

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Imperialism's record of
oppression in Mideast

— PAGES 8-9

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Strike, rallies in Pakistan oppose U.S.-British war in Afghanistan

Imperialists bomb cities, invasion troops sent in

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Washington's massive bombardment of Afghanistan has led to growing protests throughout Pakistan. Working people there have repeatedly taken to the streets in opposition to the decision by Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf to open up the country's air space and bases for use by the U.S. military in carrying out its assault.

A nationwide strike October 15, called to coincide with a visit to Pakistan by U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell, closed thousands of shops and many schools as workers and students helped lead protests in many cities and towns throughout the country. In the southern city of Hyderabad, for example, police fired in the air to disperse workers staging a protest at a cement factory, and in the working-class Lyari district of Karachi—Pakistan's largest city—cops threw teargas at hundreds of people who had gathered to

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U.S. gov't steps up assault on workers rights

BY JACK WILLEY

U.S. government police forces and local cops have jailed nearly 800 people across the United States, allegedly in connection with the September 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center. The roundup is part of the increased cop harassment and arbitrary searches of working people at ports, bus terminals, and train stations.

Calls for a national ID card are growing among some middle-class and bourgeois figures as well. Alan Dershowitz, described by *Newsweek* as "the nation's most peripatetic civil liberties lawyer" has proposed an ID card with a chip that can match a holder's fingerprint as "an effective tool for preventing terrorism."

"It is true that the card would facilitate the deportation of illegal immigrants," he wrote in an October 13 column published in the *New York Times*. "Legal immigrants

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Working people in Jacobabad, Pakistan, march on an airfield where the government has allowed Washington to base aircraft involved in the brutal bombing of Afghanistan. Opposition to the imperialist assault runs deep among toilers in the country.

Workers walk out at General Dynamics

BY ILONA GERSH

STERLING HEIGHTS, Michigan—Eight hundred workers went on strike against General Dynamics October 15, setting up picket lines in three states after contract negotiations between the union and the military contractor broke down in the early morning hours.

General Dynamics Land Systems designs, manufactures, and supports land and amphibious combat systems for the U.S. Army, the U.S. Marine Corps, as well as other governments. It is a subsidiary of General Dynamics.

The United Auto Workers (UAW) represents 220 employees at the company's world headquarters in Sterling Heights, Michigan, just north of Detroit; about 470 at a production plant in Lima, Ohio; and more than 130 at another plant in Eynon, Pennsylvania.

Strikers say the main issue is health benefits. The company has "taken medical benefits away from the retirement package," one picket at the Sterling Heights plant told the *Militant*. "The average age of the workforce is 47, and many are going to be ready to retire in a couple of years. We gave it up as a concession during the last contract negotiations. But now they are making megaprofits and they can afford to give it back."

Indeed, General Dynamics is doing well. Last June the Army ordered eight Wolverine heavy assault bridge systems, at a total cost of \$24.5 million. Earlier this year, the company landed a \$4 billion Army contract in a joint venture with General Motors to design a wheeled armored vehicle as a first

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Meat packers fight for a contract

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

TOPPENISH, Washington—"Washington Beef on Strike. We will not live on our knees," read the hand-lettered sign carried by Manuel Rangel as he picketed across the street from the meatpacking plant where he and his brother Juan had worked for many years.

Without the support of the officials of

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1439, about 250 union members out of a workforce of more than 500 walked out at Washington Beef here September 19.

The walkout was prompted by the company's stalling on negotiating a union contract that expired September 16. Among

the issues the workers wanted addressed in a new contract are a raise in wages and adequate medical benefits. The overwhelming number of workers at Washington Beef start at \$6.72 per hour and top out at \$8.50.

The many hand-lettered signs carried by the pickets showed that another important

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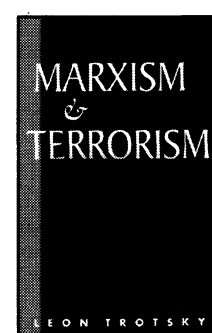
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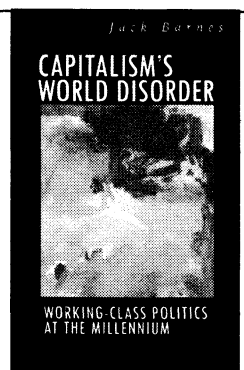
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from Pathfinder

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Workers in Argentina protest austerity moves — page 4

Auto workers vote against union at Nissan in Tennessee

BY ILONA GERSH

DETROIT—A union representation vote for the United Auto Workers (UAW) October 3 went down to defeat at the Nissan North America plant in Smyrna, Tennessee. The vote, in which almost 97 percent of the 4,765 eligible employees participated, marked the second time in 12 years that the UAW has lost a bid to represent workers at this plant. A 1989 effort failed by a similar margin of more than two to one.

Since 1985 Japanese automakers have increased their share of the U.S. market from 19 percent to 26 percent. The nonunion plants have helped their competitive edge against GM, Ford, and Chrysler, all of which are organized by the UAW. The only foreign-owned auto factories in the United States that are unionized are joint ventures with U.S. automakers, like the Toyota and General Motors factory in Fremont, California, (NUMMI), and the Ford and Mazda factory in Flat Rock, Michigan.

This is not the only organizing drive at Japanese and German-owned auto plants in North America that has failed. The Canadian Auto Workers union tried unsuccessfully in July to organize the 2,400 workers at a Toyota factory in Ontario. A vote was held, but then never counted because the provincial labor board ruled that the union failed to get enough legitimate signatures for the vote to be held at all. A UAW organizing drive also failed at a Mercedes plant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, which is a division of German DaimlerChrysler. Stephen Yokich, the president of the UAW, sits on its board in Germany.

Seniority rights, retirement benefits, and injuries on the job have been two of the main concerns of workers at the Nissan plant. Their pay is comparable to those workers who are employed by Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler, otherwise known as the Big Three.

Cost-cutting measures adopted by management have resulted in line speedups, as well as more injuries and lower medical benefits. Workers reported during the UAW organizing effort that injured workers have no guarantee that they will be allowed back

to work. The plant makes almost 400,000 cars, pickups, and SUVs per year. It has topped the Harbour & Associates consulting company's list of most efficient North American assembly plants for seven straight years, taking only 17.37 worker-hours to assemble each vehicle in 2000. The company has announced plans to build a new factory in Smyrna by 2003 to produce the Maxima sedan.

The organizing drive has had a high profile, covered by papers across the country. The lead editorial in the October 5 *Detroit News*, entitled "UAW Defeat Reveals New World for Labor" celebrated the union failure and explained why, in the editor's view, workers haven't been joining unions and why they shouldn't.

"Factory workers today aren't so easily persuaded that management is out to get them. Smart manufacturers have made partners of their employees, working with them to improve production and then sharing the benefits," the editorial says. "Millions of working families, in fact, now own stock in the very companies that the UAW is wrestling for control, further blurring the line between worker and management."

"As long as states like Michigan remain in labor's grip," predicts the editor, "manufacturing growth will occur elsewhere. Within three years, for example, the Southern region is expected to account for 42 percent of domestic auto production—up from 37.4 percent."

The UAW's membership is 728,000, down from 1.5 million two decades ago. This is partly the reflection of the growth of foreign auto plants, and the UAW's failure to organize them.

The two largest parts suppliers, Delphi Automotive Systems Corp. and Visteon Corp., are unionized. But only 15 percent of the auto parts industry workforce are in the union, down from 31 percent in the mid-1970s. While auto industry employment grew by more than 100,000 during the 1990s, the number of union members shrank by 51,000.

The percentage of union jobs dropped as the Big Three shed their parts divisions and



Worker on auto assembly line in Detroit. Cost-cutting measures adopted by management have resulted in line speedups, more injuries, and lower medical benefits. Union representation loss for UAW at Nissan was second such defeat in past 12 years.

contracted with other companies, many unorganized. Among those who are in the UAW, many have substandard contracts with wages ranging from the minimum to more than \$20 an hour. Health insurance and other benefits vary widely.

The percentage of auto workers in the UAW is falling, too. The UAW's membership includes a growing number of government, medical, school, casino, and manufacturing workers not in the auto industry. According to the UAW, it organized more than 42,000 workers in 1999, including school cafeteria workers in Puerto Rico, nurses and health-care workers in Michigan and Ohio, and casino workers in Detroit. Last year, the union says, it organized 21,861 workers, among them health-care workers in Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Michigan.

But over the same period of time, 76,861 workers left the union, with most of the losses coming in the auto industry as auto makers and suppliers cut production workers to run lean and increase profitability. "You can't just call us an auto workers union or an aerospace workers union any longer," Yokich is quoted as saying in the UAW magazine last year.

Bosses blame crisis on September 11

The auto industry blames the recent round of idled plants and layoffs on the consumer response to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. But while auto sales did drop even more in September, the auto industry was already in trouble. Just a year ago, hundreds of thousands of auto workers were laid off for periods ranging from a week to a month. In August, Ford's chief, Jacques Nasser, announced they would cut 4-5,000 white collar workers to put Ford at an advantage in a "fiercely competitive" market. This followed deep cuts in the productive workforce at the end of last year.

In July, Ford increased its incentives by 51 percent from the year before, to increase slumping sales. The company announced that August sales of Ford-brand trucks and

cars were expected to be down 10 percent to 15 percent from the previous year. Also in August, Standard and Poors warned that it might cut Ford and GM's debt ratings in October, citing its "heightened concern about the long-range profit potential" of both carmakers.

On September 18, a highly publicized meeting of government, business, and union officials took place at the General Motors Detroit-Hamtramck assembly plant. It was called by U.S. secretary of commerce Don Evans and Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, and included AFL-CIO president John Sweeney; the president of the steelworkers', ironworkers', and carpenters' unions; Stephen Yokich, president of the UAW; the CEOs of Ford, GM, Chrysler, and major auto parts suppliers; and several Michigan politicians.

The UAW describes the meeting as an attempt "to discuss ways to bolster consumer confidence and prevent the U.S. economy from sliding into a deep recession in the wake of the September 11 attacks."

In a brazen show of patriotic and class collaboration, Yokich announced, "We're here to show that management and labor can stand up to make America strong again. This isn't just about the auto industry," he said. "It's about pulling together, as management and labor, on behalf of all Americans. We're here to see what we can do, labor and management, working together."

The same day the defeat at Nissan in Smyrna was announced, the UAW declared it was going to try to organize 9,000 workers at Honda's four Ohio plants, located in Marysville, East Liberty, and Anna. The union failed in the 1980s in organizing drives there, and the Teamsters failed in 1999. The UAW opened an office in Marysville, with 25 full-time staff people.

Ilona Gersh is a member of United Auto Workers Local 157 at Textron Automotive in Westland, Michigan.

THE MILITANT

Resistance to employers' assaults

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Editor: MARTIN KOPPEL

Business Manager: MAURICE WILLIAMS

Editorial Staff: Roger Calero, Greg McCartan, Maggie Trowe, Jack Willey, Brian Williams, and Maurice Williams.

Young Socialists column editor: ROMINA GREEN

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Socialist candidates speak out in New York

BY MAGGIE TROWE

NEW YORK—Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of New York City, spoke at a lively meeting here October 12 titled "End Imperialism's Afghan War; Stop the Assault on Workers' Rights." Twenty-six people attended.

Applauding the efforts of Chinese-born garment workers in San Francisco, who recently organized protests to demand \$850,000 in back pay from bosses who shut down the Wins of California plant, Koppel pointed out that the employing class in the United States has a long history of being challenged by Chinese workers who resist oppression and exploitation, dating back to the Boxer Rebellion a century ago and the Chinese Revolution in 1949.

"These workers haven't panicked and bought gas masks" against supposed terrorist attacks, Koppel said. "They are too busy defending their rights."

"The class struggle hasn't gone away," the mayoral candidate said, in spite of efforts by the bosses to convince workers to subordinate their own struggles to the imperialist war drive against the people of Afghanistan. "Struggles like these are the biggest obstacle to the attacks on workers at home and abroad being carried out by the wealthy rulers of this country."

Koppel also expressed support for the 22,000 striking Minnesota state employees who stood up to Governor Jesse Ventura's use of National Guardsmen to do struck work, and the coal miners in Alabama—members of the United Mine Workers of America—who recently called a one-day "Memorial Day" work stoppage in response to the death of 13 miners in an explosion in a mine owned by Jim Walter Resources Inc.

Koppel, 44, is editor of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Douglas Nelson, 26, who is the Socialist Workers candidate for city council in District 3 in the heart of Manhattan's garment district, chaired the meeting. Nelson invited participants to join in the campaign of Koppel and himself as well as William Estrada, running for city council in District 10 in the Washington Heights area of Manhattan, and Olympia Newton, running in District 38 in the Sunset Park area of Brooklyn.

"Washington is raining death on Afghani-

stan," Koppel said, "including by using cluster bombs that are designed to inflict the maximum damage to human beings and the minimum damage to property. The Socialist Workers campaign demands that Washington stop the bombing and get out of Central Asia and the Mideast," Koppel said. "We demand the rulers stop the attacks on workers' rights at home as well."

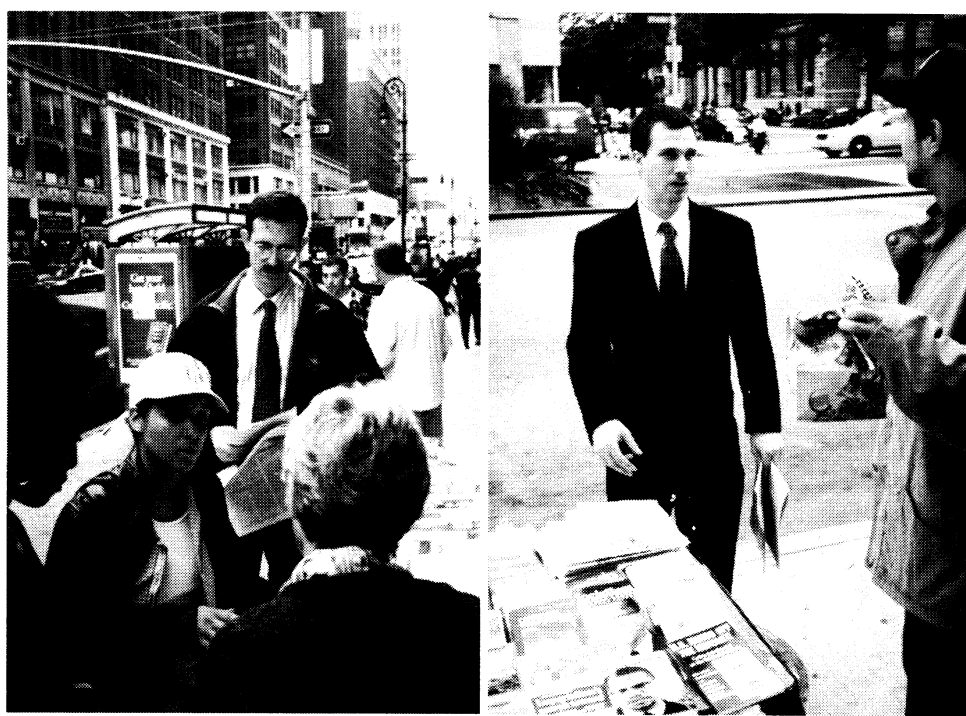
"We're not alone in calling for an end to the U.S. invasion," he continued. "This week there were protests in Pakistan, the Philippines, India, and Brazil."

The imperial arrogance of the Bush administration, which called the war drive a "crusade" against "evil" and initially named it Operation "Infinite Justice," is a continuation of the arrogance of the administration of former president William Clinton, who spoke of the United States as the "one indispensable nation" in the world, Koppel explained.

"The rulers want us to ask, 'What are we going to do?'" Koppel continued. "But the 'we' that is the working class has nothing in common with the handful of billionaire families who rule this country, and everything in common with workers in Afghanistan and Pakistan. That is the real 'we,'" he said, "and as long as imperialism continues to exist, this system will be a death trap for workers in the imperialist countries."

Koppel described Washington's admonishments to the U.S. press not to publicize statements by Osama bin Laden, leader of the Afghanistan-based Al Qaeda organization, who has been blamed by the U.S. government for the suicide bombings of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon September 11. "This is not a message of a crazed fanatic," Koppel stated. "There is political content in it and that's why it's a problem for the U.S. rulers. That's why they suppress it."

The employers and their government are using the September 11 attack as a pretext to accelerate attacks on workers' rights, Koppel explained, citing the new legislation permitting more extensive wiretapping by police and the extension of "preventive detention" of immigrants accused of crimes. "Here in New York," he pointed out, the rulers "are deploying the National Guard at Penn Station and yesterday they searched



Socialist Workers candidates Martin Koppel, left, and Douglas Nelson, right, talk with working people and youth in New York City.

every car and van that went through the Queens-Midtown tunnel."

"What is the purpose of all these moves to beef up the cops and increase the militarization of the country?" Koppel asked. "It's the rulers' anticipation of coming battles that will erupt out of the growing resistance by working people to the bosses' antilabor offensive."

During the discussion period following Koppel's talk, one participant in the meeting questioned "whether the United Nations is a viable option" as a forum for revolutionary-minded workers to oppose the imperialist assault, and asked, "how is it possible for the working class to raise its voice?"

Koppel responded, "There is no such thing as 'the United Nations,' it's just a building. Governments that represent classes use the UN to act in their interests. At best the UN is an arena for revolutionary forces to present a real explanation of the class struggle, as Cuban leaders Fidel Castro and Che Guevara and others have done." The last time there was a real international political organization that acted in the inter-

ests of working people, Koppel explained, was when the Communist International, led by Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin, reached out to the peoples of Central Asia and the Mideast to attend conferences such as the multilingual conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 1920. "Revolutionary leaderships like that in Cuba have used every opportunity to get a platform for their anti-imperialist views."

Koppel agreed with the questioner, who had pointed out that the 15th World Festival of Youth and Students, held in August in Algeria and attended by 6,500 anti-imperialist youth from around the world, registered the beginning of the possibility of rebuilding a revolutionary international.

Koppel concluded his remarks by reading from a statement made by Cuban revolutionary leader José Martí in 1883 in solidarity with the rebellion of the Sepoy, Indians in the British colonial army, the Irish toilers who fought British military assault, as well as "selfless Arabs who, undaunted by defeat or intimidated by numbers, defend their homeland with faith in Allah, a lance in each hand and a pistol between their teeth."

In days leading up to the meeting, Koppel was interviewed by a New York University journalism student and campaigned in the Garment District at the door to a building that houses union and nonunion sewing shops. Nelson also campaigned in the Garment District and among taxi drivers refueling at a gas station. The drivers, mostly immigrants from South and Central Asia and West Africa, gave Nelson and his supporters a warm response, and five bought copies of the *Militant*.

Dockworkers fight to defend 'Charleston 5'

BY NAOMI CRAINE

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—South Carolina attorney general Charles Condon announced October 10 that he was transferring the prosecution of the "Charleston Five" from his office to a solicitor in Dorchester County, just west of Charleston. This decision by the notoriously antiunion politician registers the growing impact of the national and international campaign in defense of the five union dockworkers, who are facing frame-up "riot" charges. In addition, union officials say the house arrest of the five workers has been lifted.

The Charleston Five are members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) in Charleston, South Carolina. Their case stems from a January 2000 assault by 600 cops against a union picket line. None of the police who rioted against the longshoremen has ever been charged with a crime.

