiefdoms.

The Taliban is based predominantly on the Pushtun people, and its leadership came from a network of private, ruraly-based religious schools in Afghanistan and the neighboring areas of Pakistan. With the backing of the Pakistani army and intelligence services as well as the regime in Saudi Arabia, the Taliban eventually swept across Afghanistan, scoring a string of military victories and capturing some 90 percent of the country. It was recognized as the official government of Afghanistan by the regimes in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates in 1998, the only states to do so.

# Pathfinder sets sales goals

## Continued from front page

at the publishing house were to shoot well over \$300,000 this year. "Now, with the imperialists preparing a military assault on the peoples of Afghanistan and their concurrent attacks on workers' rights at home, there is increased interest in Pathfinder's titles," Clark said.

"The range of titles includes the lessons of the working-class movement over 150 years that are essential in understanding the world today. They help explain what the imperialists have in store for humanity, as well as the possibilities for workers and farmers to wage a revolutionary struggle to replace the capitalist government with one of their own, joining in the international battle for national liberation and socialism," he said.

Clark pointed in particular to books such as *Capitalism's World Disorder: Working-Class Politics at the Millennium* by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes, and the series of *New International* magazines—available in five languages—with features such as "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," "What the 1987 Stock Market Crash Foretold," and "U.S. Imperialism Has Lost the Cold War." Among other things, he said, these titles review lessons of how working people over the past century have fought to defend their class interests and organizations in face of imperialist war and the capitalists' assault on workers and farmers.

Pathfinder also publishes or distributes the writings of the founders of the modern working-class movement, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels; the leaders of the Russian Revolution, such as V.I. Lenin and Leon Trotsky; and the history of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, with books including *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party* by James P. Cannon, *In Defense of Marxism* by Leon Trotsky, *Fighting Racism in World*

*War II*, and the two series by Farrell Dobbs that include titles such as *Teamster Rebellion* and *Revolutionary Continuity: Marxist Leadership in the United States*.

Meeting the \$500,000 goal by June 2002 means not only keeping up the current pace of sales but increasing them by about \$3,000 a month, Clark said. That's several hundred more books or pamphlets each month, on average.

"We're confident we can meet this goal because of the response socialist workers, Young Socialists, and other supporters of Pathfinder have been getting at local Pathfinder bookstores, from co-workers on the job, at literature tables in working-class districts, and through visits to bookstores, libraries, and other book outlets," Clark said. "We want to build on those accomplishments."

Several examples are Pathfinder supporters in New York are discussing how to begin consistent sales to commercial outlets

Continued on Page 13

## Support the \$125,000 Pathfinder Fund!

In order to continue to expand Pathfinder's publishing program and keep in print hundreds of books needed by working people and youth fighting imperialism and its wars, a \$125,000 fund drive will be launched at the September 30 meeting in New York, "Communists and the world struggle against imperialism today." The fund will end December 15. Come to the meeting and make a pledge and contribution, or contact supporters of Pathfinder in your area to become a part of the fund drive.

# Coal miners respond to antiunion drive

BY TONY LANE

PITTSBURGH—Members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 1248 from the Maple Creek mine held a picket line here September 24 as part of winning solidarity in their fight against the union-busting drive of independent coal operator Robert Murray, who owns the Maple Creek mine. The coal miners' union is also utilizing highway billboards and full-page newspaper ads in its campaign. The miners picketed an industry coal show Murray was attending.

Coal companies owned by Murray have counterattacked with a substantial propaganda blitz, taking out full-page ads in the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* and *Tribune-Review* as well as in the Uniontown *Herald-Standard* and the Washington *Observer-Reporter*, both published in the southwestern Pennsylvania coalfields. Murray has run the ads nearly every day since September 11.

The first round of ads was billed as "An important message to the residents of Western Pennsylvania," and purported to be "the truth" about Robert Murray and Maple Creek Mining. Similar material has been distributed in Ohio by the Ohio Valley Coal Company.

The ad claims that "many (union) employees at Maple Creek earn as much as nearly \$100,000 a year." It accuses the union of attempting to "bully" Murray and states that "the UMWA must not be successful in these clandestine efforts."

The second round of ads ask the question, "Why is the UMWA attacking and bullying Bob Murray?" and answers, "Desperation!" This ad is published under the name of Maple Creek Mining, Inc. and the Ohio Valley Coal Company, the only union-or-

ganized mines out of the nine that Murray owns through various family-held companies.

The thrust of the ad is that the UMWA is on its way down and is a thing of the past. Graphs in the ad show a declining union membership and a drop in the percentage of coal produced by union members. Under the headline "The UMWA is being rejected!" the antilabor ad says the union suffered a decisive loss in a union certification vote in Virginia.

The coal boss also makes great play of a column in a southern Illinois newspaper written by a former coal miner. This miner attacked the UMWA in the wake of a union rally at the Murray-owned Galatia mine in Illinois. Excerpts from the column assert the UMWA "is past its prime—attempting to make an ill-fated comeback." It also states, "The days of bullying people to get their way are over—forever."

While coal operators like Robert Murray hope that the UMWA is on its last leg, the record of the last two years instead illustrates growing resistance among coal miners to the bosses' offensive. More miners are seeking to join the UMWA, such as in union-organizing efforts in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia over recent months. Miners at Murray-owned Maple Creek and Powhatan No. 6 mines have mobilized in their hundreds to defend their union, attending union meetings on memorial days and a July 24 rally of more than 400 at Powhatan Point, Ohio.

The UMWA international has begun public campaigns against Peabody and Massey Energy, two of the biggest coal companies, in an effort to strengthen union membership.

In May, 100 miners rallied outside Massey subsidiary Elk Run Coal in southern West Virginia. In September, a similar rally was held in front of Black Beauty Coal's Francisco mine in Indiana, in which Peabody has a majority stake.

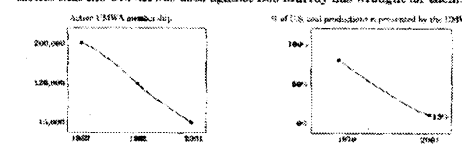
Last year two major actions demonstrate the resistance that is taking hold among miners and in coalfield communities. In May, 8,000 working and retired miners, family members, high school students, and others from coal-mining regions held a national demonstration in Washington in defense of lifetime health-care benefits. This followed five UMWA-initiated regional rallies the previous year. And in July, two Western locals of the UMWA, through strikes that lasted more than two months, beat back an effort by Pittsburg and Midway Coal to exact concessions that included cutting overtime pay, lengthening the workweek, and reducing benefits. In the wake of this resistance, union contracts at nearby Peabody mines were settled without concessions in August.

