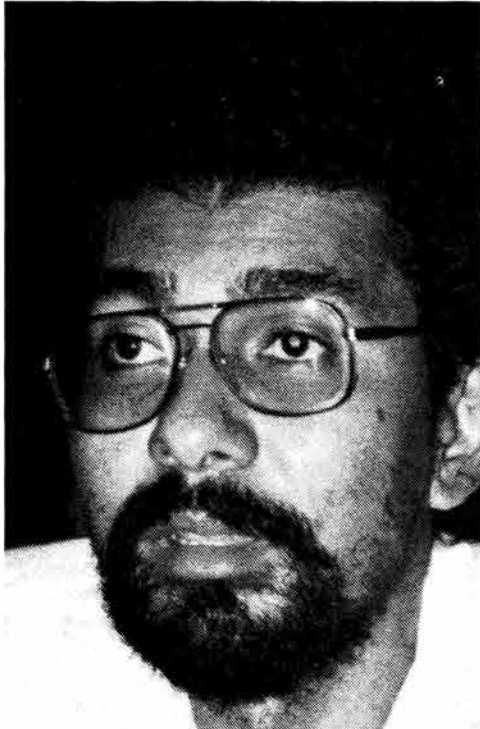


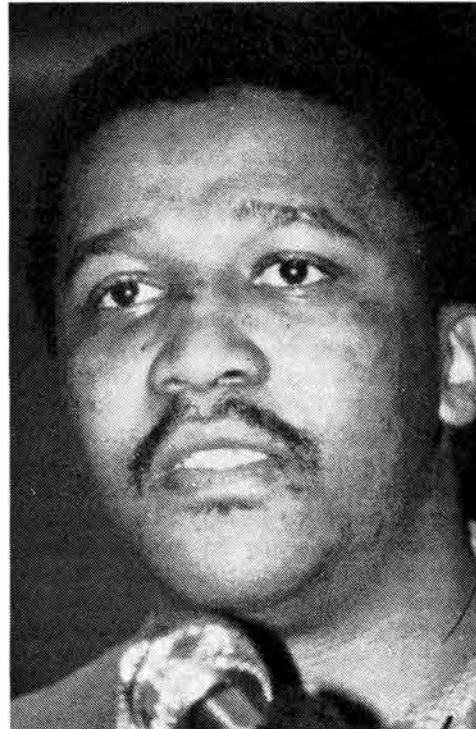
Grenada fighters meet, hit attacks on rights



Militant/Holbrook Mahn



Militant/Sam Manuel



Militant/Osborne Hart

From left, Terry Marryshow, elected head of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement at convention held on Caribbean island of Grenada; David Abdulah, treasurer of oil workers' union in Trinidad and Tobago, who was barred from attending by Grenadian government; and Themba Ntinga, African National Congress leader who attended after protests blocked attempt to bar him from country.

BY RENA CACOULOS

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — "We made them back off, they had to allow the brother from South Africa to be here with us tonight." Einstein Louison, newly elected deputy leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM), was addressing the May 29 mass rally to celebrate the successful conclusion of this party's first convention.

Two days before, the Grenadian govern-

ment of Prime Minister Herbert Blaize had attempted to exclude Themba Ntinga, deputy representative of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) to the United Nations. The Blaize regime was installed by the United States after the overthrow of the revolutionary government headed by Maurice Bishop. A U.S. invasion of this West Indian island took place in October 1983 following Bishop's assassination.

Blaize shamelessly joined ranks with South Africa itself in excluding the ANC representative, Louison said. "But, I tell brother Ntinga that the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement and the people of Grenada will continue to support the struggle in South Africa until final victory."

Joining Louison on the platform were Ntinga; Bennett Berkeley, vice-president of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union of

Continued on Page 2

Why U.S. drive to oust Noriega fizzled

BY SAM MANUEL

"The Noriega Fiasco: What Went Wrong," complained the headline of a page-one story in the May 30 *New York Times*. The story reflected the mood in Washington as government officials try to explain the demise of their efforts to bring down the government of Panama.

The two-year campaign against Panama was intensified on February 5 of this year when two U.S. grand juries handed down indictments against Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega and 15 others. They were charged with conspiring to smuggle massive quantities of illegal drugs into the United States and laundering profits from drug sales through Panamanian banks. U.S. officials explained all along that the real aim of the indictments was to force Noriega and his supporters out of the government.

Since those indictments were filed, Washington has waged a sustained campaign against Panama that has included punitive economic measures and military threats. When these failed to topple the government, U.S. State Department officials attempted to negotiate Noriega's departure in exchange for dropping the charges.

Secretary of State George Shultz announced on May 25 that those negotiations collapsed when Noriega rejected making a deal. The May 26 *Wall Street Journal*, a big-business mouthpiece, called the breakdown of the talks and the defiant stand of the Panamanian government a "humiliating defeat" for the Reagan administration.

The administration was further embarrassed by the failure of its apparent attempt

to seal a deal with Noriega before the opening of the summit meeting in Moscow between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Shultz, who had been scheduled to travel to the summit with Reagan, delayed his departure in hopes of receiving word that a deal with Noriega had been made.

Poor coordination blamed

In explaining this debacle, the *Times* quoted administration officials who laid the blame on "a series of miscalculations and a lack of coordination among the agencies responsible for policy toward Panama." While there were tactical disputes between government officials over this or that aspect of the operation, especially as it became increasingly clear that it was failing, this explanation dismisses the

considerable bipartisan unity that existed for the anti-Panama campaign and doesn't get at the heart of what went wrong.

Defeat of contras in Nicaragua

The *Times* article hints, however, at one of the relevant causes for the failure of Washington's moves against Panama. It notes that when Congress in March rejected President Reagan's proposal to continue sending military aid to the contras in Nicaragua, this had a "subtle but significant" effect on its policy in Panama.

Congress' stance registered the defeat of Washington's contra war. This was not only a victory for working people in Nicaragua, but also for the struggle against U.S. intervention everywhere in Latin America and the Caribbean. It helped to in-

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Final push needed to reach subscription goals

BY NORTON SANDLER

In the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Britain, and Iceland, supporters of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* are gearing up for the June 4 to 15 countdown days.

Our goal is to win a combined total of 9,000 new readers for the three publications by the end of the drive on June 15.

Spurred by the response they are getting selling the *Militant*, *PM*, and *New Internationalist* in Montreal, Toronto, and Van-

couver, Canadian distributors have raised their combined goal from 340 to 430.

In the United States, backers of the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells will be using the *Militant* and *PM* to introduce thousands of workers, farmers, students, and others to the campaign. In addition to selling subscriptions and campaigning in cities where there are organized groups of supporters, *Militant* and *PM* sales teams are also planned to outlying areas.

Phoenix campaign supporters will be

All out for June 11 peace protests!

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — Twelve prominent unionists from this area have distributed a letter calling on the labor movement to support and attend the June 11 antiwar, anti-nuclear weapons marches in New York and San Francisco.

The letter, sent to 250 top union officials, announced that a labor union contingent in the New York march would be gathering at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, on 47th Street between First and Second avenues, near the United Nations building. From 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., this will be the gathering point for all participants in the day's events.

"On June 12, 1982," the letter states, "over one million people poured into the streets of our city to support the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament."

"Many unions supported that demonstration and are proud of the role they played," the letter continued. "The labor movement is well aware that working people at home and abroad have the most to gain in seeing the planet's resources directed away from war and its preparation, and toward economic development and social justice."

"This coming June 11, hundreds of thousands of people will once again march" in support of the UN Third Special Session on Disarmament, the union officials explained. "The June 11 action will also speak to our concerns about apartheid in South Africa and repression in Central America."

The letter was signed by Stanley Hill, executive director of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and Sonny Hall, president, Local 1 of the Transport Workers Union.

It was endorsed by 10 additional union leaders from the New York area: Jim Bell, president of the New York chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Dennis Rivera, executive vice-president of Local 1199, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of District 65 of the United Auto Workers (UAW); Jan Pierce, vice-president of the Communications Workers of America; Sam Meyers, president of UAW Local 259; Bob Muehlenkamp, executive vice-president of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees; Bettye Roberts, president of AFSCME District Council 1707; Dan Kane, president of Local 111 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT); Laura Unger, secretary-treasurer of IBT

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fielding a three-day team to El Paso, Texas. Detroit supporters are making special plans to campaign in the area near the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor.

The Warren-Mickells campaign will also be putting national teams on the road during the countdown days to distribute the publications to working people and students in Maine and in San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

During this drive important steps have been taken to sell *New Internationalist* on the

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Grenada fighters hold convention

Continued from front page

Trinidad and Tobago; James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president; Wilton DeCoteau, Grenada Foundation based in New York; Lyle Bullen, MBPM executive; and Kendrick Radix, a former minister in the Grenadian government headed by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop from 1979 to 1983. The rally was closed by Terry Marryshow, who was elected the leader of the MBPM at the convention.

Several hundred people came out to the St. George's market square for the four-hour Sunday night rally. The banners spread over the platform expressed the theme of the convention: "Toward greater patriotism, organization, and popular democracy."

The rally marked the birthday of

Maurice Bishop, who would have been 44. Also celebrated were the fourth anniversary of the founding of the MBPM and African Liberation Day, which is May 26.

Sustained applause and cheers greeted Ntinga when he rose to address the rally. The ANC leader had obtained a visa from the Grenada consulate in the United States before flying to the Caribbean island. Upon arriving at the airport here, the "puppet Blaize government", as many people call it, denied admission to Ntinga and began preparing to send him back to the United States via Trinidad and Tobago.

MBPM supporters rapidly organized a public protest campaign. Within hours the news was on the radio and television in Grenada and throughout the region.

Earlier the government had excluded MBPM leader Don Rojas, who flew from

Cuba to attend the convention. Rojas, former press secretary to Bishop, is also a leader of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, of which the MBPM is a member organization.

A delegation of Cubans that had planned to come to the convention was denied visas on the ground that Grenada has no diplomatic relations with Cuba.

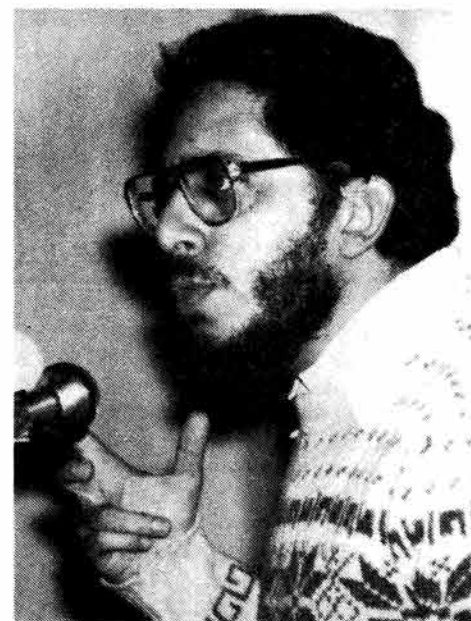
David Abdulah, treasurer of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union, was turned away at the airport. Representatives of organizations from the nearby islands of St. Lucia and St. Vincent canceled their travel arrangements when they heard about the bannings.

Marryshow explained that the government sent the list of names of the international guests invited by the MBPM directly to the airport with orders to deny admission.

"But this display of blatant disregard for democratic rights and shameless subservience to Washington backfired," he said, "as news of the plans for the MBPM convention spread on the radio and television as part of the coverage on the exclusions. Finally, after being held six hours at the airport, Ntinga was allowed in."

Opening the rally, Louison blasted Blaize's ruling party, the New National Party. As it stops people from coming in, he said, they forget who built the international airport. It was the work of the Grenada 1979-83 revolution, he said. "They denied visas to our Cuban friends, who built the airport with us."

"But the youth of this country will in-



Militant/Ernest Harsch

Don Rojas

herit the international airport," the MBPM leader continued. "We will invite the Cubans and we'll name the people's airport the Maurice Bishop International Airport."

Several messages were sent to the MBPM convention, which were read at the rally. Among them were greetings from the Progressive Party and the Socialist Bloc of the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Don Rojas, Democratic Labour Party of Dominica, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Workers Party of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front—Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, Barbados Industrial Workers Union, and the Maurice Bishop Youth Organisation, Havana branch.

Rojas, others excluded from Grenada

BY SAM MANUEL

David Abdulah and Don Rojas were denied entry to the eastern Caribbean island of Grenada May 26. They had been invited to Grenada to attend the first convention of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM).

Abdulah is treasurer of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) of Trinidad and Tobago. Rojas is the former press secretary to Bishop and a leader of the MBPM. This was the first time either of them had attempted to return to the island since 1983.

In a telephone interview from Trinidad, Abdulah explained, "They were obviously waiting for me. When I got to the immigration counter, I was asked to step out of the line and have a seat. They processed every-

body and then told me I could not enter," Abdulah reported.

When Abdulah asked for an explanation, he was told the orders came from "higher up." He was also denied use of the phone.

Rojas, who was in Barbados when I spoke to him by phone, was treated with even less courtesy. He arrived on a late night flight. There were no departing flights until the following morning.

"I was immediately informed by the immigration authorities that I would not be allowed to enter the country. The officers said they were acting on specific orders from the prime minister's office," Rojas told me.

Rojas was also not allowed to use the phone. He was taken under armed guard to police headquarters in St. George's where he was held overnight. His luggage was thoroughly searched, and he was deported the following morning to Barbados.

"But when I arrived in Barbados," Rojas explained, "I was met by immigration officials who threatened to send me on to St. Vincent."

Rojas was later taken to a superior officer who asked a lot of political questions about his position in the Bishop government, how many times he had been to Nicaragua, and what he did in Cuba. Rojas currently lives in Cuba with his family. "Sometime later," said Rojas, "the officer made a phone call. I was then told that I could stay in Barbados for four days."

The Anti-imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, of which the MBPM is a member organization, strongly condemned the exclusions and the existence of "a black list" used to exclude people from Grenada. It noted that many of those denied entry are leaders of the anti-imperialist organization.

The OWTU issued a statement that called the exclusions "a disgrace to the region's peoples."

Grenada conference reported to news media

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — A news conference was held here June 1 to report on the successful first convention of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) of Grenada. The convention was held in Grenada May 28 and 29.

Speakers at the press conference included MBPM leader Terry Marryshow and Themba Ntinga, a leader of the African National Congress of South Africa.

They also protested the exclusion and harassment by the government of Grenada of many of the international guests invited to the conference. (See article on front page.)

Barbados is a major communications center in the eastern part of the Caribbean. The news conference was covered by the Caribbean News Agency, Radio Antilles, the Spanish News Agency, the Barbados Advocate, the Barbados Nation, Prensa Latina, Voice of Barbados Radio, and Eastern Caribbean News. —R.C.

'The best tribute to Maurice Bishop'

The following message from the Central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba was sent to the First Congress of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. The Congress was held in Grenada May 28-29.

Comrade Kendrick Radix, leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement:

On the occasion of the First Congress of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement, our party, government, and people wish to convey through you, fraternal and solidarity greetings to the delegates attending this event, as well as to the Grenadian people.

Such an important gathering is of great historic significance for Grenada and its friends all over the world: the Grenadian people, as a tiny giant, are on their feet again, staunch and determined to continue the struggle until the victory of their ideals and aspirations.

The criminal invasion by the U.S. troops, facilitated by the vile assassination of Maurice Bishop and his comrades, was a brutal action of imperialism

carried out with the useless purpose of killing forever the expectations and rights of the Grenadian people and their example of freedom, well-being, and national independence for the Caribbean peoples.

As a consequence of those tragic events, today the masses are launched into backwardness and are suffering a high unemployment rate, a progressive deterioration of health care and education, as well as an increase in prostitution and drug addiction, evils that were sharply reduced under the People's Revolutionary Government.

The holding of the First Congress of this Movement shows that the ideas and example of Maurice Bishop are today an invaluable banner of struggle of the Grenadian people in their pursuit of independence, national dignity, and a better future for their children.

We are sure that the success of your congress will be the best tribute to Maurice Bishop, who was the leader of the Grenadian people and beloved friend of the Cuban people.

The Militant tells the truth — Subscribe today!

"As a Third World trade unionist, I think the *Militant* is carrying out consistent and objective work within the U.S. working class, informing it of the causes of the world's problems and the challenges all progressives must confront to construct a new society where human dignity is respected."

—Yves Antoine Richard

Gen'l secy, Autonomous Confederation of Haitian Workers

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The Militant

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

Canada, Iceland, U.S. unionists demand end to Iowa frame-up

BY BOB MILLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "We feel strongly that solidarity knows no borders," Annette Kouri from Toronto, Canada, wrote to Des Moines Police Chief William Moulder. This message accompanied petitions signed by 150 trade unionists and political activists from Ontario demanding that all charges be dropped against Mark Curtis, a political activist here. The petitions also demanded that the police beating of Curtis be investigated and those responsible prosecuted.

Curtis, who is a member of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and a former national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance, was framed up by the Des Moines police on March 4 and charged with third-degree sexual abuse and first-degree burglary. That night, the cops called Curtis "a Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds" and brutally beat him.

The campaign to build international support for Curtis, organized by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, is gaining momentum. The committee recently received petitions signed by 70 activists from Montreal, Canada, and five from unionists from Reykjavik, Iceland.

The committee has received petitions signed by hundreds throughout the United States in the last week. These include 150

from Nebraska from unionists and from members of Youth for Peace and Nebraskans for Peace.

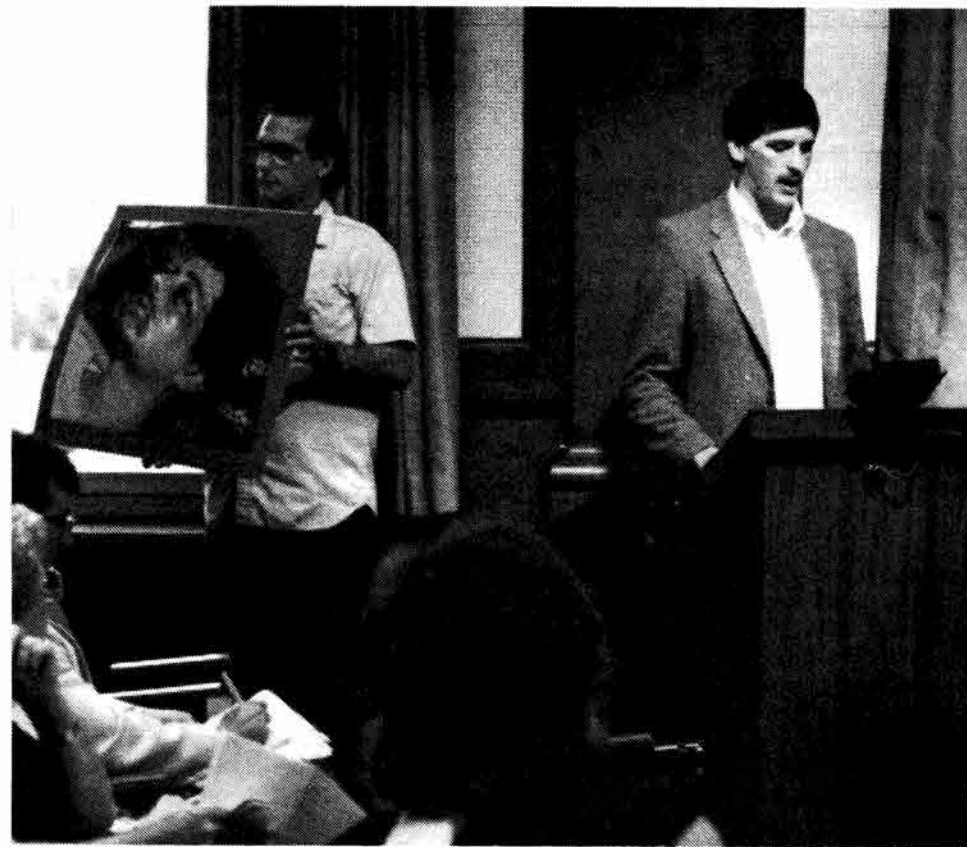
More than 500 signatures have been collected on petitions in the Twin Cities. Some \$2,000 was raised at a public forum there in early May when Curtis made a trip to Minnesota. The meeting was cosponsored by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and the Progressive Student Organization.