A local judge dismissed trespassing charges that were initially filed against eight unionists. Then Attorney General Condon convened a grand jury and secured felony riot and assault charges against five of the workers, with penalties of up to five or 10 years in prison. The Charleston Five, as they have become known, had been subjected to 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. house arrest and other draconian restrictions for nearly two years.

Condon relinquished the prosecution of the case the day before a court hearing on motions filed by the unionists' lawyers asking that the attorney general be disqualified from the case. They pointed to a number of inflammatory statements by Condon, such as an ad last year supporting George Bush's presidential campaign in which he stated, "The Charleston union riot reminds us why South Carolina is a right-to-work state."

More recently, Condon attempted to equate the supposed riot to the September

11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. "I'm against forcing people to join unions in order to get a job," Condon said on a TV show. "And so this whole idea of ends justifying the means, as we know these terrorists killed so many people, that's exactly their argument."

This statement was just "the latest outrage," said Leonard Riley, a member of the executive board of ILA Local 1422 in a

phone interview. Riley said there was a "good showing" of union members at the October 11 preliminary hearing before Circuit Judge Victor Raul. Now the new prosecutor will have two weeks to prepare a list of the particulars detailing the actions the Charleston Five are actually accused of. When this list is presented to Raul, he will have the option to dismiss the case entirely, or move toward a trial.

Meeting to honor life of Priscilla Schenk

BY GREG McCARTAN

A meeting to celebrate the life and work of Priscilla Schenk, who over the course of three decades unstintingly turned her energies and talents to building the communist movement, will be held October 28 in New York. Schenk died at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center October 16 after a long battle against a degenerative liver disease.

Born into a farm family in southern Indiana in 1949, Schenk joined the Young Socialist Alliance, the forerunner of today's Young Socialists, in the early 1970s and the Socialist Workers Party several years later. Schenk was the party's candidate for Congress in Colorado in 1976, where she had moved to build the YSA and party in the midst of the struggle for Chicano liberation and for bilingual education, as well as the nationwide fight to defend school desegregation and busing.

Schenk held a number of industrial jobs, working together with other party members to join proletarian struggles and discuss socialism with co-workers. As a sewing machine operator in Newark in 1984, Schenk was the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. While working at an auto parts plant in Des Moines, Iowa, she campaigned against imperialism and its war against the people of Iraq in 1990-91. She was well known for her socialist views among co-workers and ran for school board in the midst of the war.

On Jan. 18, 1991, two days after Washington began its six-week bombing campaign against the Iraqi people, she and another co-worker were called into company offices where two agents from the U.S. Secret Service and the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigations tried to interrogate them. Schenk and her co-worker refused to submit to the questioning, standing up to intimidation by the cops who told them, "You're not going anywhere."

Schenk used her industrial skills and political capacities as a volunteer in the Pathfinder printshop for five years, running printing equipment and serving as a bookkeeper.

She took on leadership responsibility for party branches, serving on branch executive committees and as branch organizer. Schenk helped to lead several major party defense efforts, including the fight to stop the U.S. government from deporting Hector Marroquin, a party member who came to the United States following student protests he participated in that were brutally suppressed by the Mexican government. She was also a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, which fought against a frame-up of Curtis, a meat packer and SWP member who was active in struggles of working people in the area.

The October 28 meeting will be held at the Dag Hammarskjöld Room, 6th Floor, at 420 West 118th St. at Amsterdam Ave., on



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Priscilla Schenk

the Columbia University campus. It is sponsored by the New York and Newark branches of the Socialist Workers Party.

There will be a reception at 1:00 p.m. followed by the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Messages honoring Priscilla Schenk's contributions to building the communist movement can be sent to the Newark Socialist Workers Party at Riverfront Plaza, P.O. Box 200117, Newark, New Jersey, 07102-0302; by fax: 973-643-3342; or e-mail: swpnewark@yahoo.com.

Write for a Pathfinder catalog to Pathfinder, 410 West St. New York, NY 10014

State employees in Argentina protest austerity measures

BY PATRICK O'NEILL

State employees, from teachers to road maintenance workers, have been in the front lines of recent resistance by workers and farmers in Argentina to the austerity program of the government of Fernando de la Rúa. The deep anger among working people, and the spreading impact of the country's three-year economic recession, were registered in elections for a wide range of national and provincial positions, held on October 14.

Struggles against layoffs and privatization of state-run industries and services undertaken by the previous government of Carlos Menem, and since 1999 by de la Rúa's administration, show no sign of abating. The current administration's imposition of state salary and pension cuts of up to 13 percent, under the "zero deficit" plan drawn up in August by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, was greeted by a national strike and a multitude of protests. Actions since then, especially in the devastated provinces, have often involved whole communities hit by wage cuts, closures, and layoffs.

On October 12, "a day after candidates closed their campaigns, protests over the worsening economy flared," reported the *Associated Press*. Youths "led some 200 unemployed workers and their families in a demonstration Friday outside Argentina's labor ministry in Buenos Aires. Disenchantment over high unemployment has made such protests nearly daily occurrences," continued the wire service.

A week earlier, state employees, including teachers, doctors, and road repair workers, organized actions in Jujuy, Formosa, and Chaco to demand the payment of back wages. In the northern province of Jujuy, workers, both employed and unemployed, led by the Class War Current union formation, marched to the government house and court buildings. There they were blocked by infantrymen and police on horseback.

Teachers organized in the Argentine Confederation of Educators held a national strike October 4 to protest delays in the distribu-

tion of incentive pay. In Tucumán, teachers reported that they have been paid in vouchers and food baskets.

Failure to receive wages prompted teachers in Jujuy to stage a nine-day strike. The government announced that it would commence payment on October 6.

At the beginning of October small tobacco growers in Santa Rosa blocked a national highway, demanding payment of government funds owed to them. Hospital workers in Entre Ríos were among the other working people who took action in the first week of October.

'Workers turn angrily on us'

These popular mobilizations increase pressure on provincial governments, which depend upon the federal administration for their budgets. Buenos Aires governor Carlos Ruckauf, a member of the opposition Peronist party, stated on September 14 that "as far as the government is concerned, my only worry is that it abide by its duty to pay provinces their share of tax revenue.

"Each time it does not send us the funds," continued Ruckauf, "we [the provinces] face problems since we are not able to make on-time payments to our suppliers, workers, pensioners, and teachers, who turn angrily against us."

Deepening economic recession

The economy's continuing slide and the government's continuing efforts to impose new cutbacks have fueled the protests. The recession is growing deeper, exacerbated by a slowdown in growth in the United States, Japan, and Europe—the sources of much of Argentina's investment, and the destinations for many of its agricultural and industrial exports. Argentina is one of Latin America's more developed and industrialized countries, but it remains a semicolony, dominated by the imperialist powers—above all by the United States.

Official unemployment now stands at more than 16 percent. In some regions it is much higher. Industrial production plummeted al-



Roadblock set up by unemployed workers in Picún Leufú in Neuquén province in southern Argentina. Sign reads: "They will not pass," and "Picún is alive because of its people." Workers and farmers in many provinces have been involved in protests against rising unemployment and government moves to privatize state-run industries.

most 6 percent in August, compared with the same month in 2000. Construction activity fell by more than 11 percent in the corresponding month. September tax revenues came in at 14 percent below last year's take.

The crisis has spread beyond the workers and poor farmers whom it has affected first and most deeply. "Money is so hard to find that nearly half a million people buy food and clothes in barter clubs," reported the September 20 *New York Times*. A company manager told the reporter, "Forget vacations, or a new car. Forget remodeling the house. Forget middle class life as we knew it."

The big-business press in this country echoes the continuing concern of imperialist investors and governments that the government will default on the interest payments owed on its massive \$130 billion foreign debt. The \$8 billion disbursed in August by the IMF in response to the zero deficit plan has not allayed their fears.

Faced with this widespread turmoil on the one hand, and the insistent demands of the imperialists on the other, the fault lines in de la Rúa's administration deepened con-

spicuously in the run-up to the October 12 vote. Candidates from one capitalist coalition partner, FREPASO, attacked his austerity policies and largely withdrew their support, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Politicians from de la Rúa's own Radical Civic Union (UCR) criticized him for sticking with Cavallo.

In the October 14 elections for all Senate places and half the seats in the House of Deputies, the ruling coalition lost heavily to the Peronist opposition, who had been defeated by de la Rúa in the presidential race two years ago. Under the leadership of former Buenos Aires mayor Eduardo Duhalde, the Peronists retained their majority in the Senate and eclipsed the governing coalition as the leading party in the 257-member House of Deputies, gaining 14 seats while the ruling coalition lost 11.

In a sign of the polarization stoked by the extensive social and economic crisis, 100 owner-drivers in Jujuy blocked access to La Quiaca on October 3 in opposition to an eight-day protest by teachers and unemployed workers at the border crossing to Bolivia.

Employers 'using attacks to shed unwanted staff'

The following article, "Employers 'using attack to shed unwanted staff,'" appeared in the October 12 issue of the *Independent*, a newspaper in the United Kingdom.

BY ANDREW GUMBEL

Rhina and Cesar Perez were never the favourite employees of the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. Aside from their housekeeping duties, the husband and wife team were also active in a campaign to unionise low-wage service workers, something that may well have been their undoing.

Within hours of the 11 September attacks, both were told their jobs had been cancelled. "They told us all their convention business had dried up," Mr Perez said.

Across the hospitality industry, anywhere between one and three million people are estimated to have lost their jobs. Even those who are still nominally working have had their hours cut from a full 40 hours to the equivalent of just two or three days a week. Most are either immigrants with limited prospects for finding other jobs, or former welfare recipients who cannot go back to the old regime of state subsistence because it has been abolished.

These are the makings of a major social and economic crisis. What both unions and respected economic number crunchers are beginning to suspect, however, is that 11 September was not the inevitable trigger for lay-offs so much as a pretext to shed workers that employers had been itching to get rid of anyway.

The airline and the hotel industries were both hurting because of the slide in economic fortunes that began last year.

State employees return to work in Minnesota

BY KAREN RAY

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—State employees returned to their jobs here after union officials announced on October 14 a tentative settlement in the walkout that had shut down most government services from the beginning of the month.

Some 23,000 members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) waged a solid two-week strike for a pay raise after years of concessions and against moves by the government to impose higher health-care costs on workers.

In the tentative two-year accord, the state agreed to pay raises of 3.5 percent a year for AFSCME members and 3 percent a year for MAPE members, slightly higher than the government's offers prior to the strike. The increases would be backdated to July 1. The union reports that health-care benefits are improved. Full details of the proposed settlement have not been released.

Up until the announcement of the accord, the striking state workers continued to staff picket lines in front of state facilities and to win support for their job action by organizing periodic rallies.

Rallies were held October 10 across the state, including in St. Paul, Duluth, and Brainerd. AFSCME International union president Gerry McEntee and AFL-CIO secretary treasurer William Lucy were among the speakers at the 2,000-strong St. Paul rally. The AFSCME international union donated \$100,000 to the strikers at the event.

The Carpenters Union brought a trailer to the rally, while Teamster members honked the horns of their big rigs. Contingents from the International Association of Machinists, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 17, and United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789 participated to

demonstrate solidarity with the strikers.

Cindy, a clerical worker in St. Paul, said, "We are not intimidated by the governor's rough talk, we are going to stay out until we get what is coming to us." Thomas Anderson, another striker, said, "Our beef is not with the National Guardsmen, but their boss, who is also our boss. He thinks he can scare us into saying 'yes,' and that there is no money." Gov. Jesse Ventura called up some 1,000 National Guard troops to serve as replacement workers in hospitals and nursing homes.

Ventura repeatedly claimed that meeting the strikers' wage and health benefit demands would necessitate layoffs or a tax increase. "I've already said I won't raise taxes, so I will cut government," he told Minnesota Public Radio. The two striking unions were demanding a 5 percent raise each year to pay for the new insurance expenses that are being shifted onto them. A fact sheet from AFSCME points out that state employee salaries amount to less than 5 percent of the total state budget.

Tran Nguyen, a janitor, explained that he cannot make it on his \$10-an-hour state job alone. "I have to work a second job during the day," he said. "I work from seven in the morning until three in the afternoon [at a garment shop] and then start work at the school at four and work until midnight every day."

National Guard troops were used as replacement workers at the state-operated veterans home in Minneapolis. A group of three meatpacking workers went to visit the picket line there to offer solidarity. Al, who works as a nurse's aid, said he was not afraid of being replaced or laid off. "We are together," he said. "They have already cut our staff to the minimum. We have a high turnover like in your industry. My job is hard, not everyone is cut out for it."

The state workers stood up to an antiunion campaign in the press that sought to utilize Washington's war to undercut the walkout. An October 9 St. Paul *Pioneer Press* editorial entitled, "State, unions have duty to reach accord quickly," opined that "with American military forces striking enemies half way around the world...it is time for state officials and public employees to resolve their differences and get the state workers back on the job."

Sue, a striker a Northdale Community College, said the union members have not had a wage increase for the last several contracts. "Now is the time to strike if that is what it takes to get what we deserve," she said, echoing a common theme on the picket lines.

Francisco Picado contributed to this article.

REVOLUTION in the CONGO

\$3

By Dick Roberts

Describes the struggle against Belgian colonial rule, the 1960 independence victory of the Congolese workers and farmers under the leadership of Patrice Lumumba, the role, under UN cover, of Washington and other imperialist powers in the overthrow and assassination of Lumumba, and the continuing freedom struggles there in the early 1960s.

Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12.

'Militant' sells well at London demonstration

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Supporters of the *Militant* were among the 20,000 people demonstrating in London October 13 to demand, "Stop the War"—an action that drew significant numbers of youth, including many of Asian background, who chanted slogans against the Anglo-American assault on Afghanistan. They sold almost 120 copies of the *Militant* to the receptive crowd, as well as two subscriptions to the *Militant* and two to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*. In addition, demonstrators bought \$200 worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

These results are typical of the excellent response the communist publications are receiving in factories, on col-

attacks on workers' rights." The *Militant* is reprinting this as a separate tabloid supplement, with a \$1 cover price, and shipping large bundles to all distributors, who will sell it widely and aggressively over the coming weeks.

Results from the past week—a target week of stepped-up efforts in the subscription drive—underscore the challenge that is posed now, three weeks into the eight-week drive.

Out of an overall goal of 1,100 *Militant* and 500 *PM* subscriptions and 700 copies of *New International*, supporters of the socialist press have sold 284 *Militant* and 112 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, as well as 144 copies of *New International*. We are at 26 percent and should be at 37 percent of the international *Militant* goal.

The challenge is the political work needed to tap the excellent response reflected in large sales of single copies of the two revolutionary publications, in order to convince readers to get 12 weeks of the *Militant* or four months of *Perspectiva Mundial*.

In Brooklyn, *Militant* supporters organized a concerted sales effort for the target week and gained 13 subscriptions, allowing them to catch up considerably. One industrial worker took a day off her job to anchor an all-day team at Brooklyn College. She was joined by several other socialists as they came off night shift in the morning or got out of work in the afternoon.

Socialist workers in Omaha, Nebraska, reported another example of the welcome the revolutionary press is getting. "Today we had an excellent day in the workers district where we normally set up Pathfinder literature

tables. In the morning we staffed the table and in the afternoon did sales door-to-door," begins their report. "A number of co-workers stopped by to talk to us, laying the groundwork to secure a *PM* sub this week on the job. We also sold a *PM* sub to a meat packer who is part of the area organizing drive, and sold a package of the *New International* no. 10, with "Imperialism's March Toward Fascism and War," and a *Militant* sub to a worker who is trying to understand the roots of fascism."

Socialist meat packer Edwin Fruit reports from Des Moines that *Militant* supporters took part in a rally of 60 people against the U.S.-led war on Afghanistan. One youth purchased a *Militant* subscription, and another a *PM* sub. A copy of *New International* No. 7, entitled "The Opening Guns of World War III," was also sold. The same day they encountered a very

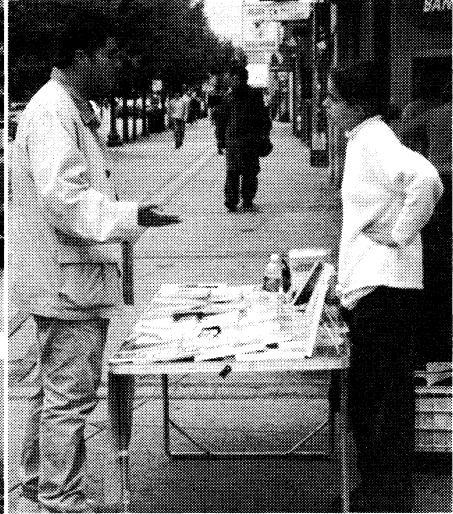
positive reaction at the entrance to the Swift meatpacking plant in Marshalltown, Iowa, selling six copies of *PM* and two of the *Militant*.

At a "Stop the bombing" rally at the State University of New York in Stony Brook, Long Island, organized by the Black student and Muslim student organizations and other groups, the Socialist Workers candidate for New York mayor, Martín Koppel, spoke on the invitation of the organizers. The socialist message received an enthusiastic response from many youth, and four purchased *Militant* subscriptions.

Pathfinder sales campaign

Socialists have simultaneously launched a campaign to sell \$500,000 worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets between January of this year and June of next. Pathfinder campaigners in local areas are adopting goals for this campaign, which will mean an increase in sales of roughly 30 percent over recent months. The campaign aims to take advantage of the noticeably increased opportunities to get revolutionary literature into the hands of working people and youth.

Supporters of Pathfinder in Tampa, Florida, report that after several months without systematic Pathfinder book sales, they have begun to turn the situation around in response to the imperialist war drive. Halfway into October they had sold \$182 in revolutionary books and pamphlets. They have promoted books on the job, at campus tables, at a "no war" rally in St. Petersburg, and at a weekly class series on *New International* no. 7.



Militant/upper left: Chris Hoepfner, lower left: Ilona Gersh, above: Eva Braiman
Upper left, selling the *Militant* at Shoal Creek mine in Alabama. Lower left, Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for mayor of Detroit, at a communist literature table in Cincinnati. Above, Natalie Corvington introducing fellow students at Ohio State University to the Young Socialists.

lege campuses, at plant gates, on street corners, and at political actions. Reports from around the world indicate that many working people and youth who are involved in the raging debates around the imperialist war in Southwest Asia are finding in the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*—often for the first time—a clear working-class point of view and truthful reporting.

Militant and *PM* supporters in several cities this past week called to order extra bundles, explaining that they had underestimated the response and have been selling out halfway through the week.

Supporters have found particular interest in the October 22 *Militant*, which includes a special *International Socialist Review* supplement entitled "Communists and the struggle against imperialism today: New York meeting discusses political questions posed by Washington's war and

Workers shut down universities in Puerto Rico

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—All campuses of the University of Puerto Rico have been closed since October 9 by a strike of secretarial, administrative, and technical workers. The central issue in the strike is the demand by the administration to scale back an early retirement plan negotiated in the previous contract. Some 69,000 students are affected by the strike.

The 5,000 members of the Brotherhood of Non-Teaching Personnel (HEEND) set up pickets at all 11 campuses of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) as well as at the university's central offices and a number of smaller agricultural experimental stations. Students and teachers have joined the picket lines in solidarity, and a photograph of members of the Federation of Pro-Independence University Students (FUPI) joining the picket line was featured in a newspaper here. The workers who maintain the facilities are in a different union.