Tony Lane is a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1248.

**Question:** Why is the United Mine Workers of America ("UMWA") attacking and bullying Mr. Robert E. "Bob" Murray?

**Answer:** Desperation!

Bob Murray respects anyone's right to have or join a union. However, Mr. Murray also will defend employees' rights to determine for themselves if they want a union, and, if so, which one. The UMWA has tried to bring Bob Murray to his knees with inaccurate statements, concerted issues, intimidation, harassment, and outright bullying so that he will turn the new Century Mine of American Energy Corporation in Belmont County, Ohio - where the employees do not want the UMWA - over to them. Look at what the type of tactics that the UMWA has used against Bob Murray has wrought for them:



**The UMWA is being rejected!**

In fact, just last month, the UMWA suffered a decisive loss in a union certification election at Cumberland Resources in Wise County, Va., as well as other losses.

Here's the view of one newspaper columnist - a 21-year UMWA member and son of a 40-plus year member - in his own words about the UMWA's recent demonstration at American Coal Co.'s Galatia Mine in Saline County, Ill.

**SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN**  
EDITORIAL  
by Jim Blair

- "The attempt... by UMWA officials to flex their muscles reminds me of an aging athlete - once great but now well past his prime - attempting to make an ill-fated comeback."
- "The UMWA's demonstration was 'a feeble attempt to draw attention in Galatia last week.'"
- "After the debacle in Galatia last week... the UMWA bosses need to keep in mind that there was strength in numbers many years ago but the days of bullying people to get their way are over - forever."



Antiunion ad being run by coal companies owned by Robert Murray in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

## Oregon labor and anti-terrorism force

Continued from Page 3

environmental groups' right to freedom of speech and legal actions, then maybe they would find time to protect us from real terrorism. Of course, the best way to insure our safety is to dissolve U.S. imperialism which is the root cause of misery, war, starvation, and terrorism throughout the world. *D.H.W., Retired, International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades*

An enclosed article from the Northwest Labor Press read in part:

"A representative of the Portland Joint Terrorism Task Force and an aide to Mayor Vera Katz tried to assure the Executive Board of the Northwest Oregon Labor Council Aug. 27 that unions are not being unduly targeted for surveillance at labor rallies and protests..."

"Portland area union officials and organizers became concerned about the task force after seeing officers videotaping union rallies, especially during the organizing and

contract campaign by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union at Powell's Books. But an incident that really got the labor community up in arms... was an incident this year involving a Carpenters Union organizing campaign in Beaverton.

"A rally to put pressure on a non-union contractor was in the works when one of the union organizers received a call from an officer who identified himself as with the Joint Terrorism Task Force. The police officer asked about the rally and wanted to know what was planned. When Carpenters showed up for the rally several days later, the workers had been pulled off the job."

## —IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP—

**Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, *Nueva Internacional* and *Ny International*.**

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### AUSTRALIA

**Sydney:** 1st Flr, 3/281-287 Beamish St.,

### NEW YORK

#### Garment District

**End Imperialism's Afghan War, Stop Assault on Workers' Rights—Mayoral Candidate Speaks Out.** Speaker: Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York. Fri., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

#### Upper Manhattan

**The Working-Class Alternative in the City Council Elections.** Speaker: Bill Estrada, Socialist Workers candidate for City Council, District 10. Fri., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. 540 W. 165 St. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

### GEORGIA

#### Atlanta

**Defend Immigrant Rights!** Speaker: Arlene Rubinstein, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. 2791 Lakewood Avenue SW. Tel: (404) 622-8917.

Campsie, NSW 2194. Mailing address: P.O. Box K879, Haymarket, NSW 1240. Tel: (02) 9718 9698. E-mail: cl\_australia@bigpond.com

### BRITAIN

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## —CALENDAR—

### NEW YORK

#### Garment District

Socialist class series. Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 7: **Washington's Third Militarization Drive.** From *New International* No. 7, "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." Oct. 14: **Marxism and Terrorism**, by Leon Trotsky. Both classes at 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

Socialist class series. Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Oct. 3: **Changing Face of U.S. Politics.** Chapter 1: "Capitalism's march to war and depression," pp. 33-49. Oct. 10: "Opening Guns of World War III," in *New International* No. 7, pp. 53-73. Oct. 17: **Marxism and Terrorism.** Classes at 5237 N. 5th St. Tel: (215) 324-7020.

Where Lumumba is playing:  
to find out go to:

<http://www.zeitgeistfilm.com/current/playdates/lumumba.playdates.html>

**THE MILITANT**

online

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



**The right to lie**—In Knoxville, Tennessee, a federal judge threw out the case of four workers at the U.S. Oak Ridge nuclear plant. They



Harry Ring

developed lung disease from exposure to beryllium, a metal used in nuclear weapons. In his ruling, Judge James Jarvis said the government set a limit for beryllium that it was "well aware" would not protect "that portion of the work population," who were "hypersensitive" to it. The government, he con-

tended, "must balance policy objectives, including economics and national security needs."

**It figures**—"Almost two-thirds of the \$27 billion in federal farm subsidies...last year went to just 10 percent of American farm owners, including multimillion-dollar corporations and government agencies, a review of Agriculture Department records by the Associated Press shows." News item.

**Education at its finest**—The school principal in Ladera Ranch, a prosperous southern California community, asked parents of fifth graders to provide them with \$1,300 laptop computers. He estimated half the students would not have the computers and assured they were not obligatory. But those

who did, he added, would have "an enhancement of their learning experience."

**'English mostly only'**—Maria Hartman and Gladys Aragon are suing the University of Colorado Hospital for forcing them out of their nursing staff jobs. The only Spanish speakers on the floor, they balked at orders to talk with each other in English only. They also refused to serve as translators.

**Catch them young, keep them hooked**—Tobacco giant Phillip Morris produces more than 1 trillion coffin nails a year, with some 60 percent marketed abroad, particularly to Third World countries. A significant number of sample packs are handed out to youngsters. A company spokesman as-

sured that targeting youngsters is not a policy, but, in a fit of frankness, he confided, "We're not perfect."

**We're not perfect either**—We'd be hard-pressed to keep this column going if it weren't for the clippings sent in by readers. You too can help. Send items to Great Society c/o Pathfinder Books, 4229 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA. 90011.

**He's got a point**—Lawsuits have been filed on behalf of two Baltimore children who suffered brain damage from eating lead-contaminated paint chips. The presiding judge likened the case to the 40 years of syphilis study on unknown Black men at Tuskegee University in Alabama. The judge saw

similarities of both to the Nazi medical experiments on German concentration camp prisoners.