The *Minnesota Daily*, the student newspaper at the University of Minnesota, published an interview with Curtis.

Garment workers from Philadelphia; oil workers from Rahway, New Jersey; steelworkers from Uniontown, Pennsylvania; and auto workers from Los Angeles have also sent petitions signed by dozens of unionists to Police Chief Moulder.

Ruben Ramirez, president of United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 100-A in Chicago, wrote to Moulder "to voice our protest of the violation of the civil rights of Mark Curtis and to urge that the false charges be dropped and a full investigation into the beating of Mr. Curtis be conducted expeditiously."

L.R. Killeen, international representative of Region 10 of the United Auto Workers union, wrote from Bloomington, Minnesota, "It saddens one to realize there are police departments that have yet to



Militant/Stu Singer

Mark Curtis, accompanied by 15 supporters, spoke before the Des Moines City Council May 23. Despite growing international outcry against Curtis' frame-up, the council refused to discuss the case, citing 'conflict of interest.'

learn that the Constitution is a meaningful document."

Herbert Edwards, president of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 170 in Philadelphia, wrote, "As a trade unionist, I understand the motto 'An injury to one is an injury to all.' Mark Curtis is the victim of a police frame-up."

Mike Alewitz, director of the Pathfinder

Mural Project, protested, "The frame-up and prosecution of Mark Curtis is an outrage to every cultural worker in this country. Drop the charges against Mark now!"

Among the new endorsers of the Curtis defense campaign are William Taylor, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 7-507 in Chicago; Rudy Kuzel, bargaining committee chairperson of United Auto Workers Local 72 at Chrysler Motors in Kenosha, Wisconsin; and Anthony Russo, a codefendant with Daniel Ellsberg, who was charged during the Vietnam War with making the Pentagon papers public.

On May 29 supporters of Curtis participated in a barbecue and fund-raiser organized by the defense committee, held at a farm in Carlisle, Iowa. Among the participants were Mexican coworkers of Curtis at the Swift/Monfort packinghouse. Curtis was arrested on March 4, hours after leaving a meeting to protest the arrest on felony charges of 16 Mexican and one Salvadoran worker at the packinghouse by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. All felony charges have now been dropped.

Seventy-five dollars was also raised at the picnic for the defense effort. The committee reports that more than \$4,000 has been received so far. The committee is on a campaign to raise \$45,000 by July 6 when the trial on the felony charges begins.

Stu Singer, a spokesperson for the defense committee, also announced that it is organizing a rally on the July 4 weekend to defend Curtis. Neo Mnumzana, representative to the United Nations of the African National Congress of South Africa, will speak at the rally.

The committee is asking that messages be sent to the Des Moines police demanding that the charges be dropped and the beating of Curtis by the cops be investigated, with those responsible being prosecuted. Petitions and a fact sheet are available from the committee.

Messages should be addressed to Chief of Police William Moulder, 25 E. 1st St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Copies of messages and petitions, along with urgently needed financial contributions, should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1630.

10,000 sign to put SWP on Ohio ballot

BY ANDY COATES

CLEVELAND — The effort to collect 10,000 signatures on petitions for the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket to appear on the Ohio ballot — a three-week effort that will end June 4 — surpassed its goal May 28, one week early. Five thousand signatures are the legal requirement.

Each day a team of volunteers has assembled in Cleveland and hit the streets here. During the course of the drive, a part of the team went to southern Ohio for a four-day tour, beginning in Cincinnati.

As people signed the petitions, cam-

Immigrant farm workers seeking work permits stranded in Oregon

BY JANET POST

PORTLAND, Oregon — By the time the strawberry harvest began, as many as 20,000 immigrant farm workers were estimated to have come to Oregon to apply for temporary work permits.

The strawberry harvest, the first of the season, began at the end of May. But thousands arrived early to try to get the 90-day permits required under the immigration measure signed into law in 1986.

The application costs \$185, the mandatory physical examination has an \$80 price tag, and another fee is added for fingerprinting and notarization. The farm workers are required to provide verifiable employment information for 1985 and 1986. Workers who fail to seek or are refused permits can be deported.

The workers were crowded into labor camps on large farms and ranches across the state. Since the camps don't provide food and the workers had no income until the harvest began, some dug for worms to sell as bait as a way to survive.

While some of the labor camps provide electricity and water, others don't. Almost none of the living quarters are heated. Farm workers were reported to be sleeping two or three to a bed, and some were becoming ill.

Farm workers say they get 12 cents a pound for strawberries. Some estimate that they can pick 30 pounds an hour.

The strawberry harvest will be followed by harvests of blackberries, raspberries, cherries, plums, boysenberries, cauliflower, beans, cucumbers, rhubarb, and apples.

paign volunteers explained the perspectives of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells, the Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president. On college campuses, busy downtown streets, and at shopping centers, the discussions were a learning experience not only for those being asked to sign, but for the petitioners too.

Many discussions centered on the coming economic depression announced by the October 1987 stock market crash. Angel Lariscy, one of seven Young Socialist Alliance members who participated on a team, said, "We all felt we learned a lot about the capitalist crisis. Most people do sense that a major crisis is on the way." The focus of discussions, she said, "was the idea of working people uniting."

Another focus of discussion was the Cuban revolution. The *Militant* article, "Building 'a new Havana': a firsthand report on Cuba's volunteer work brigades," helped sell many subscriptions.

At Antioch College in Yellow Springs, a member of the Venceremos Brigade, which organizes work brigades to Cuba from the United States, bought a copy of *New Internationalist*, and spent a lot of time with the team discussing Cuba. YSA member Derek Bracey said that he was struck by the seriousness of discussions on Cuba, and that many people were interested in the transition from capitalism to socialism. Others were pleased to find a source for learning more about the Cuban revolution.

Of the 132 subscriptions sold to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, more than 30 were obtained on college campuses. So far 625 single copies of these publications have been sold. Five copies of *New Internationalist* were bought by students on campuses.

Among the colleges the team visited were Cleveland State University, Wright State University, Cuyahoga Community College, Antioch College, University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University, University of Akron, and Hiram College.

Several *Militant* subscriptions were bought by high school students and one by a junior high school student.

Two women from a high school in Columbus, who work part-time jobs, told Lariscy they saw "little promise of the future," and were enthusiastic about the campaign's proposals, particularly the demand for a shorter workweek to spread the available work to more workers.

A student at Oberlin College came into

Cleveland to participate in a class the Young Socialist Alliance sponsored on Cuba's volunteer work brigades. Two days later he joined the team to help petition in downtown Cleveland. "I saw a concrete opportunity to get real political experience," he said. At the end of the day he decided to join the YSA. This summer he will come to Cleveland for several weeks to work with the YSA there.

More than a dozen people asked for more information on the socialist youth organization and expressed interest in joining. One, a Cleveland State student, is planning to participate in the June 11 peace demonstration in New York. Following the demonstration he intends to look up the YSA in New York and spend a day or two getting to know more about the organization.

Another Cleveland State student asked many questions on how the YSA is organized. He was impressed to learn that it is self-financed.

Those attending the meeting were encouraged to write letters and sign petitions to the Des Moines police demanding that charges against political activist Mark Curtis be dropped. Explaining the campaign to support Mark Curtis has also helped show what kind of organization the YSA is. Curtis was the national chairperson of the YSA before he moved to Des Moines. The urgent appeal to defend Curtis met a serious and sympathetic response from young people.

The team invited those interested in the YSA to come to the 35th convention of the Socialist Workers Party to be held in Oberlin, Ohio, in August. The convention, and Socialist Active Workers and International Educational Conference to be held along with it, will give young activists an opportunity to learn more about and become part of the world communist movement.

A windup celebration of the petitioning and sales effort will be held here Saturday, June 4. The featured speaker will be *Militant* editor Margaret Jayko, who will speak on "The Defeat of the Contras: Reconstructing the New Nicaragua." The event will be held at 2521 Market Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

The SWP is seeking to win ballot status in 18 states and Washington, D.C., in the 1988 elections. National petitioning drives will begin in Alabama on June 18 and New York on July 12. Volunteers to help in those efforts are needed.

Coming in our next issue . . .

'Trying to pay the debt is a political mistake'

A speech by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, vice-president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, explaining why the foreign debt owed by semicolonial countries is unpayable. The speech was given in Brazil on May 3.

Why U.S. drive against Noriega fizzled

Continued from front page

spire working people throughout the Americas and raised the political cost of using troops to try to oust Noriega.

Some officials like Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, drew up plans for such an operation. For example, Abrams proposed kidnapping Noriega and using 6,000 U.S. troops to bring the deposed president, Eric Arturo Delvalle, to a U.S. base where he would be declared head of the Panamanian government. But Pentagon officials publicly opposed this.

In an April 13 interview with the *New York Times* one staff officer called the plan a "cockamamie scheme." The *Times* writers noted that when Reagan deployed troops to Honduras in a show of force against Nicaragua in March there were immediate protests in many cities across the United States.

Since the defeat of the U.S. military in Vietnam, Pentagon officials have emphasized the important impact that opposition among U.S. working people has on using U.S. combat forces. In a November 1984 debate with Shultz over the use of force as an instrument of policy, former secretary of defense Caspar Weinberger stressed six criteria needed for the use of U.S. troops. Among those criteria, Weinberger said, "there must be some reasonable assurance we will have the support of the American people."

Washington's campaign against the Panamanian government has nothing to do with fighting international drug trafficking. The contras in Nicaragua, the Afghan reactionaries, and their U.S. backers have all been deeply involved in the drug trade. The Noriega regime's transgression was its failure to toe the line in the way that is expected from governments Washington considers to be under its thumb. This is especially so in Panama where the U.S. rulers conceded that operation of the strategically and economically important canal will be

turned over to the Panamanian government in the year 2000.

Noriega has reported that in December 1985 the White House hustled then national security adviser John Poindexter to Panama in an attempt to compel the Panamanian authorities to aid U.S. efforts to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista government. When he was turned down, Poindexter warned of the "consequences," Noriega stated.

Another relevant factor touched on by the *Times* reporters in the May 30 article is the assessment by the CIA that there was little opposition to Noriega within the Panamanian armed forces. The constant campaign to divide the Panamanian military produced little results.

Abrams boasted in March that Noriega would soon be overthrown. But an attempted coup on March 16 was put down with little effort. State Department officials conceded they overestimated the number and

competence of Noriega's opponents in the armed forces.

Bipartisan support

Despite the tactical disputes on how to carry out the campaign against the Panamanian government, each of the agencies backed the administration's effort. And Congress gave the operation overwhelming bipartisan support.

On May 26, following the collapse of the negotiations with Noriega, liberal Democratic Sen. Christopher Dodd appeared before the press with Abrams, one of the more right-wing stalwarts of the Reagan administration. Dodd is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee panel that deals with Latin American affairs.

The senator stressed, "There is unanimity among Democrats and Republicans that we are determined to see General Noriega leave Panama."

Asked if use of military force against Panama was being considered, Abrams answered, "We don't rule anything out." Dodd added, "The military option certainly is not being removed." But that option is even less likely than it was five months ago. Opposition to Washington's operation has grown significantly, especially in the Caribbean and Latin America, and the political price for military intervention in Panama has gone up.

Abrams also announced plans to step up efforts to put the arm on other Latin American governments to help oust Noriega. But, as it has already been shown, such an effort is not likely to get far in the face of mounting opposition. The Cuban and Nicaraguan governments have protested Washington's anti-Panama campaign from the beginning, and other governments and organizations have added their voices.

The stakes in Panama

In a February 29 interview with Panamanian television in Havana, Cuban President Fidel Castro explained, "It is very important that all progressive, democratic governments of Latin America understand what is at stake in Panama. The sovereignty and independence of a sister Latin American nation is at stake..."

Castro compared the U.S. attacks on Panama to the British war against Argentina over the Malvinas Islands in 1832. The islands, located off the coast of Argentina, were seized by the British in 1833.

"When the Malvinas conflict came about, all of Latin America and the Third World sided with Argentina. We all forgot about the kind of government Argentina had at the time, and we said: We must think of the Argentine people and their fair demands and rights over that land."

A "Conference of Solidarity with Panama" held in Panama City March 28-29 was attended by more than 25 countries in the Caribbean and Central America.

A May 21-22 conference of the foreign ministers of the 13-nation Caribbean Community also called for an end to foreign intervention in the affairs of Panama.

Burkina youth defend Sankara legacy

BY SAM MANUEL

High school students in the West African country of Burkina Faso took to the streets on May 19 in support of the ideals and policies of the slain revolutionary and Burkinabè president Thomas Sankara. A British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) report from the capital, Ouagadougou, said that students began to rally in the morning in front of at least four high schools. They carried placards that read, "Long live Sankara" and "Sankara to power!"

The Sankara-led government came to power through a popular, democratic revolution on Aug. 4, 1983. It won widespread support within the population for carrying out social programs in the interests of peasants and workers.

The students began to march through the city streets and went around to other high schools throwing stones at windows and calling other students out to join them. About an hour after the marches started soldiers and policemen arrived in large trucks. They were in combat fatigues and heavily armed, BBC reported. Confronted with a strong display of force, the students dispersed.

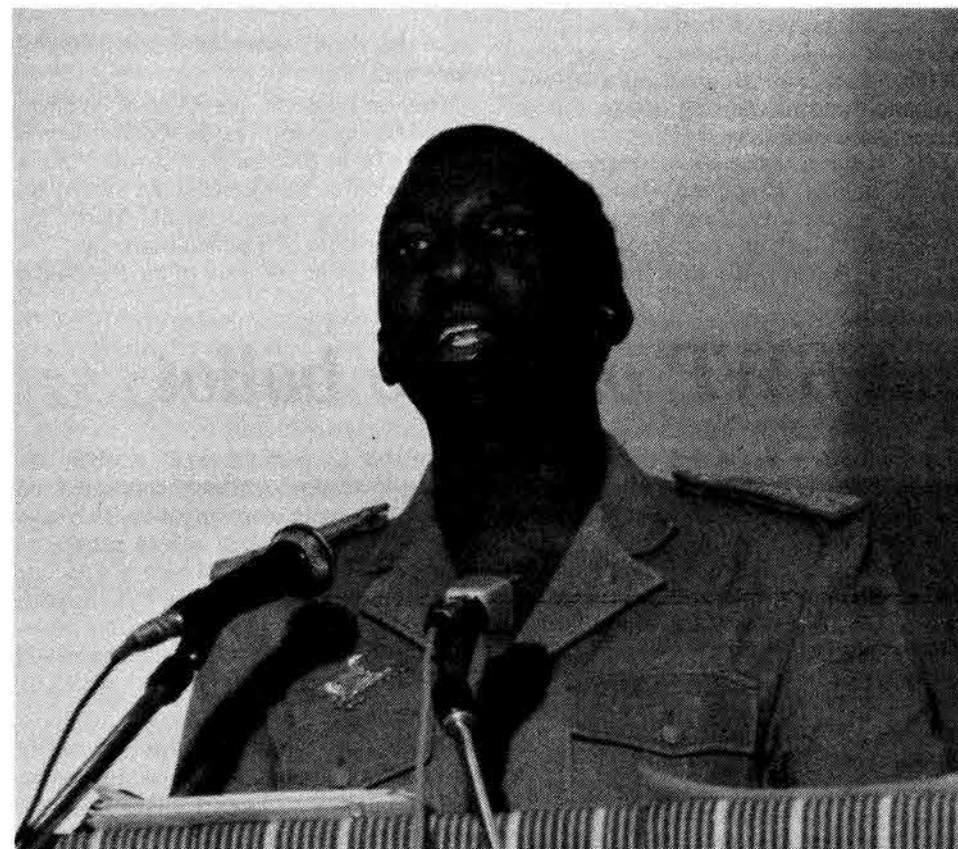
The students also demanded that the government headed by Capt. Blaise Compaoré recognize the revolutionary legacy of Sankara.

Sankara and 12 of his aides were killed during an Oct. 15, 1987, military coup carried out by soldiers loyal to Compaoré, then minister of state and justice. The new regime calls itself the Popular Front.

The march by the students took place on the anniversary of what has become known as "Anti-imperialist Days" in the country. It has been marked by demonstrations of peasants, workers, and students since the August 4 revolution.

On May 17, 1983, Sankara was arrested by the government of President Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo. Sankara, prime minister in that government, was charged with plotting with members of left groups to seize power and turn the country into a "communist society."

In response to the arrest of Sankara, students took to the streets of the capital, chanting "Down with imperialism" and began stoning the French embassy. France



Slain Burkinabè revolutionary leader Thomas Sankara

is the former colonial ruler of Burkina Faso, previously known as Upper Volta. Guy Penne, an adviser on African affairs to French President François Mitterrand, arrived in Ouagadougou one day before Sankara's arrest.

The army garrison in Pô, near the border with Ghana, went into open rebellion and succeeded in gaining control of the entire region. On Aug. 4, 1983, the rebel troops, supported by other units, marched on Ouagadougou, overthrew the Ouédraogo regime and freed Sankara.

This year an official demonstration for May 17 was organized by the Popular Front government, which claims that it is continuing the August 4 revolution. The government rally was attended mostly by soldiers and schoolchildren brought by their teachers.

Responding to popular pressure, the Popular Front regime released several former members of the Sankara government who had been detained following the October coup. Among them were Capt. Pierre Ouédraogo, former general secretary of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. Just over a dozen other members of the Sankara government were set free in March.

Nicaragua unionist visits striking Maine paperworkers

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — Marvin Cortez Estrada of the 30,000-member National Union of Public Employees in Nicaragua was given a warm reception by striking paperworkers, community residents, and young people during his one-day stop here May 15.

Cortez, the international relations director of the public employees' union, and two representatives from the Sandinista Workers Federation and Rural Workers Association began a U.S. speaking tour in early May.

The 28-year-old Nicaraguan union leader already has years of experience in the labor movement. At 16, he helped organize the Nicaraguan meat-cutters' union. He participated in the struggle that overthrew the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship in 1979, and also fought in the Nicaraguan armed forces against the U.S.-backed contras.

Cortez spoke about the accomplishments of Nicaragua's working people at a meeting held in the Jay-Niles public library.

Strikers, their spouses, and high school students attended.

Since the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution, he said, "we have won the right to have unions, to be organized, to participate in economic decision-making in our country." Because it was the workers and farmers who took power in 1979, "we earned the hatred of the Reagan administration," he added.

Cortez ate dinner with a striker's family, and then spoke to a members-only meeting of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14 and Firemen and Oilers Local 246 — the two unions representing the strikers.

After he was introduced by Local 14 President Bill Meserve, Cortez told the 600 unionists present, "In Nicaragua, the workers fight for a just peace. In Jay the workers are fighting for their rights. This is a common struggle. Together we can defeat the antiworker, anti-Nicaragua aims of the U.S. government. United, we will be the victors." The strikers stood and cheered his remarks.

By Malcolm X



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Why economic upturn isn't lifting gloom on Wall Street

BY FRED FELDMAN

The statistics, we are told by many journalists and big-business politicians, are good news.

The U.S. trade deficit declined to \$9.7 billion in March, the lowest total in three years.

U.S. industry reportedly operated at 82.7 percent of capacity in April, the highest figure in eight years.

The gross national product was announced to have jumped 3.9 percent in the first quarter of 1988.

And the official unemployment rate dropped to 5.4 percent, the lowest figure since 1974.

But on Wall Street the mood is still gloomy. The May 23 *New York Times* reported that the volume of trading on the New York Stock Exchange "continues to dwindle." William King, chief trader for Nikko Securities International, described the low volume as "very dangerous."

Other U.S. exchanges are having similar problems. "Trading volume at the Chicago Board Options Exchange is still off a stark 51 percent from pre-crash levels," a report in the April 24 *Times* stated.

In the wake of the October stock market crash, the most severe since 1929, at least 10,000 people have lost their jobs in the securities industry, which had employed 160,000 people in New York City in October 1987.

Why don't the upbeat statistics give investors more confidence?

Why they fear inflation

As soon as the trade deficit figures were published, many big-business economists began sounding the alarm about the prospect of a big jump in inflation. So far, the inflation rate, now running at 4.5 percent annually, is only marginally up from last year.