The current contract states that after working for 30 years a person is entitled to retire whether or not they have reached retirement age. Currently 160 people among all university employees qualify for early retirement. The university wants to limit early retirements to 75 people a year.

For the first five days of the strike the union allowed only a few people onto campuses, including employees of the seismic network and people in charge of animals and plants used in scientific investigations. When negotiations broke down October 13, union president Sonia Reyes announced the closure of the campuses.

The vast majority of teachers and students are not trying to enter the campuses, with the exception of some professors in the medical sciences departments, who are organizing to give classes off-campus.

Crews of up to 40 pickets were stationed at the entrances to the flagship campus in the Río Piedras section of San Juan, Saturday October 13. Strikers had parked their cars in



Sonia Reyes, president of HEEND, talks to reporters October 13. Students and teachers have joined the picket lines in solidarity.

front of the normally busy gates to block vehicular access. A small camp had been set up to make the strikers comfortable for the long haul.

Many strikers are veterans of the 1998 general strike against the government sale of the telephone company and of the struggle to remove the U.S. Navy from Vieques. One woman wore a hat that read, "No Navy," and a man sported a T-shirt reading "Puerto Rico: No Se Vende" (Puerto Rico is not for sale). Many strikers had on HEEND T-shirts. Others wore shirts and hats depicting Cuban revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara or denoting other struggles.

HEEND Secretary for Information and Propaganda Ileana Desiderio told the *Militant* that women form more than 50 percent of the union's membership. He emphasized that the union is in favor of the early retirement provision covering all employees of the university, not just the members of the HEEND.

Militant/Perspectiva Mundial subscription campaign--week 3 Sept. 22-Nov. 18

Country	Militant			PM		NI	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Sweden	18	9	50%	4	1	12	6
United Kingdom	35	12	34%	10	3		10
Australia	16	5	31%	3		16	5
Canada							
Vancouver	15	5	33%	2	3	20	4
Toronto	17	4	24%	5		17	3
Montreal	12	4	33%	5	2	20	5
Canada total	44	13	30%	12	5	57	12
United States							
Tucson	7	4	57%	1		6	
Des Moines	30	16	53%	20	8	15	6
St. Paul	35	17	49%	20	19	30	4
San Francisco	50	24	48%	25	10	50	
Detroit	35	14	40%	10	1	30	5
Boston	27	10	37%	11	1		
Houston	30	11	37%	15	3	45	
Seattle	25	9	36%	10	2	25	8
Cleveland	25	8	32%	4	3		
Chicago	45	14	31%	30	3	35	6
Atlanta	36	11	31%	15	2	35	7
Miami	20	6	30%	20	2	25	
Western Colorado	30	9	30%	8	1	15	3
Brooklyn	60	17	28%	30	13	70	15
Los Angeles	50	12	24%	30		25	8
Philadelphia	25	6	24%	10	3		
Newark	45	9	20%	30	3		3
NY Garment Dist.	100	20	20%	50	5	55	13
Upper Manhattan	65	12	18%	50	15	40	6
Omaha	11	2	18%	15	2	10	6
Birmingham	20	2	10%	3	3		
Tampa	12	1	8%	5	1		7
Allentown	25	2	8%	5	1	10	
Washington	25	2	8%	20	1		2
Charlotte	16	1	6%	6	1	25	4
Pittsburgh	40	2	5%	5		25	4
U.S. total	889	241	27%	448	103	571	107
Iceland	8	2	25%	2			
New Zealand							
Auckland	10	1	10%	1		8	3
Christchurch	7	1	14%	1		3	1
N.Z. total	17	2	12%	2	0	11	4
Int'l totals	1027	284	26%	481	112	667	144
Goal/Should be	1100	411	37%	500	186		

IN THE UNIONS							
	Militant			PM		Pamp	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Australia							
AMIEU	3	1	33%			3	1
MUA	2		0%			5	3
Total	5	1	20%				
Canada							
UFCW	10	3	30%	2	0	15	9
UNITE	5		0%	2	1	3	
Total	15	3	20%	4	1	18	9
United States							
UAW	5	3				4	1
UMWA	20	1	5%	2		15	
UFCW	57	11	19%	55	21	71	20
UNITE	35		0%	35			
Total	112	12	11%	92	21	86	20
New Zealand							
NDU	2	0	0%			1	
MWU	2	0	0%			2	
Total	4	0	0%			3	0

Pakistanis oppose U.S.-British war

Continued from front page

express their opposition to Washington's assault on Afghanistan. A day earlier, more than 20,000 people marched through the streets of Karachi in one of the largest protests there in years. Tens of thousands demonstrated in Quetta as well.

The protesters have had to confront a heavy police presence. Reuters reports that on October 15 in Jacobabad in southern Sindh province "Pakistani police detained at least 100 workers of pro-Taliban Islamic groups in raids on houses."

That same day three leaders of Pakistan's electricity workers were arrested in a raid by police and agents of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The cops also broke windows and doors at the headquarters of the Labour Union at the power utility in Gujrat. Some 300 trade unions and other organizations have condemned the arrests and called for more protest strikes October 16. The following day the three workers were released.

Into its second week, Washington expanded its bombardment of Afghanistan into a round-the-clock operation starting October 15, with a particular focus on Kabul and Kandahar, two of the country's major cities. The low-flying AC-130 gunship with its powerful cannons was utilized for a closer-range pounding of targets on the ground. Fifty U.S. warplanes flew more than 100 sorties on October 16 alone, reports CNN.

'Fire at will' and 'kill boxes'

"For the first time" reports the *New York Times*, pilots can "choose their own targets and fire at will." They have focused on specific zones of aerial attack, described as "kill boxes," where U.S. pilots and gunners "are authorized to fire at any military target that moves."

The high firepower AC-130s are usually used to support ground forces, though the Pentagon refused to admit or deny whether U.S. special forces were involved in the battle on the ground.

Writing in the *Financial Times* October 13, Michael Smith notes, "Ground troops are expected to go into Afghanistan sooner rather than later." Small SAS and Delta Force special operations teams are already on the ground working with the opposition Northern Alliance. What will be needed, the *Times* points out, is "a forward operations base and simply taking control of that will require several thousand troops, expected to be Green Berets and members of the 10th Mountain Division, which is now based in Uzbekistan."

U.S. and Uzbekistan officials signed an "unprecedented" military partnership agreement October 7, stated the *Wall Street Journal*, that "all but removes any impression that the U.S. military presence in the region will be short-lived." In return for U.S. military assistance, the Uzbekistan government agreed that the 1,000 U.S. light infantry troops currently stationed at Khanabad, a base 90 miles from the Afghan border, will no longer be limited to just search and rescue operations but could be

used for offensive action in Afghanistan. The U.S. ground troops are the first to be deployed on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

The Arabic-language TV station Al Jazeera reported that the air attacks have knocked out electricity and water in Kabul. One of the two international telephone exchanges in Afghanistan's capital city was also destroyed, cutting off phone service abroad. A bomb crashed into a clearly marked Red Cross compound in Kabul October 16, injuring a guard and setting two warehouses afire. Blankets, tents, medicines, and shipments of wheat all went up in smoke. Three days earlier a 2,000 pound "smart" bomb slammed into a residential neighborhood a mile away from the airport in Kabul.

U.S. aircraft have been dropping 5,000-pound bunker-busting bombs, as well as bombs designed to burrow into the ground before exploding, and anti-personnel cluster bombs that specifically target people. B-1 and B-52 long-range bombers, as well as F-18s and F-14s stationed on aircraft carriers in nearby waters, have all been carrying out this aerial assault. The Afghanistan government reports that after the first week of bombardment more than 300 people, many of them civilians, have been killed.

Also now falling from B-52s over the skies of Afghanistan in the northwestern and southeastern regions of the country are nearly 400,000 slips of paper the size of a dollar bill with a message aimed at convincing Afghans that the current air assault and coming ground invasion is being done in their best interests. The leaflets, in English as well as a version with the local languages in both Pashto and Dari, state, "The partnership of nations is here to assist the people of Afghanistan."

Commenting on this operation on the heaviest day of bombardment by U.S. warplanes, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld hypocritically asserted, "We're working to make clear to the Afghan people that we support them and we want to help free their nation."

In a sign of its willingness to cooperate with Washington, the government of Iran sent a message to the Bush administration October 8, the day after the U.S. military began its bombing attacks on Afghanistan, agreeing to rescue any U.S. military personnel shot down or forced to land in Iranian territory, or who end up entering the country over the border from Afghanistan.

Protests hit U.S. use of Pakistani air base

One of the focuses of the protests in Pakistan has been the agreement signed by Pakistani officials permitting U.S. forces to use two military bases in the country—one in the city of Jacobabad and another at Pasni in Balochistan province on the Arabian Sea. Some 4,000 people turned out in the countryside around Jacobabad October 14 to demonstrate against the U.S. military presence at the airport base there. They were met by 3,000 paramilitary rangers and soldiers who opened fire with live ammunition and

'Imperialism is a cancer in the world'



LONDON—Some 30,000 protesters rallied in Trafalgar Square here October 13 against the U.S.-British war in Afghanistan. Thousands of Muslim youth arrived early and took over the square, climbing on the lions in total defiance of police regulations and chanting, "Allah Akbar!"

Originally called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament prior to the war as a protest against the militarization of space, the action was renamed "Stop the War," but became much more than planned. Young people, many from the Asian subcontinent, mobilized for the action through colleges and mosques.

Dozens of Asian youth gathered next to the speaking platform, chanting "Down Down USA" and "Allah Akhbar," including during a minute of silence at the start of the rally, much to the annoyance of the organizers. They displayed banners including "Long Live Afghanistan," and "Now who are the terrorists?"

A young Iraqi woman, Shaek Sabah, explained to the *Militant* she was on the march because she is "against American foreign policy and double standards. They've been planning this for a long time. Their main target is the Middle East and Islam. It's about profit too." Her sister Rawnak added, "Imperialism is the one that starts all war, it is a cancer in the world."

Charlotte Monroe, a hospital worker from London, said imperialism was "attempting to divide whole sections of the world against each other and we're not prepared to be divided."

—ANNE HOWIE

tear gas. Two demonstrators were killed and at least six wounded.

At a recent protest in Peshawar, Shayar Khan, 23, a business student, told the *Washington Post*, "If they send in troops, I will abandon my MBA and go for martyrdom."

From the start of Washington's military operations in Afghanistan, the Pakistani government, which in the past had backed the Taliban, has expressed its opposition to the Northern Alliance taking control of Afghanistan and becoming the new government. The Pakistani rulers are under tremendous pressure—reflected in the growing, militant protests there—from the struggles for national rights by the Pashtun, who are the dominant ethnic group in the country, and Baluchi peoples. The Pashtuns, who comprise 40 percent of Afghanistan and have been the base of support of the Taliban, also have a sizable presence in Pakistan. In addition, more than 2 million Afghans are

now living in refugees camps in northwestern Pakistan.

These pressures have led Washington to refrain, at least up to this point, from bombardment of the area just north of Kabul where Taliban troops are stationed to hold off a Northern Alliance assault on the capital.

Appearing at a news conference with U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell in Islamabad October 16, Pakistani president Musharraf announced that the two of them are now in agreement on forming a "broad-based" government in Afghanistan that would include the former Afghan king, "moderate Taliban leaders, elements from the Northern Alliance," and "Afghans living outside the country." The Bush administration also pledged to supply the Pakistani rulers with nearly \$1 billion in economic and military aid.

Powell also commented on the character of the protectorate that Washington seeks to set up in Afghanistan. "Clearly the United Nations will be playing a leading role," he stated. "No one government will be able to handle it."

Following Powell's visit, U.S. and British forces stepped up their bombing of Kabul and other cities, as well as troop deployments in Afghanistan. And the Pentagon is now warning that raids will soon be undertaken against government forces north of the capital.

Kashmir dispute heats up

As Powell arrived in Pakistan—the first stop of a three-nation tour that also included visits to India and China—India's army announced that it had shelled 11 Pakistani military posts in Kashmir—a territory with a Muslim majority that has been a matter of dispute between the Indian and Pakistani governments since 1947. Currently Indian forces occupy two-thirds of it, and troops from Pakistan the rest. On the same day Indian security forces killed 10 people. Two days earlier on October 14, Indian border guards had killed six Pakistanis as they tried to cross into the Kashmir region of India

Continued on Page 7

Protests condemn assault on Afghanistan

BY JACK WILLEY

Working people and youth in many countries across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, have taken to the streets to denounce the U.S. and British bombings of Afghanistan and to express their solidarity with the Afghani people who are defending their country against the imperialist assault. On October 12, the first Friday since the bombing began, crowds of people spilled onto the streets of many countries after Muslim prayers.

In Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, protests in front of the U.S. embassy in the capital of Jakarta have become a daily occurrence. On October 12, 1,000 protesters burning U.S. and British flags and an effigy of U.S. president George Bush were attacked by police using water cannon.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 3,000 protesters were attacked by police with water cannon laced with a chemical that burns the

eyes. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad supports the so-called "international antiterrorism coalition" patched together by Washington, but has opposed the military assault on Afghanistan.

Some 10,000 people rallied at the Jama Masjid mosque in New Delhi, India, and 4,000 more gathered in the eastern city of Calcutta last week. In the southern city of Hyderabad and in Srinagar, Kashmir, demonstrators defended themselves with stones against police attacks.

Thousands took to the streets in Tehran, the capital of Iran, with many holding signs reading, "Bush the killer" and "War is not the answer."

In Turkey, some 2,000 people demanded the government withdraw its support for the assault on Afghanistan. Hundreds massed in front of the military base of Incirlik in the south, a base for U.S. and British planes that bomb Iraq, with the same demands. Turkey is a member of NATO and the gov-

ernment has pledged troops to the imperialist war effort.

Nigeria's northern city of Kano was engulfed in two days of protests against the U.S.-led bombings. Demonstrators burned down the country home of Foreign Minister Sule Lamido, the government's point man in announcing the government's support for the U.S. and British war. Some 200 people were reported killed and the city is under a curfew enforced by soldiers with orders to shoot on sight anyone violating the order.

Many thousands of others carried out protest actions October 12, including in Manila, the Philippines; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Tripoli, Lebanon; and Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, thousands of people joined a funeral procession in the Gaza Strip October 15 to honor Haitham Abu Shamaleh, 19, who was shot two days earlier by Palestinian Authority police at a demonstration against the imperialist war and in solidarity with the Afghani people defending their country.

U.S. rulers go after rights of working people

Continued from front page

would actually benefit from a national ID card that could demonstrate their status to government officials," he said. "Finally, there is the question of the right to anonymity. I don't believe we can afford to recognize such a right in this age of terrorism."

After several weeks of debate, the Senate and the House of Representatives passed similar bills drafted by the Justice Department giving cops and the secret police wider latitude to spy on and arrest people. In granting the government broad new powers, the bills build on a range of measures implemented during the eight years of the Clinton administration, including the 1996 Economic Espionage Act, the 1996 Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, the 1994 Crime Bill, and the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act.

Detention without charges

Dubbed the "Patriot Act" in the House and the "U.S.A. Act" in the Senate, the bills take aim at a number of hard-won rights. They allow police agencies to detain non-citizens for up to seven days without charges. According to Timothy Edgar of the American Civil Liberties Union, their wording leaves open the possibility of the indefinite detention of anyone certified as a terrorist suspect even if he or she is not charged.

The measures also give the secret police new powers to monitor e-mail, wiretap multiple phones under a single warrant, and allow information obtained by grand juries to be turned over to government spy agencies. The Senate bill includes "anti-money-laundering" measures aimed at charities and other organizations that the government claims support "terrorism."

The bill severely erodes the 4th Amendment right protecting citizens from unwarranted search and seizure. Police agencies will be able to secretly break into people's homes and notify the person sometime afterward. "Harboring terrorists" will be a crime. Somebody could be guilty simply by having "reasonable grounds to believe" that the person being harbored is a terrorist.

The legislation also beefs up the police presence along the U.S.-Canada border.

The Senate unanimously approved another bill October 11 that would make all baggage X-ray workers federal employees, permanently place armed federal guards in the airports, and expand the number of plainclothes federal marshals on commercial flights. Aviation security would fall under the jurisdiction of the Justice Department.

Some 20,000 X-ray screeners who work for private companies are to be replaced by government-trained workers who are prohibited from taking strike action. The Bush administration opposes this step and has urged the House to remove it from similar legislation being discussed there.

The Senate bill allows pilots to carry firearms while working and calls for a study on the use of stun guns and other weapons on board aircraft. Every passenger who boards a plane will be taxed \$2.50 to fund the new moves. The final version of the bill dropped a proposal for \$1.9 billion in relief payments for the estimated 140,000 aviation workers thrown on the street by airline bosses since September 11.

Using \$3 billion in "emergency" money appropriated by Congress, the Bush administration has already placed National Guard troops in airports and put more armed marshals on planes. No passengers are allowed to leave their seats for the first or final 30 minutes of any flight in and out of Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C.

Harassment, intrusions by secret police

The FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and other police agencies are collecting information about students from dozens of colleges and universities, under the pretext of investigating terrorism. At Middle Tennessee State University, for example, officials turned over the names of 1,000 current and former student aviators to the FBI after being asked about students from the Middle East.

At least six campuses in the California State University System have turned over information. Lindsey Kozberg, an Education Department spokeswoman, said that 25 to 30 schools have called for guidance after receiving police requests for student information.

Federal law protects the privacy of student records, which can only be released with student consent. However, the law contains exceptions, including a "health and safety emergency" provision that Department of Education officials claim applies in the current situation.

The Coast Guard reported that it is conducting its largest port defense operation since World War II, involving 72 special security zones in ports, waterways, and along the U.S. coastline. Commercial vessels face random searches.

Amtrak has barred passengers from purchasing tickets on board trains in the Northeast Corridor and now requires passengers to show photo identification before buying tickets.

On October 9, New York governor George Pataki posted National Guard troops in New York's Grand Central Terminal and in Pennsylvania Station. Motorists entering and leaving Manhattan are subject to routine searches of their vehicles.

Trampling on rights

Stories of workers who have had their rights trampled on have surfaced in the big-business press. Kenneth Ranger, Jr., a 23-year-old who allegedly discharged a liquid spray bottle when a cop asked him for identification in the Washington subway, was assaulted by police with batons and pepper spray. State and county health officials, FBI agents and state, county, and transit police then quarantined the Metro station, and stripped Ranger along with 15 cops and Metro workers. Men in chemical suits hosed them down with a bleach solution. The train car was quarantined and the sprayed liquid was sent to a military laboratory where it was identified as Resolve carpet cleaner.

The mass roundup of hundreds of people since September 11 has received scant news coverage. At least 165 people are being held on immigration law violations, and can be imprisoned virtually indefinitely. Many more are detained under a material witness statute that allows prosecutors to hold them for an indefinite period until they are released or sent before a grand jury.

According to the *Washington Post*, an



Cops and other agents surround Kenneth Ranger in Washington after Ranger allegedly sprayed a substance—Resolve carpet cleaner—at a cop who harassed him.

unknown number of people are being held on circumstantial evidence and detained for a week or longer without legal representation or permission to contact family members. Two lawyers for men being held in solitary confinement in Manhattan's Metropolitan Correctional Center said the men are denied exercise, provided only limited opportunities to shower, woken every two hours, and denied a basic Muslim diet.