**Read it and rebel**—A federally funded research affiliate of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore has been conducting a lead-based paint study on poor children. Landlords were paid to get 100 families with healthy children into apartments with lead paint. The object? To find cheaper ways to remove the poisonous paint that can cause irreversible brain damage in children.

**And then it's a maybe**—"Sometimes you can't get a space until someone else dies."—Rudy Rodriguez medical director of the dialysis unit at San Francisco General Hospital.

## FBI expands 'Cuba-spy' witch-hunt in Miami

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

MIAMI—Federal agents arrested George and Marisol Gari in Orlando, Florida, August 31. The FBI indicted the couple on charges of being "unregistered foreign agents" for the Cuban government as part of a "conspiracy to commit espionage" for Havana, allegedly from 1991 to 1998.

The arrests came almost two months after Hector Pesquera, special agent in charge of the FBI in Miami, had threatened more arrests of Cuban "spies." These moves have been aimed at intensifying a witch-hunt atmosphere against opponents of U.S. government policy towards Cuba and at further undermining democratic rights.

U.S. Attorney Guy Lewis said after the new arrests that the government is pursuing further indictments. "I've continued to say our arrests are ongoing," Lewis said in an interview published in the September 2 *Miami Herald*. "Frankly, I do expect the arrests of additional individuals."

On June 8, a federal court here convicted three Cuban citizens—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, and Antonio Guerrero—of "conspiracy to commit espionage" and "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent." They could face life in prison. Two others, Fernando González and René González, were convicted at the same time of "conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent." They face possible 10-year sentences.

Gerardo Hernández also faces a life sentence on charges of "conspiracy to commit murder" in deaths of four pilots belonging to the rightist Cuban-American group Brothers to the Rescue. The pilots were shot down by the Cuban air force in 1996, after provocatively entering Cuban air space and ignoring repeated warnings. The prosecution justified the charge by claiming Hernández had provided the Cuban government with flight information about the Brothers to the Rescue operation.

The sentencing of the five was scheduled

to take place in early fall. On September 10, U.S. district judge Joan Lenard announced a delay in the sentencing to the week between December 11 and December 17, after a request from the federal probation office. Probation officer Debra Speas told the judge reportedly that "due to the complexity of the case" her office needed more time to complete pre-sentencing investigations of the five men.

Immediately after the June convictions, the Cuban government launched a campaign to demand their reversal and condemn Washington's hostile policies towards Cuba.

The five Cubans were part of an operation to "discover and report on terrorist plans hatched against our people," said a Cuban government statement published in the June 20 Cuban daily *Granma*.

Responding to the arrest of George and Marisol Gari, Cuban government officials said they have to continue uncovering such terrorist plans to defend Cuba's sovereignty, given the sanctuary Washington provides on its soil to rightist groups that have carried out provocations and violent attacks against Cuba. "Cuba believes there is no other option than to continue seeking this information by its own means," said Felipe Pérez Roque, Cuba's foreign minister, September 10. He explained that many of these groups, based in southern Florida, had carried out terrorist acts against Cuba, including hotel bombings in Havana that killed an Italian tourist and injured 11 others in 1997.

The convictions of the five, and the latest indictments, are an attack directed not only on revolutionary Cuba but constitutional protections for working people under the Bill of Rights. For example, FBI agents broke into the homes of the five repeatedly over three years prior to their arrests in 1998, violating the Fourth Amendment protection against arbitrary search and seizure. The five were denied due process or a fair trial. The prosecution's "evidence" consisted of information the FBI claimed to have collected in

these raids and intercepted from short-wave radio transmissions between Havana and the defendants. The judge refused a defense motion to move the trial out of Miami, even though a number of potential jurors, especially Cuban-Americans, disqualified themselves, stating they were afraid of reprisals if they turned a "no guilty" verdict. And the big-business media all but convicted the five as spies even before the trial began.

Similar violations of democratic rights are under way in the case against the Garis. The FBI has charged the couple with conspiracy to "infiltrate" the Southern Command—Washington's headquarters for overseeing military operations in Latin America, based in Miami—and the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF), the most prominent right-wing Cuban-American group here.

"It sounds like more of the same: people who talked about infiltrating military installations but who never did it, and who, in fact, focused on exile groups," said William Norris, lawyer for Ramón Labañino, one of the five convicted June 8.

George and Marisol Gari have lived in Orlando for 18 months, after moving there from Miami, and have three children. George Gari, who was born in Brooklyn and moved to Cuba as a child, worked for Firestone at the time of his arrest. He had

been fired from Lockheed-Martin in Orlando earlier, where he worked as a machine tester, after the FBI told the company he was under investigation. The "evidence" of his alleged attempt to infiltrate the Southern Command consists of a claim by FBI agents of an unsuccessful attempt to get a job there.

Marisol Gari, who was born in Cuba, worked as a cashier at an Exxon gas station when she was indicted. U.S. Attorney Guy Lewis has alleged that while she worked for the U.S. Postal Service at Miami's international airport earlier she tried to gain access to CANF-related mail.

Unable to pay for their own attorneys, the Garis were assigned court-appointed lawyers September 5. The government has used the threat of stiff sentences—as it did with the five—to try to get the Garis to drop fighting the indictment in court. On September 14, Marisol Gari's attorney, Louis Casuso, told the press his client has decided to plead guilty on one count of "conspiracy to act as an unregistered agent for Cuba," for which she would face up to five years in prison. In exchange, prosecutors will supposedly drop another charge that could result in a 10-year sentence.

Argiris Malapanis is a meat packer in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

## —25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

25 CENTS  
**THE MILITANT**  
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

October 8, 1976

"Management toughness clearly explains the rise in strike activity across the U.S. to its highest level in two years," *Business Week* magazine acknowledged recently.

The *Wall Street Journal* also knows where the responsibility lies: "Many employers have begun taking a harder line at the bargaining table, and unions are responding with their ultimate weapon."

The employer offensive is encouraged by continuing high unemployment—ten million jobless after a year and a half of profitable economic "recovery."

The auto strike is now the biggest in progress. Meanwhile 18,000 Teamsters members have been forced into a defensive walkout against United Parcel Service.

Some of the harshest attacks have hit public employees, as all levels of government seek to cut social service spending. The two biggest teacher strikes so far this fall—in Seattle and Buffalo—have ended with mixed results.

At the same time, New York City has just extracted another \$15 million in wage and benefit cuts from city employees. Among other things, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees agreed September 24 to a 10 percent wage cut for all new city workers.