"Why the gloomy emphasis on inflation, and general fears of harder times ahead?" asked *New York Times* economic writer Leonard Silk May 22.

His answer is that investors "fear good times will cause wages and prices to climb. And, with borrowers and lenders expecting that dollars borrowed today will be worth less tomorrow, interest rates climb. Rising interest rates, in turn, are feared to presage a downward trend: collapsing stock and bond markets, declines in business spending on new plant and equipment, and consumer spending on housing, autos, and other big-ticket items, all of which could drive the economy into a recession."

Worried capitalists see signs that the upturn in the business cycle is approaching its peak and that a new downturn is in the offing.

This is what happens in every upswing of the capitalist business cycle. But today,

the collapse of confidence among investors is aggravated by the severity of the downturn they fear is on the horizon.

Downturn in steel

In some key areas of the economy, a slowdown in expansion may already be beginning. "Shipments and profits in the [U.S.] steel industry may have peaked after nearly two years of steady increases," the May 30 *New York Times* reported. "Indeed some industry executives and economists are predicting declines in the second half of this year. They say the lower shipments and earnings will be a result of weaker demand from automobile and appliance makers and the home construction industry."

"The industry has been riding high since the first part of 1987," business economist John Jacobson told the *Times*. "But now, we've hit a cyclical peak."

"There is the sense," he said, "that we're nearing a peak, a turning point, a slowdown in the order frenzy. Interest-rate sensitive and consumer-oriented areas are weakening..."

Some steel company executives note customers have been reducing their inventories. Over the last year and a half, a significant amount of the increase in shipments has been inventory buildup," Armco executive John Corey told the *Times*. Some customers, he said, had built up inventories because of tight supplies, but the supply is likely to be looser in the second half of this year. "The psychology in the industry is changing," he said.

Construction of single-family homes in April was down 8.8 percent from April 1987. The drop is being attributed to rising interest rates on mortgages.

In New York City, the construction boom, which was powered by a soaring market for luxury apartments, has ended. Only 1,200 building permits were filed with the city last year, compared to 4,000 in 1986 and 9,900 in 1985.

Fall of dollar

To a substantial degree, the decline in the U.S. trade deficit has been powered by the decline in the exchange value of the dollar. The exchange rate of the dollar in German marks and Japanese yen has dropped by some 50 percent since 1985.

The plummeting dollar made U.S. goods cheaper and those of competitors more expensive on the world market. It takes more dollars to buy a Japanese- or German-made car, and fewer yen or marks to buy a U.S.-made one. The increase in the price of goods imported into the United States creates leeway for U.S. capitalists to increase their prices, and thus spurs price inflation.

The dollar's decline has enabled U.S.



capitalists to improve their trading position at the expense of some of their competitors in a world market that is continuing to become more glutted.

Bruce Steinberg, an economist for the Wall Street firm of Merrill Lynch & Co., warned that the current rate of improvement in the U.S. trading position is not likely to be sustained. "You will see more export gains, but not this sort," he said of the sharp drop in the deficit in the first months of 1988. "Our exports have grown much faster than foreign demand, and the growth can't be sustained."

The drop in the exchange rate of the dol-

lar also makes it harder for the U.S. government and corporations to find buyers for bonds floated to cover their deficits. They are coming under pressure to raise interest rates in order to attract lenders.

The government's Federal Reserve Bank has also increased the interest rates it charges banks for short-term loans.

These moves exert an upward pressure on interest rates across the board.

When the business cycle passes its peak, the rising cost of borrowing money will make corporations less likely to take out loans to expand production, and more likely to invest profits in high-yield bonds.

Pa. paperworkers call June 18 national rally to back strike

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

PITTSBURGH — A national rally in support of striking paperworkers has been set for Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, on June 18. "This will be a rally to let people know what's happening to labor," a spokesperson for the strikers said.

United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 1787 has been on strike against International Paper Co. for a year. UPIU members in Jay, Maine; Mobile, Alabama; and De Pere, Wisconsin, are also fighting the paper company's attempts to squeeze more productivity out of workers. Delegations from these locals will be among those coming to the June 18 action.

June 20 marks the first anniversary of the strike by the 720 Lock Haven paperworkers. Only a small percentage of the union members have crossed the picket lines since the strike began. About 450 scabs are working in the plant.

The last company offer, which was defeated by a resounding majority of the workers, provided jobs for only 20 of the

workers who stayed out on strike.

In recent months striking paperworkers from Lock Haven and Jay have been traveling around the country telling their story and winning support.

"We've sent out notices on the rally to all the unions who've been supporting us," Sam Eisenhower, a union activist, told the *Militant*. "I see the rally as a morale booster, and a way to solicit more donations."

A paperworkers' support rally April 30 in Jay, Maine, drew 6,000 people. Maine AFL-CIO head Charles O'Leary is scheduled to speak at the Lock Haven rally.

Participants in the march and rally will gather at the Castanea Fire Hall just outside Lock Haven and march to Main Street. At 1:00 p.m. marchers will return to the Fire Hall Picnic Grounds for speeches and entertainment. Food also will be served.

For more information on the June 18 action contact: UPIU Local 1787, Box 773, Lock Haven, Pa. 17745, or call (717) 748-2097.

Welcome set in Texas, Mexico for veterans' peace convoy to Nicaragua

BY GREG ROSS

AUSTIN, Texas — Fifty trucks from 125 cities across the United States will converge here June 5 to begin the final leg of the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua.

The trucks are being driven primarily by veterans and will be filled with material aid for the people of Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan people face serious economic hardships due to eight years of U.S. organized contra war and decades of underdevelopment resulting from imperialist oppression and class exploitation.

A police escort will guide the convoy and many supporters into Austin for the noon rally, where presentations will be made by convoy participants. That evening, a fund-raising concert, "To feed the children, not the war," featuring popular local bands, will be held at the Austin Opera House.

On the following day, the convoy departs for San Antonio and Laredo. It will cross into Mexico at Nuevo Laredo. Organizers expect a large welcome there and throughout Mexico, where rallies will greet the convoy across the country, including in Mexico City. Fifty-two organi-

zations in Mexico are supporting the convoy's efforts, coordinated by the Mexican Committee to Support the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua.

Organizers in Austin report a very favorable response to aiding the Nicaraguan people. "We are redefining humanitarian aid," said Gilberto Rivera of Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America, which is helping to organize activities here. "The convoy is in concert with the feelings of the people of the United States," he noted.

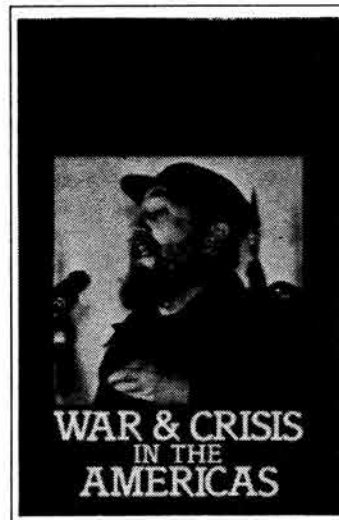
All of the trucks and buses have been donated, as well as tons of oats, bicycles, medical supplies, and food. The convoy will include drivers and material aid donated from other countries, including half a truck full of medical supplies from Switzerland.

On May 21 the convoy departed from Jay, Maine; Missoula, Montana; and Seattle, Washington, and is expected to arrive in Managua by June 17. Organizers are encouraging donations. For more information contact Veterans Peace Convoy, 2025 "I" St. NW, Rm. 313, Washington, D.C. 20006, or telephone (202) 785-7357.

From Pathfinder Speeches by Fidel Castro

Thirteen speeches and interviews by Fidel Castro covering the U.S.-backed war against Nicaragua; prospects for defeating a U.S. invasion; the international debt crisis; the political situation in Latin America; and Cuba's "revolutions" in the economy and in defense. Includes interview with *Excelsior* on the need to cancel Latin America's debt. 280 pp., \$9.95

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Rally supports new Pathfinder bookstore in London

BY RICH PALSER

LONDON — One hundred forty people attended a rally here to raise funds for a new Pathfinder bookshop to be opened shortly in central London.

Opening the rally, Pathfinder Bookshop Fund coordinator Connie Harris reported that already wide interest had been shown in the new shop. "This project is timely and will fulfill a much felt need," Harris said. "By stocking literature from that written by the founders of scientific socialism, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, to prominent contemporary revolutionary thinkers in Cuba, Nicaragua, South Africa, and elsewhere, and by featuring material on the Black struggle, women's liberation, and on trade union and other battles, the bookshop will be attractive for all those seeking solutions to the burning questions of our time."

Harris has a 20-year-long experience of distributing revolutionary literature in Britain, Europe, and Africa.

Other speakers at the rally were Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president; Paul Joseph, a representative of the African National Congress of South Africa; and Jonathan Silberman, also a coordinator of the bookshop fund.

Joseph spoke to the importance of literature to the revolutionary struggle in South Africa. "No matter how deep the repression, no matter how fast we had to flee, we never destroyed books," he said.

Silberman indicated the importance of learning from the history of the working-class movement and highlighted two sets of books published by Pathfinder that will have a prominent place in the new shop. These are the two-volume series *Revolutionary Continuity: Marxist Leadership in the United States* by Farrell Dobbs, and the multivolume series on the Communist In-

ternational in Lenin's time.

Mickells explained how the October stock market crash meant that revolutionary literature will become more and more relevant to workers seeking answers to the increasingly generalized social and economic crisis. "It's working people who will be hit hard by the crisis, and it is for working people that the literature will be most relevant," she said.

In her fund appeal speech, Helen Arthur, a young engineering worker from Manchester, said the new shop will be of interest to broad numbers of people. "The new Pathfinder bookshop won't be narrow or sectarian, nor will it be passive or neutral." She went on to explain that as a multilingual shop, Pathfinder Books will be accessible to London's increasingly multinational population, and to the many visitors from around the world.

"Before I ask you for money," Arthur said, "there is one example we would like you to follow." Pathfinder, she said, recently received a letter from an Irish republican political prisoner in the H-blocks of Long Kesh prison. He thanked Pathfinder for producing the book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* and explained that he was reading *Lenin's Struggle for a Revolutionary International*. He donated £10 to the bookshop fund.

"That's the importance that class fighters at the sharp end of the struggle attach to revolutionary literature," Arthur said. Her fund appeal was enthusiastically answered — £4,636 (US\$8,484) was raised in donations and pledges to add to the £2,000 already given toward the £15,000 goal.

Fund organizers have extended the deadline for contributions to the end of July. To contribute, send funds to the Pathfinder Bookshop Fund, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England.

How New Zealand distributors are expanding 'Militant' sales

BY JANET WARMAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Participants in the international effort to win 9,000 new readers for the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International* got an early start on the campaign in this country.

Sales of the three publications were combined with the annual subscription drive for the New Zealand biweekly *Socialist Action*, which this year ran from February 19 to April 30.

By April 30, 1,197 subscriptions to *Socialist Action* had been sold along with 140 to the *Militant* and 7 to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*. Eighteen copies of the Marxist magazine *New International* were also sold.

Although the *Socialist Action* subscription drive is over, supporters of that paper have taken an increased target of selling 220 of the other three publications by June 15.

An important selling point of the *Militant* has been its unique coverage of events in Central America. What has impressed many who have bought subscriptions is that the paper has a bureau of reporters in Nicaragua.

Among some solidarity activists the *Militant* has become the authoritative voice for news and analysis from the Central American region. It has been used at meetings in discussions on the meaning of events in Panama and the significance of the Central America peace accords.

Some *Militant* subscriptions have been sold to unionists interested in reading about labor struggles elsewhere. Photocopies of *Militant* articles on the strike by paperworkers employed by International Paper Co. in the United States have been distributed to paperworkers in this country.

A major way in which subscriptions to *Socialist Action* were sold during its drive

was by campaigners selling door-to-door in working-class neighborhoods in the main cities like Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch and in rural towns.

Three *Militant* subscriptions and one copy of *New International* were also sold by industrial workers at factories and at union meetings.

A large number of subscriptions were sold from literature tables set up in shopping centers, on university campuses, and at political meetings. Through this effort there are currently 41 new *Militant* readers at six of the seven universities in New Zealand.

Political events where subscriptions have been sold include meetings at which participants in work brigades to Nicaragua or Cuba have reported on their experiences, meetings about the current situation in the Philippines, and activities organized by the antinuclear movement.

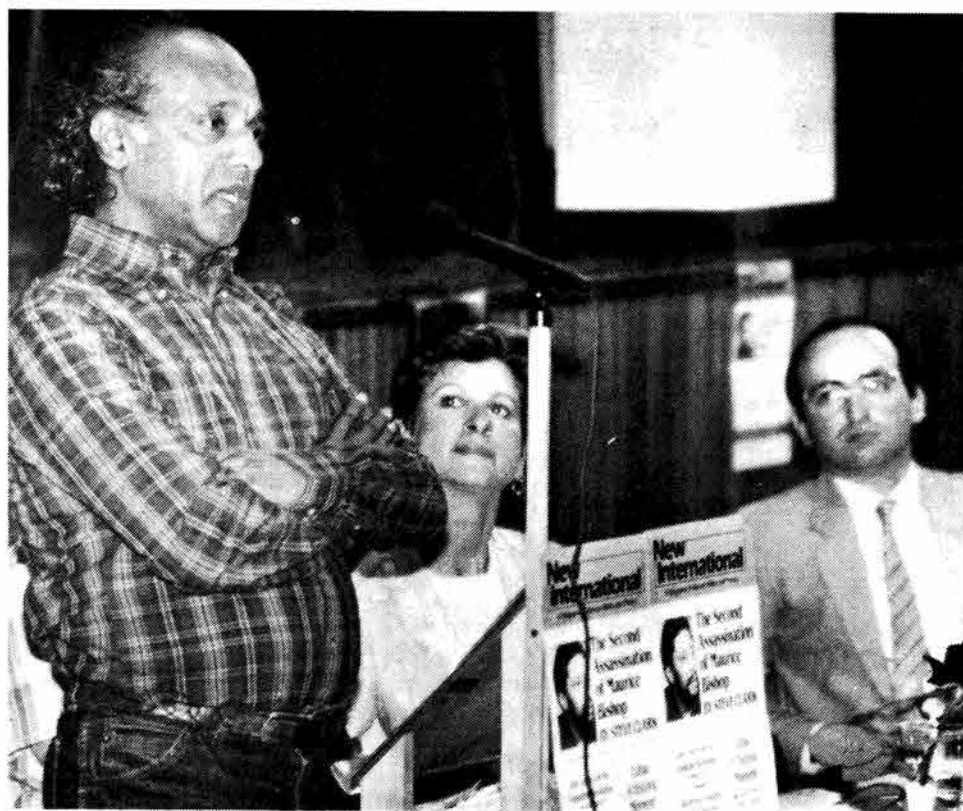
A new experience was setting up tables at a cultural event — concerts for Amandla, the cultural group of the African National Congress of South Africa.

The literature tables have been an important way of reaching the relatively small number of people in New Zealand who speak Spanish, although sales opportunities have been missed at times by not having copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* and other Spanish-language titles on the table.

Since November last year new Pilot Bookshops have been opened in Auckland and Wellington. They feature books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder. Eleven subscriptions to the *Militant* have been sold through these shops so far, and 10 copies of *New International*.

An additional 10 *Militant* subscriptions have been sold in conjunction with Socialist Forums held weekly at these bookshops.

A smaller Pilot Bookcentre was opened in Christchurch at the end of April.



G.M. Cookson

African National Congress representative Paul Joseph stressed importance of books for revolutionary struggle. Other speakers included U.S. Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells and Jonathan Silberman from Pathfinder Bookshop Fund.

Sales Drive Progress

Area	Drive Totals			Militant subscriptions		New International single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions	
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
Los Angeles	600	444	74	340	260	100	72	160	112
Miami	225	165	73	145	122	40	14	40	29
Birmingham, Ala.	185	134	72	145	101	30	27	10	6
Omaha, Neb.	125	89	71	80	61	25	25	20	3
Boston	350	247	71	240	170	50	27	60	50
Newark, NJ	460	323	70	275	178	85	59	100	86
New York	1,200	833	69	600	414	300	248	300	171
Austin, Tex.	90	53	59	65	45	15	6	10	2
Seattle	275	161	59	200	107	25	16	50	38
Twin Cities, Minn.	285	164	58	230	135	35	15	20	14
Greensboro, NC	125	69	55	100	63	15	4	10	2
Milwaukee	150	81	54	100	64	25	10	25	7
Portland, Ore.	140	75	54	100	51	25	18	15	6
Detroit	250	129	52	185	110	40	10	25	9
Philadelphia	210	101	48	140	65	30	10	40	26
San Francisco	350	167	48	200	113	75	17	75	37
Morgantown, W.V.	135	64	47	115	57	15	5	5	2
Atlanta	205	97	47	150	77	40	8	15	12
Kansas City	130	61	47	90	49	20	2	20	10
Phoenix	240	112	47	135	55	30	19	75	38
Chicago	350	163	47	215	120	60	21	75	22
Cleveland	145	58	40	110	49	20	7	15	2
Oakland, Calif.	265	104	39	150	74	50	17	65	13
Houston	215	84	39	140	63	30	4	45	17
Pittsburgh	250	96	38	185	83	45	9	20	4
Price, Utah	60	23	38	40	18	10	1	10	4
Washington, DC	250	82	33	170	55	50	10	30	17
Des Moines, Iowa	195	63	32	140	53	30	6	25	4
St. Louis	250	78	31	190	62	50	15	10	1
Salt Lake City	150	46	31	115	35	20	3	15	8
Baltimore	185	55	30	150	51	30	0	5	4
Charleston, W.V.	120	27	23	100	19	15	8	5	0
* National Team	-	85	-	-	72	-	2	-	11
Cincinnati	18	10	56	18	10	-	-	-	-
Louisville	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	-	23	-	-	22	-	-	-	1
U.S. totals	8,188	4,566	56	5,363	3,083	1,430	715	1,395	768
South Yorks	45	30	67	30	26	5	2	10	2
London	62	37	60	45	30	8	4	9	3
South Wales	40	22	55	27	16	10	5	3	1
Manchester	34	13	38	24	12	5	0	5	1
Nottingham	39	14	36	24	12	12	2	3	0
Other Britain	-	19	-	-	5	-	14	-	-
Britain totals	220	135	61	150	101	40	27	30	7
Toronto	240	178	74	150	113	50	31	40	34
Montreal	155	72	46	80	38	50	17	25	17
Vancouver	25	11	44	15	7	5	1	5	3
Other Canada	10	1	10	5	1	5	0	-	-
Canada totals	430	262	61	250	159	110	49	70	54
Australia	27	8	30	15	6	6	1	6	1
Iceland	15	13	87	15	13	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	220	184	84	180	155	30	21	10	8
* Puerto Rico	-	15	-	-	3	-	1	-	11
Other Internat'l	-	47	-	-	23	-	22	-	2
Totals	9,100	5,230	58%	5,973	3,543	1,616	836	1,511	851
Drive Goals	9,000			6,000		1,500		1,500	
Should be		7,146	79%						

New York socialists announce James Harris for U.S. Senate

July 12 kick-off set for 40,000-signature ballot drive

BY ANDY COATES

NEW YORK — At a news conference held here June 1, Socialist Workers Party leader James Harris announced his campaign for U.S. senator.

The campaign will seek to place Harris' name on the New York ballot, along with those of Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, James Warren and Kathleen Mickells.

Harris was introduced by Seveda Polite, a member of the New York Young Socialist Alliance. Polite explained that the YSA has been organizing its members and supporters to work on the campaign.

"What working people need," Harris said, "is a perspective to fight in our own interests. We need proposals that will unify us internationally in all our diversity and around our common needs and interests. This is the program that Socialist Workers candidates are putting forward."

Harris told reporters that he will participate in the "National Day of Protest to End Israeli Occupation," on June 4 in New York and will take part in the June 11 demonstration here to protest U.S. wars and nuclear weapons.

At the June 11 demonstration we will campaign for massive U.S. government aid for Nicaragua," Harris said.

The candidate was asked why the U.S. government would aid Nicaragua when for the past seven years it has sought to overthrow the government there.