Five young men were arrested coming into New York September 11, driving a large moving van. They had box cutters in their possession. Widespread news reports implied that the men may have been connected to the World Trade Center attacks. All five turned out to be Israeli Jews, at least four of whom work for a household moving company.

Unlike the large majority of other de-

tainees, they managed to get their story out. Their lawyer, Steven Gordon, said the youth were blindfolded during interrogations, handcuffed in confinement, and forced to take polygraph tests. They were told that if they failed to cooperate, they could be charged with violations of obscure "black-humor statutes" which, in limited circumstances, allow people to be prosecuted for joking about security matters.

The lawyer was prohibited from visiting his clients until two weeks after their arrests. Even then, he said, six to eight guards sat in on their meetings and forbade them from speaking any language but English.

The five are being held pending deportation for "violating immigration law." When they first entered detention they initially joined a hunger strike by a group of Pakistanis.

Tokyo pushes to deploy armed forces in war

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The capitalist rulers of Germany and Japan are seeking to take advantage of Washington's assault on Afghanistan to advance the use of their sizable military forces abroad in defense of their own imperialist interests. Over the past few weeks the Japanese government has embarked upon "its most expansive military role since its defeat in World War II," noted a September 28 *Washington Post* article.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's cabinet approved a bill October 5 that would permit Japanese troops to be deployed overseas as logistical support for U.S. forces. The bill, which was submitted to the country's lower house of parliament, is expected to be passed before Koizumi attends the October 20-21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Shanghai, which U.S. president George Bush will also be attending.

The legislation would allow Japan's military to ferry ammunition, run field hospitals, and permit its forces to carry weapons to be used as part of its operations. Also under discussion is authorizing Japanese forces to conduct "search-and-rescue" operations in support of U.S. troops.

Koizumi has stated that once this legislation is passed he plans to send four or five warships, including an Aegis-class destroyer with an advanced radar and surveillance system, to the Indian Ocean to provide rear-area support for the U.S. Navy. Japan's cabinet has already approved sending six transport planes to Pakistan, supposedly to take supplies to Afghan refugees. Following Washington's lead, Tokyo also announced a \$40 million "aid" package to Pakistan.

These military moves by Japan's ruling class reflect a big shift over their participation in the 1990-91 Gulf War, when Tokyo was humiliatingly reduced to helping bankroll the U.S.-led aggression against Iraq to the tune of \$13 billion.

Japan's 1947 constitution, imposed by Washington's postwar occupation force, prohibits its army—called the Self Defense

Force (SDF)—from participating in combat abroad. Despite these limitations Japan's rulers have assembled a huge military force. The country has the second largest military budget in the world after the United States, spending about \$45 billion each year. Its navy is larger than Britain's, and the SDF numbers close to 250,000 troops.

Seeking to garner support for Japan's militarization drive, Koizumi visited Beijing October 8, where he offered a "heartfelt apology" to China for his country's brutality before and during World War II. "The

surprise gesture, long sought by the Chinese, apparently succeeded in winning Beijing's acceptance of Japan's desire to participate in the U.S.-led war on terrorism," reported a *Financial Times* article.

In Germany, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder stated in an address to parliament October 11 that the country's postwar role as a secondary player had now "irrevocably passed."

After an internal debate, the Green Party, which is part of Schröder's coalition government, agreed to make German troops available for Washington's assault on Afghanistan.

Pakistanis oppose imperialists' war

Continued from Page 6
from Pakistan.

Indian forces continued to fire mortars into Pakistan-controlled Kashmir October 16 in the heaviest bombardment in nearly a year, as Powell arrived in New Delhi for talks. India's new defense minister, George Fernandes, vowed to "be ruthless" against protesters in Kashmir.

Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is now seeking to get Washington to place on its list of targeted terrorists the Kashmiri Muslims fighting for independence. Indian officials also made clear to Powell their objection to his plan to include any Taliban figures in the new government the U.S. rulers are seeking to create. New Delhi remains a supporter of the Northern Alliance.

While the Pentagon's action remains focused on Afghanistan, some U.S. officials are pushing for a military operation that also targets Iraq. As part of the military buildup, additional forces and fighter bombers have been placed within easy striking distance of Iraq. This new deployment nearly doubles the number of strike fighters on the ground in the Persian Gulf.

Among those pushing for renewed action against Iraq is Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. The *New York Times* quotes

an unnamed government official as describing the plan as one that "envision[s] the use of air support and the occupation of southern Iraq with America ground troops to install a Iraqi opposition group based in London at the helm of a new government.... American troops would also seize the oil fields around Basra, in southeastern Iraq, and sell the oil to finance the Iraqi opposition."

Washington has also begun to step up its military presence in the Philippines. According to a senior government official there, the U.S. government plans to send a "sizable" contingent of military advisers to the country in October. U.S. advisers were already involved earlier this year in training some Philippines troops, notes the *Times*.

In another development, NATO secretary-general George Robertson stated October 12 that should Washington want to shift its 10,000 troops currently stationed in Bosnia and Kosovo to Afghanistan, "then there are NATO troops that would be more than willing to fill their positions." NATO has already dispatched five airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft to Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City to help patrol the skies over the United States. This deployment marks the first time non-U.S. airplanes have been used for military purposes in U.S. airspace.

Imperialism's record of brutality, exploi

Against Washington's new 'crusade,' labor needs to reach out to powerful cl

BY GREG McCARTAN

Shortly after Washington launched its brutal bombing campaign against Afghanistan, a videotaped message by Osama bin Laden responding to the attack was played on al-Jazeera, a widely watched Mideast television network, and rebroadcast in many countries, including the United States. A few days later, on October 10, the Bush administration upped the patriotic pressure on U.S. television networks to cease broadcasting any further statements by bin Laden or other al-Qaeda leaders.

Initially, some in the U.S. ruling class may have wagered that airing the videotape would bolster the demonization campaign drummed up by the White House and echoed by the big-business press, seeking to portray the U.S. government as leading the worldwide forces of "good" against "evil," of "reason" against "fanaticism," of the "heavens" against the "cave."

If so, the trick backfired, undercutting Washington's claim that there are no political issues other than "terrorism" underlying its stated goal of bringing in bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders "dead or alive." In fact, the broadcast reinforced the fact that the conflict is rooted in the ongoing consequences of a century of imperialist superexploitation and oppression of the Mideast and Asia, preceded by a century or more of colonial domination and outrages during the rise of capitalism in Europe and North America.

The Bush administration faces mounting problems in making the fake rationalizations for U.S. war policies stick. No matter how effective the press self-censor-



Slogan of Palestine Liberation Organization, which developed in 1960s as leadership of Palestinian national struggle. The Israeli capitalist state, which occupies lands conquered in 1948 and in 1967 war and wages daily war on Palestinian people, stands as the only reliable military garrison state in service of imperialist interests in the region.

ship may be, it cannot explain why the content of bin Laden's message strikes such a chord among hundreds of millions of working people and middle layers in Pakistan, Egypt, Nigeria, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, and elsewhere.

Historic injustices

Osama Bin Laden's statement, printed below, calls for an end to the stationing of U.S. and other foreign troops in Saudi Arabia and other countries on the Arabian Peninsula. It calls for an end to the U.S.-British bombing of Iraq, the decade-long economic embargo, and other imperialist

policies that have visited death and maiming on hundreds of thousands of Iraqis since 1990-91. And it demands reversal of the forcible dispossession of the Palestinian people by the Israeli regime and the continued occupation of those lands, as well as a halt to support by Washington to the course of all Israeli governments.

In recounting what are in fact historic injustices against the Arabs, Muslims, and other peoples throughout the Middle East and Asia, Osama bin Laden also points to other imperialist crimes, such as the use of nuclear weapons against the civilian populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Au-

gust 1945. His statement concludes that "neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security before we are secure in Palestine, and before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, peace be unto him."

As the U.S. rulers have exhausted the spectacle of "national mourning" they promoted following the September 11 attacks, cynically using the deaths of some 5,000 people to marshal support for a war against Afghanistan and all nations hosting terrorists, they are finding it harder and harder to rule out-of-bounds any discussion of the political issues.

For example, the Jewish weekly *Forward*, a spin-off of the Yiddish daily published since 1897, said in an October 5 editorial: "But we needn't search the theology texts to divine bin Laden's motives. He's spelled them out repeatedly in various public statements. He's on a self-declared holy war against 'Crusaders and Jews,' with a threefold goal: 'liberating' Mecca and the rest of Arabia from American 'occupation,' 'liberating' Al-Aqsa [mosque] in Jerusalem from Jewish 'occupation,' and lifting the Western embargo on Iraq. They're always stated in that threefold form, and usually in that order."

Putting the arm on the press

The week before Osama bin Laden's videotaped spot, U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell had already issued a complaint with the Sultan of Qatar about al-Jazeera's broadcasts of speeches by al-Qaeda leaders.

Then, in response to the statement released the day after U.S. bombs and missiles began falling on Afghanistan, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice held a phone conference with officials of U.S. television networks October 10. Later that day the Bush administration's press secretary, Ari Fleischer, "clarified" that Rice had issued a "request," not a "demand," that the networks stop airing statements by al-Qaeda leaders.

"At best, Osama bin Laden's messages are propaganda calling on people to kill Americans," Fleischer said. "At worst, he could be issuing orders to his followers to initiate such attacks." CNN.com reported that Fleischer said bin Laden and others "might be using the international news media to convey coded messages, because their own means of communications are limited." Colin Powell told CNN that the State Department assigned analysts to "pore over" the statements to find any such signals.

(The *Militant* inquired of the Ted Turner-owned Atlanta Braves whether their third-base coaches are also viewing the tapes to see if any signals might be related to the World Series playoffs now under way, since affecting the outcome of the "U.S. national pastime" would be a major feather in al-Qaeda's cap. As we go to press, the Braves "knock-a-homa" management has made no comment and not returned any messages.)

CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, and Fox Network quickly complied. CNN officials announced that in deciding what to air they "will consider guidance from appropriate authorities."

The next day Fleischer, saying the Bush administration was "pleased with the reception of the network executives," made the same "suggestion" to U.S. newspapers. The White House doublespeak officer said that if bin Laden is able to get out "his prepackaged, pretaped message," it could end up in "the hands of people who can read it and see something in it."

According to the *New York Times*, its executive editor Howell Raines told Fleischer the newspaper's practice "is to keep our readers fully informed."

Over the past month, Washington has imposed strict secrecy on war-related information, a decision the big-business media has gone along with without a peep of protest. Everything—from the names of the now 786 people placed in "preventive detention" in the United States, to the names of bomber pilots, to the growing numbers of Special Forces troops that have been in Afghanistan for weeks—is being withheld by the U.S. government.

Statement by Osama bin Laden

Printed below is the statement by Osama Bin Laden, broadcast on the al-Jazeera television channel in Qatar on October 7, the day the U.S. and British strikes on Afghanistan began. Except for the first two paragraphs, which are from the *Washington Post*, the translation is taken from the Associated Press. The AP text includes the notes in square brackets. Subheadings and footnotes are by the *Militant*.

Let the whole world know that we shall never accept that the tragedy of Andalusia¹ would be repeated in Palestine. We cannot accept that Palestine will become Jewish.

And with regard to you, Muslims, this is the day of question. This is a new (inaudible) against you, all against the Muslims and Medina. So be like the followers of the prophet,² peace be upon him, and all countrymen, lovers of God and the prophet within, and a new battle, great battle, similar to the great battles of Islam, like the conqueror of Jerusalem.³ So, hurry up to the dignity of life and the eternity of death.

I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is his messenger.

There is America, hit by God in one of its softest spots. Its greatest buildings were destroyed, thank God for that. There is America, full of fear from its north to its south, from its west to its east. Thank God for that.

What America is tasting now is something insignificant compared to what we have tasted for scores of years. Our nation [the Islamic world] has been tasting this humiliation and this degradation for more than 80 years.⁴ Its sons are killed, its blood is shed, its sanctuaries are attacked, and no one hears and no one heeds.

When God blessed one of the groups of Islam, vanguards of Islam, they destroyed America. I pray to God to elevate their status and bless them.

Millions of innocent children are being killed as I speak. They are being killed in Iraq without committing any sins, and

we don't hear condemnation or a fatwa [religious decree] from the rulers.⁵ In these days, Israeli tanks infest Palestine—in Jenin, Ramallah, Rafah, Beit Jalla, and other places in the land of Islam—and we don't hear anyone raising his voice or moving a limb.⁶

When the sword comes down [on America], after 80 years, hypocrisy rears its ugly head. They deplore and they lament for those killers, who have abused the blood, honor and sanctuaries of Muslims. The least that can be said about those people is that they are debauched. They have followed injustice. They supported the butcher over the victim, the oppressor over the innocent child. May God show them his wrath and give them what they deserve.

I say that the situation is clear and obvious after this event, after the senior officials have spoken in America, starting with the head of infidels worldwide, Bush, and those with him. They have come out in force with their men and have turned even the countries that belong to Islam to this treachery, and they want to wag their tail at God, to fight Islam, to suppress people in the name of terrorism.

Atomic bombing of Japan

When people at the ends of the earth, Japan, were killed in the hundreds of thousands, young and old, it was not considered a war crime, it is something that has justification.⁷ Millions of children in Iraq is something that has justification. But when they lose dozens of people in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam [capitals of Kenya and Tanzania, where U.S. embassies were bombed in 1998], Sudan was struck and Afghanistan was struck.⁸ Hypocrisy stood in force behind the head of infidels worldwide, behind the cowards of this age, America and those who are with it.

These events have divided the whole world into two sides—the side of believers and the side of infidels. May God keep you away from them. Every Muslim has to rush to make his religion victorious. The winds of faith have come. The winds of change have come to eradicate oppression from the island of Muhammad, peace be upon him.

To America, I say only a few words to it and its people. I swear by God, who has

elevated the skies without pillars, that neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security before we are secure in Palestine, and before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, peace be upon him.

God is great, may pride be with Islam. May peace and God's mercy be upon you.

¹ The Moors, who adhered to the Muslim religion, ruled Spain from the eighth century until their defeat by armies fighting under the banner of Christianity. The final battle was fought in 1492 over the city of Granada in the province of Andalusia.

² The prophet Muhammad, founder of the Muslim religion, is buried in Medina.

³ Salah Al-Din, the Kurdish Muslim general, defeated Crusader armies from Western Europe in a series of battles beginning in 1187 AD, culminating in the conquest of Jerusalem.

⁴ The Sykes-Picot agreement, signed in 1916, carved up the Arab provinces of the Ottoman empire—which at its height had ruled much of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa—between the French and British imperialist powers. A British protectorate was imposed on what is now Saudi Arabia.

⁵ Refers to the brutal impact of imperialist policy on Iraq, including UN sanctions, imposed in 1990 in the leadup to the Gulf War and maintained ever since.

⁶ Locations in the occupied territories. Jenin, Ramallah, and Beit Jalla are in the West Bank; Rafah is a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

⁷ Hundreds of thousands of people were killed in the 1945 U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Up to 200,000 people died in the U.S. fire-bombing of Tokyo.

⁸ Two weeks after car bomb explosions outside embassies in Kenya and Tanzania took 224 lives, including 12 U.S. citizens, U.S. president Clinton ordered air strikes against the Sudan and Afghanistan. U.S. warplanes launched 79 cruise missiles at Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, and several sites in Afghanistan.

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Demonization crusade

During Bush's October 11 prime time evening news conference, the U.S. president used the word "evil," "evildoers," or "the evil ones" 15 times in referring to U.S. war aims.

Echoing this demonization campaign, *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd, on the day following Bush's press conference, wrote that Afghanistan's head of government, Mullah Mohammed Omar, "is reputed to be so crazed that when shrapnel hit his eye in a battle with the Russians [against the 1978-89 Soviet government occupation], he simply cut it out with a knife and kept going."

A question for Dowd: How many thousands of U.S. soldiers have been given the Medal of Honor for such "crazed" actions?

Imperialists carve up Mideast

"Our nation has been tasting this degradation for more than 80 years," bin Laden said in his videotaped message.

What was he referring to? What happened 80 years ago, around the opening of the 1920s?

Prior to World War I, the Ottoman Empire, with its seat in what is today Turkey, had ruled much of the Middle East and North Africa for several hundred years. Laying claim to the Ottoman realm was among the principal objects of British and French capitalists during the first world imperialist slaughter, which opened in August 1914. The region's strategic position in trade and commerce between Europe and Asia made it among the most sought-after prizes in the war.

Anticipating victory over the Triple Alliance, which was led by Germany and included the Ottoman Empire, the imperialist rulers of France and Great Britain secretly signed the Sykes-Picot Agreement in 1916. The pact divided the entire Middle East between the two powers—either through colonization, "protectorates," or spheres of influence. (Sir Mark Sykes, chief negotiator for the British Empire, expressed the view that the desert-dwelling Arabs were "rapacious, greedy...animals," while those in the cities were "cowardly," "insolent yet despicable," and "vicious as far as their feeble bodies will admit.") Also a stone anti-Semite, Sykes added that "even Jews have their good points.")

The Sykes-Picot agreement gave France what are roughly today called Lebanon and Syria. Iraq (then Mesopotamia) and Transjordan (encompassing what is today Palestine and Jordan) would be under "direct or indirect administration and control" by the United Kingdom, which would also establish "protectorates" over formally independent Egypt, the Sudan, and oil-rich Persia (now Iran).

Still nearly two decades before the discovery of vast oil reserves beneath the seemingly resource-poor desert interior of the Arabian peninsula, London was content to exercise de facto vassalage over "independent" kingdoms there such as that of Ibn Saud (now Saudi Arabia) and several smaller ones (now Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait).

At the very time the duplicitous British rulers were completing this pact, they were simultaneously wooing various Arab forces to organize a revolt against the Ottomans by promising them independence and self-rule after the war.

The treaty did not become known until the Bolsheviks—having led workers and peasants to power in Russia in the world's first socialist revolution in October 1917—published one month later many secret documents from the tsar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These included a copy of the Sykes-Picot accord, which the former imperialist government in Russia had also signed, receiving the promise of lands in what is now Turkey.

This imperialist plunder received the stamp of approval in the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, the rapacious pact that also imposed ruinous reparations and land grabs on the defeated powers in World War I, above all on Germany.

The colonization of the former Ottoman lands by the United Kingdom and France—with London squeezing a few more concessions from Paris—was imposed by military force under the fig leaf of agreements with local Arab rulers and "mandates" from the League of Nations. Newly established under the terms of the Versailles Treaty, the League was quickly dubbed a "den of thieves" by Bolshevik leaders, since it served the interests of the imperialist victors in World War I—much as its post-World War II offspring, the United Nations, has been dominated by Washington to this day.

In order to create a powerful new obstacle to the Arab independence struggle, British capital also backed plans by the World Zionist Organization to colonize Palestine with Jews from Europe, where they faced persecution in many parts of the continent. The British rulers figured that colonial settlers over time would feel common cause in combating the Arab democratic movement and resisting efforts to oust imperialist overlords. British rule over Palestine, already entrenched at the close of the war, was formally authorized by a 1922 mandate from the League of Nations.