San Diego's taxi strike illustrates another trend: the drive to isolate and destroy smaller, weaker unions wherever the employers think is possible.

For now the unions are on the defensive. But many workers are beginning to shed their illusions about the old policy of peaceful labor-management collaboration.

**THE MILITANT**  
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

October 8, 1951

Frank Barbaria and Harry Press, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for Mayor and Supervisor, have completed 18 appearances before union meetings in San Francisco after the first two weeks of campaigning.

The Ship Scalers and Painters local of the International and Longshoremen and Warehousemen's union responded with exceptional enthusiasm to Barbaria's socialist analysis and solution to the workers' problems today. Barbaria described the sharp drop in production in 1949...

"In spite of Marshall Plan money taken from the American taxpayers and distributed to European capitalists to purchase American goods, the spending of GI mustering-out pay and the workers using up what savings they may have tucked away during wartime employment, the market was still not enough to keep the capitalist machine going under peacetime production," Barbaria pointed out.

"There were 5 million unemployed and small businesses were going broke at the fastest rate in history. The growing economic crisis led to a more intensive struggle to capture old markets and conquer new ones. This is the basic cause of capitalist war. But now some of these markets and colonies are fighting for their independence, they don't want to be colonies any longer. This is the meaning of the war in Korea. We socialists demand the Asian people be allowed to decide their own fate and that American troops be withdrawn from foreign soil." The union membership indicated strong approval of this proposal by their applause.

## Pathfinder sets ambitious sales goal

Continued from Page 11

in the city, which is among the largest book markets in the world. They can build on the work of supporters in London, Toronto, San Francisco, and elsewhere who have helped

## New arrest by FBI

BY RÓGER CALERO

FBI agents arrested Ana Belen Montes, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency's (DIA) senior analyst on Cuba matters, September 21, for allegedly providing classified material to the Cuban government. Press reports say Montes passed on information about a highly classified intelligence collection system, U.S. military exercises, and other sensitive information.

According to the *Washington Post*, the FBI had been following Montes since May, including surreptitiously entering her apartment. Attempting to justify further government espionage, DIA officials said that Montes communicated with Cuban intelligence through short wave radios, computers diskettes, and pagers, and compared the case to that of five Cubans convicted in Florida (see article above).

spur the increased sales through regular visits to bookstores and libraries.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists will also be discussing ways to expand distribution of revolutionary books through local Pathfinder bookstores, setting sales goals through June 2002 as part of the campaign. Those goals will be reported and tracked in the pages of the *Militant*.

Several projects under way by the publishing house will aid in the wider distribution of Pathfinder books and make it possible for commercial customers to order online. These include the launching by the end of the year of Pathfinder's Internet bookstore—pathfinderpress.com—where workers and youth can browse and purchase books and pamphlets online. The publisher has already just introduced a web site for Pathfinder bookstores and distributors across the United States and around the world to place their orders and follow their accounts online.

An article next week will provide more coverage of these developments and how supporters of Pathfinder are organizing to respond to imperialism and its war drive and meet the \$500,000 goal.

# No to imperialists' Afghan war!

Washington is positioning its warplanes, troops, and warships around Afghanistan, preparing for a brutal assault on the people of that country. At the same time the U.S. rulers are not wasting a day in pressing their decades-long offensive against the rights of working people at home. In the United Kingdom, Anthony Blair's Labour government is spearheading a parallel drive by British imperialism to deploy military forces as part of the imperialist onslaught on the people of Afghanistan, many of whom will pay with their lives for refusing to bow to Washington's dictates—either directly in combat, from bombings and attacks on civilian areas, or from the devastating disruption of food, water, and other essential supplies.

This past week U.S. president George Bush took another step along the lines carved out by his predecessor William Clinton with the establishment of the Office of Homeland Security. The further militarization of the country and ability to use U.S. military forces at home is a long sought after goal of the ruling class. They are preparing for big class battles with working people that they know are coming down the road.

In both the United States and United Kingdom, the superwealthy ruling minority and their political parties will try to convince workers, farmers, and youth to "sacrifice" for the war effort. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has stated that "more people may be lost," signaling the rulers' willingness for workers and farmers in uniform to get killed in combat. The bosses will push speedup and set aside safety practices won by workers in

struggle, resulting in more deaths on the job, such as those of miners in Alabama. Thousands of other workers and farmers will lose their lives and limbs to the bosses' relentless speedup drive.

The notion that "we" need to "sacrifice" is being used to justify restrictions on the job, increased security checks on workers at airports or other "sensitive" industries, unlimited detention of immigrants, layoffs done under "war emergency" conditions so employers can get around contractual obligations to workers, pressure to settle strikes and contract struggles to "back the war effort," and moves to deport people based on their political beliefs and associations.

Most of all, the bosses want to do everything in their power to limit the ability of workers to organize, discuss, and mobilize in their own interests.

This week's issue of the *Militant* contains a number of examples of working people and youth continuing their resistance and refusing to subordinate their class interests to the imperialist war drive and assaults at home, whether they be the working people protesting the acquittal of the cop who killed Timothy Thomas in Cincinnati, grocery store workers on strike in New Jersey standing up to war pressure to maintain their picket line, or meat packers and miners refusing to sacrifice their lives and limbs to the bosses' profit drive.

Building on this resistance to the imperialist war at home, workers and farmers can join in demanding: End the imperialists' war against the Afghan people! Stop the assault on workers' rights!

# Resist the bosses' war at home

A growing number of working people have been thrown out of work, face eroding wages and benefits, and labor under deteriorating working conditions, as the U.S. economy continues its months-long slowdown. Since mid-September the airline bosses have announced layoffs of 100,000 employees, taking advantage of the U.S. rulers' war drive to carry out brutal cutback plans to shore up their profits—plans they would not have been able to ram through before. Hundreds of thousands of other workers face the same prospects of being on the unemployment line.

Workers and farmers need to mobilize around demands that can help strengthen and protect *our* class and our allies on the land, in the United States and around the world, against the ravages of the capitalist system in its decline.

Workers should demand a massive government-funded public works program to create jobs at union-scale wages. Such a program would provide both jobs and needed housing, schools, hospitals, day-care centers, transportation, swimming pools, and other social infrastructure that the rulers are allowing to crumble.

Labor must demand a shorter workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available work around. We must demand a substantial increase in the minimum wage. To-

day, the buying power of the minimum wage is lower than it was in 1960. This minimum wage must be universal—whether in a factory or in a prison, whether earned by native-born or immigrant workers—with guaranteed full health and pension benefits.

