

Millions in Burma press for gov't ouster, democracy

BY FRED FELDMAN

About half a million people marched in Burma's capital city of Rangoon August 26. The demonstration culminated a series of protests by hundreds of thousands during the week. The actions demanded removal of the government and the establishment of democracy.

A general strike backing the demands continues to grip the country. The strike has shut down the docks, railways, bus lines, communications, and the postal system.

A growing number of government employees have walked off the job. The government-controlled newspapers have shut down. One paper's editors declared they would not resume publication until censorship has been lifted.

Demonstrators attempted to storm Insein prison in Rangoon. As prisoners attempted to flee the jail, government forces opened fire — killing dozens. Hundreds of prisoners reportedly succeeded in gaining their freedom. Prison rebellions and liberation of inmates were also reported at other prisons.

The continuing demonstrations and general strike marked the rejection thus far of President Maung Maung's attempts to placate the protesters and buy time for the military-dominated regime.

The revolt in Burma is a response to the deepest economic, social, and political crisis that the country has experienced in decades. The government is increasingly unable to meet payments on a foreign debt of \$4 billion, prices of rice and other goods are soaring, and youth face rising unemployment.

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Marroquín wins victory; gets immigrant visa

Fight continues to force INS to grant green card

BY CINDY JAQUITH

TORONTO — A big victory was won here August 31, when the U.S. State Department finally granted Héctor Marroquín an immigrant visa to the United States.

A national committee member of the Socialist Workers Party and a leader of the struggle for immigrant rights, Marroquín was born in Mexico. He has been fighting for 11 years for his right to live and work in the United States. After 11 years of government efforts to deport him because of his communist views, the State Department finally decided to give up and grant him the visa he needs to get a green card, which would make him a permanent resident of the United States.

At the Toronto airport a few hours later, Marroquín presented his visa to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), which is supposed to stamp his passport to show he is a permanent resident. But the INS agents refused to do this, openly citing his politics as the reason. Instead, they deferred a ruling on his case and scheduled a September 20 appointment with the INS in Newark, New Jersey.

The Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee is now urging all supporters to immediately send telegrams to Commissioner Alan Nelson, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C. 20536, demanding an end to this unconscionable delay and that the INS immediately stamp his passport as a permanent resident. (Copies should be sent to the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, Box 761,

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Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Socialist Héctor Marroquín (second from left) displays his immigrant visa outside U.S. consulate in Toronto. With him are (left to right) his attorney Claudia Slovinsky; Priscilla Schenk-Marroquín, his wife; Haitian rights activist Ben Dupuy; and John Studer, director of Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee.

Momentum building toward Sept. 9 sales drive start

BY NORTON SANDLER

From London to Auckland, New Zealand, from Stockholm to San Francisco, our distributors are finalizing plans for the international circulation drive to win 10,000 new readers.

We urge all our readers to join in the 10-week campaign that kicks off on September 9.

Distributors in the United States, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Australia, Iceland, and other countries will be building on recent successes in sales of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

They will sell 6,500 introductory and renewal subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1,750 to *PM*, and 1,750 individual copies of *New International* and the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Supporters are taking on the additional challenge of selling 20,000 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, which contains proposals put forward by the Socialist Workers Party.

They are also helping to publicize the facts surrounding the frame-up of Des Moines, Iowa, political activist Mark Curtis.

"We have been selling the *Militant* and *PM* as publications that defend Mark Curtis," Holly Harkness reports. She is part of a five-person team that has been concentrating its efforts in the Des Moines area, where Curtis goes on trial September 7. The team is publicizing the September 4

Curtis defense rally in Des Moines.

"In two days, we sold 63 single copies of the *Militant* and *PM* and 10 subscriptions while collecting 79 signatures on petitions demanding that the charges against Curtis be dropped," Harkness said. "Our best success was at plant gates."

"At Fawn, a plant organized by the United Auto Workers, we sold eight papers and collected 14 signatures for Mark. Later in the day, another supporter who works at Fawn sold five more papers inside the plant."

"We also had a booth up outside the Iowa State Fair," she explained. "It didn't net big sales, but we had numerous discussions about the case. Some said they supported the cops' position on the case. But we met many young people who dislike the police and were anxious to sign the petition."