'Imperialist predators'

Coming out of World War I, Britain and France stood before the world "not as representatives of culture and civilization, but as countries ruled by imperialist predators," declared Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin in a Nov. 22, 1919, speech to a congress of Communist Organizations of the Peoples of the East.

Despite the democratic pretensions of these governments, Lenin said, "The eyes of the working people have been opened because the Treaty of Versailles was a rapacious peace, which showed that France and Britain had actually fought Germany in order to strengthen their rule over the colonies and the enhance their imperialist might."

What's more, Lenin said, "The internal struggle among these predators is developing so swiftly that we may rejoice in the knowledge that the Treaty of Versailles is only a seeming victory for the jubilant imperialists."

As Lenin foresaw in broad outlines, no more than two decades were to pass before a second world inter-imperialist slaughter erupted, this time not only in Europe, the Mideast, and North Africa, but in the Pacific and East Asia as well.

Following World War II, nationalist movements and revolutionary upsurges spread across much of the Arab and Muslim world, dealing blows to the already weakened British Empire and to France. Syria, Lebanon, and Transjordan won their independence, as did Libya, Tunisia, and Algeria a few years later. The British had to pull their forces out of Egypt and Iraq in the late 1940s.

Even as World War II was still being fought, Washington, which was to be the principal imperialist victor in World War II, moved to replace London and Paris as the dominant power in the region. The U.S. government pressed for an end to British rule over Palestine and for the declaration of an independent Jewish state, winning United Nations backing for the forced partition of Palestine and the establishment of the state of Israel on the dispossessed lands of the Palestinian people.

With direct colonial rule and occupation of the region on the wane, Washington saw the need to establish a bulwark of the capitalist world order there.

Today, while Israeli capitalists have their own class interests that often conflict with those of the U.S. rulers, Israel at the same time stands as the only reliable military garrison state in the service of imperialist interests in the region—including the interests of Wall Street and Washington. Israel continues to occupy not only the lands it conquered in 1948, but also those captured in a brutal 1967 war against the Arab peoples, including the Golan Heights and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli authorities wage daily war on the Palestinian people, who have fought unre-



Scene on the road to Basra after U.S. military conducted "turkey shoot"—a murderous artillery, tank, and warplane bombardment of Iraqi people retreating from Kuwait in 1991. U.S.-led 100-hour invasion took more than 150,000 Iraqi lives.

mittingly for more than half a century for the restoration of their homeland and other national rights.

Washington needs a protectorate

In addition to its reliance on Israel, Washington reacted against a post-World War II upturn of anti-imperialist struggles by workers, peasants, and youth in Iran by organizing a 1953 coup and reinstalling, for a quarter century, the monarchy of the shah of Iran. With a large and modern army and extensive secret police apparatus, the shah not only held the working people of Iran in check, but helped keep the toilers throughout the region under the imperialist boot.

In the late 1970s, however, a new round of democratic struggles spread across the region. In 1979 a mass revolutionary upheaval in Iran, with its decisive battalions among the oil workers and other workers, toppled the shah, dealing a decisive setback to U.S. imperialism.

Unable this time to directly turn back the revolution, Washington gave support to a war against Iran launched by the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Over an eight-year period in the 1980s Iraqi working people were sent against their class brothers and sisters in Iran, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths on both sides. The Hussein regime, however, proved incapable of inflicting a decisive defeat on Iran—an outcome that would have opened the way for Washington to reimpose a regime there directly subservient to imperialist dictates.

A decade later, Saddam Hussein, believing he had the nod from Washington to invade and occupy part of Kuwait, gave the U.S. imperialists an opportunity to organize a massive bombardment and invasion of Iraq.

In August 1990 the administration of the senior George Bush imposed what quickly became a complete embargo on Iraq, cutting the country off from

imports of food, medicines, machinery, and other vital supplies. Over the next 14 weeks the U.S. government deployed nearly a half-million troops in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the region, including many armored divisions, setting the stage for a brutal six-week bombing campaign that devastated the country. This was topped off by a 100-hour invasion in which more than 150,000 Iraqi civilians and soldiers were slaughtered in what one U.S. Army officer called a "turkey shoot."

In carrying out the 1990-91 war against Iraq, Washington's goal was to topple what had become an unreliable bourgeois regime. In its place, the U.S. rulers aimed to install a U.S. protectorate around which Washington could build a stable military strike force to keep toilers in the region

in line and look out for the interests of U.S. capital.

Despite its military "victory," however, Washington fell far short of those goals. It strengthened its position vis-a-vis its imperialist rivals—especially Paris, Bonn, and Tokyo—but it came no closer to imposing an imperialist "peace" on the region. Instead, the outcome of the conflict exacerbated the contradictions of the world imperialist order and set up the conditions for new and bloodier wars.

Since that time, the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom have continued frequent bombing of Iraq, killing many civilians each year. And another decade of the embargo has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis from malnutrition and lack of medical supplies.

The U.S. rulers see the current war, with the immediate goal of toppling the Taliban-led government in Kabul, as an opportunity to recoup some of what they lost with the Iranian revolution of 1979 and could not restore during the Gulf War. They are aiming to get back a direct foothold in the region by setting up a U.S. imperialist protectorate in Afghanistan—perhaps under the banner of the modern-day den of thieves, the United Nations.

Afghanistan, of course, lacks the modern infrastructure, larger population, and advanced army of either Iran or Iraq. And there are voices in U.S. ruling-class circles—including in the administration and both imperialist parties, the Democrats and Republicans—urging Bush to "finish the job" with Saddam Hussein after "dealing with" the Taliban.

Denial of national sovereignty

A central feature of imperialist domination in the Middle East and Central Asia,

Continued on Page 14

Stockholm, Sweden, Friday Oct. 26

Imperialist War in Afghanistan and the Building the International Communist Movement Today

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

Featured speaker:

Mary-Alice Waters

Socialist Workers Party

In addition, an international panel:

Olympia Newton, Young Socialists

Michel Prairie, Communist League, Canada

Catharina Tirsén, Communist League, Sweden

Kristoffer Schultz, Young Socialists, Sweden

and others from the United Kingdom and Iceland

Friday October 26, 6:30 p.m. Kyrkvallen, Vasaloppsvägen 60, Västertorp

Hosted by Communist League in Sweden and Young Socialists in Sweden.

Lenin condemns imperialist war on China

Printed below are excerpts from "The War in China," an article written in 1900 by V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the October 1917 Russian Revolution. Lenin condemns the imperialist war against the uprising commonly referred to in the West as the Boxer Rebellion (see box) that was accompanied by a hysterical campaign in the big-business press, complete with an Osama bin Laden figure of the day, dubbed, "the butcher of Shansi." The article can be found in the *Collected Works*, vol. 4, p. 372. Subheadings and footnotes are by the *Militant*.

BY V.I. LENIN

Russia is bringing her war with China to a close: a number of military districts have been mobilized, hundreds of millions of rubles have been spent, tens of thousands of troops have been dispatched to China, a number of battles have been fought and a number of victories won—true, not so much over regular enemy troops, as over Chinese insurgents and, particularly, over the unarmed Chinese populace, who were drowned or killed, with no holding back from the slaughter of women and children, not to speak of the looting of palaces, homes, and shops.

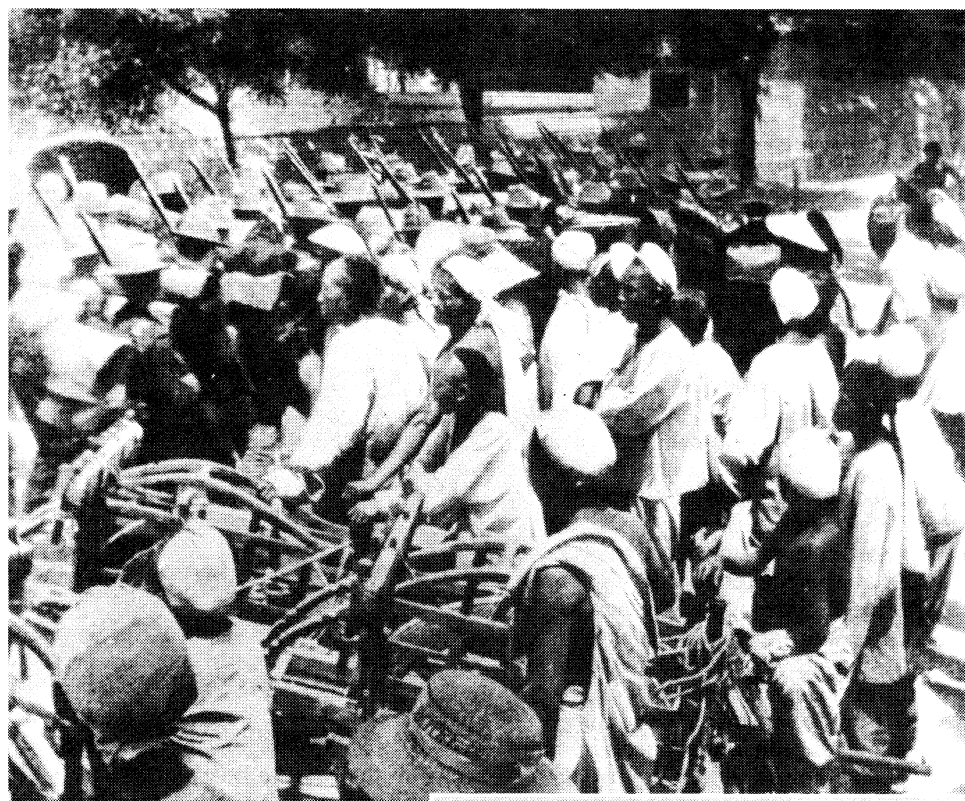
The Russian Government, together with the press that kowtows to it, is celebrating a victory and rejoicing over the fresh exploits of the gallant soldiery, rejoicing at the victory of European culture over Chinese barbarism and over the fresh successes of Russia's "civilizing mission" in the Far East.

But the voices of the class-conscious workers, of the advanced representatives of the many millions of the working people, are not heard amid this rejoicing. And yet, it is the working people who bear the brunt of the victorious new campaigns, it is working people who are sent to the other end of the world, from whom increased taxes are extorted to cover the millions expended. Let us, therefore, see: What attitude should the socialists adopt towards this war? In whose interests is it being fought? What is the real nature of the policy now being pursued by the Russian Government?

Chinese rose against foreign capitalists

Our government asserts first of all that it is not waging war against China; that it is merely suppressing a rebellion, pacifying rebels; that it is helping the lawful government of China to reestablish law and order. True, war has not been declared, but this does not change the situation a bit, because war is being waged nonetheless. What made the Chinese attack Europeans, what caused the rebellion which the British, French, Germans, Russians, Japanese, etc., are so zealously crushing? "The hostility of the yellow race towards the white race," "the Chinese hatred for European culture and civilization"—answer the supporters of the war. Yes! It is true the Chinese hate the Europeans, but which Europeans do they hate, and why?

The Chinese do not hate the European



Above, U.S. marines march in Beijing following suppression of peasant uprising known as "Boxer Rebellion." Right, Chien Men gate, partially destroyed by the marines' artillery fire.



peoples, they have never had any quarrel with them—they hate the European capitalists and the European governments obedient to them. How can the Chinese not hate those who have come to China solely for the sake of gain; who have utilized their vaunted civilization solely for the purpose of deception, plunder, and violence; who have waged wars against China in order to win the right to trade in opium with which to drug the people (the war of England and France with China in 1856); and who hypocritically carried their policy of plunder under the guise of spreading Christianity? The bourgeois governments of Europe have long been conducting this policy of plunder with respect to China, and now they have been joined by the autocratic Russian Government.

This policy of plunder is usually called a colonial policy. Every country in which capitalist industry develops rapidly has very soon to seek colonies, i.e., countries in which industry is weakly developed, in which a more or less patriarchal way of life still prevails, and which can serve as a market for manufactured goods and a source of high profits. For the sake of the profit of a handful of capitalists, the bourgeois governments have waged endless wars, have sent regiments to die in unhealthy tropical countries, have squandered millions of money extracted from the people, and have driven the peoples in the colonies to desperate revolts or to death from starvation. We need

only recall the rebellion of the native peoples against the British in India and the famine that prevailed there, or think of the war the English are now waging against the Boers.¹

And now the European capitalists have placed their rapacious paws upon China, and almost the first to do so was the Russian Government, which now so loudly proclaims its "disinterestedness." It "disinterestedly" took Port Arthur away from China and began to build a railway to Manchuria under the protection of Russian troops. One after another the European governments began feverishly to loot, or, as they put it, to "refit," Chinese territory, giving good grounds for the talk of the partition of China. If we are to call things by their right names, we must say that the European governments (the Russian Government among the very first) have already started to partition China. However, they have not begun this partitioning openly, but stealthily, like thieves.

They began to rob China as ghouls rob corpses, and when the seeming corpse attempted to resist, they flung themselves upon it like savage beasts, burning down whole villages, shooting, bayoneting, and drowning in the Amur River unarmed inhabitants, their wives, and their children. And all these Christian exploits are accompanied by howls against the Chinese barbarians who dared to raise their hands against the civilized Europeans.

The occupation of Niuchuang and the moving of Russian troops into Manchuria are temporary measures, declares the autocratic Russian Government in its circular note of August 12, 1900, addressed to the Powers; these measures "are called forth exclusively by the necessity to repel the aggressive operations of Chinese rebels"; they "cannot in the least be regarded as evidence of any selfish plans, which are totally alien to the policy of the Imperial Government."

Poor Imperial Government! So Christianly unselfish, and yet so unjustly maligned! Several years ago it unselfishly seized Port Arthur, and now it is unselfishly seizing Manchuria; it has unselfishly flooded the frontier provinces of China with hordes of contractors, engineers, and officers, who, by their conduct, have roused to indignation even the Chinese, known for their docility. The Chinese workers employed in the construction of the Chinese railway had to exist on a wage of ten kopeks a day—is this not unselfish on Russia's part?

Who benefits by war, plunder?

How is our government's senseless policy in China to be explained? Who benefits by it? The benefit goes to a handful of capital-

ist magnates who carry on trade with China, to a handful of factory owners who manufacture goods for the Asian market, to a handful of contractors who are now piling up huge profits on urgent war orders (factories producing war equipment, supplies for the troops, etc., are now operating at full capacity and are engaging hundreds of new workers). This policy is of benefit to a handful of nobles who occupy high posts in the civil and military services. They need adventurous policies, for these provide them with opportunities for promotion, for making a career and gaining fame by their "exploits." In the interests of this handful of capitalists and bureaucratic scoundrels, our government unhesitatingly sacrifices the interests of the entire people. And in this case, as always, the autocratic tsarist government has proved itself to be a government of irresponsible bureaucrats servilely cringing before the capitalist magnates and nobles.

What benefits do the Russian working class and the laboring people generally obtain from the conquests in China? Thousands of ruined families, whose breadwinners have been sent to the war; an enormous increase in the national debt and the national expenditure; mounting taxation; greater power for the capitalists, the exploiters of the workers; worse conditions for the workers; still greater mortality among the peasantry, famine in Siberia—this is what the Chinese war promises and is already bringing. The entire Russian press, all the newspapers and periodicals are kept in a state of bondage; they dare not print anything without permission of the government officials....

The European states that have flung themselves upon China are already beginning to quarrel over the division of the booty, and no one can say how this quarrel will end.

Aim to corrupt masses' consciousness

But the policy of the tsarist government in China is not only a mockery of the interests of the people—its aim is to corrupt the political consciousness of the masses. Governments that maintain themselves in power only by means of the bayonet, that have constantly to restrain or suppress the indignation of the people, have long realized the truism that popular discontent can never be removed and that it is necessary to divert the discontent from the government to some other object. For example, hostility is being stirred up against the Jews; the gutter press carries on Jew-baiting campaigns, as if the Jewish workers do not suffer in exactly the same way as the Russian workers from the oppression of capital and the police government. At the present time, the press is conducting a campaign against the Chinese; it is howling about the savage yellow race and its hostility towards civilization, about Russia's tasks of enlightenment, about the enthusiasm with which the Russian soldiers go into battle, etc., etc.

Journalists who crawl on their bellies before the government and the money-bags are straining every nerve to rouse the hatred of the people against China. But the Chinese people have at no time and in no way oppressed the Russian people. The Chinese people suffer from the same evils as those from which the Russian people suffer—they suffer from an Asiatic government that squeezes taxes from the starving peasantry and that suppresses every aspiration towards liberty by military force; they suffer from the oppression of capital, which has penetrated into the Middle Kingdom.

The Russian working class is beginning to move out of the state of political oppression and ignorance in which the masses of the people are still submerged. Hence, the duty of all class-conscious workers is to rise with all their might against those who are stirring up national hatred and diverting the attention of the working people from their real enemies.

¹ A mass rebellion against British rule known as the Indian Mutiny, began in 1857. It was savagely suppressed by British troops in 1859. In the Boer War (1899–1902) British imperial forces invaded the settler republics of the Orange Free State and the South African Republic.

The 'Boxer Rebellion'

In 1899–1900 peasants in China mounted a mass rebellion against the growing encroachments into the country by the imperialist powers. An invasion and brutal suppression of the revolt was accompanied by a propaganda barrage against the Chinese "barbarians," particularly after some 200 missionaries and their families were killed. The Viceroy of Shansi province, a stronghold of the rebellion, was libeled the "butcher of Shansi."

The revolt, which began in the Northwest of the country, was driven by the peasants' desperate economic plight, exacerbated by floods and a prolonged drought. A leading role was played by the I-ho Ch'üan society, or society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, whose members—many of them landless and unemployed peasants—practiced a distinctive form of martial arts.

Seizing on these characteristics, the European settlements and press dubbed the uprising the Boxer Rebellion. Despite its hostility to the interests of the peasantry, the empress Tzu Hsi in Peking (present-day Beijing), at first tolerated and then gave support to the movement, seeing a mutual interest in opposing the

actions of the predatory imperialist powers.

In June 1900 the rebel forces laid siege to the foreign legations in Peking, an action which lasted until August 14. At the high point of the struggle, some 140,000 people had mobilized there.

The imperialist powers reacted by sacking the city in August, using an eight-power expeditionary force made up of contingents from the armed forces of the United States (comprised of troops who had occupied the Philippines after Washington's 1898 victory over the rival power of Spain), France, Britain, Germany, Austria, Italy, Russia, and Japan. Tens of thousands were killed as the rebellion was crushed in the manner Lenin describes in the accompanying article. The Chinese government was compelled to pay reparations, called the "Boxer Indemnity," to the imperialist powers, and to allow the permanent stationing of foreign troops on Chinese soil.

In spite of their military efforts, however, the imperialist powers never completely conquered China, and suffered a decisive defeat with the victory of the Chinese revolution immediately following World War II.

How Washington has used United Nations to conduct its wars

The following is the second of two articles by Steve Clark reprinted from the Nov. 2 and 9, 1990, issues of the *Militant*. The articles review the then newly issued Pathfinder pamphlet *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!: Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. The pamphlet was subsequently released with additional speeches as a book, in both English and Spanish. *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* remains a valuable resource for working people and youth seeking to learn the truth about Washington's military aggressions abroad, the character of the United Nations, and how Cuban leaders Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón exposed the rationalizations used by the U.S. imperialists as the pretext for their assault against the Iraqi people in 1990-91.