We must demand that all wages be covered by full cost-of-living protection against sudden and unexpected inflationary explosions that can devastate the living standards of workers and farmers overnight. Labor needs to reach out to working farmers and join with them in their demand to stop all farm foreclosures.

Workers and farmers in this country must join in the fight to demand that Washington and other imperialist powers cancel the Third World debt imposed on the semicolonial countries to the tune of more than \$2 trillion. We must call for lifting all tariffs and other obstacles to trade and travel erected by the U.S. rulers, with the purpose of wresting more profits from the superexploitation of the toilers of countries oppressed by imperialism. Waging this fight will strengthen the unity of the international working class against our common oppressors—the imperialist ruling families in Washington, London, Paris, and elsewhere.

# Mine deaths caused by profit drive

**The *Militant* is making space this week on our editorial page for excerpts from a September 26 statement by Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh. Forrestal is a member of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and is an underground coal miner.**

The death of 13 coal miners in a mine explosion at a Jim Walter mine in Brookwood, Alabama, is the result of the relentless drive for profits by the company, which ignored warnings by union members of the potential for such a disaster. My campaign extends our solidarity to the families of the men who were killed and the fellow members of the United Mine Workers of America who work at the mine.

From the record of government citations of the company and statements by miners employed there, it is clear that the company could have prevented the disaster. The facts show that Jim Walter coal mines—No. 4, No. 5, and No. 7—have one of the worst safety records in the country: from fatalities—nine reported since 1995, including one just last month at a Jim Walter prep plant—to workplace injuries, to safety citations above the national average. Combined, Jim Walter mines in Alabama were cited for more than 10,000 safety violations since 1995.

The Brookwood disaster is the worst mining accident in the United States since 1984, when 27 miners were killed in a fire at the Wilberg mine in Utah. It is worth remembering that at the time of the fire the bosses at the Wilberg mine were pushing workers to set a 24-hour longwall world production record. In 1984, the UMWA called the deaths of the 27 miners "needless." The same can be said about the 13 coal miners at Jim Walters.

The deaths of the miners are part and parcel of the worsening conditions working people confront the world over. In the United States, capitalists in the meatpacking, garment, airline, auto, transportation, and other industries have carried out a relentless course of speedup, disregard

for safety, lengthening of the workday and workweek, and other measures that place the lives and limbs of working people a distant second behind their quest for ever-greater profits. We should reject the bosses' frantic hurry to load coal and fatten their wallets.

As the U.S. rulers gears up for military aggression against Afghanistan, we can expect more attacks on workers rights, including more explosions and workplace accidents. Working people and our unions should reject company and government appeals to "sacrifice" for the war effort, and instead continue to resist the employers' attacks. The memorial day called by the UMWA September 27, shutting down all union mines in the state, is a good example for the labor movement.

Beneath the whip of the profit drive by the mine owners—most of whom are among the largest energy monopolies in the world—conditions in the mines and coal mining communities are getting worse, not better. In the face of these and other attacks, the UMWA has begun to rekindle efforts to organize nonunion coal miners from Massey Energy mines in southern West Virginia and Kentucky, which are overwhelmingly nonunion, to miners at Black Beauty mines (owned by Peabody) in Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. The UMWA is standing up to anti-union assaults from the coal bosses, in particular, Robert Murray, who owns the Maple Creek mine and Ohio Valley Coal. The union is playing a bigger role in the fight for black lung compensation, as well as reaching out to coalfield residents affected by coal slurry spills and other environmental disasters.

Our campaign points to the deepening resistance of working people to the employers' and government assault as the road forward. As Washington steps up its wars abroad and at home against working people, workers and farmers will more and more have the opportunity to fight to replace the government of the superwealthy capitalist ruling class with one of their own.

# Miners killed

**Continued from front page**

management," miner Mike Boyd told the *Tuscaloosa News*. Boyd, who lost his brother in the explosion, said he warned the company six weeks prior to these deaths about dangerous pockets of methane accumulation. "I let them know what was going to happen. I told management they were going to blow some damn people up. It's like it fell on deaf ears."

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), the union to which the miners belonged, called a memorial day September 27 in response to the deaths of the men. All union mines in the state will be shut down as UMWA miners refuse to work that day, and a gathering of miners and their supporters is planned at the local high school football stadium for that evening.

A press conference was held September 26 at Local 2368 union hall where UMWA president Cecil Roberts called for a vigorous investigation of the cause of the explosions. The union has established a memorial fund to provide for the families of the dead miners and has called for "the most thorough investigation you can imagine," according to Roberts.

Located about 36 miles from Birmingham, Blue Creek No. 5 is the deepest mine in the United States. It reaches 2,140 feet below the surface and is the largest of three mines operated by Jim Walter at present. It employed 326 workers, members of United Mine Workers of America Local 2368. The mine is now shut down indefinitely and miners have been laid off. They will have to file for unemployment compensation.

The explosion occurred when a large slab of rock from the roof of the mine fell onto a battery charger, setting off sparks. In order for the sparks produced from that fall to have caused a methane gas explosion of that magnitude, the area where the charger sat must have contained levels of highly combustible methane gas far exceeding the level permitted by law.

Of the 28 workers and four bosses in the mine at the time, three miners were killed immediately by the blast and a fourth died September 24 after being removed from the mine and rushed to the hospital. The other miners killed were caught in another blast while trying to rescue their co-workers.

When coal is mined, often methane gas is released. The only way to keep this gas from accumulating to deadly proportions is to continuously pass air through the mine. This ventilation flushes out the methane, or it can also be sucked out, called degassing. Regular "methane checks" are supposed to be conducted to ensure that workers are not exposed to dangerous levels of the explosive gas.

## Unsafe record

A miner who asked not to be identified said that methane levels in that part of the mine have been so high that production was stopped frequently in recent weeks.

Explosive quantities of gas were detected on at least one occasion on a track entry, he said, where proper volumes of air movement should have kept it dispersed and diluted to minute quantities. There were three small methane ignitions during September in the section of the mine where the first deadly explosion occurred September 23. This miner also reported that several workers at the mine complained recently about methane levels. "Somebody is going to have to answer for this. When people report conditions like this and [the company] still does not do right," he said.

Jim Walter president George Richmond admitted to knowledge of at least one of the ignitions that took place the week before. "I wouldn't call it a fire," he told the *Charleston Gazette*, "but it was some sort of problem."

One worker commented that the company never wants to stop production to fix any problems. "They just want to get coal out," he said.