"In trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government, they were acting in the interests of big business," he answered. "Working people who live in the U.S. should force the U.S. government to give aid to Nicaragua. It will take a fight. This is tied to our proposal to cancel the debts owed to imperialist banks by Third World countries. It's in the interests of workers and farmers to do so."

"Workers and farmers in the U.S. have more in common with workers and peasants in Nicaragua than they have with the rulers of this country," Harris continued. "We think it's a winnable demand — the U.S. ought to aid Nicaragua."

Harris announced that following the June 11 demonstration the Socialist Workers campaign will host an open house near the protest site in Central Park. Harris will speak there, along with vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells.

Mark Curtis, a Des Moines, Iowa, activist who is fighting frame-up charges brought against him because of his political activities, and Héctor Marroquín, who is fighting U.S. attempts to deport him due to his political views, will also speak at the open house.

"The major activity of the campaign," Harris said, "will be distributing the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*, and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. We will be doing this as part of a circulation drive to get out to workers and farmers with information on the socialist campaign and the proposals we put forward to unite our class. This will be done in a major way each week, as we get out on the streets in working-class areas to talk about politics."

"Another opportunity to get out to working people is actually an undemocratic obstacle that we will turn into a real opportunity," he said. "We will be launching a

three-week petition drive for ballot status on July 12.

"We will be talking to many people, 40,000 at least — that's our goal for signatures," the candidate said. New York State requires 20,000 signatures for an independent political party to be on the ballot.

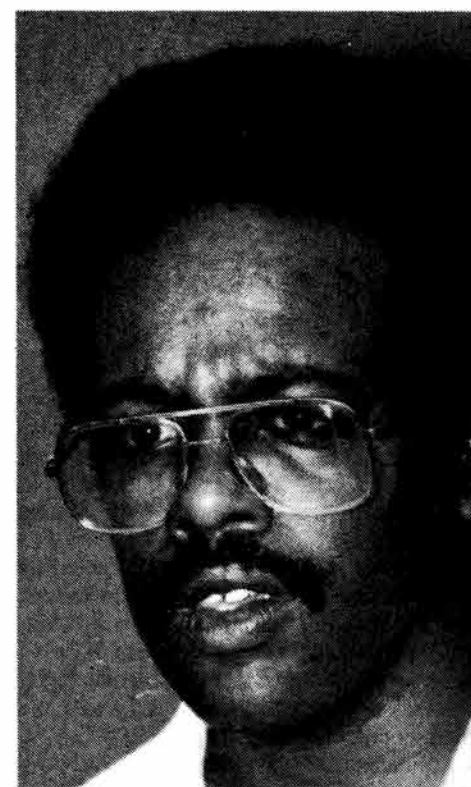
Dick Geyer, New York Socialist Workers campaign director, noted that in 1984 New York State arbitrarily kept the SWP off the ballot. SWP candidates have been on the ballot in New York most election years since the party started fielding candidates here 50 years ago.

"The main thing I see in the campaign," Geyer said, "is the opportunity to get out there and ask youth to join the Young Socialist Alliance."

"The petitioning drive will be a massive effort," Harris added, "and we're asking for lots of volunteers to help out."

"We plan this to be an important political event. Not only will we address thousands and thousands of people on the streets. We will also organize special forums, educational classes, and other events as part of this effort. We want to take maximum advantage of this opportunity to explain a working-class view of the world."

Harris is the New York State chairperson of the SWP. His leading Democratic and Republican opponents in the race are incumbent Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Robert McMillan.



Militant Socialist Workers Party leader James Harris.

Boost needed for campaign fund drive

BY SUSAN LaMONT

As *Militant* readers can see from the scoreboard on this page, a boost is needed to get the \$50,000 fund drive for the Socialist Workers 1988 presidential campaign off and running.

Contributions to the Socialist Workers campaign come from workers, farmers, students, political activists, prisoners, and others who want to help get the socialists' views as broad a hearing as possible.

As we enter the third week of the seven-week effort, \$1,085 has been received in

the national campaign office. Campaign supporters in St. Louis and Cleveland are setting the pace, having sent in \$500 and \$300 toward their respective goals of \$1,600 and \$1,150.

Several *Militant* readers have also been among the first contributors. "Hi! Congratulations for an excellent ticket," said the note accompanying a \$100 contribution from a *Militant* reader in Whiting, New Jersey. Another reader from Brooklyn, New York, has already sent in two contributions, totaling \$50.

The \$50,000 fund drive is needed to help pay for the enormous day-to-day costs of mounting a national campaign. One major expense is the cost of travel for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates, James Warren and Kathleen Mickells. Warren and Mickells have been on the road virtually nonstop since the campaign was launched in March. In addition to touring cities and towns throughout the United States, Warren has visited Canada and Grenada, and Mickells has traveled to Britain. Several other international trips are also planned for the candidates.

In addition, Andy Coates, a Young Socialist Alliance National Committee member from Chicago, will be traveling with Warren as he campaigns throughout California for several weeks, beginning June 3. Coates will be reporting on Warren's tour for the *Militant*.

Another major campaign expense is literature. Initially, 50,000 copies of the candidates' biographies were printed, including 25,000 in Spanish. Recently 25,000 copies of the English-language biographies had to be reprinted. Additional campaign literature is also planned.

A third major expense is the cost of fielding national petitioning teams to help obtain ballot status for the Socialist Workers' ticket in several states.

Other routine expenses, such as office supplies, postage, telephone, and rent, will add up to thousands of dollars.

We've already had an example of the enthusiastic response socialist campaigners can expect to receive as the fund drive gets organized in local areas. Several dozen campaign supporters who work in the oil and chemical industries contributed nearly \$8,000 as seed money to help get the campaign off the ground, before the spring fund drive was launched. These contributions were part or all of the bonuses these workers — members of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union — received upon ratification of their recent contract.

One OCAW member from Salt Lake City included a note to the national campaign along with his donation of \$554.78. He wrote, "Since I opposed this 'signing

bonus' — oil workers deserve wage increases, not lump-sum payments — I can think of no better way to spend this 'bribe' than to donate it to the socialist campaign, where it will be put to excellent use."

These workers will now be making contributions to the \$50,000 fund drive as well. A big effort is needed to insure that the spring fund drive is completed in full and on time. Groups of local campaign supporters should take immediate steps to contact potential contributors to make pledges to the fund drive. Although campaign supporters are encouraged to make as large a contribution as possible, every donation, no matter how small, is important. Local areas will also want to consider organizing fund-raising events, including rallies, picnics, and barbecues, to help make their goals. *Militant* readers are also encouraged to make contributions by sending in the coupon attached to the scoreboard.

Framed-up miner faces trial June 13 in Kentucky

BY JIM LITTLE

WILLIAMSON, W. Va. — Coal miner Paul Smith will go on trial for a second time on June 13 in Pikeville, Kentucky.

He is one of five United Mine Workers members framed up after a scab coal hauler was killed during the union's 1984-85 strike at A.T. Massey Coal Co. and affiliated operations in West Virginia and Kentucky.

James Darryl Smith, Arnold Heightland, Donnie Thornsby, and David Thornsby were convicted on Dec. 17, 1987, on federal charges of disrupting interstate commerce and sentenced to prison terms of 35 to 45 years.

In a separate federal trial Paul Smith was found innocent by a jury on January 25, but was immediately rearrested on state murder charges for the same incident.

During the federal criminal trials, the unionists were accused of killing scab hauler Hayes West during the course of disrupting interstate commerce. The defense attorneys demonstrated, however, that West was actually shot during a company-orchestrated "ambush."

The criminal charges under federal interstate commerce statutes were brought only after a two-year operation by the government against the union. The operation involved the FBI, Justice Department, federal Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, and Tobacco, and the Kentucky state cops. Witnesses were bribed with tens of thousands of dollars in government funds. One member of the union, who turned government witness, was rewarded with a job as a Kentucky cop.

Contributions for legal expenses for the five framed-up miners can be sent to Citizens for Justice, P.O. Box 8, Canada, Ky. 41519.

Your help is needed . . .

1988 Socialist Workers Party \$50,000 campaign fund drive

May 21 — July 9

Supporters of the socialist ticket in 32 cities have set goals to make the fund a success. Below are the figures for each area.

	Goal	Collected		Goal	Collected
Atlanta	1,450	0	Portland, Ore	900	0
Austin, Minn.	500	0	Price, Utah	600	0
Baltimore	1,150	0	Salt Lake City	800	0
Birmingham, Ala.	950	0	San Francisco	2,000	0
Boston	1,750	0	Seattle	1,250	100
Charleston, W.V.	1,000	0	St. Louis	1,600	500
Chicago	2,200	0	Twin Cities, Minn.	1,900	0
Cleveland	1,150	300	Washington, D.C.	1,750	0
Des Moines, Iowa	750	0	Other	-	135
Detroit	1,350	0	Total	50,000	1,085
Greensboro, N.C.	800	0			
Houston	1,150	0			
Kansas City	750	0			
Los Angeles	3,250	0			
Miami	1,450	0			
Milwaukee	950	0			
Morgantown, W.V.	1,150	0			
New York	7,000	50			
Newark, N.J.	3,000	0			
Oakland, Calif.	1,700	0			
Omaha, Neb.	1,100	0			
Philadelphia	1,650	0			
Phoenix	1,150	0			
Pittsburgh	1,600	0			

To make a contribution, please fill out the coupon below, and mail to Socialist Workers 1988 National Campaign Committee, 79 Leonard St., New York, N.Y. 10013.

Enclosed is a check or money order for: \$200 \$100 \$50 \$10 other

☐ I endorse the Warren-Mickells ticket.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

School/Organization _____

This ad has been paid for by the Socialist Workers 1988 National Campaign Committee, 79 Leonard St., New York, N.Y. 10013.

Salvadoran families displaced by war struggle to keep co-op

BY MAURA RODRÍGUEZ

EL CERRO, El Salvador — On the east bank of the Lempa River, in Usulután Province, the fine, dark soil is freshly plowed and ready for cultivation. The people of El Cerro have saved just enough corn to plant for their food this year.

The land here has been less affected by the devastating drought than in other areas, but if rains don't come, their crop will fail. And the U.S.-backed government of President José Napoleón Duarte blocks badly needed fertilizer, as well as food and medicine, from being brought in.

Infant mortality, malnutrition, and poverty have always been worse in rural areas like this. "We are all illiterate," one woman here said, "because the system has left us out."

Struggles of working people against worsening conditions and mounting military repression have deepened here as in the cities. They have been conducted by unions and other mass organizations, and by the popular forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). In the countryside, some areas are controlled by the FMLN, and some by the U.S.-backed regime. Other areas are the "disputed zones." Usulután is a disputed zone.

As part of a delegation from the United States invited to El Salvador by the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), several of us traveled to El Cerro.

Most of the land from here to the sea had been cotton plantations owned by "one of the '14 families,'" one resident told us, "who dominate our whole national territory."

Today these lands are agricultural cooperatives. El Cerro is a cooperative of some 30 families organized by the Christian Committee of Displaced Persons of El Salvador. Its members were day laborers and sharecroppers on the old plantations. Most were displaced by the government's counterinsurgency war.

When we arrived, several dozen people came to talk to us at a quickly called meeting. "The army had a strategy called 'scorched earth,'" a member explained. "The troops would go in . . . kill children, old people, young people, pregnant women, anything that moved. Cattle, horses, were machine gunned. . . . They wanted to stop a revolutionary process that was being born at that very moment in some places. But their mentality was that all of our communities were revolutionary and guerrillas. That is how we came to be displaced."

The people of El Cerro come from all over the country, the man told us. "We are not just from San Vicente, but also from San Miguel, Ahuachapán, Jucuarán, La Paz. We are so many, I can't tell you all the places. It's all a result of the incursions, the counterinsurgency operations of the armed forces."

"We came here as squatters," a man explained, "and took possession of the land to work it in our favor. The agrarian reform doesn't work. We carried out agrarian reform for ourselves."

The people of El Cerro also organize their own education. "There is no school here. It is the few of us who know a little something — with maybe a third grade education — who teach the children."

Earlier in the week a representative of the National Association of Agricultural Workers had told us more about the failure of the agrarian reform. Administered by the Christian Democratic government and supported by Washington, its real purpose was to win support by providing the facade of a reform-oriented government.

The second phase of the land reform, scheduled for implementation years ago, was never even begun, and the first phase never really worked. Through massive corruption, government officials stole millions of the program's funds. Those peasants who did get land are today burdened with an unpayable debt. They had to buy the new lands, which, along with capital assets on the properties, were overpriced. Rusty farm machinery, for example, was

priced as though it was new.

The extreme right-wing party ARENA wants to reverse even what limited land reform took place. Operating through paramilitary death squads, they have kidnapped and assassinated members of even the government-recognized land reform cooperatives. They plan to give the large estates back to the "14 families."

Cooperatives such as El Cerro, formed by occupations of abandoned lands, have suffered severe repression by the army.

"When the harvests come in and they [the army] have those big operations, they eat the corn," one member told us. "There's been folks who have had a whole field of corn eaten. They don't pay for it. Sometimes they burn our fields. They leave us starving."

What the army plants instead are mines. We met two young mine victims there — a boy from a nearby community and a girl who lost a leg.

"It's a strategic plan of those rich landlords to displace us," the relations secretary of El Cerro told us. "They want to subdivide the land. With a few people purchasing a lot, they establish the right of the armed forces to remain here more or less permanently. . . . A Mr. Ochoa told us that if those of us here did not want to purchase parcels, to get out. We can't allow that. We've already been displaced once from our places of origin. We can't be displaced again. That's our politics. Better dead than out of our lands."

Peasants and rural workers were the largest contingent in the May Day demonstration of 60,000 organized by the UNTS in San Salvador. "That day is the worker's day," said the first woman we met when we arrived at El Cerro. "We are rural workers. Not to sound proud, but we are the best workers. We are the food providers, so we have the right to demonstrate and celebrate our day. This was denied us." Only one woman and her daughter were able to get to the march. A busload from the cooperative was stopped by the military at the Lempa River.

At the May Day action the National Association of Agricultural Workers raised the demands of the many cooperatives like El Cerro in hand-written, file-card-size flyers: "For the conquest of credit, land, and work. Everyone in the struggle!" They demand the extension of farm credits to all cooperatives and a reduction in prices of fertilizers and other farm supplies, and for the government to begin to implement Phase II of the promised agrarian reform.

Salvadoran and Philippine fronts declare common goals

The following statement was issued jointly by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador and the National Democratic Front (NDF) of the Philippines on April 12. It is taken from the April 23 issue of *Balita Ng Malayang Pilipinas* (Free Philippines News Service).

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador and the National Democratic Front (NDF) of the Philippines declare to the world that:

We oppose the various forms of aggression to which our peoples are subjected, the total disregard for our peoples' right to decide their own destiny, and the open and covert intervention implemented by the United States government headed by Ronald Reagan against sovereign peoples of the world, including those of El Salvador and the Philippines.

We are determined to fight continued U.S. domination of our respective countries through puppet governments such as Napoleón Duarte's and Corazon Aquino's, governments that have given away our sovereignty and sacrificed our peoples' interests, that maintain states that do not correspond



Militant/Maura Rodríguez

Members of El Cerro agricultural cooperative. As squatters who "took possession of land to work it in our favor," they face threats from the army, a tool of Salvadoran landlords.

Canada, U.S. postal workers on Nicaragua solidarity trip

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Postal workers from Canada and the United States strengthened links of solidarity with their Nicaraguan counterparts during a recent visit here.

A delegation of unionists came from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) and from several unions representing postal workers in the United States.

"We came here to find out what is happening with the peace talks, and to develop stronger ties of solidarity with unions in Nicaragua," explained Wayne Mundle, national director of the CUPW.

Mundle was joined on the delegation by Caroline Lee, CUPW national secretary-treasurer. They brought greetings from Jean-Claude Parrot, CUPW national president, to the union representing workers in Nicaragua's postal and telephone system.

"Our National Union, individual Locals, and many of our 24,000 members have actively participated in solidarity work to assist in the struggle of our Nicaraguan sisters and brothers," wrote Parrot.

"As well, a number of our members have

previously visited Nicaragua and have entertained delegations from Nicaragua. We will continue with our commitment to reach across the borders and build links with the working class in Nicaragua and other countries."

The Canadian unionists have worked with Canadian solidarity groups such as Tools for Peace, which has sent shiploads of goods to Nicaragua. "These supplies have helped people during these difficult years," said Mundle. "And I want to continue that type of work in the future."

Gail Graham from Buffalo, New York, is planning to report back on his trip to others who work with him. There was a lot of support among coworkers for his visit here. "We did a fund-raiser and collected \$1,000 to finance the trip," Graham said. He is a member of the Mail Handlers' Division of the Laborers' International Union.

Others in the delegation are activists in the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers. Some belong to Postal Workers for Peace, which helped coordinate the trip.

From Betty Tsang's point of view, working people in North America have much to learn from the successful struggle of Nicaraguans to overthrow the dictatorship headed by the Somoza family. Tsang is a Miami postal worker and union activist.

"In the United States, the government thinks nothing of sending the National Guard to break strikes," she pointed out. Tsang was sharply critical of the AFL-CIO officialdom's collaboration with the CIA and other U.S. government agencies to oppose the development of class-struggle unionism in Latin America.

For many of the participants, the tour was a chance to learn from fellow unionists involved in a struggle against a common enemy. "When we come here, we learn about the power the unions in Nicaragua have, and how they are using that power to improve the lives of the workers," said Bill Rayson, an activist in the National Association of Letter Carriers from Miami.

This is especially important at a time when the U.S. and Canadian governments are waging an offensive against postal workers through "privatization" schemes, several of the union members emphasized.

On Saturday, April 30, the visiting workers joined Nicaraguan postal workers in a morning of volunteer labor selling stamps and handling mail sacks at Managua's central post office. The postal workers expressed the hope that news of their trip would lead other unionists in North America to organize similar visits.



Militant/Harvey McArthur



Militant/Judy White

Men working in new machine shop and literacy drive in Nicaraguan village are signs of change. Tools can now be powered by electrification project completed by U.S. volunteer Ben Linder, who was murdered last year. Sign reads, "Benjamin, your blood brings life and the fruit will be the happiness you sowed in parting one day."

Bringing improvements to El Cuá, Nicaragua

BY JUDY WHITE

EL CUÁ, Nicaragua — "The goal is to bring to the area the tools and skills necessary to raise the standard of living," explained Mira Brown, one of several U.S. volunteers working in this small town in northern Nicaragua. Brown had worked with Ben Linder, the U.S. engineer murdered by contras in 1987 while he was working on an electrification project in nearby San José de Bocay.

El Cuá is about 50 miles northeast of the city of Jinotega. The town itself consists of 200 houses strung along a narrow, rocky riverbed. It is the economic and political center for the peasant families who live in the hundreds of square miles of surrounding mountains.

Twenty-three thousand people live in this area, and 95 percent of them work the land to make a living. Coffee is the main cash crop. Corn, beans, and cattle are also important.

Until 1986 there was no electricity in El Cuá. There is still no drinkable water here and no telephone or mail service. The nearest such facilities are in Jinotega, a two-and-a-half-hour truck drive away. The area is typical of much of rural Nicaragua. Decades of imperialist domination distorted the development of its economy. Seven years of the U.S.-financed contra war have destroyed many of the material gains made in the early years of the Sandinista revolution.

The U.S. volunteers working here are attempting to help overcome the effects of this history of domination and destruction. They have played a part in bringing electricity to El Cuá and two nearby collective farms. They are in the process of setting up a machine shop for the area. And they are doing construction work on collective farms.

What revolution has meant

Adolfo Zeledón, mayor of El Cuá and a leading member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), briefly reviewed what the 1979 Sandinista revolution has meant for this area.

Before the victory, the area was dominated by rich coffee farm owners, said Zeledón. "The Chávez family, for instance, had three big coffee farms and lived by exploiting the peasants as a work force."

There was also a lumber company in the area, Zeledón continued. "They built a highway to Peña Blanca to take wood out. They used the National Guard [the dictatorship's armed forces] to convince the peasants to turn over the lumber. For 10 years they operated this way."