BY STEVE CLARK

As the pamphlet shows, the U.S. government has utilized the United Nations Security Council to camouflage the fact that the massive war mobilization against the Iraqi people has been engineered by Washington from the outset. Credence has been lent to this fakery by the council's four other permanent members—the governments of Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the People's Republic of China—which have unanimously backed each one of the U.S.-initiated resolutions.

The Security Council's prominence throughout this mammoth military buildup has prompted discussion about the political character and aims of the UN.

"Since the United Nations was born," Cuba's UN ambassador Ricardo Alarcón said during a Security Council debate August 9, "we have seen how certain great powers have sought to use the Council as a tool for their own strategic interests rather than as a body working for the maintenance of international peace and security." He pointed to the Security Council's decisions on the Iraq-Kuwait situation and U.S. war moves as a clear-cut example.

'Mechanism for international peace'?

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze also addressed this question when he was in New York recently to take part in several UN sessions. Speaking before the Security Council September 25, Shevardnadze pointed to its handling of the Middle East situation as confirmation "that the United Nations has assumed the role intended for it when it was founded, the transformation of the Security Council into an effective mechanism for the maintenance of international peace and security."

Earlier that same day, addressing the General Assembly, the Soviet foreign minister warned the Iraqi government that "the United Nations has the power to suppress acts of aggression" and suggested that the Security Council might find it necessary to establish a "rapid response force" composed of units "designated by different countries, including all five permanent members of the Security Council."

Contrary to Shevardnadze's assertion, however, the United Nations has never been a mechanism—"effective" or otherwise—for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Of course, that is how Washington and other imperialist powers seek to present the UN. But as Cuban President Fidel Castro explained in a December 1988 speech, we "know how imperialism can conceive of peace. Imperialism developed its armed forces for world domination; it has military bases in every corner of the earth, powerful naval and air fleets, millions of soldiers. Imperialism's military conception was designed to impose its order on the world, to impose its peace, like the one called *Pax Romana* in ancient times."

That is why, Castro explained, "There are two types of survival and two types of peace: survival for the rich and survival for the poor, peace for the rich and peace for the poor.... As long as injustice prevails in the world, as long as neocolonialist and imperialist oppression exists in the world, as long as plundering exists, there will be two types of survival and two types of peace."

The United Nations—like its predecessor the League of Nations, which Lenin and other leaders of the Russian Revolution condemned as a "Thieves' Kitchen"—was established on the basis of the outcome of a bloody interimperialist war.

Post-World War II status quo

The Allied imperialist regimes of the United States, Britain, and France had emerged victorious over the Axis imperialist governments of Germany, Japan, and Italy. And despite the reactionary course of the Stalinist regime in Moscow, also part of the Allied coalition, the workers and farmers of the Soviet Union—at the cost of many millions of lives—had turned back the onslaught by German imperialism aimed at subjugating them once again to direct capitalist exploitation.

As the Allied powers neared victory in April 1945, the UN was set up at a conference in San Francisco to give a stamp of legitimacy to the postwar international status quo. Prior to that gathering, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin had met in Yalta in the Soviet Union to divvy up the world into spheres of influence. Behind closed doors, the national self-determination of peoples and countries and the interests of workers and farmers the world over were trampled into the dust.

The peoples of Korea and Vietnam, who were winning liberation from Japanese imperialist domination, were denied the fruits of their victories; Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill agreed to tear Korea in half at the 38th parallel, and endorsed the French colonial reconquest of Indochina. The "Big Three," as they were known at the time, also dismembered Germany and Austria against the will of the people of those countries and moved boundaries throughout Central and Eastern Europe to serve the needs of the victorious imperialist ruling classes and privileged bureaucratic caste that dominated the Soviet workers state.

These three powerful governments were the true "United Nations" at its birth. Their mutual veto privileges in the Security Council established a framework in which they could continue—as they had done throughout the war—to advance their common interests, while blocking each other where their interests diverged.

Subsequently the initial Big Three was expanded to a Big Five, including the governments of France and China. In the latter case, the government of Taiwan held China's UN seat until 1971, when the People's Republic of China was admitted to the UN. (Following the 1949 Chinese revolution, the forces of the former rightist U.S.-backed regime fled to the island of Taiwan, where they declared themselves China's true government. For more than a quarter century Washington backed this so-called Republic of China's claim to the UN seat, and blocked the Chinese government's admission.)

Korean War

Despite Stalin's best efforts to extend the wartime alliance with U.S. imperialism indefinitely, Washington had other needs. In the aftermath of the war, imperialist interests were challenged by workers and farmers in substantial portions of Europe, as well as in China, Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere. The prime concern of the U.S. rulers was to preserve imperialist domination and capitalist property relations in face of these struggles.

In the introduction to the new Pathfinder pamphlet, Mary-Alice Waters briefly explains how Washington took advantage of miscalculations by the Soviet government to advance imperialist goals under the pretense of Security Council action.

"Forty years ago," Waters explains, "Washington used UN cover to organize what was in fact a U.S. invasion of Korea to maintain the partition of that country in violation of the national rights of the Korean people. The division had been established by joint agreement of the U.S. and Soviet governments at the end of World War II."

"In 1950, in a series of resolutions pushed through the Security Council by the U.S.



U.S. force attacking a village during the Korean War of 1950-53. U.S. and allied troops waged that war under the UN flag, leaving 2 million people dead.

delegation," the introduction says, "the United Nations lent its authority to one of the largest military operations ever conducted by Washington. The entire 1950-1953 Korean War was fought under the UN flag. The Security Council authorized the U.S. government to command the forces dispatched to Korea from some sixteen countries."

Waters explains that the Soviet government and other UN members have challenged the legitimacy of the 1950 Security Council resolutions, since these measures were adopted without the participation of the Soviet delegation. At the time, the Soviet government was boycotting the Security Council to protest Washington's rejection of seating the People's Republic as China's representative to the UN.

The introduction points out that in 1975 the General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for dissolution of the so-called UN Command in Korea. Since only unanimous decisions of the five permanent Security Council members are binding in such matters, however, the blue flag of the UN still flies over U.S. troops stationed along the border that divides Korea today!

Murder of Patrice Lumumba

The greater clarity shed by recent events on how the UN Security Council functions to promote imperialist interests is important, since revolutionists have paid a heavy price in blood for failing to understand and act on this reality.

In 1960, for example, UN forces were complicit in the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, prime minister of the African country of the Congo (now Zaire), who had led that country's independence struggle against Belgium. Faced with a secessionist movement organized by the former Belgian rulers, Lumumba appealed to the UN to send a peacekeeping force to help defend the newly established independent government.

Washington voted for this request for UN troops in the Security Council, as did the four other permanent members. At the very same time, according to a 1975 U.S. Senate

report, the CIA was plotting Lumumba's assassination as "an urgent and prime objective," in the words of then-CIA director Allen Dulles. The Senate report accepted as a "reasonable inference" that the order to kill the Congolese leader came directly from President Dwight Eisenhower.

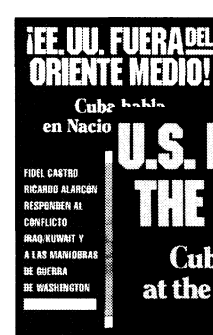
When the UN-sponsored troops—many supplied by the government of imperialist Sweden—arrived in the Congo in the summer of 1960, they refused to take any action against the Katangan rightist forces or their Belgian sponsors. Instead, they disarmed Lumumba's forces and closed down government radio stations. The UN troops then stood by while Lumumba was ousted from the government by pro-U.S. forces. The new regime turned Lumumba over to the Katangan rebels, who murdered him in early 1961.

Ernesto Che Guevara condemned the UN role in this counterrevolutionary operation when he addressed the General Assembly in December 1964 on behalf of the Cuban delegation. "How can we forget the betrayal of the hope that Patrice Lumumba placed in the United Nations?" Guevara said. "How can we forget the machinations and maneuvers that followed in the wake of the occupation of that country by United Nations troops, under whose auspices the assassins of this great African patriot acted with impunity?... Who can deny the sad role that the imperialists compelled the United Nations to play?"

A decade later, when the South African army, egged on by Washington, launched an invasion of Angola on the eve of that country's scheduled independence from Portugal, Angolan freedom fighters did not repeat Lumumba's error. Instead, in November 1975, the Angolan government appealed for assistance from Cuba, which responded by sending thousands of volunteers to help turn back the imperialist assault. This initial victory over South Africa's invading army was followed over the next 12 years by repeated South African incursions of Angolan territory; this conflict culminated

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from Pathfinder



U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!

Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations

FIDEL CASTRO, RICARDO ALARCÓN, INTRODUCTION BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

The case against Washington's 1990-91 embargo and war against Iraq, as presented by the Cuban government at the United Nations.. In the introduction Waters explains how Washington's assault on Iraq was not motivated by support for national sovereignty, independence, and national integrity, but was an opportunity to advance its imperialist interests. In English and Spanish. \$10.95

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Meat packers in West fight for a contract

Continued from front page

reason for the fight is the mistreatment of the workers. Strikers explained that this includes the increased line speed, allowing workers only a few minutes for bathroom breaks, lack of adequate training, and unsafe conditions that lead to injuries. These signs included: "We are not machines, we are humans," "We are out for a good cause: Respect," and "It's better to die on your feet than live on your knees."

On October 13 the picket line was staffed by 25 or so strikers. While this number stayed about the same, different strikers and their supporters joined and left the line as the day progressed. Juan Serrano, a member of the union negotiating team before the strike, explained how the walkout developed.

The union leadership had raised the idea

of a long extension in the contract negotiating period on September 13. According to the October 13 Yakima *Herald-Republic*, Sue Bonnett, the president of the UFCW local, said management and union officials had agreed to the extension of contract talks because mediators were unavailable after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The workers opposed a long extension and said they could agree to a one-week continuation only. The day before the contract expired the workers were informed by the company that the union leadership and management had agreed to keep contract negotiations going until November 3. This didn't sit well with the UFCW members at Washington Beef.

"On September 19 over 200 workers were in the lunchroom. Workers were on our own time, at lunch, and told the company we wanted to negotiate," said Serrano. "They told everyone to go back to work. When that didn't happen they said go home, you're all fired. The workers went to the kill floor where the workers weren't on lunch yet and many of them joined the walkout."

Support from workers inside

Hector Roman is 30 years old and has

worked at Washington Beef for eight years. "The company told us that we're all fired but a lot of the people working inside are telling the union and the company that we should be back to work," he said. Roman explained that the company is trying to cut across the support for the strikers from many of the workers who didn't walk out. "The company is telling people if they stop to talk to us they'll be fired," he said.

A few days before a worker from the kill floor stopped by the picket line to give the strikers some production figures. This worker said that the company had hired seven new people on the kill floor and that 35, about half the workers in the department, were on strike. "They only killed 417 cows today. Before it was 1,100," said the worker.

At the beginning of the strike the Local 1439 officials said the strike was not authorized and the unionists should go back to work. Since then the local leadership has filed a grievance against the company calling for all the workers to be put back to work. The union leadership is still not providing strike pay.

The strikers continue to get support from workers and others in the area. Having been moved off the street directly in front of the plant the strikers have gotten the agreement

of the Yakima Nation to use their tribal land for a picket line. This is just across the street from the plant.

Porvenir, a Mexican bakery, is providing 100 baked goods a day to the strikers and supporters and friends stop by with donuts and other food. The rank-and-file strikers have organized for meals to be provided on the picket line and for picket shifts from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. six days a week. They held a fund-raising dance that brought in several hundred dollars and are speaking out wherever they can. Juan Serrano spoke about the strike before a crowd of more than 300 Mexican workers from Washington who were meeting with the Mexican consul. The fund-raising dance was called an informational dance because it also featured a talk on the strike.

Strikers are looking forward to November 3, the last day of the extension on the contract negotiations. Referring to the company's attempts to fire all the strikers and divide the workers on strike from those inside, Manuel Rangel said, "We will win. Everybody goes back or nobody goes back."

Ernest Mailhot is a meat packer and member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 81 in Seattle.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Lessons of the 1990–91 U.S. War against Iraq. Fri., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. 506 Springfield Ave., 3rd Floor. Tel: (973) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Employers' Drive for Profit Claims 13 Miners' Lives in Alabama. Speaker: James Harlan, participant in *Militant* reporting team in Alabama. Sat., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 372A 53rd St. (at 4th Ave.) 3rd floor. Donation: \$4. Tel: (718) 567-8014.

Garment District

Stop the U.S. Invasion of Afghanistan! Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, Farsi editor of Pathfinder Press. Fri., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Donation: \$5; program \$4. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

Upper Manhattan

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. 19, 7:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. 540 W. 165 St. Donation: dinner \$5; program \$4. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Western Sahara Freedom Struggle. Speakers: Kamal Fadel, representative of Polisario Front (Western Sahara); Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League, participant from New Zealand in August World Festival of Youth and Students and subsequent visit to Western Sahara refugee camp. Sat., Oct. 27, 4:00 p.m. Level 1, 3/281–287 Beamish St., Campsie. Donation: \$5. Tel: (02) 9718-9698.

—CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Socialist class series. Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Oct. 21: "Communism, the Working Class, and Anti-Imperialist Struggle: Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War," from *New International* no. 7. 372A 53rd Street (at 4th Ave.) Tel: (718) 567-8014.

Garment District

Socialist class series. Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 21: "What the 1987 stock market crash foretold," from *New International* no. 10. 545 8th Ave., 14th Floor. Tel: (212) 695-7358.

Upper Manhattan

Socialist class series on *New International* no. 7. Sundays at 4:30 p.m. Oct. 21: "The Working Class Campaign against Imperialism and War" by Jack Barnes, pages 176–217; Oct. 28: "Washington's Third Militarization Drive" by Mary-Alice Waters. 540 W. 165 St. Tel: (212) 740-4611.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Socialist class series. Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Oct. 17: *Marxism and Terrorism*. 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>

Continued from Page 11

in 1988 with the final defeat of South African forces by the Cuban volunteers, the Angolan army, and Namibian independence fighters. That victory opened the way to Namibia's conquest of freedom from South African colonial domination the following year.

Washington's war mobilization against Iraq is the largest military operation to take place under UN Security Council endorsement since the Korean War. The U.S.-initiated aggression in Korea occurred at a time when the Soviet government had decided against participating in Security Council sessions, where it could have exercised its veto privilege had it chosen to do so. The current war moves in the Middle East, on the other hand, are taking place with the unanimous votes of all five permanent members of the Security Council.

The Korea and Iraq examples alone reveal how the structure of the United Nations—from its origins—block the Security

Council from ever acting against the interests of U.S. foreign policy.

With its veto privilege (and that of its British and French allies), Washington can and does block any UN measure that advances the interests of workers and farmers anywhere in the world. And when the Stalinist regimes of the Soviet Union and China fall in step behind imperialist ends, the Security Council can be used aggressively to promote those counterrevolutionary policies.

For two years, however, a unique situation exists in the Security Council: between January 1990 and the end of 1991, Cuba has a seat in that body. As shown by the new pamphlet, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, the Cuban government is putting this time and opportunity to good use.

"Mobilizing world public opinion, and U.S. public opinion in particular, as a counterweight to Washington's drive toward a war is the goal of all those concerned about

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'Oh say can you see?'—Pleading it faced bankruptcy, United Airlines received \$400 million from Congress, half of its cut of the \$15



Harry Ring

billion voted by Congress to bail out the industry.

Meanwhile, United dropped an \$11.25 million check in the mail, a down payment to a French aircraft

builder for 30 luxury planes it plans to market to corporations, prosperous entertainers, and other well-heeled folks.

P.S.—United is axing 20,000 workers. No Congressional subsidies there.

For sure—Colorado state employees rallied on the steps of the capitol October 4 to protest three-digit increases in health plan premiums. In Pueblo County, a state employee with four children will pay a monthly premium of \$500 to \$800 a month. Warned one state worker: "We're the canary in the coal mine. If it happens to us, it's

going to happen to you."

Caught holding the cards—In Scottsboro, Alabama, a former cop will face trial for burglarizing a building. He allegedly took \$14,000 in cash and jewelry and a collection of baseball cards. The stated value of the cards is \$13,084.

Bet he's waving the flag—Despite a loss of \$9 billion last year, computer honcho Bill Gates is still the country's richest person. Currently, he "worth" \$54 billion.

A few barrels of 'bad apples'?—One in ten senior police officials in England and Wales is being in-

vestigated for criminal or disciplinary charges. Figures showed that 101 superintendents or chief superintendents are suspended from duty or are working under a cloud of suspicion.—Ben Taylor, crime correspondent, London *Daily Mail*.

Gobble, gobble—What with other retailers folding or hanging on by their fingernails, Wal-Mart, said to be the world's largest chain, announced it would open as many as 325 new stores next year and enlarge 115 more, or move them to larger spaces.

English translation available?—The UCLA Political Science de-

partment announced several seminars led by visiting academics. One title was more incomprehensible than the other. Our favorite: "Re-thinking representation: A plural systemic and deliberative theory of representation, designed for the promissory, anticipatory, self-referential, and surrogate forms."

'Progressive' education—Colorado officials have replaced the old school report card with school accountability reports—in English only. At Denver's Valdez Elementary School, the principal estimates that 80 percent of the parents are Spanish speakers and won't be able to read the reports.

Hundreds attend food sovereignty forum in Havana

BY KARL BUTTS
AND ROLLANDE GIRARD

HAVANA—Four hundred people from 60 countries participated in the World Forum on Food Sovereignty (WFFS) here September 3-7. The forum was convened by the National Association of Small Farmers of Cuba, in preparation for a World Food Summit to be held in Rome later this year sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, and Oswaldo Martínez, director of Cuba's World Economic Research Center, addressed the forum. Martínez denounced the U.S.-backed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) pact as tantamount to U.S. "annexation and absorption of Latin America and the Caribbean region...into the American economy."

Martínez pointed to the impact on Mexico of the 1992 North American Free Trade Agreement, a "testing ground" for the FTAA. Once a net exporter of rice, Mexico is now dependent on imports for 50 percent of its domestic needs. Six million Mexican farmers and their families have been driven out of farming, Martínez said.

Forum participants went on record opposing the FTAA, saying that "it is nothing more than a hegemonic strategic plan developed by the United States to consolidate its control over Latin America and the Caribbean, expand its economic borders, and guarantee itself a large captive market." The resolution encouraged participation in the Hemispheric Conference Against the FTAA, to be held in Havana next month.

Sponsors of the WFFS included the Coalition of Family Producers of the Mercosur (COPROFAM), the Movement of Landless Rural Workers from Brazil (MST), the Network of Peasant Agriculture and Modernization (APM) of Africa, the International Center for Rural and Agricultural Studies (CERAI) from Spain, and Via Campesina, an international peasant rights organization headquartered in Honduras. Participants came from an assortment of international organizations representing farmers and farm workers, fishermen, and indigenous people.

A delegation from the United States included farmers from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Florida.

Gap between rich and poor

In the opening session, Vicent Garcés, a member of the International Executive Committee of the WFFS, reported that, according to the UN Development Program, the wealthiest 20 percent of the world's population consumes 86 percent of world gross domestic product (GDP) and 82 percent of exports while the poorest 20 percent consumes 1 percent of each. More than 80 countries have lower GDPs than 20 years ago.