Estelle DeBates is heading up a team of Young Socialist Alliance members that has been visiting Midwest campuses and plant gates.

"We delivered to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee more than 250 signatures gathered on petitions at campuses in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska," she said. Several of those who signed are trying to get to Des Moines for the rally."

That team has also sold 15 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *PM*.

In North Dakota, a team has collected more than 5,200 signatures to get the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells on

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Push needed in Curtis defense effort as Sept. 7 trial nears

Stepped-up efforts are needed in the coming days to defend Des Moines, Iowa, political activist Mark Curtis.

He goes on trial September 7 on trumped-up rape and burglary charges. If convicted, he faces a 25-year mandatory sentence.

Here's what you can do to help:

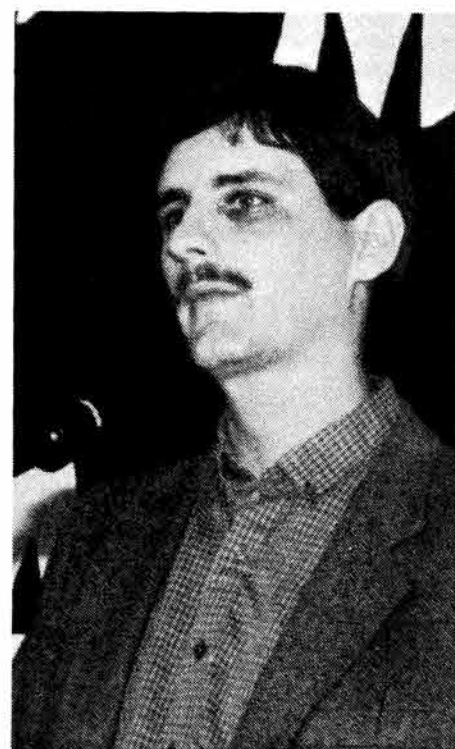
- Send Polk County prosecutor James Smith messages protesting the attempt to railroad Curtis to jail. Write Polk County

As we were going to press, a Des Moines judge rejected the Polk County prosecutor's claim that Curtis violated a court order. The prosecution tried to deny Curtis' supporters the democratic right to distribute leaflets. (See article pages 8-9.)

Attorney James Smith, Room 408 Courthouse, 500 Mulberry St. Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

- Funds are urgently needed. Curtis' defense committee must raise more than \$14,000 to cover immediate legal expenses for his trial and to continue getting out the facts on his case.

- Attend the Second International Defense Rally for Curtis in Des Moines on Sunday, September 4. Speakers will include Susan Mnumzana from the African National Congress; Puerto Rican author, poet Piri Thomas; and Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Work-



Militant/Stu Singer

Mark Curtis

ers Party. (See ad for rally page 8.)

- Stay over and attend Curtis' trial, which starts the following Wednesday at the Polk County Courthouse in Des Moines.

Send copies of the protest messages and contributions to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Héctor Marroquín wins his immigrant visa

Continued from front page

Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007.)

Thousands of working people in the United States have heard about Marroquín's case and signed petitions, written letters, or joined rallies in his defense. Symbolizing that support, Marroquín was accompanied here at the U.S. consulate by a delegation that included Priscilla Schenk-Marroquín, his wife; Harry Hynd, assistant director of District 6 of the United Steelworkers union; a representative of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES); Ben Dupuy, head of the New York-based Committee Against Repression in Haiti; and John Studer, director of the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee.

Dozens of prominent individuals had also sent the State Department letters urging it to give Marroquín his residency. These included three members of Congress, Mervyn Dymally, Esteban Torres, and Ronald Dellums; actor Ed Asner; Tomás Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State; and Oscar Sánchez, United Steelworkers international representative.

Marroquín had applied for his green card in 1983 based on his marriage to a U.S. citizen. When he came here to the consulate on July 6 of this year, State Department officials refused to give him his visa until he got a waiver from the INS for entering the United States without all the proper documents. The INS granted the waiver on August 5 and Marroquín re-

ceived a new appointment to complete his application.

He and his attorney, Claudia Slovinsky, were briefly interviewed here August 31 by Kenneth Shivers, the U.S. consul.