In the last month alone, the mine has been cited by government agencies at least eight times for allowing too much explosive material to accumulate underground. According to federal mine-safety rules, "Coal dust, including float[ing] coal dust deposited on rock-dusted surfaces, loose coal, and other combustible materials, shall be cleaned up and not be permitted to accumulate in active workings, or on diesel powered and electric equipment therein."

Just over two weeks before the ignitions an MSHA inspector cited No. 5 with a violation of that rule. On August 29 MSHA cited the company for three more violations of that rule. On August 22 two more citations were made. Two more similar citations were made the day before that. Since January 1999, No. 5 has been cited 257 times for violation of that rule alone. Some 50 of those citations held.

In 1993 four workers were badly burned at this mine from an explosion. In 1995 the mine was temporarily shut down because of high methane concentrations. Also in 1995 a worker was crushed under a rock truck.

Jim Walter Resources other two mines have even worse safety violation records. No. 4 and No. 7 mines, from 1995 to 2001 incurred 3,806 and 4,137 citations respectively. Both mine sites had fines totaling around \$1 million a piece in that time.

As we go to press miners, their families, and supporters here are preparing to attend a 6:30 p.m. gathering at the football stadium of Brookwood High School. The UMWA International has contributed \$50,000 to the Miners Memorial Fund and is appealing to the labor movement for contributions.

*Frank Forrestal is the Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and a member of the United Mine Workers of America.*



# Washington waives sanctions imposed on India, Pakistan

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

On September 22 the Bush administration waived economic sanctions Washington imposed on Pakistan and India after each country exploded its first nuclear weapons in 1998.

Lifting of the sanctions against India has been in the works for more than a year, and the U.S. government quickly moved to include Pakistan in the deal as one of the inducements for president Gen. Pervez Musharraf to back Washington's planned military assault against Afghanistan. The warming of relations provides U.S. imperialism with a strategic relationship with countries located next door to the Chinese workers state.

The sanctions, which bar economic and military assistance to the two countries, could be waived within the next week, a senior administration official told the *New York Times*. Since developing and dropping two atomic bombs on Japan at the end of World War II, Washington has sought to limit the number of states with nuclear weapons, using the 1994 Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to try to prevent governments in semicolonial from developing nuclear arms.

"India is a nuclear power. There are a lot of reasons we ought to engage with India, and we're going to," stated U.S. deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage, summing up Washington's new policy last month. This policy shift has won bipartisan support, with Democrat Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, backing the move.

Ending the sanctions would open the way for joint U.S.-India military operations and the sale of nonnuclear weapons technology to India. In fact, one of the growing number of leading U.S. officials to visit India over the recent months was Gen. Henry Shelton,

then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Along with welcoming India to the nuclear club, Washington is quietly dropping its previous demand that the Indian government sign the nuclear test ban treaty.

In a speech to U.S. and Indian businessmen in Bombay September 6, Robert Blackwill, the new U.S. ambassador to India, "extolled the common ground that the two nations have recently found on nuclear issues," commented the *New York Times*, "and pledged that the United States 'will not be a nagging nanny.'"

In lifting the sanctions Washington will also make U.S. high-technology exports available to more Indian and Pakistani companies. The U.S. government "is also likely to end its policy of blocking any international financial assistance for Pakistan through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank," noted a September 20 article in the *Financial Times*. After the Pakistani government agreed to Washington's demands to serve as a military platform for U.S. imperialism's assault on Afghanistan, the IMF approved a sizable new loan for the already heavily indebted country.

In May, Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee publicly embraced President Bush's plan to put in place a land, sea, and space-based antiballistic missile system. Indian officials hailed Bush's plan as a "far-reaching" concept that could "make a clean break with the past."

This sentiment was summed up by columnist C. Raja Mohan in the newspaper *The Hindu*. "The commitment of the Bush administration to build [this missile system] has opened the door for substantive cooperation between India and the U.S. to build a new global security order," he wrote. "A moment may be at hand now to put behind the wasted decades of the past and begin to [build] an Indo-U.S. security partnership."

## GM takes control of Daewoo



Workers at Daewoo's Pupyong plant in Incheon, south Korea, protest temporary shutdown. General Motors announced September 21 that it would take over controlling interest of the bankrupt automaker for a basement bargain price of \$400 million. The deal allowed GM to gobble up 2 percent of world market share. The new "restructured company will own the two newest Daewoo plants in south Korea, but not the plant in Incheon—the scene of many protests by autoworkers.

Economic ties between Washington and New Delhi have been expanding as well. According to Blackwill, nearly 40 percent of the Fortune 500 U.S. companies now outsource their software operations to Indian companies. Currently the United States accounts for 15 percent of India's international trade.

Blackwill also expressed concern about a dispute stemming from the default by the Maharashtra State Electricity Board on payments for power it receives from a \$3 billion power plant largely owned by the U.S. company Enron, representing the country's

single largest foreign investment. "I want to be frank," stated Blackwill. "These disputes have darkened India's investment climate."

Relations between the U.S. and Indian rulers have been warming since a March 2000 visit to that country by then-U.S. president William Clinton.

In the coming months a number of cabinet members and other leading U.S. officials are planning to visit India. They include Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, and Condoleezza Rice, the national security adviser.

## LETTERS

### Workers and farmers gov't

I am anxiously waiting to read the SWP's opinion of the attacks that occurred in New York and Washington September 11. As for myself, I do not sanction such attacks that senselessly take the lives of innocent people. However, I also realize that these attacks stem from the capitalistic foreign policies of the U.S. government.

We, as a people, cannot expect to back oppressive governments such as Israel who make such attacks on others; harbor terrorists such as the rightist Cuban groups; and supply the arms that kill so many around the world and expect not to be touched by violence. I don't think that a sane foreign policy can be expected from the ruling billionaires; that will only come with a government of workers and farmers.

Keep up the great work.  
a prisoner  
Unadilla, Georgia

### Statement out in Swedish

Just to let you know, we translated Martin Koppel's statement of September 11 into Swedish [published in *Militant* issue no. 36]. We have found it very helpful at booktables in Stockholm and Gothenburg, as well as on the job.  
C.T.  
Stockholm, Sweden

### 'Look at world differently'

When *Militant* worker correspondents here visited the Petro Canada strikers picket line last Sunday four days after the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the U.S. government's war drive was front and center of the discussions that took place with six strikers. One striker reported that the

Mississauga installation they were picketing produced a lot of lubricants for the U.S. armed forces during the 1990-91 war against Iraq. Some of the strikers thought the war threats by Washington would put pressure on the company to settle the almost six-month strike because of anticipated work for the U.S. war machine. They reported that there would be negotiations between the company and leaders of Local 593 of the Communications Energy and Paper Workers union the following week.