When the area was timbered out, in 1976, the company left. The bridges and highway they had built fell to ruin. They had been built to last only for the duration of the logging operations. In 1979, when the dictatorship headed by the Somoza family was overthrown, 98 percent of the population in these mountains was illiterate. There were only three schools. There were no health facilities.

The literacy campaign launched by the new government in 1980 resulted in 16,000 peasants of the area learning to read and write. Seventy-three schools had been built by 1982, and there were 84 full-time teachers.

Since the revolution, the majority of peasants in the area have been organized into cooperatives or collective farms, said Manuel Cruz Valle, the production secretary of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) here. UNAG has 2,022 members in the area and organizes 90 percent of the local peasants.

Thirteen hundred peasant families have received land here since the Sandinistas came to power, Cruz said. Another 100 are scheduled to receive land on two big farms the government bought from the former owners. That will leave 250 families still awaiting their own lands, he added.

Health clinics have been built on most collective farms and in the towns. Two ambulances were obtained for the area.

However, efforts to develop this area ran into big obstacles beginning in 1982, when

the contra attacks in the region started.

"We began to lose ground," commented the mayor. "We lost 50 percent of the schools and 75 percent of the teachers. There were more murders and kidnappings of teachers in this zone than in any other of the country."

Production also fell steadily. Farms were burned. Thousands of peasants had to be relocated to safer areas. Some lands that had been distributed to landless peasants could not be worked at all because of the war. The coffee yield, for example, fell from 5,500 tons in the 1980-81 harvest to 2,000 in 1985-86.

In 1985-86 the first U.S. volunteers came to work in the area. Among them was Ben Linder, who was interested in a small hydroelectric plant that had been started near El Cuá in mid-1980. Technical problems and a lack of funds had stalled completion of the project.

With Linder's help, the plant was finally brought on line in May 1986. Linder had just begun work on a second plant, in San José de Bocay, when he and two Nicara-

guan coworkers were murdered by the contras in April 1987.

The El Cuá plant now supplies light to about half the 200 houses in this town.

"But we want to expand the project to the rest of the town. And we need to increase transformer capacity, upgrade the valve controlling water flow at the dam, and overhaul the turbine," explained Rebecca Leaf. Leaf is a mechanical engineer from the United States who has been working on the project since May 1987. She is on the staff of Nicaragua's state-owned power company.

This electrification program is sponsored by the regional government, but it lacks the resources necessary to complete it.

Linder Memorial Fund

An important contribution has come from the Benjamin Linder Memorial Fund in the United States. After Linder's murder, his family toured widely, speaking out against the contra war and raising

Continued on Page 13

First Nicaraguan women enter combat duty

BY ROBERTO KOPEC

CHONTALES PROVINCE, Nicaragua — Mitania Rivas Mendoza normally works at the Fanatex textile plant in Managua. For the past few weeks she's been living here, about 115 miles away from job and home. She wears olive-green army fatigues, carries an automatic rifle, and sleeps in a foxhole by one of the many small bridges that dot the Juigalpa-Rama road.

Rivas is one of 38 women workers serving four months of volunteer military duty along the only highway connecting the country's Pacific and South Atlantic regions. They are the first women accepted for regular army combat duty in one of Nicaragua's reserve battalions. Women in the army have until now been assigned to logistical support duties and rear-guard defense posts, such as an antiaircraft unit staffed by women in Managua.

This is Rivas' first military experience. "I am happy to be here, sharing these months with the rest of the *compañeros*," she said with a proud smile on her face while greeting a truckload of workers who came to visit one recent weekend.

The battalion Rivas and the other women are serving in is made up mainly of workers from Managua's factories and offices who have volunteered for four months of reserve duty. Their coworkers were visiting them, bringing letters and packages from home.

The reservists are stationed at several military posts spread along the highway. Every time the truck carrying the visitors approached one of these posts, the names of different workplaces were shouted out. "Anybody from Texnicsa here?" "Where are the reservists from the Pepsi-Cola plant?"

"Prosan! I'm looking for the women from Prosan! Anybody seen them?"

Besides defending the Juigalpa-Rama road, the battalion carries out important political work among the peasants in the region, including those with relatives in the contras. This takes the form of soldiers providing some health services and helping out with literacy and educational programs. The soldiers also talk to the peasants about the aims and achievements of the revolution.

Georgina Miranda, a young employee of the Central Bank in Managua, is assigned to one of the command posts along the highway. "Army life is hard for us as women," she admitted, "but the impressive thing is that none of the women have called it quits." However, some have had to leave for medical reasons. "Little by little we get used to the work here," she said.

What about the men's attitudes toward the *compañeras*? "Well, the battalion is very heterogeneous," Miranda answered, "and there is a certain degree of *machismo*, but not on the part of the officers."

Some men do not think it is right for women to be here, especially if they are married and have children, noted Miranda. "I myself am constantly asked if I have children, and I answer that that's an irrelevant question. I don't have children, but most of the *compañeras* here do."

Even so, they carry out their duties just like everybody else. They left their children in the care of husbands, relatives, or friends. "Of course they are concerned about their children's welfare," she added, "but they seldom request leaves to go home."

Miranda said that she knows many women who wanted to volunteer, but who

couldn't find someone to take care of their children.

Miranda feels strongly that women are just as fit as men for army duty. "When it comes to defending the country, you can't reject fighters because of their sex," she said. "And we're showing it in practice. We participate in all the tasks. We go out on patrol, on missions, and we carry out political work. Women are not given any special treatment here. It's a very positive experience."

First Lt. Eduardo Espinoza agreed. "The women have been meeting the rigorous standards demanded of a soldier. They have some particular problems as women, but those are easily overcome," he said.

According to Berta Argüello, regional leader of the Nicaraguan Women's Association in Managua, an attempt made early last year to incorporate women into a combat unit was called off by the army at the last minute. The army argued then that conditions were not yet right for such a move, Argüello said.

The army has warned that if any disciplinary problems develop among the battalion troops stationed along the Juigalpa-Rama highway, or if the morale of the male troops is affected because of the women's presence, they'll send the women back home, Argüello said.

The *compañeras* in the battalion were told to keep in mind that this experience will determine whether other women will have the same opportunity to serve as regular combat soldiers in defense of the revolution, she added.

For Argüello, the *compañeras*' participation in the battalion represents a "concrete example of women's emancipation" in Nicaragua.

A visit with members of Cuba's minibrigades

'This is work not for individual gain, but for the good of society'

BY JOAN CAMPANA

TORONTO — At the center of the efforts of working people in Cuba to deepen their revolution is a volunteer labor movement in which tens of thousands of Cuban workers are mobilizing to build day-care centers, housing, hospitals, and other facilities.

On a recent three-week tour to Cuba, I ran into signs of this new movement everywhere, particularly in Havana. Outside a small house in Old Havana a colorful poster proclaimed, "Women, present in the transformation of the capital."

In front of a building under renovation stood a prominent sign: "Here the Ramon L. Bonachea brigade is at work." Outside an office of a Committee for the Defense of the Revolution a notice-board featured a display of newspaper articles reporting on the inauguration of seven child-care centers last year. In the middle was a prominent quote from a talk by Cuba's President Fidel Castro, "It's truly admirable that these child-care centers have been built by women and men who had no experience at all as construction workers."

I was able to get to know more about the "microbrigades," as the volunteer units are called, and some of the workers in them on my last day in Havana.

Stopping by a busy construction site, I first noticed a sign, "Here the fuel workers' union is building a family doctor's office." Seeing my obvious interest, one of the workers came over. When I explained I had come to Cuba to learn more about the revolution, and that I was especially interested in the microbrigades, she smiled broadly. "You've come to the right place then."

Gloria explained that the work was stalled temporarily while they solved a construction problem. She invited me to come and meet the other brigade members and "see for yourself what we're doing."

"There are more than 30 of us working here," she said. "The youngest is 19 and nine of us are women. Normally we work for the fuel industry, but when they asked who would like to work on a doctor's office, we're the ones who volunteered."

Workers back at their office were filling in for them, the brigade members explained, and they continued to receive their regular pay and holidays.

The workers told me that hundreds of such buildings, with both an office and a home for family doctors, were being built

in Havana. "They are doctors who live in the community with the people they look after," added one of the other men.

Gloria toured me through the construction site. An old building had been torn down, and they were now erecting the foundations of a new one. "Our deadline is June," she explained. "We have to minimize delays because it's very important that we finish on time."

In an adjacent building serving as a storage and planning center, several brigade members were sitting down to a lunch of spicy squid, rice, and salad that had been prepared in a municipal kitchen and delivered to the microbrigade site. I was invited to join them, and the lunch turned into an animated three-hour discussion.

The camaraderie and enthusiasm of the *brigadistas* was infectious. Several of them had anecdotes about their transformation from technicians and office workers into construction workers. One, with a smile, held up a bandaged thumb.

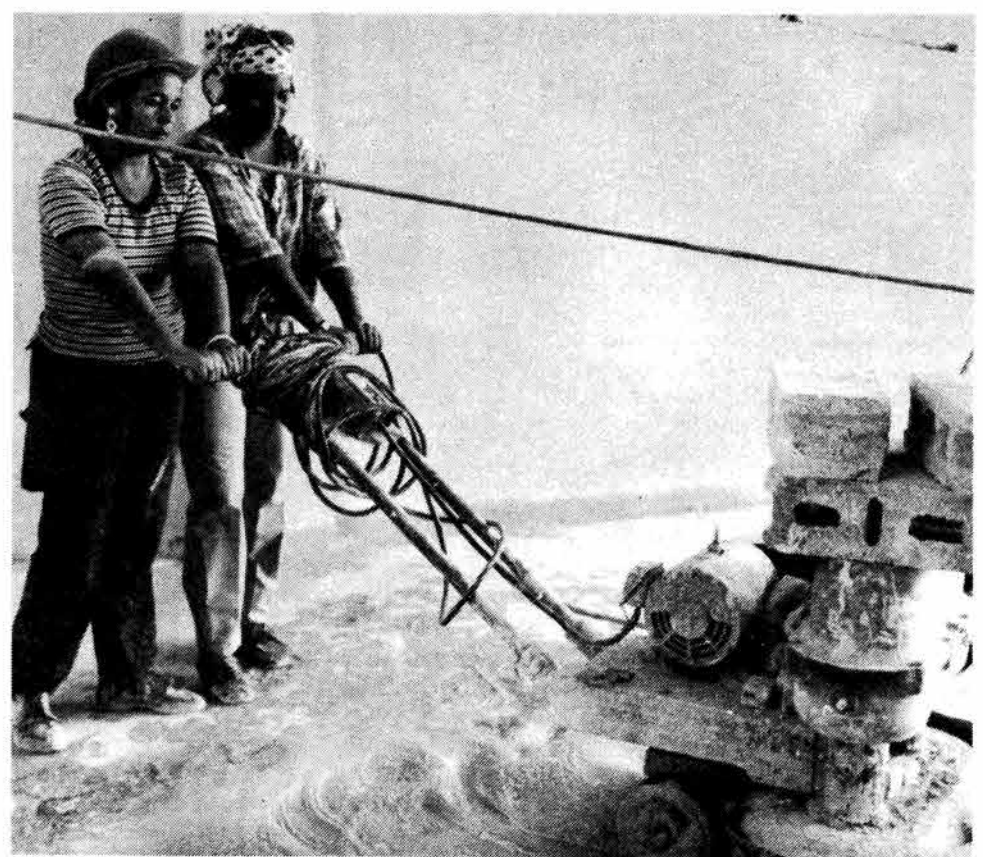
"Why are you here?" I asked Blanca, a young mother of two children. "I wanted a change," she said. "And I really like it."

"It's happening all over," said an older worker. We are building apartments, hospitals, many things. Gloria added, "I'm going to help build an apartment building after we're finished here."

"It's solving problems we've had in Cuba," explained another worker. "We had stopped building day-care centers, but now we're building many, many more."

This led to a discussion of what Cubans call their "process of rectification," an important turning point in the revolution that focuses on drawing Cuban workers and farmers more deeply into taking responsibility for and running society on every level. They explained that rectification was "a new way of doing things — fighting corruption, waste, and inefficiency." And, added a quiet older man, "it includes the work we are doing here, work not just for individual gain, but for the good of society, of all."

The brigadistas didn't want to talk only about Cuba. Showered with questions about Canada, I explained that despite the wealth and high level of economic development in Canada, more than 1 million children live in poverty and there are growing numbers of people who are homeless. Several younger brigade members were visibly shocked. One muttered, "That's incredible." One of the older workers said,



Federation of Cuban Women
Women members of construction brigade. Tens of thousands of Cubans are part of volunteer labor movement that is building day-care centers, housing, hospitals throughout country.

"It's capitalism." Around the table heads nodded in agreement.

My time with this enthusiastic, optimistic crew of workers was a high point of my trip to Cuba. The confidence in their revolution and in the future was irrepressible.

I left Cuba reluctantly. It was even more jarring to open the *Toronto Star* just after

my return and read about a wing of a Toronto hospital threatened with closure due to lack of government funds. Another article described the acute day-care crisis in Toronto, and a third reported on three workers evicted from their apartment who were fighting the city for the right to live under a bridge.

'Hospitals, highways, factories completed on time'

"Just a few days ago," reported the May 15 issue of *Granma Weekly Review*, published by the Communist Party of Cuba, "five important public health projects were opened in Havana by President Fidel Castro: the Elpidio Berovides teaching polyclinic, the emergency wards of the Luis Díaz Soto Higher Institute of Military Medicine, the Carlos J. Finlay Hospital, the Salvador Allende Medical School, and the Eye Consecutive Microsurgery Center."

Under the headline "Projects finished on time," the newspaper pointed to these and other completed works as examples of the increased speed and improved quality of construction work since the government resumed encouraging the formation of volunteer construction minibrigades. *Granma Weekly Review* noted that up to two years ago construction on projects like this dragged on for a long time.

The Berovides polyclinic, completed in 11 months, provides medical care in 10 specialties, plus dental services. The Luis Díaz Soto Higher Institute and the Finlay Hospital are equipped to treat children and adults in all specialties.

The medical school, dedicated to the memory of murdered Chilean President Salvador Allende, has enrolled 1,585 students and has dormitory space for 640 boarders.

The article also cited examples from Cuba's Pinar del Río Province. Two lanes of the 146-kilometer Havana-Pinar del Río expressway were finished three months ahead of schedule, as the workers had pledged.

The San Julián reservoir in San Cristóbal municipality in Pinar del Río Province, which has a 24.2 million cubic meter capacity and will be used to flood rice paddies and irrigate other crops, was also finished and put into operation ahead of schedule.

Also in Pinar del Río Province, work was completed on the intake and bypass sections of the Paso Viejo-El Punto Canal, the liquid fodder factory in Soroa, the

Santa Clara-Herradura Canal, the El Jobito cattle-raising center, a minihydroelectric power plant in Sagua, the Puerto Esperanza No. 3 minidam, Pinar del Río telephone exchange, Pinar No. 3 oil well, a construction blocks factory in the capital city of Pinar del Río, and the San Andrés dairy in Caiguanabo.

Staying ahead of schedule "required longer workdays," *Granma* pointed out, "10 or 11 hours plus weekends."

Guevara's 'Socialism and Man in Cuba' reissued

Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia in Sydney, Australia, has just published a new edition of *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara. The 48-page pamphlet includes Guevara's "Socialism and Man in Cuba" and Cuban President Fidel Castro's speech of Oct. 8, 1987, marking the 20th anniversary of Guevara's death.

Socialism and Man in Cuba was written by Che Guevara in 1965 in the form of a letter to the editor of an Uruguayan weekly. It summarizes the different stages that the Cuban revolution passed through, the relationship between a revolutionary party and the workers and peasants, the new social consciousness that began developing among workers and farmers after they had taken power, and the role of voluntary labor and internationalism in that process.

Castro's speech from last October is now available for the first time in pamphlet form in English.

The pamphlet is available for \$1.95 from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage and handling.

It is also available from Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, P.O. Box 37, Leichhardt, Sydney NSW 2040, Australia, or from Pathfinder, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England.

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The June issue of PM features an article on the demonstration of 60,000 held on May Day by workers and peasants in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador. After eight years of civil war, the struggle of working people against military repression and for a decent life has deepened.

The article gives a firsthand account of the events leading up to the May Day demonstration and of the deteriorating living conditions faced by Salvadoran workers and peasants and the daily terror they face.



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Fighting in Lebanon reflects division among regime's foes

BY HARRY RING

About 800 Syrian troops moved into areas in the southern suburbs of Beirut May 27 as part of a truce between contending militias based among Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiite Muslims. The cease-fire was reached May 26, after negotiations involving leaders of the militias and Syrian and Iranian officials.

The truce came after several weeks of fighting in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital, during which the Amal militia was dealt a jolting setback by Hezbollah (Party of God). Hezbollah gained control of 80 percent of the densely populated, impoverished working-class district. More than 300 people were killed and 1,000 wounded in the fighting.

About 7,000 Syrian troops had ringed the area of the fighting 12 days earlier.

Amal, headed by Nabih Berri, a cabinet minister in the Lebanese government, has the backing of the Syrian government.

The fight between Amal and Hezbollah for control of the southern Beirut suburbs of Shiya and Ghobeiri erupted in early May after Amal drove Hezbollah from areas it controlled in southern Lebanon.

Since the mid-1970s, Lebanon has been torn by civil war and by Israeli military aggression and occupation.

The fighting between Amal and Hezbollah highlights the big divisions among those in Lebanon who favor altering the country's reactionary and discriminatory political setup. This system is a legacy of French colonial rule. France occupied Lebanon after World War I and yielded to

demands for independence at the end of World War II.

The French rulers gerrymandered the border between Lebanon and Syria in an effort to guarantee a Christian majority in Lebanon. They granted a privileged position to capitalist layers among the Maronite Christians, and counted on the Maronites to block the aspirations of the people to end colonial domination.

Before conceding Lebanese independence, the French imperialists oversaw the setting up of a political system in which the president and army chief of staff had to be Maronite Christians, with members of other religious groups holding lesser offices. This remains in force today, even though Muslims now make up 60 percent of Lebanon's 2.6 million people.

Most of the capitalists and landlords in Lebanon are Christians, while most workers and farmers are Muslims.

Among Lebanon's Muslims, the Shiites include many of the poorest and most discriminated-against working people. The Shiites, wrote *Miami Herald* correspondent Dan Williams a few years ago, "used to be taken for granted as the silent sufferers, the garbage collectors, the waiters, the mechanics, the maids, the poor farmers."

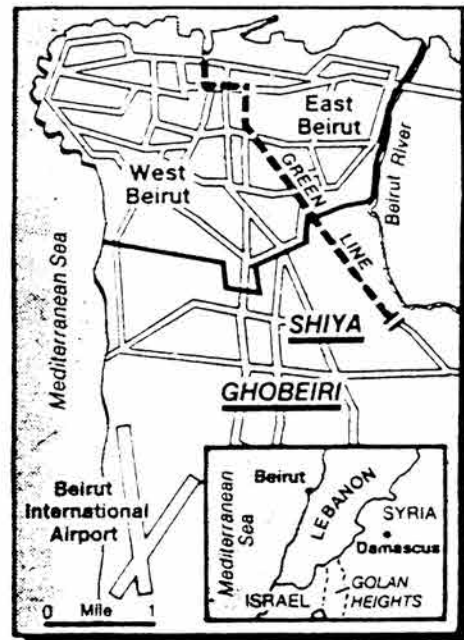
Both Amal and Hezbollah want changes in the political setup that the French imperialists imposed. Hezbollah, which draws inspiration from the Iranian revolution and is backed by forces in the Iranian government, calls for ousting the existing government and establishing an "Islamic republic." The leaders of Amal, backed by the Syrian government, favor reforming the existing political system.

The Syrian government has had troops in Lebanon for more than a decade. The Damascus regime views Lebanon as a buffer against Israeli attacks on Syria and seeks to block efforts to impose an ultrarightist regime allied to Israel. At the same time, the Syrian government opposes struggles by the working people aimed at overturning the government.

While the Syrian government wants to check Hezbollah, it has sought to avoid direct responsibility for attempting to suppress it. The Damascus regime also wants to avoid a rupture in its relations with Iran.