1986 court decision against FBI

Shivers tried to return to Marroquín a copy of the 1986 federal court decision that bars the U.S. government from spying on or otherwise victimizing members of the Socialist Workers Party because of their political beliefs. That decision establishes that the SWP's political activities are fully legal and constitutionally protected, making no distinction between the rights of SWP members who are U.S. citizens and those who are not. Marroquín explained to Shivers that the text of the decision should remain in his file because it is at the heart of his case.

Before concluding the interview, Shivers presented a two-paragraph prepared statement to Marroquín and attorney Slovinsky. The statement said in part, "I, _____, am aware that my immigrant visa application can be processed under the provisions of Section 901 of U.S. Public Law 100-204. I am also aware there are other possible grounds for relief through a finding of non-meaningful membership. . . . I nevertheless do not wish to wait to have these questions adjudicated at this time, and ask that my visa be issued under the provisions of Section 901."

Section 901 refers to the law passed by Congress suspending the provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act that allow the gov-

ernment to exclude people from this country because of their political affiliation. By signing such a statement, in other words, Marroquín would be concurring that the SWP is in fact a proscribed, "subversive" organization. He has consistently refused to do so throughout his long fight.

Shivers said Marroquín could sign the statement if he chose to. Marroquín asked his lawyer's advice, who said he did not have to sign it, and he declined to do so. Shivers said, "OK, you don't have to," and dropped the matter.

Attorney Slovinsky later told the *Militant* she had never seen or heard of such a statement before. "We reject the idea that the SWP is a proscribed party," she insisted.

A little more than an hour later, Marroquín received a one-page document called "Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration." It included the number of his future green card: #40534934. Along with this document, he received a sealed envelope containing the file on his green card application.

All other successful green-card applicants were receiving the same material at the consulate, with instructions to turn it over to the INS when they re-entered the United States. Like Marroquín, they also got a four-page informational piece on the procedure for receiving their green card, and on Social Security and taxes. The piece explains that "At the time of your admission [to the United States] you will receive proof of your admission as a permanent resident alien." Normally this is done by the INS stamping the person's passport to indicate they are a permanent resident. The green card arrives later in the mail.

INS agents at airport

When Marroquín got to the U.S. Immigration booth at the Toronto airport, he approached the INS agent with his attorney and presented all the documents the consulate had given him. The agent began going through the documents, assuring Marroquín, "What we're going to do is routine." He asked him a few questions, such as his home address, telling Marroquín "that's where we're going to send your green card."

But when the agent looked further at the file, he decided to check Marroquín's name in his computer. Then he told Marroquín, "We're going to have to double-screen this."

Taking Marroquín and Slovinsky to a separate INS office, he introduced them to another INS agent stating, "Looks like we have a hit — an A-28." A-28 refers to the part of the McCarran-Walter Act that has been suspended, the section allowing the government to exclude people from the country because of their political views.

This agent decided to submit Marroquín to an interrogation and barred Slovinsky from being present as his attorney. After asking a couple of routine questions about his marriage, the agent asked Marroquín,

"When did you enter the U.S. illegally?" Marroquín said that on precisely these questions he must have his lawyer present. The agent refused. Then she asked him, "Are you a communist?" Marroquín explained again that his lawyer should be present and this entire matter had been settled with the State Department, pointing to his file. The agent then asked, "Are you a member of any political party in the United States?" and Marroquín answered that he was a member of the SWP.

The agent then left the room and entered another office several times, apparently to make phone calls. At one point Slovinsky asked the agent what was delaying her client's getting his green card. "He may need another waiver," she replied. The agent added that because of "some of the political groups he belongs to" the INS would have to examine whether Section 901 applies to him. Slovinsky explained this matter was all settled but the agent ignored her.

When the agent returned again, she announced that Marroquín was being given a "deferred inspection." She said the supervisor of the INS at the Toronto airport had instructed her to cease processing Marroquín's application, to allow him to enter the United States, and to assign him an appointment in Newark.

The INS refusal to stamp Marroquín's passport showed they still can't quite believe that they are going to be forced to give an avowed communist and worker from Mexico a green card. Some of them perhaps believe the INS is actually above the law and can openly deny residence to someone like Marroquín because of his views.