"It's a hell of a situation when it takes 5,000 dead and a war to get a company to settle," one striker said. Others felt the company might press for more concessions in the situation. Only one of the strikers on this picket shift expressed any support for the war threats of the United States. Three took copies of the September 11 statement by Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate for New York, Martin Koppel, opposing the war moves against workers abroad and at home.

Another striker said: "When you've been on the picket line for six months you look at the world differently." As of October 1, under the Ontario government's amended labor legislation, scabs working in the plant can legally replace the striking workers.

John Steele  
Toronto, Ontario

### Dismayed

I am dismayed and astonished at the SWP's statement on the September 11 atrocity.

I am not referring to what you say about opposing imperialist war aims, defending Palestinians and the oppressed and exploited worldwide, or standing up to attacks on

political rights and civil liberties. Certainly revolutionary Marxists must emphasize their response to impending perils at this time. What dismays and astonishes is the utter lack of human feeling that your statement evinces.

More than 6,000 civilians are slaughtered on your doorstep, yet you can't find a way to say it was wrong until more than halfway through a thousand-word screed: "These actions have nothing to do with the fight against capitalist exploitation..." and "Revolutionists... reject the use of such methods." You use the words "murder," "slaughter," "killings," and "terror" only to describe acts of the Zionists and imperialists. Although the "methods" are "rejected," nowhere is the horror of September 11 condemned, deplored, abhorred, or lamented, or characterized as an atrocity, horror, massacre, crime—or even an attack!

If the imperialists aren't to blame, if a deed can be seen as the act of the oppressed against the oppressor, then don't make too much of it or weep for the victims. Moral outrage is reserved exclusively for offenses of the world capitalist order.

Richard Robohm  
Seattle, Washington

P.S. Contrary to your assumption that "Anti-Arab and anti-Islamic bigotry is being cranked up," virtually every government leader from Bush on down has been at pains to quash it and condemn the spontaneous attacks that have occurred. The U.S. government would have a far more difficult time enlisting Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, et al. in its campaign if anti-Arab and anti-Islamic hysteria were tolerated, much

less promoted.

### Workers need your views

I found your article and the statement by socialist candidate Martin Koppel both informative and a welcomed relief to the mass insanity and nationalistic jingoism being promoted in the mass media.

The American working people need to hear your alternative views and it is right to explain why terrorism is wrong and it hinders the liberation of humanity from capitalism and reinforces the yoke of imperialism throughout the globe.

You would make a great mayor and I wish you the best in your efforts.

Tom Siblo  
Catskill, New York

### Welcomed coverage

I have just renewed my subscription to the *Militant* as I would not want to miss a single issue of your paper. Every week I await its arrival with great anticipation as I find its dialectical approach to analysis, honest reporting of facts, and focus on action to be a great tool in my own activities and in discussions with fellow activists and workers. Moreover, it gives me a great sense of solidarity with other progressive movements worldwide and an understanding of experiences of revolutionaries elsewhere and in other periods.

Whilst I naturally enjoy reading your coverage of Ireland (being an Irish activist), I find your detailed coverage of South Africa and Cuba of particular interest. Moreover, your consistent anti-imperialist line (from all sources) is worth the subscription alone.

I'm sure I'm not alone in avidly reading quotations from the range

of publications by Pathfinder—usually on pertinent subjects—as they often contain insights into issues which could be obscured or ignored.

With the speed at which developments are unfolding, it is critical that we get access to information and analysis on a rapid basis; to be fully armed with facts with which to discuss with colleagues and to base action. Therefore, I commend the advanced publication of articles for the next week's paper on your website.

I was moved to write in response to a letter criticizing your response to the events of September 11 in New York; as I feel that it was unnecessarily harsh and unjustifiable. I thought that it was clear that the events of that day were condemned by Martin Koppel. The key issue is that activists in the U.S. and imperialist centers must now focus on the potentially deadly escalation (and imperialist intervention) by the U.S. authorities and its allies—both at home and abroad.

In my experience, your movement is vibrant and will continue to grow due to your consistent actions within the working class and farmers—and against war, imperialism, and racism—and because of the hard work and dedication of your steadily enlarging cadre.  
D.O.  
British-Occupied Ireland

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

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

## UK steelworkers fight union busting

BY HUGH ROBERTSON

SHEFFIELD, England—"We don't want a payoff. We want our jobs back and compensation for being locked out," said Eddie Grimes, a leader of steel foundry workers at the William Cooks company here. The workers set up picket lines last April after being locked out by the boss, Andrew Cook, who had launched a union-busting drive.

Prior to the lockout, the workers, who are members of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU) and General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union (GMB), had organized a one-day strike to protest the attempt by the boss to impose a pay cut of £80-£120 per week (£1=US\$1.46). The company sought to cut basic pay to £4.25 an hour and piecework rates by 30 percent. "On April 12 we had a one-day strike after a ballot backed by our union," Grimes explained. "We returned to work on the 13th and were asked to sign a letter rescinding our union activity. This was an attempt to get us to sign away any union rights. We refused." In preparation for the confrontation with the union, the bosses had advertised for and hired replacement workers.

"We were locked out from that day and began a picket," Grimes said. On the picket line, one worker said that when they "first started, all the strikers joined the picket lines. He [Andrew Cook] took out a court injunction to stop this, limiting our pickets to six."

The plant consisted of three foundries—the Greensand, Heavy, and IMF—with a combined workforce of around 300. Work-



Steelworkers walk the picket line outside William Cooks foundry in Sheffield, England with German IG Metall union flag, given to them in solidarity with their fight.

ers said the strike began with 100 percent support from workers at the Heavy and IMF foundries. But Cook played one group of workers off against the other, by issuing new contracts for the different foundries at different times. In the Greensand foundry, with 170 workers, a majority of those who cast ballots voted for "action short of a strike."

Since the dispute started, the company moved the IMF foundry to another plant owned by Cook.

"Cook stage-managed the whole thing," one worker said, "but he didn't expect our response." The company has also offered workers lump sum payments in return for severance pay and their agreement not to

take part in a tribunal case brought against the company by the union. A picket, who said he worked at William Cooks for 16 years, said the company offered him a buyout of £5,500.

The locked-out workers are reaching out for support for their fight. Grimes said that six workers who went to the Trades Union Congress Conference in Brighton "met a delegation from the Friction Dynamics strike in north Wales. We didn't know about them before, but when we read each others' newsletters, you could put them down side by side and see they were the same story. The only difference is they were sacked [fired] after the eight weeks." Workers in the Transport and General Workers' Union at Friction Dynamics have since April 30 been in a dispute with the bosses over a union-busting attack on pay and job conditions.