Although other governments of Arab countries have backed the Iraqi rulers in their war against Iran, the government of Syria has maintained an alliance with Iran. It receives 20,000 barrels of oil free each year from Iran and additional amounts at subsidized prices.

The suffering of the Lebanese people has



G.E. forces layoffs as strike ends

BY VALERIE LIBBY

CINCINNATI — Seven thousand workers voted here recently to end their strike against General Electric Co. after eight weeks on the picket line. The strikers included members of the United Auto Workers and the International Association of Machinists.

Workers struck the sprawling jet engine plant in February to protest a company job combination plan, subcontracting of work, and a January layoff of 300 union members.

As workers began reporting back to work, GE management showed its arrogance and bad faith by immediately violating the back-to-work agreement.

The terms of the pact had been reported to an April 7 meeting of more than 5,000 members of Auto Workers' Local 647. The provisions are:

- The original company proposal to combine 84 jobs into 32 will instead consolidate them to 40.

- The company put in writing that no one would be laid off due to job combinations. To assure this, a company-union committee would be established to investigate all proposed layoffs. No layoffs could occur until this committee concludes a full

investigation. Those facing layoff due to a job consolidation would be absorbed into the work force, and be paid at their higher pay rate for two years if a job downgrade occurred.

- A special union-company committee was established to recommend return of work previously subcontracted out.

- No one currently employed would suffer a cut in pay if the pay rate of their job was reduced under the job consolidation plan. A special company-union committee was established to settle disputed job rates. Until 1991 entry level pay would remain at the higher rate for all those currently employed and laid off in January.

While most members of the United Auto Workers were skeptical about company promises, 75 percent voted in favor of the proposal and going back to work.

But as the first workers reported back, the company began handing out temporary layoff notices for one to two weeks to more than 800 union members. It also announced permanent layoffs for some 300 union workers.

Valerie Libby is a member of United Auto Workers Local 647.



Hezbollah militia members in southern Beirut

been magnified by attacks from Israel. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, driven from their homeland by the Israeli rulers, live in refugee camps in Lebanon. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is strongly supported by the residents of the camps.

Israeli troops and bombers frequently attack Lebanese towns and villages, claiming that their targets are "terrorists" and those Lebanese who collaborate with the Palestinians.

In 1982, Lebanon suffered a massive invasion by Israeli forces. Today, the Israelis still have effective control of a strip of

Lebanese territory along the border.

Before the current clashes with Hezbollah, Amal waged a three-year military campaign against two Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, where the PLO had strong popular support. This dovetailed with the Syrian government's drive to break the independence of the PLO.

After failing to capture the camps, the Amal leaders lifted the siege in January. They declared this an act of solidarity with the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Leaders of Hezbollah criticized Amal's attacks on the Palestinians.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Apartheid regime threatens Zimbabwe

"Zimbabwe is indeed directly and indirectly involved in the export of revolution and terrorism to South Africa," charged South African Defense Minister Gen. Magnus Malan. Malan threatened, "We will not accept the export of revolution. We will fight in every conceivable, conventional and unconventional way, if this is necessary."

The threat of South African military action against Zimbabwe came during a recent debate in the segregated houses of parliament in Cape Town. As part of its "reform" of apartheid the regime of President Pieter Botha established three chambers of parliament in November 1983 — one white, one Asian, and one Coloured. The white chamber has ultimate approval and veto over legislation adopted by the other two.

On numerous occasions the South African military has carried out armed attacks against the neighboring independent African countries known as the Frontline States. The apartheid regime has claimed these attacks were necessary to strike at the guerrilla bases of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia. The ANC and SWAPO have been leading the fight for the overthrow of the apartheid regime and for a democratic, nonracial South Africa; and for the independence of Namibia.

Malan complained that Zimbabwe's support for the guerrillas had increased and that the country was being used as a major conduit for insurgents and weapons. Zimbabwe now has 10,000 troops in neighboring Mozambique to help combat the forces of the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo).

S. Korea to pay more to maintain U.S. bases

The U.S. government has asked the South Korean government to increase its share of the logistical and financial costs of maintaining U.S. armed forces stationed in that country. The move is part of Washington's ongoing effort to get its allies to share a bigger part of the costs and responsibility for policing the world.

According to the May 12 *New York Times*, Deputy Secretary of Defense William Taft said he asked the Seoul

government to increase its spending for construction of new military facilities. South Korean government officials reported that Washington wants them to nearly double their military construction budget to \$60 million annually.

South Korea spent almost \$287 million last year to support the U.S. military presence, while providing more than \$1.5 billion in indirect subsidies. Washington provided another \$1 billion for the South Korean military.

The *Times* reported that Taft got a less than enthusiastic response to the added request that South Korea also contribute to the U.S. military effort in the Persian Gulf and to an economic aid program for the Philippines. The South Korean government reportedly said that it "could not afford such efforts outside its borders." Seoul's defense budget exceeds 5.5 percent of the country's Gross National Product.

Norway 'missing' more tons of atomic water

Norwegian officials charged May 24 that they believe a 12.5-ton shipment of heavy water exported to Romania in 1986 might have been diverted to another country. Heavy water, or deuterium oxide, is used in the operation of nuclear power plants and can be a key ingredient in a series of steps to make nuclear weapons.

On May 4 Norwegian authorities confirmed that 15 tons of the chemical sold to a West German company, Rohstoff Einfuhr, in 1983 was diverted to an undisclosed destination. (See *Militant* May 20, 1988.) In a May 6 statement the company acknowledged diverting the shipment but said that Norwegian officials were aware of the change.

Some reports have said that the nuclear water might have been diverted to Israel. Norway is involved in a separate dispute with Israel over more than 20 tons of heavy water shipped to that country under a 1959 agreement. At the time, Israeli officials agreed to use the material for peaceful purposes. But according to the *New York Times*, some U.S. nuclear experts believe that Israel used the heavy water in the production of nuclear weapons at its reactor at Dimona.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, 20 tons of heavy water would be sufficient to run a nuclear reactor for a year and produce enough plutonium to conduct a nuclear explosion.

CALIFORNIA

Davis

Cuba: An Eyewitness Report on the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Cathy Sedwick, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers. Wed., June 8, noon. UC Davis, M.U. South Patio. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance, Central America Action Committee, General Union of Palestinian Students. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

San Francisco

National Day of Protest to End Israeli Occupation. March and rally. Sat., June 4. Assemble 11:30 a.m. at United Nations Plaza, march at noon, 1 p.m. rally at Union Square. For more information call Palestine Solidarity Committee (415) 861-1552.

Peace Day. West Coast march and rally for peace, jobs, and justice at home and abroad to mark the United Nations Third Special Session on Disarmament. Sat., June 11. Assemble 11 a.m. at UN Plaza (near Civic Center BART), march 12 noon, rally 1 p.m. at Union Square. Sponsor: Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice. For more information call (415) 626-8053.

Juneteenth Sale of Malcolm X Books. 20% off through June 19 at Pathfinder Books, 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). For more information call (415) 282-6255.

FLORIDA

Miami

Socialist Educational Weekend. "Rally in Support of Self-determination for Palestine." Sat., June 4, 7:30 p.m. Speakers to be announced. History of the Palestinian Liberation Struggle. Two classes. "Roots of the Crisis." Sun., June 5, 1 p.m.; "Current Upsurge: Youth in the Frontline of Battle." Sun., June 5, 3 p.m. Classes by Fred Feldman, *Militant* staff writer. All events held at 137 NE 54th St. Translation to Spanish. Donation: \$2 per event, or \$5 for weekend. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Current Stage of the Nicaraguan Revolution: an Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Roberto Kopec, Managua Bureau correspondent of

Militant and Perspectiva Mundial. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 4, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Support the Socialist Workers Campaign. Sat., June 4, 10-11 a.m., join in distributing the campaign newspapers, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*; 1 p.m., march with campaign supporters at Palestinian rights demonstration, Daley Plaza; 3-5 p.m., campaign headquarters open house to launch Socialist Workers campaign of Omari Musa for mayor, 6826 S Stony Island Ave. 6 p.m. forum, "An Action Program to Fight for Jobs and Justice." Speaker: Omari Musa. Translation to Spanish. Forum donation: \$3. Sponsor: Illinois Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

National Day of Protest Against Israeli Occupation. Sat., June 4, 1 p.m. Daley Plaza (Dearborn and Washington). Sponsor: Palestine Solidarity Committee. For more information call (312) 342-2986.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The Defeat of the Contras: Reconstructing the New Nicaragua. Speakers: Ted Klitzke, dean emeritus, Maryland College Institute of Art, visited Nicaragua in 1987; Leslie Salgado, Howard County Friends of Central America; Glen Swanson, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers; Morgan State University student who participated in Martin Luther King Brigade to Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. Sat., June 4. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner, \$3, forum \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Rally to Protest Israeli Repression. Sat., June 4, noon, at Federal Building. Sponsor: Palestine Solidarity Committee; others.

St. Paul

Defend Abortion Rights at St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center. A panel discussion. Sat., June 4, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

South Africa: The Struggle Against Apartheid Continues. Speakers to be announced. Sat., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

The Defeat of the Contras and the Reconstruction of Nicaragua. Speaker: Bob Allen, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 4, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

The Crisis Facing Working People: Program to Fight Back. Speaker: Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 10. Reception 6:30, program 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers '88 Campaign. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

The Case Against Surrogate Motherhood. Speakers: representatives of Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

National Day of Protest to End Israeli Occupation. Demonstrate, Sat., June 4. Assemble 12 noon at army recruiting station (43rd and Broadway); march 1 p.m. down Broadway past Israeli government offices; rally 3 p.m. Union Square. Sponsor: Palestine Solidarity Committee. For more information call (212) 964-7299.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg 35th Annual

Commemoration. Sun., June 19, 3-5:30 p.m. Community Church 40 E. 35th St. Premiere of Rosenberg Cantata "We Are Innocent," composed by Leonard Lehman, based on prison letters of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. Call or write for reserved tickets. (Join demonstration at U.S. Courthouse at Foley Square, Fri., June 17, 12 to 2 p.m.) Sponsor: National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case. For more information call (212) 228-4500.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Legalized Murder: Stop the Death Penalty. Panel discussion with representative of Prison and Jail Project. Sun., June 5, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Celebrate Wind-Up of Socialist Petitioning Drive. Hear *Militant* editor Margaret Jayko on "The Defeat of the Contras: Reconstructing the New Nicaragua." Sat., June 4, 7 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Ohio Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (216) 861-6152.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Current Stage of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Sat., June 4, 7 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

Pittsburgh

Why Cuban Troops Are In Angola. Speaker: Al Duncan, Socialist Workers Party, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2350. Sun., June 5, 4 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

National Day of Protest to End Israeli Occupation. Sat., June 4. Assemble 12:30 p.m. at Our Park (Live Oak and Alabama). Sponsored by Palestine Solidarity Committee. For more information call (713) 668-2145.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Nicaragua Today After the Contra War. Speakers: Regula Burke, visited Nicaragua in May; Scott Breen, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 4, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Drug Trade: a Highly Profitable Capitalist Business. Speakers: representatives of Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 4, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

'Militant' Prisoner Fund

The Militant's special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who need help paying for the paper. Please send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

All out for June 11 peace demonstrations

Continued from front page

Local 1150; and Bill Nuchow, secretary-treasurer of IBT Local 840.

The labor contingent is one of many being built for the June 11 march. There will also be an anti-intervention contingent, which will include organizations focusing on opposing U.S. intervention in El Salvador and Panama, and demanding that Washington provide massive aid for the postwar reconstruction of Nicaragua. Others include anti-apartheid contingents; one voicing solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people; another organized by the National Network of Indochina Activists, which favors an end to U.S. efforts to isolate and destabilize Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea; and a contingent demanding "Money for AIDS, not for war."

The march will begin at 11:30 a.m. and proceed to the Great Lawn in Central Park where the main rally will be held.

Those who have agreed to speak at the assembly area or the final rally include: Coretta Scott King; Stanley Hill; Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins; Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Steven Wise

Free Synagogue; Edward Said, a Columbia University professor who is a member of the Palestine National Council; a representative of the African National Congress of South Africa; and the Soviet co-chair of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Also speaking will be Edith Ballantyne, secretary general of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Thomas Gumbleton, a bishop from the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Detroit; Digna Sanchez of the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families; and Leslie Cagan, coordinator of the SSD-III National Coalition, which initiated and built the New York and San Francisco actions.

The New York march will also include a range of performers reflecting the political themes. These include the Sechaba Singers, a cultural group of the African National Congress; Duo Guardabarranco of Nicaragua; Palestinian National Troupe; Pete Seeger; Olatunji and the Drums of Passion; The Human Condition; the Roy Brown group; Women of the Calabash; and others.

Participants in the San Francisco march and rally will assemble at UN Plaza at 11:00 a.m. At noon they will march to Union Square in the downtown area, led by survivors of the U.S. nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Those scheduled to address the rally include Yelena Petroskova, an Olympic medal winner who is vice-president of the Soviet Peace Committee; Gus Newport, former mayor of Berkeley, California; peace activist Vivian Hallinan; and Mario Obledo, cochair of the National Rainbow Coalition.

The New York march and rally is being built by coalitions across the eastern half of the United States, from New England to Florida. Buses are coming from as far away as Minneapolis, and trainloads of supporters will be coming in from New Jersey and New York State, as well as from Connecticut and other areas.

Coalitions in such cities as Portland, Oregon; Seattle; and Salt Lake City, Utah, are campaigning for foes of war and nuclear weapons to come to the San Francisco march and rally.

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Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and Pathfinder bookstores.

ALABAMA: Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 1306 1st Ave. N. Zip: 35203. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 1809 W. Indian School Rd. Zip: 85015. Tel: (602) 279-5850. **Tucson:** YSA, c/o Ursula Kolb, P.O. Box 853. Zip: 85702-0852. Tel: (602) 795-2146.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** SWP, YSA, 3702 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 420-1165. **San Francisco:** SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255. **Seaside:** YSA, c/o Brian Olewude, 1790 Havana St. Zip: 93955. Tel: (408) 394-7948.

FLORIDA: Miami: SWP, YSA, 137 NE 54th St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 370486. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** YSA, P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 877-9338.

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INDIANA: Muncie: YSA, c/o Brian Johnson, 619 1/2 N. Dill St. Zip: 47303. Tel: (317) 747-8543.

IOWA: Des Moines: SWP, YSA, 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: YSA, P.O. Box 53224. Zip: 70153. Tel: (504) 484-6418.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst: YSA, c/o David Warshawsky, P.O. Box 1383, Hampshire College. Zip: 01002. Tel: (413) 549-4843.

Boston: SWP, YSA, 605 Massachusetts Ave. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: SWP, YSA, 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Austin: SWP, YSA, 407 1/2 N. Main. Zip: 55912. Tel: (507) 433-3461. **Twin Cities:** SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4725 Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0224.

St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA: Omaha: SWP, YSA, 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341. **New Brunswick:** YSA, c/o Keith Jordan, 149 Somerset St. Zip: 08903. Tel: (201) 828-1874.

NEW YORK: Albany: YSA, c/o Lisa Sandberg, 120 Lark St. Zip: 12210. Tel: (518) 463-8001. **Mid-Hudson:** YSA, Box 1042, Annandale. Zip: 12504. Tel: (914) 758-0408. **New York:** SWP, YSA, 79 Leonard St. Zip: 10013. Tel: (212) 219-3679 or 925-1668. **Pathfinder Books,** 226-8445. **Stony Brook:** YSA, P.O. Box 1384, Patchogue, N.Y. Zip: 11772.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: SWP, YSA, 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** YSA, P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 2732 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, c/o Mark Mateja, Edinboro University of Pa. Zip:

16412. Tel: (814) 398-2754. **Philadelphia:** SWP, YSA, 2744 Germantown Ave. Zip: 19133. Tel: (215) 225-0213. **Pittsburgh:** SWP, YSA, 4905 Penn Ave. Zip: 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Tel: (512) 452-3923. **Houston:** SWP, YSA, 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: SWP, YSA, 255 E. Main St., No. 1. Mailing address: P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** SWP, YSA, 147 E. 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Portsmouth: YSA, P.O. Box 6538, Churchland Station. Zip: 23707.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: SWP, YSA, 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: SWP, YSA, 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** SWP, YSA, 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

Reading, writing, and revolution — The Florida House passed a bill allowing college students to gain credits by teaching adults to



Harry Ring

read. Objection was registered by Rep. Luis Morse, a one-time Havana resident. He pointed out that one of the first things Fidel did was to send students into the countryside to teach people to read. This same shrewd tactic, Morse

noted, has been used by the Sandinistas in Nicaragua as well.

Sure, why talk about it — For 12 years, British officials have concealed the fact that there is a basic design flaw in the country's advanced gas-cooled nuclear reactors. One result, according to the *Guardian* of London, is that the plants have to be refueled in such a way that each time — several times a year — up to 80 tons of "mildly" radioactive carbon dioxide gas escapes.

They might take aim — Texas education officials ordered the school district in Nacogdoches to stop hanging bricks around youngsters' necks to make them remem-

ber to bring supplies to school.

And how are you doing? — U.S. sales of Rolls-Royces and Bentleys jumped 6.4 percent the first quarter of this year.

Down home cooking — "Our primary interest has been to improve sales performance on a per-store basis, but eventually we will use our computers for menu optimization and figuring cost data." — Pizza Hut prez Steven Reinemund.

Progress report — Recognizing that the quality of medical care is not enhanced by having hospital residents and interns work shifts of

up to 36 hours, New York officials are weighing maximum shifts of 24 hours, with an "average" limit of 80 hours a week.

Them that has, gets — There are now more than 80,000 U.S. people with fortunes topping \$10 million, and their ranks are increasing by 20 percent a year. That's according to *Marketing to the Affluent* by Thomas Stanley. (He notes that the superrich tend to be more concerned about quality than price.)

Makes ya proud — By modest federal standards, 7.7 million U.S. families are living in substandard housing — that is, without electricity and adequate plumbing, or

without sewage facilities.

It's come to that? — "PARIS — The poof has popped, the bloom has faded and ruffles have relaxed as the more serious '40s and '50s silhouettes strut discreetly back into style. Last October's Black Monday snapped the lid shut on the candy-box fantasy styles, and the fashion world is back to reality." — Dispatch to the *Arizona Republic*.

So? — "Defense attorneys for three America West pilots charged with marijuana smuggling said... they have information indicating their clients were not smuggling drugs, just working for the CIA." — *Arizona Republic*.

Victimized Ford worker tours Britain's northwest

BY VINNIE MCINERNEY

MANCHESTER, England — "Paul Davidson is not alone in being victimized. The trade union and labor movement has to rally around the campaign to maximize publicity, raise it in Parliament, and call those responsible for such blatant acts of victimization to account."

So wrote Tony Lowe, a unionist fired for his role in a year-long strike at Senior Colman's engineering plant here.

Lowe sent his greetings to a New International forum on "Thatcher's war on democratic rights," held here at the end of May.

Davidson spoke at the event. He is a unionist fighting to get his job back at the Ford Motor Co. after being fired in April because of his trade union and political activities. Other speakers included Paul MacMichael from the Northwest Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Equality, and forum organizer Andy Buchanan.

Ford uses information provided by agencies that spy on the labor movement, such

as the Economic League and the Special Branch, to screen potential or newly hired employees.

Davidson was one of 17 political activists who were red-baited and hounded in the press after being fired at British Leyland's Cowley car plant in 1983.

The forum was a major activity during Davidson's four-day tour to the northwest industrial cities of Manchester and Liverpool.

During the tour 10 meetings were held with workers in local factories. Davidson explained that by "organizing and protesting Ford's action, trade unions can make a difference. Through this campaign we can help make secret vetting and victimization

of trade unionists an unacceptable practice," he said.

Davidson also met with Labour Party members of Parliament Terry Field, Tony Benn, and Tony Lloyd, who gave him their support.

Another new supporter is John Tucker, a prominent national leader of Davidson's union, the Amalgamated Engineering Union. "These victimizations are outrageous and growing," Tucker explained. "If Ford gets away with this, where are our democratic rights then?"

"This thing, secret file or whatever, has been following you around from job to job," Tucker said, praising Davidson's determination to fight back.