Attorney Slovinsky told the *Militant* she is confident the INS will be unable to deny Marroquín his green card because he is a communist. "Legally we will absolutely prevail," she predicted.

Marroquín told the *Militant* that both the U.S. consulate decision to give him an immigrant visa and the INS refusal in Toronto to stamp his passport show "the momentous character of this fight that we are winning. We're establishing that a communist worker born in another country does indeed have the right to be active in politics in the United States."

"We won a giant victory with the State Department decision to give me the immigrant visa. But we still have another battle. We have to keep up the fight until I get that green card."

"The victory we're winning is so big," he continued, "that the INS can't quite stomach it. That means that all the trade unionists, solidarity activists, civil rights figures, and others who have come to my aid will have to let INS Commissioner Alan Nelson know right away that they won't stand for any further delay in my case."

Racist abuse by U.S. Customs

TORONTO — A U.S. Customs Service agent unleashed a torrent of racist abuse at Héctor Marroquín and his attorney Claudia Slovinsky as the two were going through the Toronto airport here on their way to the United States.

When Marroquín came to the U.S. customs bay he presented the agent with the immigrant visa granted him by the State Department and his Mexican passport. The agent then snarled, "So, you used to be a *mojado* in my country." *Mojado* is Spanish for "wetback," the racist term often used by border cops to describe Mexican immigrants.

The agent then added, "So you lived illegally in my country."

Marroquín refused to be provoked, but did explain that his attorney was with him. The agent turned to Slovinsky and said, "So, you make your money off bringing these *mojados* in."

The agent kept repeating the racist slur and also entered Marroquín's name in his computer. When he finally let Marroquín pass, he first wrote on his boarding pass, "Excludable, 9/77." This is a reference to the fact that Marroquín was deemed deportable in September 1977 when he was

arrested at the U.S.-Mexican border.

The agent then told Marroquín to move on to the U.S. Immigration line "where you're going to have a tough time."

This racist treatment is standard procedure for U.S. customs and immigration officials. These border cops can't tolerate the right of someone whose skin is not white having the right to come to the United States and get a green card. They go out of their way to insult such workers and all immigrants, trying to intimidate them or provoke them.

The Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee has decided to urge all its supporters to send immediate telegrams to the U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Treasury Department it is part of, demanding immediate disciplinary action against the agent involved. Send your messages to Commissioner of Customs, U.S. Customs Service, 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm. 3136, Washington, D.C. 20229, and Secretary, Department of the Treasury, 15th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20220, with copies to the Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007. — C.J.

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—Tomás Villanueva

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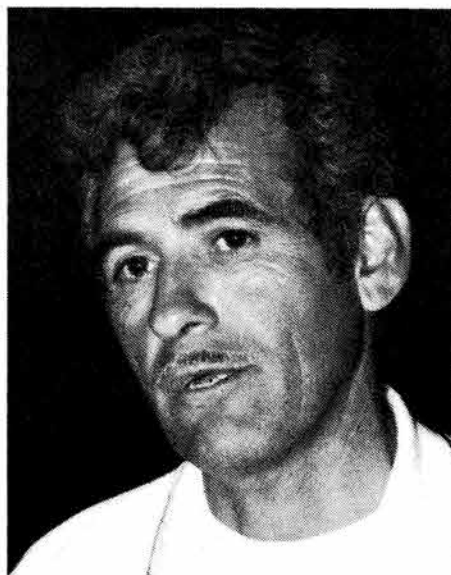
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SPECIAL OFFER



Tomás Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State.

The Militant

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the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

After strike victory, French miners greet int'l delegation

BY JOHN HAWKINS

GARDANNE, France — On August 9 the coal miners of this area in southern France, organized by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), scored a resounding victory in their three-and-half month strike.

They were fighting the provincial Houillères de Provence, the management of the mine, and the national Charbonnages de France. Charbonnages supervises the government-owned mines much as the British Coal board does in Britain.

Through their determination and militancy, the miners overcame stiff company and government resistance, halting plans to introduce sweeping changes in work rules. They forced management to grant pay increases totaling more than \$1,400 over a two-year period.

Key to the victory achieved by the miners, their families, and supporters here in Gardanne was the solidarity they received from other workers in France and internationally.