It was also reported that the number of chronically malnourished people only declined marginally from 840 million to 826 million between 1996 and 2000.

Geneviève Le Bihan of APM Mondial from France reported that half the world's population suffers from nutritional problems, and that on top of the 826 million people that suffer from hunger, 68 million infants are affected by low birth weight. Of the 30,500 children who die every day from preventable diseases such as diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, and malaria, malnutrition is a contributing factor in more than half.

Father Dom Mauro Morelli, a well-known advocate of impoverished workers and indigenous peoples from Brazil, said,

"Because of economic powers beyond its borders only 25 percent of Brazilians live decently, [while] 22 million live in absolute poverty, and 53 million in poverty." As a result of centuries of oppression, only 300,000 aboriginal inhabitants remain of the original 7 million, explained Morelli.

Egidio Brunetto, a representative of the Movement of Landless Workers of Brazil (MST) and Via Campesina, spoke in the agrarian reform roundtable, pointing out that "there is a land concentration problem worldwide." One particular Brazilian landowner's holdings are so expansive that they are like "a country within a country," he said. Despite this, there is constant "propaganda in the media against organizations fighting for land, while military intelligence and paramilitary forces are used to repress mobilizations," Brunetto said.

In a workshop for peoples' right to food, Bara Goudiaby of Senegal described the results of economic devastation in his country over the last two decades in which farmers lost access to credit and technical assistance, and market competition increased from rising rice imports. Production of peanuts, an important cash crop, displaced production of grains for local consumption, he added, pointing out that in many countries local production has been replaced with monoculture crops and the countries have become forced to import their food. As a result, when a natural disaster is confronted it becomes a social disaster for many countries.

Drought in Central America

An example of this is Central America, which has been hit by a drought. Trinidad Membrea, who is the president of the Coordinator Council of Peasant Organizations of Honduras (COCOCH), told the *Militant* that peasants were severely affected by Hurricane Mitch in 1999 and again this year with a drought that destroyed the crop. There are now 3,000 landless families, he said, adding that much of the population in the countryside doesn't have access to electricity, running water, and roads. We are asking, he continued, "for a land reform law" but, "it won't be easy because the big land-lords have the power."

Participants in the forum debated the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), which some large agricultural companies are developing. The corporations hope to profit from sales of seed that have traits that give them greater resistance to disease, insects, and weed-killing herbicides.

Exchange of experiences

The conference provided an opportunity for farmers from different countries to meet and exchange experiences. Silvio Marzoroli, a dairy farmer from Uruguay, and a leader of Procofam and Producers of Mercosur, explained to Paul and Lana Rozwadowsky, two farmers from the United States, that while he receives only 13 cents per liter of milk, it costs him 16 cents to produce that liter. In previous years when the price was 18 cents a liter, Marzoroli said, many farmers took loans to improve their ranches. Now many cannot pay them back, and are facing foreclosure.



Militant/Karl Butts

Plenary session of the World Forum on Food Sovereignty held in Havana, September 3-7. Participants from 60 countries passed a resolution against the Free Trade Area of the Americas, saying "it is nothing more than a hegemonic strategic plan developed by the United States to consolidate its control over Latin America and the Caribbean and guarantee itself a large captive market."

The Rodzwadowskys told Marzoroli that they not only face the same problems, but have the same number and breed of cows and use the same kind of milking machine.

Another farmer from the United States, John Kinsman, met Armando García, the president of the Fructuoso Rodríguez Cooperative during a visit to the cooperative by conference participants. Both Kinsman and García are 76 years old. García ex-

plained what the Cuban Revolution has meant for him.

"Before the revolution," he said, "I was put in jail for being part of the revolutionary movement." Some of his comrades were killed. García was released after the revolutionary victory in 1959 and learned how to read and write thanks to the literacy campaign. The cooperative he is a member of is

Continued on Page 15

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

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THE MILITANT
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October 29, 1976

"Out of control"—that was the way U.S. arms sales to the shah of Iran were described in a recent report by a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Released August 1, the fifty-nine-page report found that the shah is the largest single purchaser of U.S. military equipment. In the four-year period ending in June 1976, the shah paid the Pentagon and various U.S. manufacturers a total of \$10.4 billion.

But Iran, with its nonindustrial economy, lacks a work force with the skills necessary to maintain and operate the sophisticated weapons purchased by the shah. Therefore, the report says, the Iranian army will be unable to use these arms "unless increasing numbers of American personnel go to Iran in a support capacity."

The way the Senate committee sees it, "the U.S. assumes the obligation of long-term support for the equipment it has sold; the purchaser becomes dependent on the U.S. in much the same manner as local automobile dealer is dependent on Detroit."

However, what is involved is not automobiles. As the report points out, the Iranian regime could not "go to war in the next five to ten years...without U.S. support on a day-to-day basis."

As of January 1976, there were already an estimated 24,000 Americans stationed in Iran. This number "could easily reach 50,000-60,000 or higher by 1980," the Senate report concluded.

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The American people are pounded day in and day out with the propaganda that arms production will not only make this country strong, rendering it safe from "aggressor attack," but that it is the best guarantee of peace. This is a barefaced hoax.

The historical fact is that every arms race in the past has ended in a major shooting war, and the arms race now in progress is no exception. But what makes the war danger even more acute is the additional factor that capitalist economy has now developed to the point where civilian demand at home and abroad is able to absorb only a fraction of the entire productive capacity.

For a market that can absorb the output of American industry, capitalism requires nothing less than the unlimited market of production for war.

The entire postwar experience has proved this to the hilt. Even before Korea, U.S. military appropriations set an all-time "peace" record. But these large arms budgets, on top of domestic and worldwide demand for consumer goods, arising from the destruction, shortages and scarcities of the last global conflict, proved not enough. On the eve of Korea, 16 months ago, this country tottered on the brink of depression, with production dropping off and unemployment climbing to five to six million.

The "Korea boom" staved off the depression.

History of imperialist plunder

Continued from Page 9

as throughout the entire semicolonial world, is the denial of national sovereignty and dignity to the majority of humanity. From the arbitrary drawing of lines on a map to set borders, to imperial dictates to carry out Washington's bidding—the toilers across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America have faced “humiliation and degradation for 80 years,” and often much, much longer.

Without such domination, and its necessarily accompanying affronts to peoples around the globe, imperialism cannot survive.

The latest example, and the main propaganda pretext for the escalating U.S. war, is Washington's demand that the government of Afghanistan hand over Osama bin Laden and others—“without negotiation,” as Bush arrogantly intones, and without the pretense of presenting a shred of evidence to that sovereign government.

Speaking on NBC's Meet the Press Sunday, October 14, Suhail Shaheen, deputy Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, explained that no representative of the U.S. government has ever sat down with them to present any of the case on which it bases its demand to turn over bin Laden.

What other sovereign government, anywhere in the world, would simply turn over an individual living within its borders on the demand of another government? On the demand that it do so or be pounded by bombs, followed by an invasion of ground troops? And Afghanistan, moreover, is a country with a long history of imperialist aggression and assaults on its national sovereignty and dignity—and resistance to them.

The Taliban ambassador added that the U.S. government, having “issued its own verdict” that bin Laden should be taken “dead or alive,” has created a situation in which anyone, anywhere in the world can now commit an act of violence and have it blamed on Osama bin Laden. This is already being confirmed in life in the United States, as the anthrax panic is being used to crank up emergency war fever and at the same time build a bridge to “Iraqi complicity.”

‘Embrace imperial role’

As Washington and London have expanded their war against Afghanistan, a number of kept columnists in the big-business press are doing their part to soften up bourgeois public opinion for the establishment of an imperialist protectorate.

They point to the example of Yugoslavia, where UN-sanctioned administrations—in fact, protectorates—have been established in Bosnia and Kosovo, backed by imperialist occupation forces on the ground. What other alternative is there, say these apologists, in face of the “dangers to the world community” posed by “failed states”?

“The Case for American Empire” blared the front-page of a recent issue of the conservative *Weekly Standard*, replete with crisply dressed Navy officers and Old Glory waving overhead.

Instead of becoming a “kinder, gentler nation,” writes Max Boot, the September 11 attacks prove “the solution is to be more expansive in our goals and more assertive in their implementation.” Recognizing that “unilateral U.S. rule may no longer be an option today” in Afghanistan, Boot suggests that the United Nations could “certainly lead an international occupation force under UN auspices, with the cooperation of some Muslim nations.”

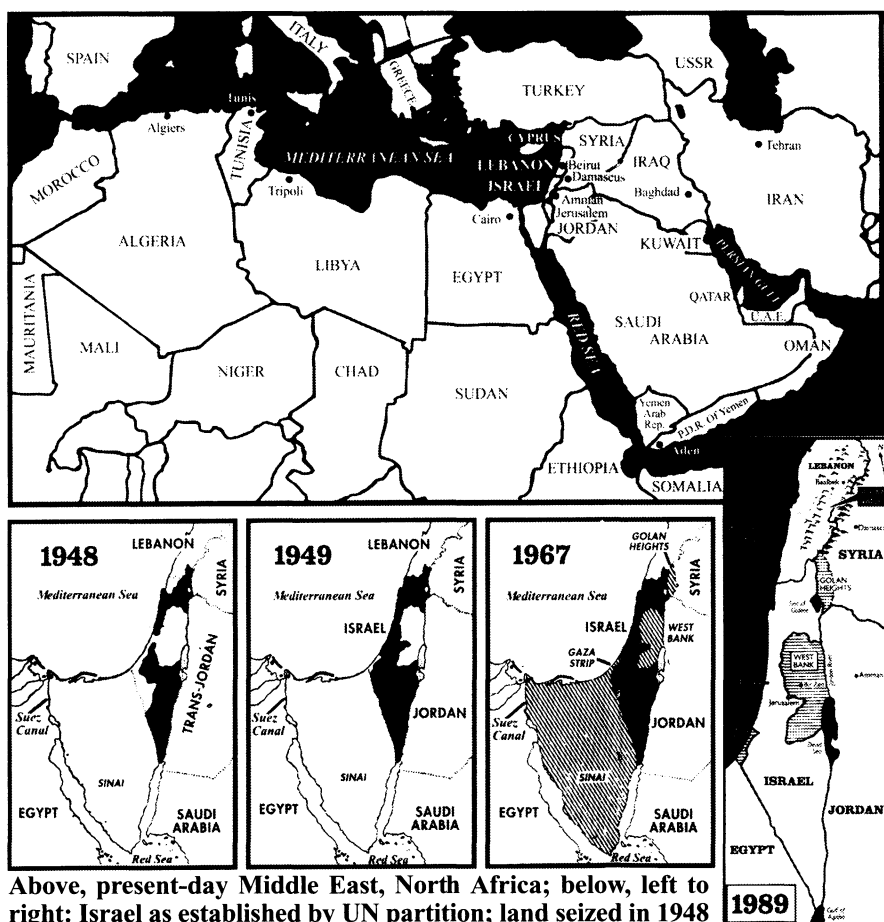
Boot says that former president William Clinton “eventually did something right in the Balkans” along these lines. “Afghanistan and other troubled lands today cry out for the sort of enlightened foreign administration once provided by self-confident Englishmen in jodhpurs and pith helmets,” Boot concludes.

Working-class line of march

The statement released by the Socialist Workers Party on September 11, through its New York City mayoral candidate Martin Koppel, presents the opposite class perspective: that of the workers and farmers the world over, including us in the United States. The statement said:

The U.S. government and its allies for more than a century have carried out systematic terror to defend their class privilege and interests at home and abroad—from the atomic incineration of hundreds of thousands at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to the 10-year-long slaughter in Indochina, to the war against the Iraqi people in 1990-91, to the burning to death of 80 people at Waco on its home soil, to other examples too numerous to list. In recent weeks, the White House and Congress have stood behind Tel Aviv as it escalated its campaign of both random killings and outright murders in its historically failing effort to quell the struggle by the dispossessed Palestinian people for the return of their homeland.

Half a century ago the revolutionary workers movement and other opponents of colonial outrages, racism, and anti-Semitism in all its forms warned that by waging a war of terror to drive the Palestinians from their farms, towns, and cities, the founders of the Israeli state and



Above, present-day Middle East, North Africa; below, left to right: Israel as established by UN partition; land seized in 1948 war; territory seized in 1967 war; Israel today.

their imperialist backers in North America and Europe were pitting the Jewish people against those fighting for national liberation in the Middle East and worldwide; they were creating a death trap for the Jews, which Israel remains to this day. By its systematic superexploitation of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America; by its never-ending insults to their national and cultural dignity; by its ceaseless murderous violence in countless forms—U.S. imperialism is turning North America into a death trap for working people and all who live here.

As part of the working-class campaign against imperialism and its wars being carried out today by members of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialists, communist workers are finding ways to discuss these consequences of the century-long exploitation and oppression imposed on humanity by a handful of capitalist ruling families. We point to the capacities of working people on every continent to join together in a common revolutionary struggle against our common class enemies, from the United States to Europe, and from the Middle East to Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

To chart such a course means supporting the demand for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Saudi Arabia and throughout the Mideast.

It means championing the call for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland, and an end to U.S. support to the Israeli regime.

Working people in the United States and Britain would win mighty allies across the Mideast and worldwide by demanding an end to the bombing of Iraq, which continues to this day, as well as to the devastating embargo of the country.

As part of a fight against the employers at home, workers and farmers in the United States must join in the battle to cancel the ruinous debt with which the banks and other imperialist financial institutions have saddled the semicolonial countries. The debt is unpayable. It is only a means, through ceaseless interest payments, to transfer wealth created by the labor of working people across Asia, Africa, and Latin America into the coffers of the propertied families in the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Japan.

From Argentina to Nigeria, from Indonesia to Pakistan and Nicaragua, toilers resisting austerity measures, cuts in wages, land foreclosures, and deteriorating living and working conditions would rally to such a call from working people in the United States.

While Bush and the bipartisan Congress carry out a “crusade” to defend “our country,” workers and farmers in the United States are constantly reminded—whether we are yet conscious of it or not—that there are in fact *conflicting* classes within these borders, with *irreconcilable* interests and historic challenges. Meat packers in Washington State, workers in tank factories and at airlines, state employees such as those in Minnesota, and many others are being reminded that they too face an exploiter who is driving to increase profits at their expense.

The battle against U.S. imperialism, the last empire on the face of the earth, is the fight to overturn once and for all the profit system that inexorably produces and reproduces exploitation, the driving of farmers from the land, racism, national oppression, insults to different cultures, the denial of national sovereignty, fascism, and world war. That battle underscores the common interests of workers and farmers in the United States and those around the world, as well as our capacity to revolutionize social relations and transform the wealth of the earth and of our collective labor—and, for the first time in history, use it to the benefit of all humanity.

Workers walk out at General Dynamics

Continued from front page

step toward replacing heavy tanks with a more transportable vehicle. The Marine Corps awarded the company a \$712-million contract to develop the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle.

The designs are developed in the Sterling Heights plant, where some parts are also machined, and prototypes built at the Ohio Pennsylvania plants. Factory production of the vehicles after the prototype is approved is done at other facilities. Many of the UAW members at the Sterling Heights plant are salaried technical workers, including engineers, draftsmen, planners, and purchasers. Others are machinists, mechanics, and janitors.

Several of the strikers were interested to hear about how state government workers in Minnesota went on strike in spite of pressure from Gov. Jesse Ventura and the big-business media that with Washington's war against Afghanistan under way, now is not the time to strike. “It's unpatriotic that we have to be here in this kind of weather on the picket line,” one striker said, referring to the icy chill of cold pouring rain, sleet, and 50-mile-an-hour gusts that the pickets had braved on the second day of walking the line.

“How can they ask us to sacrifice freedom to fight for ‘freedom’?” another striker asked. “There's a problem if we don't have the freedom to strike.”

The president of UAW Local 2075 at the Lima plant says that workers would return to their jobs immediately if equipment they make is needed in Afghanistan. “We would be back on our jobs. That's a no-brainer for us,” he said.

But that opinion is not held by all the strikers. When an Associated Press reporter asked Al Logie, a mechanic at the Sterling Heights plant, what he thought about going on strike just as the U.S. government launched its war against Afghanistan, he said, “They should have thought about that when they gave our benefits away.”

Ilona Gersh is a member of UAW Local 174, and works at Textron Automotive in Westland, Michigan.

1945 revolution in Azerbaijan: a correction

An item in the *International Socialist Review* supplement to last week's *Militant*, briefly describing the rise and fall of the post-World War II workers and peasants government in Azerbaijan, stated that “under pressure from Stalin, the workers capitulated to the shah's army without a battle.” Far from capitulating, however, the insurgent working people in Azerbaijan were stabbed in the back by Stalin, who brought tremendous pressure to bear on their leaders, a majority of whom finally gave in to his demands.

The Azerbaijani people, concentrated in the far north of Iran and the south of the Soviet Union, were in the vanguard of postwar anti-imperialist struggles against the brutal regime of the shah, or king, and his imperialist backers. Viciously attacked by police and agents of the large landowners during elections in 1945, they organized armed militias called *Fedayeen* and, with the assistance of Soviet troops, overran the shah's gendarmes and soldiers. By the end of 1945 they had established their own government.

Headed by Jafar Pishevari, the leader of the Azerbaijan Democratic Party, or *Firga*, the government inaugurated a deep-going land reform, granted women the vote, established schooling in the formerly illegal Azeri Turkish language, and took steps to improve living standards. Elsewhere in Iran, Kurdish people drove out the shah's armies and established their own government, and workers in the British-controlled oil industry in the south began strike actions that rallied workers all over the country.

The imperialist powers and the shah reacted with hostility to the new government, preparing a counteroffensive and pressuring the Stalin government in Moscow to bring its weight to bear against the revolution. The shah's prime minister, whose cabinet at first included representatives of the pro-Moscow Tudeh Party, promised the Soviet regime the concession for oil fields in the north.

As the showdown approached in 1946, Pishevari called on the Azerbaijani people to rise and defend their government, appealing to their rich history of struggle. Under pressure from Moscow, however, the majority of *Firga*'s leadership renounced resistance in the name of “avoiding bloodshed.” Thus disarmed, the workers and peasants were exposed to a bloody slaughter. Thousands were executed. The shah's troops also smashed the Kurdish republic in similar fashion. Shortly afterwards, Pishevari died in prison in the Soviet Union.

Three decades later, oil workers and other working people in Azerbaijan took a leading part in the mobilizations that brought the shah's regime of torture and murder to an end.

—PATRICK O'NEILL

Women's inequality is rooted in class society

Printed below is an excerpt from *Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed. The piece excerpted appears in the chapter titled "The myth of women's inferiority." Copyright © 1969 by Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY EVELYN REED

One of the conspicuous features of capitalism, and of class society in general, is the inequality of the sexes. Men are the masters in economic, cultural, political, and intellectual life, while women play a subordinate and

But this social history has been concealed behind the myth that women are naturally inferior to men.

It is not nature but class society which robbed women of their right to participate in the higher functions of society and placed the primary emphasis upon their animal functions of maternity....

Women's role in early society

But class society did not always exist; it is only a few thousand years old. Men were not always the superior sex, for they were not always the industrial, intellectual, and cultural leaders. Quite the contrary. In primitive society, where women were neither sanctified nor degraded, it was the women who were the social and cultural leaders.