Davidson also spoke at the annual meeting of the Northwest Miners Defense Campaign where he gained the backing of Lancashire-area National Union of Mineworkers President Frank King and Betty Heathfield, a leader of Women Against Pit Closures.

In her address to the meeting, Heathfield related Davidson's sacking to her own experience with victimization. "The bosses infiltrate their people into industry to disrupt us," Heathfield said, recounting that she's been on the Economic League's list since she was 17.

Davidson was also able to meet with union leaders from Ford's Halewood plant in Liverpool, and with Viraj Mendis, a political activist the British government is trying to deport to Sri Lanka.

Improvements come to El Cuá, Nicaragua

Continued from Page 9

\$250,000 in contributions for the rural development project in Cuá-Bocay.

These funds have already paid for a pickup and a transport truck, the machine shop building, a milling machine, lathe, and other tools. The fund is also providing a subsidy to train local people as surveyors, welders, machinists, and mechanics.

Two other U.S. volunteers — welder Eric Robinson and machinist Edwin Keyt — are helping to set up the machine shop and beginning to train five Nicaraguans to take over the operation. The purpose of the machine shop is to produce the turbine and other parts needed for the hydroelectric plant in Bocay. Meanwhile, the shop makes a little money repairing ox carts — the main means of transport here — flat irons, and small mechanical presses used to extract syrup from sugarcane.

Another group of U.S. volunteers has been working at the El Cedro collective farm near San José de Bocay. These are construction brigades organized by the Veterans Peace Action Teams (VPAT), a group organized by U.S. war veterans.

Thirty-five people have participated in five one-month brigades since June 1987, said Frederick Jacobs, VPAT coordinator at the El Cedro farm. VPAT first rebuilt the health clinic at El Cedro, which had been destroyed by a contra attack. Since then, they have been building latrines to help improve sanitation. They plan to begin construction of a school soon.

Coordinating their projects with UNAG, the veterans' peace group has a long-term perspective of organizing brigades and raising money for a series of construction projects on this and other collective farms in the area.

Massive aid needed

This is only the beginning of what one small area of Nicaragua needs to recover from the contra war and to overcome the effects of imperialist domination.

People here need more and better roads, coffee-processing plants, and housing for peasants who will be able to return to their land as the fighting ends. They need drink-

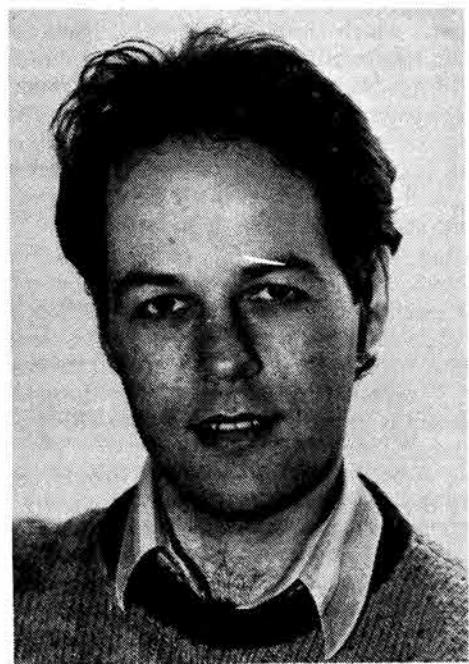
ing water, electricity for the other towns, collective farms, and individual dwellings scattered across the mountains; and technical aid to increase productivity of the land. The list is long.

And El Cuá-Bocay is not that different from many other rural areas of Nicaragua.

Evelyn Delgado, a former worker at the Rolter shoe factory in Managua, explained the challenge clearly. She is one of a group of vanguard workers, members of the Sandinista Workers Federation, who quit their jobs in the city and came to El Cuá to join collective farms and lend their experience to help move things forward in the countryside.

"Now that the war has stopped," Delgado said, "we have time to work, to advance."

To be able to advance, however, the Nicaraguans need massive foreign aid. For the residents of El Cuá and the surrounding mountains, the success of an international campaign for large-scale government aid for Nicaragua will be decisive.



Paul Davidson

G.M. Cookson

Final push in circulation drive

Continued from front page

job to industrial workers and from tables in working-class communities.

This has been the case in New York, where nearly 250 copies of the magazine have already been sold or placed on consignment in bookstores and newsstands.

"New York teams take extra copies of the magazine with them when they campaign on Saturday or during the week," Jerry Freiwirth explained. "The teams look around for good locations in working-class communities where the magazine can be placed."

"This has led to many workers being introduced to the *New International* who wouldn't have been exposed to it otherwise. We count the consignments towards our goal," Freiwirth added, "since they almost always end up being sold."

The drive, which has been lagging behind schedule, got a solid boost during the recently completed May 21-27 target week.

New York City registered the largest

combined total, selling 244 during the target week plus another 68 on May 28.

Other impressive target week totals included the 145 sold in Los Angeles, 113 in Newark, 53 in Phoenix, 52 in Boston, 43 in Miami, and 35 in Seattle.

Robert Dees reports that a joint team of campaign supporters from Newark and Philadelphia sold 12 *PM* subscriptions and 20 individual copies to farm workers in southern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania.

Phoenix and Price, Utah, distributors traveled to Kayenta, Arizona, where they sold nine subscriptions and a *New International* on the Navajo reservation in this coal-mining area.

Seattle supporters sold most of their subscriptions while campaigning for Dan Fein, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate.

If you want to join us during the June 4-15 countdown, look us up in the directory on page 12 or contact the Militant business office at (212) 929-3486.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE June 9, 1978

NEW YORK — The largest peace demonstration in the United States since the end of the Vietnam War took place here May 27. A crowd estimated at 15,000 to 20,000 marched to the United Nations, where a session on disarmament was being held, to demand a halt to the arms race, nuclear weapons, and nuclear power plants.

The majority of marchers were young. Groups participated from antinuke organizations, to religious groups such as Catholics for Peace and the Quakers, to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the National Organization for Women.

Delegations of marchers came from Rocky Flats, Colorado, where 6,000 recently demonstrated against nuclear weapons, and from Bangor, Washington, site of a May 21 protest of 5,000 against the Trident submarine base there. Members of the Clamshell Alliance, the New England antinuke coalition, and the Palmetto Alliance in the South-east also participated.

The largest international contingent in the march came from Japan.



SAN FRANCISCO — On May 26, a "Freedom in Birmingham" march drew 30,000 people to a rally in City Hall Plaza. The march was sponsored by leading church and labor organizations and had the sanction of the city government. Mayor Christopher proclaimed that Sunday "Human Rights Day."

The civil rights march was headed by Harry Bridges, president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, the sculptor Benny Bufano, and numerous clergymen. Walking in rows of 10 abreast, the marchers displayed such signs as "We march in unity for freedom in Birmingham and equality in San Francisco."

Build June 11 peace actions!

The national marches and rallies against nuclear weapons and U.S. intervention abroad that will take place in New York and San Francisco June 11 are important actions for working people in this country and around the world.

In the days leading up to these protests, supporters of the broad national coalition building the actions are stepping up efforts to assure the biggest possible turnout.

The *Militant* urges every unionist opposed to U.S. military intervention and nuclear weapons, every activist in organizations solidarizing with the struggles of the peoples of Central America, and every opponent of Washington's nuclear arsenal and military buildup to attend the New York or San Francisco protests.

Actions like the June 11 marches play an important role in getting out the truth to working people about the dangers of nuclear weapons, nuclear testing, and nuclear power.

The participation in New York and San Francisco of Japanese survivors of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will serve as a powerful reminder that the U.S. government is the only one to have used nuclear weapons.

Threats by Washington to again use these instruments

of mass extermination have often accompanied U.S. war moves — in the Korean war in the 1950s, in the 1962 blockade of Cuba, in the Vietnam War, and on other occasions.

The June 11 demonstrations are an opportunity to win more supporters for the demand that Washington stop testing nuclear weapons and junk its nuclear arsenal.

The marches will spread the word about Washington's continuing military interventions around the world — from Angola, where the U.S. backs the South African apartheid regime in its war against Angola; to El Salvador, where it bankrolls the regime's war against the Salvadoran people; to Panama, where the White House arrogantly asserts its right to decide who will govern; to Southeast Asia, where it arms groups trying to destabilize the government of Kampuchea; to Afghanistan, where Washington continues to arm rightist bands; to the Persian Gulf, where a vast U.S.-led armada threatens more attacks on Iran.

The June 11 protests are an opportunity for foes of the U.S.-organized contra war to mobilize support for the demand that the U.S. and other governments provide massive aid for the reconstruction of Nicaragua.

All out in New York and San Francisco on June 11!

End all U.S. aid to Israel!

The June 4 national protests in cities across the United States against the Israeli government's occupation and repression in the West Bank and Gaza are an important step in building solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian and Arab peoples; and in the fight to end U.S. aid to the Israeli settler regime.

This date also commemorates the 21st anniversary of the June 1967 Israeli war against Jordan, Syria, and Egypt, in which the invaders seized East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula. (The Israeli regime withdrew from Sinai in exchange for the Egyptian government's diplomatic recognition and acceptance of the other Israeli conquests in a 1979 treaty.)

Supported by a broad array of unionists, Black and Latino rights activists, fighters for women's equality, opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America, and peace groups, this protest is testimony to the fact that increasing numbers of working people in the United States are taking a new look at the just struggle for Palestinian liberation.

Taking action against U.S. policy in the Middle East is especially important. Without the billions Israel receives in direct military and economic aid from Washington, it could not survive. Israel is slated to receive \$3 billion in U.S. government gifts, not loans, this year.

The struggle of the Arab people throughout the region for independence and self-determination is a mortal threat to the interests of U.S. bankers and oil barons. Washington helped set up Israel for one reason — to use it as a battering ram against the struggle of the Arab toilers. Working people in this country, who are exploited by the same U.S. bosses, have no stake in the continued financing of Israeli aggression.

Since the current uprising began in the West Bank and Gaza nearly six months ago the Israeli government, backed by Washington, has responded with beatings, imprisonments, deportations, and murders. The Israeli authorities have admitted to killing more than 200 people, many of them during demonstrations.

The June 4 protests also occur at a time when the leadership of the uprising in the occupied territories has called for strikes and demonstrations against U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is scheduled to visit the region.

These protest actions strengthen the potential for broader and larger actions in the United States and other countries in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle. We must continue to build protests demanding: End Israeli military rule over the West Bank and Gaza, and no more U.S. guns or dollars to Israel!

Old nuclear plants never die

The Long Island Lighting Co. (LILCO) and the government of New York State have reached agreement on shutting down the Shoreham Nuclear Power station. The agreement was announced May 27.

However, the plant will stand for many years yet. It cannot be cut up and hauled away because the nuclear waste created in building the Shoreham reactor during the three years when LILCO was permitted by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission to operate it at low power has not shut down — far from it. The plant will continue to emit deadly radiation for centuries and perhaps millennia.

And no one has come up with a safe place to put it.

Once they can no longer be efficiently used in the power-generating process, the uranium assemblies used in nuclear reactors at nuclear power plants are termed "spent fuel." This is a misleading term. The assemblies are removed not because they are "spent," but because they have become too radioactive to be used effectively.

At present this "spent fuel" is stored in the nuclear reactors themselves. There are now more than 55,000 "spent" reactor assemblies stored in 109 commercial reactors in the United States.

During 1988 another 6,000 used assemblies will accumulate.

All will remain potentially deadly for thousands of years.

The military is also generating an ocean of nuclear waste. More than 12 million cubic feet of it is now stored in underground facilities at four sites. It is accumulating at the rate of about 200,000 cubic feet per year.

Meanwhile the government is searching for a means of storage that can be credibly passed off as guaranteed to prevent leakage of radioactive poison into air and water. It is estimated that the effort will cost somewhere between \$21 billion and \$41 billion. Utility companies, which are required to pay part of the cost, have added \$500 million annually to customers' bills to cover their share.

For awhile, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant under construction in Carlsbad, New Mexico, was pointed to as a

foolproof facility. It was scheduled to begin receiving millions of barrels of waste in October.

But in January it was revealed that the "leak-proof" plant was rapidly filling with corrosive brine water leaking in from shafts leading to the surface and fissures in the walls. And if the brine water can leak in, the radiation can leak out.

The latest attempt to find a "leak-proof" storage area for nuclear wastes is focused on Yucca Mountain, Nevada. It was designated as the primary repository in legislation hurriedly adopted by Congress just before the last Christmas holiday.

Government geologists admit that rainwater will penetrate this facility, but claim that it will take thousands of years for the contaminated rainwater to reach the groundwater. That's only one problem, however. There are fears that the groundwater itself could potentially flood the facility.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has voiced fears that earthquake faults near this "leak-proof" site may have been reactivated by nuclear weapons tests that continue to take place nearby twice a month. This location lies between the site where the U.S. government explodes nuclear weapons of up to 150 kilotons and an area used by U.S. jets to practice aerial bombardment.

Sometimes the bombardiers make mistakes, such as when they dropped six 500-pound bombs on a Fish and Wildlife Service facility near Yucca Mountain.

Moreover, the low-altitude flight paths of the aircraft will take them over trains bearing radioactive wastes to Yucca Mountain.

The U.S. Department of Energy says it will be ready to begin storing radioactive wastes by the late 1990s. But many think the deadline will not be met.

What to do with the nuclear wastes that have already been accumulated is a grave problem, and no satisfactory solution is in sight.

But there is only one real answer to the question: What to do about nuclear waste? Stop producing it. The U.S. government should shut down the nuclear power plants, commercial and military. It must stop producing and testing nuclear weapons now.

How the 'Militant' saw the 1929 Wall Street crash

BY DOUG JENNESS

On Oct. 29, 1929, the bottom fell out of the New York stock market. This catastrophic decline in stock values reflected how deep the dislocations in the world capitalist economy had become. And it announced an international depression that would become more devastating than any other since the rise of capitalism.

The first issue of the *Militant* following the Wall Street crash ran a front-page statement. "Not all of the soothing assurances of [President] Herbert Hoover and the other spokesmen of the ruling class," it began, "can conceal

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

the fact that the stock market crash was a sharp blow to American capitalist stability, that revealed the anarchy and weakness of the industrial and financial structure of the present system."

The article pointed out that the stock market collapse "was not due solely to the speculative mania, which only aggravated the situation. Its roots go deeper."

The *Militant* editors explained that since the end of World War I, U.S. capitalism had enjoyed "a production increase such as has not had its parallel in history." This was accompanied "by an unprecedented export of capital."

But this tremendous productive capacity and output surpassed the growth of the market inside the United States. Moreover, the world market grew narrower as European capitalists, rehabilitated from the destruction of the war "largely by American dollars, continued to hammer at the doors of the American market with a demand for entry."

"The world and its markets, however, have certain physical limitations," the article emphasized. "The struggle for the market becomes keener every day."

The stock market crash, the *Militant* editors explained, "is a harbinger of the coming catastrophe." They pointed to two key aspects of this crisis: depression and war.

The *Militant* noted, "It has been evident for months that American industry has entered a stage of depression in some of its most important branches."

The *Militant*, which had begun publication in November 1928, had been following signs of this downturn. In a platform published in the Feb. 15, 1929, issue, the editors had explained, "American capitalism has been unable to overcome the serious depressions in agriculture and in the coal, oil, textile, lumber, shipping, and other industries, nor will it be able to prevent the coming decline in iron and steel and automobile industries."

Unemployment, which was already on the rise before the October crash, continued growing almost continuously, until it reached its peak of nearly 18 million in March 1933, according to some estimates. An article in the Jan. 4, 1930, *Militant* headlined, "Industrial Depression Growing," reported, "The sharp slow-down in American industry is already having a telling effect on the working class."

Unemployed workers soon took to the streets and began forming organizations to fight for relief and for jobs. In January 1930, supporters of the *Militant* helped build an action of 1,500 in St. Louis. And on March 6 *Militant* supporters joined united protests of jobless workers in New York, Detroit, and other cities.

The *Militant* explained that one way the employing class would attempt to overcome its economic difficulties would be to step up its pressure on U.S. workers "in the form of a more intense drive to lower wages, lengthen the workday, [and] speed up the workers."

Another step the capitalist rulers would take, the communist weekly said, was to increase tariffs. The papers' editors rejected the idea that this would benefit working people. It said these were "a desperate endeavor by the American boss class to broaden the basis of their own narrowing home market by keeping out the more cheaply produced goods of Europe." That more tariffs will not bring wage increases or other benefits to working people "is obvious from the whole past tariff history of the country."

This was to be shown again in the 1930s as a fierce trade war paralleled a devastating rise in joblessness and reduced wages.

The *Militant* editors also noted that intensifying competition in the world market would lead to "the inevitable armed conflict" for "a new division of the world market."

At that time the strongest economic and military powers were Britain and the United States. And it was assumed that the capitalist rulers in those countries would be the most likely antagonists in the coming imperialist war.

Events didn't turn out exactly that way — the British and U.S. ruling families became allies in the fight against their German, Italian, and Japanese rivals. But the basic point proved correct: the capitalist rulers would have to go to war. And it was only with this slaughter that the Great Depression was brought to an end.

British firm uses 'temporaries' to divide workers

BY BRIDGET ELTON
AND JIM GORDON

LONDON — British Telecom was a government-owned telephone and telecommunications monopoly until Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party government sold it to private investors in 1983. BT's capitalist owners are now on a drive to increase productivity.

Faced with a confident work force that had not granted major concessions in more than a decade, the bosses have

UNION TALK

been trying to divide us so they can begin extracting takebacks.

BT management first brought a number of workers to London from around the country on a "temporary basis." They were paid living-away-from-home allowances. This had the effect of giving them a higher take-home pay than the rest of us. Management hoped that this would be an inducement to get them to cross the picket line in the event of a strike.

Having made these preparations, BT then tried to impose numerous measures to increase productivity. Their demands included compulsory Saturday work, variable start and finish times for shifts, flexibility on job assignments, and reclassification of some jobs that would have resulted in pay cuts for many.

Refusing to buckle to these pressures, National Com-

munications Union (NCU) members went on a national strike. To management's great disappointment there was virtually no scabbing. The conservative NCU leadership ordered us back to work without a pay raise, but management's attempt to gut work rules was beaten back.

BT's next move was to begin hiring workers on short term contracts hoping they could pay them less than NCU members. But the NCU forced BT to pay them the same as the rest of us and began a drive to recruit them to the union.

The union was recently informed that 30 temporaries have again been taken on but now it appears that at least 200 have been working in London and the South East for several months.

Management has contracted these workers in the Republic of Ireland, and they are being brought over in groups. They work segregated from the rest of us, making it difficult to talk to them about the union.

NCU members work a 37 1/2 hour week. The temporaries are being forced to work 45, but they are being paid up to 30 percent more than the rest of us. Our contract expires on July 1. Management's goal is to have a group of workers available to cross the picket line if there's a strike.

Many NCU members correctly oppose management's use of short-term workers. But among a layer of our co-workers anti-Irish chauvinism has come to the surface. In discussions at work some NCU members have said we should be opposed to BT hiring Irish workers. Some have even gone as far as saying that job openings should be reserved for "British" workers.

This approach is deadly for the union. If we are going to make advances we have to break out of the framework of seeing ourselves as "British workers."

We should oppose management breaking union agreements. But we should militantly defend the right of workers to go anywhere in the world to find a job.

The Irish workers are trying to earn a living the same as the rest of us. Many of them are young — recruited right off the street. They probably didn't know that their terms and conditions were different from ours before they got here and many probably still don't know.

It is important for workers here to understand that the British ruling class and the British government have plundered Ireland for centuries. We play into the hands of the bosses if we let them pit us against workers in other countries. We can win the Irish workers to the fight against BT's takeback drive if we defend their right to be here in the first place. And because of their experiences in both Ireland and Britain, these workers can help play a leadership role in coming battles.

What's developing at BT and at other workplaces underscores why it's important for working people to fight to have the workweek shortened to 30 hours without a reduction in pay. This kind of fight could unite workers around the world, regardless of whether they are from Britain, Ireland, India, or other countries.

Bridget Elton and Jim Gordon work at British Telecom in London and are members of the National Communications Union.