When the miners occupied the neighbor-

ing power station midway through the strike, for example, the majority of power workers joined in the picketing.

Foremost among international supporters of the Gardanne miners, were Britain's National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and its allies in Women Against Pit Closures (WAPC).

The NUM and the WAPC hosted a tour of French miners that traveled through the British coalfields raising funds and explaining the issues in the strike.

A delegation of 13 British and U.S. miners led by WAPC and NUM members recently concluded a four-day visit here helping to strengthen solidarity among miners internationally.

Our delegation traveled by minibus covered with signs in English and French that read: "British and American miners support French miners," "British and American miners bringing aid to the French miners on strike at Gardanne," and "Solidarity among British, American, and French miners."



Militant/Clive Turnbull

Britain's National Union of Mineworkers and Women Against Pit Closures backed recent French miners' strike. Above, NUM President Arthur Scargill (with hat) and WAPC leader Ann Scargill at 1984 demonstration during British miners' strike.

We crossed the English Channel from Dover, England, by ferry on the evening of August 25. We were met in France by Daniel Demoncourt, a secretary of the National Federation of Miners — CGT.

After an all-night trip to Paris and breakfast at the offices of the International Min-

ers' Organisation, the delegation continued on to Gardanne, arriving in the early evening. We were greeted there by a rousing reception from 250 CGT miners at their headquarters.

Louis Suzanne, secretary of the Provence region miners' union and a leader of the strike, greeted the delegation and introduced Ann Scargill, a leader of the WAPC and wife of NUM President Arthur Scargill.

She presented Suzanne with more than £2,500 (US\$4,200) collected by miners and their families in the British coalfields.

Scargill reminded the assembled miners of the importance of the solidarity they demonstrated for the British miners during the 1984-85 strike by the NUM.

"We view our donation today not only as an act of solidarity, not only as a debt of gratitude, but as a duty in the fight of miners worldwide to defend our lives and standard of living against the greed of the coal bosses," she said.

While the Gardanne miners have been back to work for nearly a month, contributions are still needed to help them get back on their feet after the long strike.

Contributions and messages can be sent to the Association for Solidarity With the Miners' Families, Crédit mutuel de Gardanne, 1320 Gardanne, France. All contributions should bear the association's account number: 00015001140.

John Hawkins is a member of the United Mine Workers of America Local 2368 in Brookwood, Alabama.

U.S. gov't drops Cuba literature ban

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The U.S. government has dropped its 26-year-old ban on importing literature and other informational materials from Cuba to the United States.

This action came with the signing into law of the new trade bill by President Ronald Reagan on August 23. A provision in the bill ends all restrictions on importing books, newspapers, magazines, films, records, tapes, posters, microfilm, and microfiche from Cuba. It also lifts restrictions on exporting similar informational materials from the United States to Cuba. The provision was introduced by Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.).

Morton Halperin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, D.C., helped Berman's office draft the provision. In a telephone interview he said lifting of the restrictions is "a very significant step. It reaffirms the basic principle that the U.S. government should not interfere with the ability of citizens to learn for themselves about other countries."

Prior to this, Berman explained, anyone who wanted to import even a single copy of a Cuban book, for example, could be required to have a government-issued license. The government was under no obligation to grant such a license to those requesting it.

Anyone wishing to import Cuban infor-

mational materials in quantity for commercial purposes was legally required to apply for another kind of license. If they got the license, such importers could also be required to deposit all money from sales of the Cuban material in a "blocked" bank account, with the funds prohibited from entering Cuba.

By imposing such prohibitive financial conditions, Washington was able to severely limit the amount of literature and recorded material from Cuba in this country. The very idea of registering for a license with the government often had the intended chilling effect on U.S. residents interested in making material from Cuba available.

The ban even included Cuban art, in the form of posters, films, and musical tapes, at a time when Cuban artists are undisputed leaders on an international scale in many fields of culture.

The restrictions were based on two laws, the Trading With the Enemy Act and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Both give powers to the U.S. government to impose trade sanctions on coun-

tries whose governments don't toe Washington's line.

Through the Berman provision, the two laws have been amended to exclude informational materials from the retaliatory trade measures available to the U.S. government. This applies not only to Cuba but to any country affected by U.S. trade sanctions. The amended language is incorporated into the new trade bill.