On the picket line at William Cooks, workers said they had a march of 200 in June in the streets of Sheffield. Messages of support and donations come in regularly, including from other foundry workers from the Cooks group. A number of workers at the Greensand foundry make regular contributions. There was a flag from the German metal workers union IG Metall on the picket line. Pickets reported they had met up with German steelworkers attending a conference and are sending a delegation to Germany.

Grimes said the unions are taking their case to a tribunal on November 5, claiming unfair dismissal. "If we don't win at the tribunal, that's not the end of it," he stated. A sentiment echoed by pickets at the factory gate.

*Hugh Robertson is a member of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union in London. Pete Clifford, a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union, contributed to the article.*

## German rulers move to restrict rights

BY RÓGER CALERO

Seizing the moment, the German government has moved to increase its power to take action against any religious organizations that the government considers dangerous, increase the gathering and exchange of information about individuals among government agencies, and obtain greater access to information from bank institutions on alleged terrorists.

"This privilege must fall," said German chancellor Gerhard Schröder when he pledged September 16 to crack down on Islamic groups in Germany in the aftermath of the air attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. He was referring to a current law that had enabled Muslim groups the government deems "extremist" to avoid being banned. Banning an organization allows Germany's police agencies to control their operations and detain alleged members.

Failing to make any progress in the investigation of a terrorist cell that supposedly spearheaded the September 11 attack in New York and Washington, the German rulers are promoting the measures as an aid to the search. Authorities say three of the men suspected in the attack had plotted the operation while living in Hamburg. The German authorities are continuing their investigations on other suspects.

By September 18, 15 apartments in Hamburg and four in Bochum had been searched, with little to show.

The German government also announced it will begin detaining and searching people based on racial and other criteria. Profiling of suspects is legal in Germany under legislation adopted in the 1970s, also under the guise of fighting terrorism.

The media has raised a hue and cry, claiming Germany's privacy laws and lesser use of electronic surveillance on telephone calls, as well as the ease of travel within Europe, are factors that make Germany a "safe haven" for immigrants. "Germany is no special hub of terrorism, but like other European countries, a resting place for certain terrorist groups," said former security service coordinator for former chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that

there are 3.1 million Muslims in Germany, with 31,000 as members of "Islamist" organizations. All but 4,000 of those people are of Turkish origin who are members of two groups that want Turkey to adopt Islamic law as a form of government, and have not been linked to violence outside of Turkey, according to the *Journal*.

Along with these measures, the German parliament has tabled for now an immigration bill that would have admitted into Germany as many as 20,000 new permanent residents annually. The law was drawn up

as a response to the shortness of skilled labor in German industry, according to the *Washington Post*. It would have become the first comprehensive immigration bill, 45 years after the first Turkish "temporary guest workers" came to Germany. Immigrants have not won many concessions in Germany in the last decades. Turkish immigrants are guaranteed access to limited social services under an agreement between Turkey and the European Community, but they still live under "Alien Laws" which give them few legal rights.

## Montreal mayoral candidate campaigns for socialism

BY ALEXANDRE LAMPRON

MONTREAL—"The offensive that is being prepared by Washington, Ottawa, Paris, and the other imperialist powers against our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan is only an extension of the offensive that the capitalists are conducting against us here—against our living and working conditions, against our democratic rights and by increased poverty and police brutality," declared Al Cappe at an September 23 assembly here of 1,000 people at the end of a demonstration "against war and racism."

Cappe is the Communist League candidate for mayor of Montreal in the November 4 elections. He is a meat packer and a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union. The same evening the television station CFCF 12 presented a short extract of an interview with him as part of a report on the demonstration.

The previous evening Cappe had officially launched his campaign at a Militant Labor Forum attended by some 20 workers and young people. In his presentation the communist candidate explained that his campaign had really started several weeks earlier, against the brutal military assault prepared by Israel against the Palestinian population of the occupied territories.

His supporters gathered close to 400 signatures, almost double the 200 required by

law to be on the ballot, in the workers' district of Villeray—St-Michel. In addition to distributing the *Militant* and books from Pathfinder Press at literature tables, at plant gates, and on campuses, supporters translated into French and distributed hundreds of examples of the September 11 statement by Martin Koppel, the socialist candidate for the mayor of New York, on the imperialist war drive and assault on workers rights being prepared by Washington in response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Cappe's campaign aroused a real interest among co-workers. Two bought copies of "The Opening Guns of World War III" published in *New Internationalist* magazine which describes the campaign waged by the international communist movement against imperialism and its war against Iraq a decade ago. One subsequently attended a Militant Labor Forum.

In the September 22 forum, Cappe explained the involvement of Canadian imperialism in Washington's war preparations. Since September 11, Ottawa has announced that it will join Washington's military assaults abroad. The government has also substantially increased surveillance operations, searches and arrests by police, and initiated a chauvinist campaign against Arabs and Muslims.

## Rightists attack Muslims in UK

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON—The press here reports a number of attacks on Muslims in the wake of the response by the U.S. and British rulers to the September 11 events in New York. Masoud Shadjareh, chairman of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, said that reports of abuse and harassment had risen 10-fold in the past week.

Among the more serious incidents were:

\*A 28-year-old taxi driver of Afghanistan origin was left paralyzed from the neck down after he was dragged from his cab and beaten by three men in Twickenham, southwest London. During the violent assault the three men made comments about the events in New York.

\*A 19-year-old Asian woman in Swindon in the Midlands was battered by two men with a baseball bat. She is recovering in a hospital.

\*In Bolton, near Manchester, in the northwest of England, 20 worshippers including children narrowly escaped injury when their mosque was the target of a petrol bomb attack. A similar attack was made on a mosque in Oldham. Bricks have been thrown at mosques in London, Manchester, Southend, Glasgow, and Belfast. In Birmingham, mosques have received threatening phone calls and have had excrement pushed through their letter boxes.

\*In South Shields in the northeast, a 20-year-old man suffered a broken jaw after being kicked and beaten by a gang. In the main Muslim area of the town, a six by eight foot sign has been painted on a wall declaring, "Avenge USA—Kill a Muslim now."

\*The British National Party, a fascist organization, has urged members to hand out new recruitment leaflets condemning Islam as a religion that "spawns psychotic mass murderers." Its members are urged to protest to head teachers about lessons teaching children that Islam is a peaceful religion.