LETTERS

Resistance from within

Nine reservist members of Yesh Gvul are in military prisons after refusing to take part in the campaign of repression in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian insurgency is being met with brutal countermeasures that have claimed more than 150 lives and left thousands injured and maimed. Flouting all standards of humanity or morality, the Israeli occupation authorities have adopted a systematic policy of collective punishment, penalizing entire Palestinian communities — men, women, and children — in the hope of breaking their resistance.

A Yesh Gvul-sponsored declaration by reservists proclaiming their refusal to take a hand in suppressing the uprising has collected more than 400 signatures. In response to the illegal means employed by the army, Yesh Gvul volunteers have distributed thousands of our booklets reminding soldiers — regulars and reservists alike — that it is their legal and moral duty to disobey unlawful orders; we are now preparing a second edition with information about selective refusal of service.

As the only group to offer refuseniks moral and practical support, Yesh Gvul is finding its slim resources overtaxed. In particular, we are rapidly exhausting our support fund, which aids the families of jailed refuseniks. Equally urgent is our protest campaign, whose needs are numerous and costly.

A group, Friends of Yesh Gvul, has been formed in California. Contributions can be forwarded by way of them c/o 1636 Martin Luther King Rd. #G, Berkeley, Calif. 94709.
Yesh Gvul
Jerusalem, Israel

Star wars

On May 14 in Colorado Springs, Colorado (the heart of Strategic Defense Initiative research and development) up to 1,000 people gathered to protest the militarization of space and listen to scientists, government officials, and clergymen speak out against star wars. The event was sponsored by Citizens for Peace in Space, based in Colorado Springs.

In one of the most compassionate and rousing speeches of the day, Michio Kaku, a world renowned physicist, spoke of the Pentagon's Secret War Plans to

fight and "win" a nuclear war. He explained that the Star Wars "defense" shield our military establishment has so fervently embraced is actually part of an offensive first-strike strategy used to legitimize the build-up and war-fighting capabilities of a new generation of first-strike weapons.

Because first strike is the ability to exercise the accuracy necessary to hit Soviet missiles in their silos with a near 100 percent kill probability, a Star Wars "shield" would be used to intercept any feeble Soviet retaliatory strike and keep the U.S. kill ratio to a bare minimum (20 million instead of 150 million), after we have initiated the first blow.

In a devious move to satisfy the American people's growing thirst for peace and genuine disarmament, an elitist cadre of corporate and military warmongers have sold the American people on the need for a 50 percent reduction of strategic nuclear weapons, knowing full well that these weapons will be rendered obsolete once the new first strike weapons are fully deployed and operational in the early 1990s.

What's worse is that this same establishment has also sold the American public on the idea that Star Wars is a "defensive" shield, when on the contrary it is the final link that will make a first-strike strategy possible and a nuclear war thinkable.

Steve Jones
Nederland, Colorado

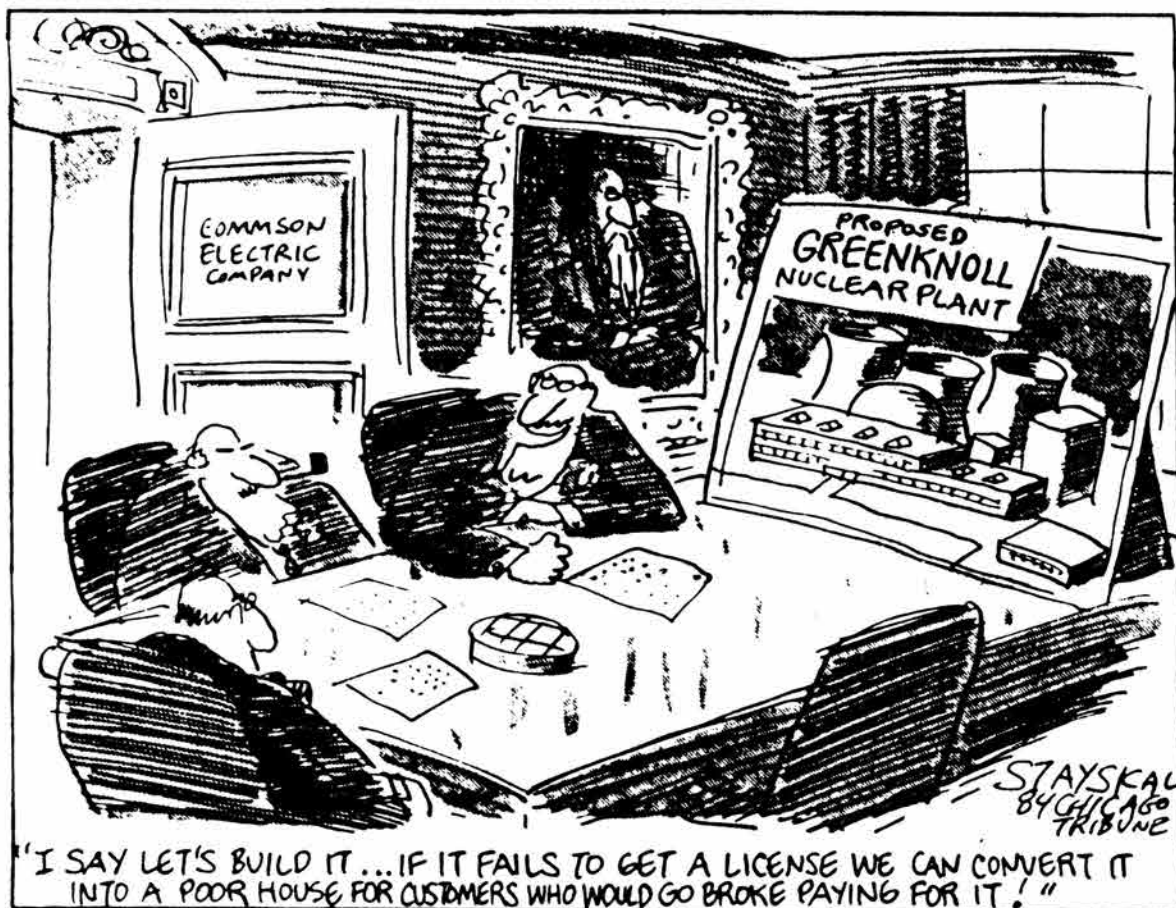
Irish struggle

We recently received a copy of the *Militant* and decided to write to you.

We are presently imprisoned in the H-blocks of Long Kesh Prison.

The rise of the civil rights movement in 1968 in Ireland was a direct result of the bigoted and oppressive system and regime that people in Northern Ireland lived under. Those most affected by this oppression were from what loosely could be called the nationalist ghettos of Northern Ireland, a part of Ireland that was violently partitioned off from the rest of the country nearly 50 years earlier by the British.

Since the response to the movement here was one of brutal repression, as in other parts of the world, it soon became obvious that peaceful protest would have no effect, and that the only alternative would be the use of armed



Wayne Stayskal

force. Those who consciously decided on that path organized themselves around the Irish Republican Army, which had historically resisted British rule in Ireland.

In looking at prison in the context of the Irish liberation struggle, the two most frequent starting points are the introduction of internment in the early 1970s and the attempt by the British to criminalize the struggle, which culminated in the hunger strikes of 1980.

Stripped of all its fancy wrappings, internment was essentially the forced removal of men and women from their homes and their incarceration in specially built concentration camps.

None of these men and women were ever brought to court. They were brutally tortured. Literally hundreds of people found themselves interned, some of them upwards of three years.

In 1976 the British had declared that from here on all republican prisoners would be treated and classified as criminals. This brought about the H-Block and Blanket Protest, whereby POWs refused to wear prison uniforms and engage in the menial tasks Britain reserves for nonpolitical prisoners.

The protest entered a new phase in late 1980, when republicans

began a hunger strike to demand recognition as political prisoners. By the end of 1981, 10 republican prisoners had died, but the defeat was Britain's.

The strategy of isolating republicans as criminals with no support had been totally smashed. Some of the prisoners themselves became candidates in Northern Ireland elections and won major victories.

Please encourage others to correspond with us on any matter raised in this letter or any other matters you'd like to discuss relating to the struggle in Ireland.

Send replies to a forwarding address for us: Paul Fleming/Danny McGarrigle, c/o 19 Rose Court W/ side, Derry City, Ireland.

Paul Fleming
Danny McGarrigle
Long Kesh, Lisburn, Ireland

Safety

On March 29 the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced that it was proposing safety regulations concerning procedures that protect workers who clean, service, or repair machinery.

Such procedures, known as "lockout" or "tag out," have been demanded by numerous labor

union safety experts for more than nine years. By the government's own estimates, the proposed regulations will save 122 lives and prevent 60,000 injuries each year.

Unfortunately, these pending regulations merely set up guidelines for employers to follow in adopting a lockout plan. For example, the allowable substitution of warning tags for padlocks represents a serious danger to workers.

Even in plants where lockout procedures exist, there are high rates of injuries and deaths due to inadequate training and the constant pressure by supervisors to meet production quotas or to get machinery back into operation. The failure of the federal government to adopt comprehensive and effective rules after nine years of stalling can only be viewed as a criminal act that will cause injury and death to thousands of workers.

Charlie Rosenberg
Baltimore, Maryland

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. 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.

Dominicans combat worsening conditions

Youth meeting says, 'Jobs for all, cancel foreign debt'

BY GREG MCCARTAN

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Some 500 junior high, high school, and university students and several factory workers met here May 20-22 for the founding congress of the Union of Young Dominicans (UDJ). Nearly half of the congress delegates were women.

The gathering was a result of a year-long discussion among student organizations, religious groups, and young peasants and workers on building a broad youth organization to fight against the worsening social and economic conditions in the Dominican Republic.

Unemployment among youth, a congress resolution noted, stands at 28 percent for men and 41 percent for women. Many other youth scratch out a living with part-time work or peddling on the street. The UJD pledged to fight for "guaranteed jobs for all" and recognized that the problems of the workers, farmers, and youth in this country are a result of domination by U.S. big business.

The new youth group also called on "all workers in the United States to fight against the racist and repressive immigration legislation in the U.S. Congress." It urged a general amnesty for all immigrants in the United States. Tens of thousands of Dominicans have immigrated to the United States in search of work.

The conditions in the Dominican Republic are made worse by the government's acceptance of demands by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to impose austerity measures on working people and peasants in order to continue payments on the country's \$4 billion foreign debt.

Rejecting the IMF's demands and unilaterally canceling the debt was a major topic of discussion among congress participants I spoke with. A 15-year-old high school student told me, "The UJD is important because it will be a way we can fight against the IMF demands on our country." She and a classmate had come into Santo Domingo from the countryside, where a number of students helped form the UJD. A resolution adopted by the congress called on the government to reject IMF demands and cancel the foreign debt.

Many at the gathering also saw the spreading use of addictive drugs as a major problem facing youth. A resolution stated that "drugs are used against youth in our country. We demand that the authorities mobilize their resources to stop the flow of drugs."

Electrical unionists demand IMF austerity plan be junked

BY MIKE TABER

It's a familiar scenario: workers battling union busting, layoffs, and cuts by the company in hard-earned benefits. That's what the Union of Workers of the Dominican Electricity Corporation (SITRACODE) is now facing.

But these workers are up against something more. They're confronting the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the pro-U.S. government of the Dominican Republic. And what they're fighting for is not just their own union, but the rights of all Dominican working people and the sovereignty of their country.

That was the message of Luis Manuel Tejada and Rafael Bello Ortiz, two members of SITRACODE's National Executive Committee. They told their story to the *Militant* during a recent visit to the United States.

Many at the congress deeply identified with the Nicaraguan revolution. Several UJD leaders have been to Nicaragua on work brigades to help bring in harvests or on construction projects. The victory of the Nicaraguan people in defeating the U.S.-backed mercenary army inspired congress participants to press the fight in the Dominican Republic.

Resolutions on international solidarity demanded an "end to all supplies to the [Nicaraguan] contras by the U.S. government, and a halt to the funding of the repressive regime in El Salvador." The congress also pledged solidarity with the "people of South Africa and the just cause of the Palestinian people for a nation."

The UJD decided to contact other youth organizations in the Caribbean to "struggle for an all-Antilles and Caribbean youth organization."

Unity with the struggle of the people of Haiti against imperialist domination and for land and democratic rights was raised by a number of delegates. Haiti and the Dominican Republic share the same island. Haitian workers make up the vast majority of the labor force on Dominican sugar plantations cutting sugarcane. Cane cutters have the hardest and lowest-paid jobs in the country.

Representatives of the Young Socialists in Canada, Another Road for Youth from Martinique, and the Young Socialist Alliance from the United States attended the congress and gave greetings.

Carole Caron from the Young Socialists gave greetings "in solidarity with youth fighting around the world — in South Africa, Palestine, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic."

Aaron Ruby from the Young Socialist Alliance noted that "youth in the United States are fighting the same enemy you are — U.S. imperialism." UJD members responded by chanting "UJD is anti-imperialist!"

The charter pointed to the need to struggle against "colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, racism, and oppression." It characterized the government in the Dominican Republic as a "bourgeois government run in the interests of imperialism."

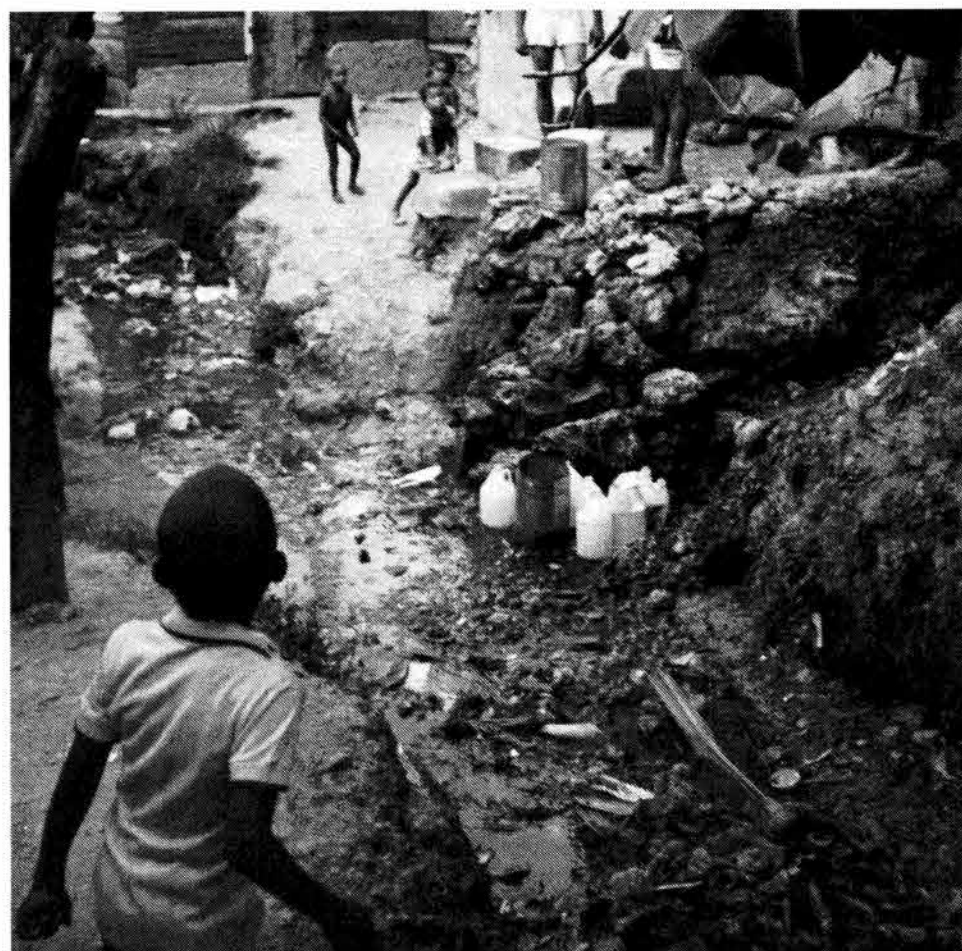
The congress elected a 19-member executive body. Miguel Puello was elected secretary general of the organization. Puello is also a central leader of the General Workers Federation, one of the main trade union federations in the country.

The Dominican Electricity Corp. is an autonomous state-owned enterprise providing electrical energy to the Dominican Republic. Virtually all of its 5,700 employees belong to the union.

Because the Dominican Republic is an underdeveloped country whose economy is largely dominated by U.S. multinational corporations, SITRACODE sees this Dominican-owned enterprise as of vital importance for the country's future development.

Yet, under the prodding of the IMF and World Bank, President Joaquín Balaguer is now attempting to dismantle the enterprise and turn it over to "private" hands — which in the Dominican Republic usually means U.S.-owned companies. And in the process the government aims to do away with the union.

From the standpoint of the country's na-



Militant/Greg McCartan

Children in squalor of Santo Domingo's La Zurza barrio. Malnutrition and infant mortality are on the rise in country. Only 27 percent of workers are fully employed.

tional interests, Tejada and Bello Ortiz told the *Militant*, these steps would be particularly damaging. Already the Dominican Republic suffers an energy shortage that causes regular blackouts — particularly in working-class neighborhoods.

The IMF and World Bank have resorted to blackmail, Bello Ortiz said. "Recently, for example, President Balaguer went to Washington to request a \$105 million loan from the IMF and World Bank," he explained. "The condition for granting the loan, however, was to increase electrical energy rates paid by the population."

SITRACODE opposes privatizing the Dominican Electricity Corp. In reply to government claims that the enterprise is "unprofitable" and "wasteful," the union maintains that government neglect of upkeep and maintenance, along with administrative corruption and a general lack of interest in the country's development, has created the sorry state the enterprise is in. They reject any measures that would reduce service to the population or mortgage the country's future development. "Our struggle is one in defense of the general interests of the nation's sovereignty and independence," Bello Ortiz explained.

"The IMF and the World Bank, however," Tejada said, "are stating that it's the workers and the union that are responsible for the crisis."

SITRACODE is one of the Dominican Republic's most established and militant unions. "Our union has a history of struggle within the labor movement since its birth 26 years ago," Tejada explained, "and we've been able to win a number of conquests and benefits."

In addition, the union has established an active presence in the plant in defense of the workers. For these reasons, Tejada pointed out, SITRACODE "is an example for many other unions and unorganized workers."

But this example doesn't fit the current plans of the multinational corporations and the IMF, Tejada explained. "What they want is unbridled exploitation of unorganized workers." With this in mind, SITRACODE has been targeted for attack.

In June 1987, the government declared the energy corporation in a "state of emergency" and froze the existing collective bargaining agreement with the union. It then took

steps in clear violation of that agreement.

"They eliminated 308 jobs," Tejada said, including those of a number of union leaders. "Medical benefits have been withheld in violation of the existing agreement," Bello Ortiz stated. Union dues that the contract stipulated were to be turned over by the corporation have been withheld in an attempt to cripple the union.

The right of union representatives to freely move about the plant on union business has been unilaterally canceled.

Safety measures are being cut back, in an enterprise already notorious for on-the-job accidents. "Over the last period, four to five workers have been killed each year due to lack of protection and security equipment," Bello Ortiz said.

In addition, he noted, "we have around 500 workers who are earning below the minimum wage in violation of the Labor Code." This minimum wage is already far below what the government statistics recognize as sufficient for a family to survive, Tejada pointed out. The average monthly wage of workers at the electricity corporation, for example, comes to only \$72.50 a month.

SITRACODE's struggle takes on particular importance given the current situation facing Dominican working people. Squeezed by a \$4 billion foreign debt and an 80 percent reduction in U.S. purchases of Dominican sugar, the country is suffering a crisis of staggering proportions.

Only 27 percent of the work force is fully employed. Malnutrition and infant mortality are on the rise.

These conditions have generated renewed popular struggles. Earlier this year, a wave of protests and strikes occurred in a number of Dominican cities against the high cost of living and the general effects of the crisis.

"Our struggle is not just a specific defense of union demands. It is linked to the general struggle of the Dominican people as a whole," Bello Ortiz explained.

For that reason, SITRACODE works with other unions, peasant organizations, and community groups as a participant in these broader national struggles.

The union sees solidarity as key to its victory in this fight. And their message to working people in the United States is that solidarity knows no borders. No matter what country one resides in, Bello Ortiz repeatedly stressed, "we're all part of one working class."