Primitive society was organized as a matriarchy which, as indicated by its very name, was a system where women, not men, were the leaders and organizers. But the distinction between the two social systems goes beyond this reversal of the leadership role of

the two sexes. The leadership of women in primitive society was not founded upon the dispossession of the men. On the contrary, primitive society knew no social inequalities, inferiorities, or discriminations of any kind. Primitive society was completely equalitarian. In fact, it was through the leadership of the women that the men were brought forward out of a more backward condition into a higher social and cultural role.

In this early society maternity, far from being an affliction or a badge of inferiority, was regarded as a great natural endowment. Motherhood invested women with power and prestige—and there were very good reasons for this.

Humanity arose out of the animal kingdom. Nature had endowed only one of the sexes—the female sex—with the organs and functions of maternity. This biological endowment provided the natural bridge to humanity, as Robert Briffault has amply demonstrated in his work *The Mothers*. It was the female of the species who had the

care and responsibility of feeding, tending, and protecting the young.

However, as Marx and Engels have demonstrated, all societies both past and present are founded upon labor. Thus, it was not simply the capacity of women to give birth that played the decisive role, for all female animals also give birth. What was decisive for the human species was the fact that maternity led to labor—and it was in the fusion of maternity and labor that the first human social system was founded.

It was the mothers who first took the road of labor, and by the same token blazed the trail toward humanity. It was the mothers who became the chief producers; the workers and farmers; the leaders in scientific, intellectual and cultural life. And they became all this precisely because they were the mothers, and in the beginning maternity was fused with labor. This fusion still remains in the languages of primitive peoples, where the term for "mother" is identical with "producer-procreatrix."

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

even submissive role. Only in recent years have women come out of the kitchens and nurseries to challenge men's monopoly. But the essential inequality still remains.

This inequality of the sexes has marked class society from its very inception several thousand years ago, and has persisted throughout its three main stages: chattel slavery, feudalism, and capitalism. For this reason class society is aptly characterized as male dominated. This domination has been upheld and perpetuated by the system of private property, the state, the church and the form of family that served men's interests.

On the basis of this historical situation, certain false claims regarding the social superiority of the male sex have been propagated. It is often set forth as an immutable axiom that men are *socially* superior because they are *naturally* superior. Male supremacy, according to this myth, is not a social phenomenon at a particular stage of history, but a natural law. Men, it is claimed, are endowed by nature with superior physical and mental attributes.

An equivalent myth about women has been propagated to support this claim. It is set forth as an equally immutable axiom that women are *socially* inferior because they are *naturally* inferior to men. And what is the proof? They are the mothers! Nature, it is claimed, has condemned the female sex to an inferior status.

This is a falsification of natural and social history. It is not nature but class society which lowered women and elevated men. Men won their social supremacy in struggle against and conquest over the women. But this sexual struggle was part and parcel of a great social struggle—the overturn of primitive society and the institution of class society. Women's inferiority is the product of a social system which has produced and fostered innumerable other inequalities, inferiorities, discriminations, and degradations.

Food sovereignty forum held in Havana

Continued from page 13

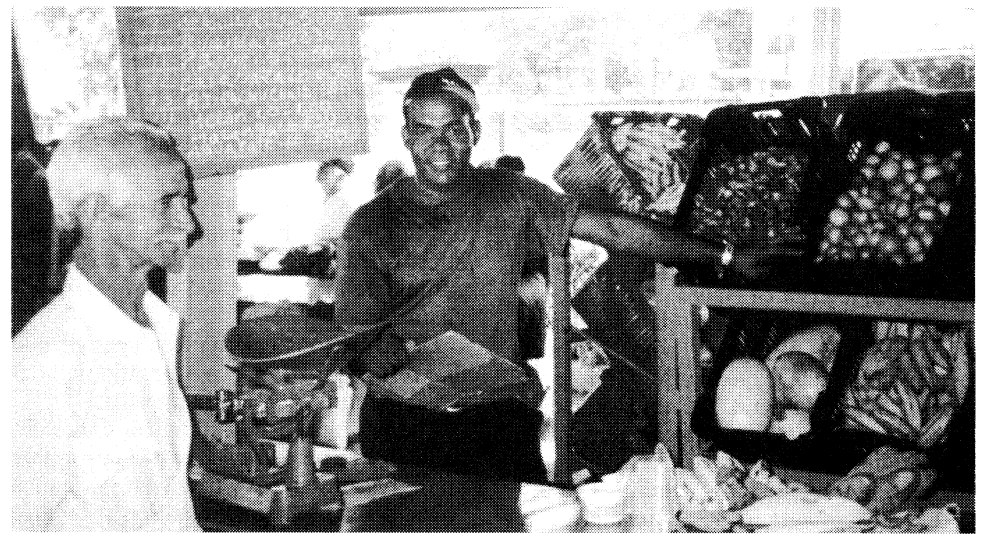
doing so well that they don't need credit to carry them through to harvest.

Leonardo Chirino González, a leader of ANAP, pointed out that UN reports show that current world production levels could feed 14 billion people, far more than the current world population of 6 billion. González pointed to the example of Cuba, where the victorious revolutionary government gave 200,000 farmers ownership of the land after the revolution, as well as access to cheap credit, marketing contracts, a system of crop insurance, and social security.

"As citizens they are also entitled to free education, health care, access to culture, recreation, and participation in society in general," he added. The Cuban government also supported the establishment of ANAP to represent the economic and social interests of the peasants.

The final declaration of the World Forum on Food Sovereignty recognized that despite "four decades of the illegal and inhuman blockade imposed by the United States and the use of food as a weapon of economic and political pressure, Cuba has managed to guarantee the human right to nutrition for all of its population."

In the closing session of the conference Cuban president Fidel Castro congratulated participants for convening the first international forum on food sovereignty, but cautioned that "we are not asking for enough." "What can the peasant do with land," Castro asked, "if he doesn't have schools, doctors, hospitals, vaccines, protection against illness, credit, a price for their products, a market, and if he receives each time less and



Militant/Karl Butts

Urban market in Havana. Cuban hosts of Food Sovereignty forum took participants on a visit to such markets, which play essential role in distribution of foodstuffs in cities.

has to work harder?" Can farmers "go without roads," Castro continued, "fishermen without motors, fishing equipment, cold storage facilities? What can they do without electricity and if they don't know how to read and write? Without all these everything that we are fighting for doesn't make sense," he said.

Castro said that the current world order could not resolve problems raised at the meeting. "The human being is a lot more

intelligent that we can imagine," he said, and "the world will change." The Cuban president suggested the WFFS slogan "a world without hunger" be expanded to "a just world, a new world which our species deserves and should wait to realize not a minute longer."

Kari Butts is a vegetable farmer in Plant City. Rollande Girard is a garment worker in San Francisco.

LETTERS

'Whites only' policy?

Northwest Airlines recently "apologized" to three passengers of Iraqi descent (two of whom are U.S. citizens) that were yanked off a flight. The three men had passed through security checks in Philadelphia and flown to Minneapolis en route to Salt Lake City.

Upon arriving in Minneapolis they were pulled aside and interrogated by the cops, without probable cause other than their skin color and national origin. They were again cleared to fly. However Northwest barred them from the flight, saying that some passengers felt "uncomfortable" flying with them. They eventually got out on another airline.

This racist action sparked protests including from an elected official of East Indian origin who asked if Northwest was adopting a "whites only" policy. One person, in a letter to the local media, asked if Northwest would respond the same way to his discomfort sitting next to a Republican.

Despite the protests, Northwest unabashedly defended the decision to refuse service to these passengers, until a week or so later when the Utah Attorney General told Northwest that they would be sued unless an apology was issued. Northwest's "apology" said that decision was made because the airline was "trying to avoid a delay."

Bill Scheer
Minneapolis, Minnesota

National ID card

I'm glad the *Militant* ran the article by Brian Williams in the October 15 issue on the various proposals on imposing national identity cards on working people. The ar-

ticle notes Oracle CEO Lawrence Ellison's public call for fingerprinting millions of people in the United States for use on national "digitized" ID cards, and his offer to donate free software to the federal government to do this.

Oracle, based near San Jose, is the world's leading maker of database software, and has had a long-standing relationship with the federal government. In fact, the Central Intelligence Agency was Oracle's first customer. (The company's name comes from a CIA-funded project in the mid-1970s to find better ways of storing and retrieving spy files being kept on people).

Ellison, who is worth about \$15 billion, explained in an interview on a San Francisco TV news program, "Well, this privacy you're concerned about is largely an illusion. All you have to give up is your illusions, not any of your privacy." Ellison's proposal would build on what the U.S. ruling class already has done. For instance, the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, which went into operation in 1999, keeps an electronic database of 41 million fingerprints. Fingerprint processing time has been reduced from 45 days to less than two hours.

Bill Kalman
Albany, California

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.

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Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution

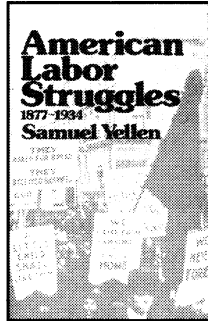
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Australian gov't assaults workers' rights

BY LINDA HARRIS
AND ROB GARDNER

SYDNEY, Australia—The Australian government has deepened its assault on the rights of working people seeking asylum in this country. Since military force was used August 29 to block the Norwegian freighter *Tampa* from landing hundreds of people on the Australian territory of Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, several more boatloads of refugees have been seized. The crew of the *Tampa* had rescued the refugees from a sinking ship.

These working people from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine have been transported under protest to the Pacific nation of Nauru, or are in the process of being shipped there, by the Australian navy. Draconian new laws have been rushed through the federal Parliament, with the support of the opposition Australian Labor Party (ALP), to back up this harsh policy.

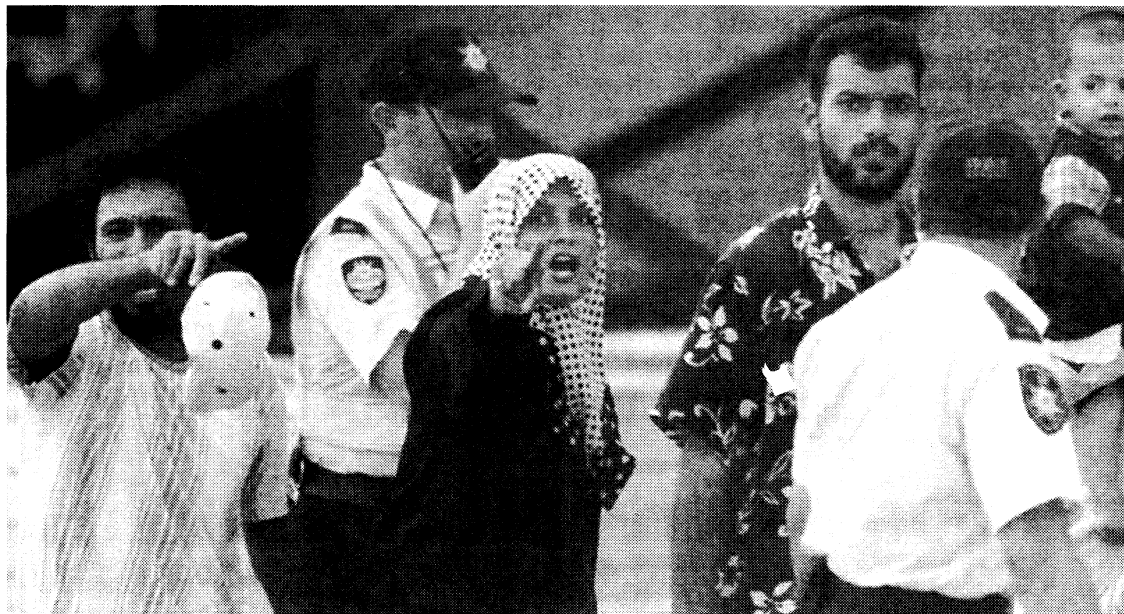
On October 1 Australian troops were used to forcibly remove a group of asylum seekers from on board the Australian naval supply ship the HMAS *Manoora* and place them in an internment camp built by the Australian government in the barren interior of Nauru.

This followed a tense 10-day standoff in which the 224 refugees, who had been picked up by the *Manoora* from the *Aceng* on September 7 after it had run aground on Ashmore Reef, an Australian territory north of Darwin, had refused to disembark, demanding to be taken to Australia. The last of the asylum seekers were transferred to Nauru on October 4.

With arrogant disregard for the Nauru government, which had stated that it would not accept the use of force to remove the refugees from the boat, Australian defense minister Peter Reith declared that he did not "have a problem about using force if absolutely necessary." Prime Minister John Howard stated, "I should make it quite clear that the people on the *Manoora* will be going to Nauru—they will not come to the Australian mainland or Australian territory."

A second Navy ship, the HMAS *Tobruk*, which is carrying 262 asylum-seekers detained in recent weeks when their boats were intercepted near Ashmore Reef, is due to arrive in Nauru in mid-October. This will bring the numbers in detention in Nauru to more than 700.

The dramatic deployment of Australian military forces against these groups of Asian working people seeking refuge, and the



As federal police escort them off the naval supply ship the HMAS *Manoora* in Nauru, immigrant workers from Iraq protest October 3 the decision by the Australian rulers to forcibly transport them to this Pacific Island nation. Australian troops and police were used to force the refugees into an internment camp built on the island by the Australian government.

stepped-up presence of warships in the waters to the north of Australia, have become intertwined with Canberra's preparations to participate in the U.S.-led war against Afghanistan.

Defense Minister Peter Reith has alleged that refugees arriving in Australia without papers include potential terrorists.

The ALP has been calling for the establishment of a permanent Coast Guard to free up the Australian navy from patrols against "boat people." The Opposition's defense spokesman, Steve Martin, declared on September 28 that "Australia's resources con-

tinue to be used despite the tense international situation and the possible need for the ship elsewhere."

The new anti-refugee laws enacted September 30 allow boats to be towed out of Australian territorial waters by the Australian navy, including the use of "reasonable and necessary force." Mandatory sentences for "people smugglers" have been introduced. The Australian territories of Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Ashmore and Cartier Reefs have been excluded from Australia's "migration zone," allowing asylum seekers to be processed in these remote

territories without the rights that come with landing on Australian territory. Refugees accepted into Australia after being processed in these territories will not be permitted to apply for permanent residency after their three-year protection visa runs out. The definition of the term "refugee" has been tightened to make it harder to gain temporary "protection visas," allowing the minister to make "adverse inferences" against people arriving without documentation.

Another measure bans asylum seekers from taking part in class action court cases against the government in a bid to remain in Australia. The government has also threatened to sue for costs against the civil rights lawyers who took a federal court case against the government for its actions against the people rescued by the *Tampa*.

The government has not pushed through its actions against refugees without protest. On September 23 over 400 people rallied outside the Villawood detention center in Sydney. The previous day tear gas and water cannons were used by police against refugees staging a protest inside the remote Woomera detention center in South Australia.

Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock accused the Refugee Action Collective, which had organized a simultaneous protest near the center, of causing a riot. Activists from the Collective said the incident was provoked by guards.

Linda Harris is a member of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union

Ottawa to widen secret police powers

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—Three days after announcing the dispatch of Canadian forces to the Middle East to participate in the U.S.-British imperialist war against the working people of Afghanistan, Defense Minister Arthur Eggleton stated that Ottawa is committed to playing a military role even if Washington attacks other countries in addition to Afghanistan.

"We're in all the way when it comes to dealing with this problem of terrorism," he said on CTV's *Question Period*. He added that the sending of warships, aircraft, a special forces commando unit, and 2,000 armed forces personnel to the region is part of a "multidimensional response" by Ottawa to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon September 11.

The other "dimension" is an omnibus "anti-terror" bill placed before the federal parliament October 15 that constitutes an expansion of the rulers' attack on the rights of working people in Canada. The Liberal party government wants the legislation passed by Christmas.

The bill, introduced by Justice Minister Anne McLellan, contains sweeping new police powers to bug telephones and monitor Internet communications, similar to those the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) now has for intelligence gathering.

Under the new law police can obtain warrants for open-ended wiretaps of telephone, wireless, and online communications. As is the case with criminal warrants, they would not have to notify the subject and reveal their interception.

The bill amends the Criminal Code, the Official Secrets Act, and the National Defence Act, and paves the way for proscribing groups and individuals as terrorists. This process has already begun with the adoption by Ottawa of the U.S. government's list used for seizing the assets of "terrorists."

According to the Toronto *Globe and Mail*, the legislation defines terrorism as "an action taken for political, religious, or ideological purposes that threatens the public or

national security by killing, seriously harming or endangering a person, causing property damage likely to injure people or by disrupting an essential service or facility." The designation of who is or isn't a terrorist is made in the same way "national security risks" are identified under immigration law—by ministerial certification before a judge in secret.

Other aspects of the bill include:

- The creation of a new criminal offense outlawing fund-raising for "terrorist groups," bringing Canadian law in line with the UN Convention of the Suppression of Terrorist Fund-raising.

- The creation of new Criminal Code offenses relating to the targeting of public places, transportation systems, government or infrastructure facilities with explosives or other lethal devices, bringing law into line with the UN Convention on Bombing.

- Making it a crime to be "part of a terrorist organization," and stipulating tough penalties for acts allegedly committed as part of such organizations. As well, those accused of terrorist acts abroad can face prosecution in Canada or extradition.

- Amending the Official Secrets Act to prohibit public disclosure of information to foreign states and "terrorist groups," that can threaten essential infrastructure.

- Assigning a new role for the Communications and Security Establishment (CSE), the highly secretive intelligence-gathering agency that comes under the Department of National Defense. CSE specializes in electronic espionage, monitoring radio and other transmissions, and is responsible for intercepting foreign intelligence.

Ottawa has already targeted immigrants and workers fleeing conditions in other countries. On October 12 the government announced measures that will result in the detention of more people claiming refugee status and longer periods of time in security clampdown. A \$49-million package of measures includes funds for 100 new immigration cops at border points, increased efforts to deport "illegal" immigrants, and

new so-called fraud resistant "Maple Leaf" identity cards for landed immigrants. The card will have a magnetic stripe that can contain "biometric information" such as iris and fingerprint scans.

The federal cops—the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—will also be given \$55 million to create new border and national security teams, and to equip itself with new technology.

Critics of the war not intimidated

The crackdown on workers' rights has encouraged harassment of critics of Ottawa's war policy. Sunera Thobani, a University of British Columbia (B.C.) professor, has been vilified in editorials across the country following a speech she gave October 1 at an Ottawa conference on the criminal justice system and women. In the talk she opposed the war drive against Afghanistan and said that the September 11 attacks need to be understood within the context of a U.S. foreign policy "soaked in blood." She is the subject of a B.C. resident's hate-crimes complaint to the police.

However, the government campaign has not intimidated opponents of Ottawa's war drive. Seventy-five delegates to the October 12-14 National Conference and annual general meeting of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) adopted a resolution condemning Washington and Ottawa for a war that aims to "consolidate their imperialist domination of this region of the world." The resolution also accused Ottawa of "whipping up the racist anti-Muslim campaign with increased security measures it is adopting in the name of fighting terrorism." The resolution calls for an end to the bombing of Afghanistan and the withdrawal of "all imperialist troops" from Central Asia and the Middle East. NAC is the umbrella organization for organizations outside of Quebec that fight for women's rights.

John Steele is a meat packer and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

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