Berman's original amendment also called for lifting restrictions on U.S. citizens' right to travel to Cuba, Halperin said. But that portion of the amendment was defeated in a congressional committee.

When Reagan vetoed an earlier version of the trade bill, he cited the provision lifting literature restrictions as one reason, claiming it would "prevent the president from moving swiftly to block blatant enemy propaganda material from entering the United States, even during wartime."

The White House chose not to openly attack the provision, which remained in Congress' reworked version, and Reagan finally signed the bill.

\$250,000 fund to help Pathfinder get around

BY CINDY JAQUITH

An Afro-Caribbean carnival in London, England. A proindependence march in San Juan, Puerto Rico. And yes — a cricket match in Mt. Vernon, New York.

Distributors of Pathfinder books and pamphlets were at all these events the last weekend of August, introducing working people from various Caribbean islands to the broad selection of literature Pathfinder publishes on working-class struggles around the world.

Printing these books and distributing them throughout the globe doesn't come cheap. Pathfinder needs a quarter of a million dollars this fall to get the job done.

A special Pathfinder Fund has been set up to raise donations. All \$250,000 must be collected by December 1.

Already, \$163,000 has been pledged toward this fund. But that means Pathfinder supporters need to raise nearly \$100,000 more in pledges and collect all \$250,000 by the December 1 deadline. Thus far, \$8,500 has been collected.

Raising this much money requires a serious organizing effort. Inspiring workers to contribute to the fund will be linked to involving them in both reading and helping distribute Pathfinder books themselves. In fact, one of the best ways to convince someone they should make a donation is to invite them to stand behind a Pathfinder literature table and see the results.

Take the Pathfinder table at the August

28 cricket match, attended by thousands of English-speaking Caribbean people from the New York area. David Rosenfeld, a Conrail brakeman, was one of those staffing the table, which sold \$80 in literature.

Rosenfeld said that Pathfinder's *Maurice Bishop Speaks* was a popular title among those who stopped by the table. Some were already familiar with the book of speeches by the Grenadian leader murdered in 1983, and had also read the book's introduction by Steve Clark. That led to sales of several copies of the magazine *New International* containing an article by Clark on "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop."

Pathfinder's books on the African revolution were also in demand. One man purchased a copy of *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87* and then stayed at the table to encourage others to get the book.

Pathfinder's book of speeches by African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, *The Struggle Is My Life*, also attracted buyers. This included one cricket fan who was a white man from South Africa.

Meanwhile, demonstrators in San Juan, Puerto Rico, were buying up copies of *Habla Nelson Mandela* (Nelson Mandela Speaks), Pathfinder's Spanish-language selection of the ANC leader's speeches. The book was the best seller at a Pathfinder table set up at an August 28 march against

the frame-up of the Puerto Rican independence fighters known as the Hartford 15.

Ron Richards, who staffed the table, reported that other popular titles were *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X Speaks) and *Reportaje de Vietnam y Kampuchea* (Report from Vietnam and Kampuchea). Altogether, demonstrators bought \$64 worth of Spanish literature by Pathfinder.

And in the Notting Hill section of London, a Pathfinder table at the annual Afro-Caribbean festival — which attracted well over 100,000 people — sold \$300 worth of literature.

Your donation to the Pathfinder Fund will help make sure these literature tables keep popping up wherever workers interested in revolutionary politics gather. All you need to do is send in the coupon below.

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Dr. James Millett, historian, president of Trinidad and Tobago Anti-apartheid Committee
Michael Douglas, leader, Dominica Labour Party

Fri., Sept. 9, 7 p.m.

Hunter College Playhouse

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Sponsors: Coalition for Caribbean Unity, Anti-Imperialist Organizations of Caribbean and Central America. For more information, call (718) 941-2087 or (212) 226-8445.

N. Carolina workers, students hear Warren on 'action program'

BY GREG McCARTAN

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The highlight of Warren's tour here was his discussions with workers who are fighting to lead other workers to defend their interests in the textile and garment industries and other factories in the area.

"I try to get my coworkers to see their own humanity and worth," said one production worker from the local newspaper. This, he said, helped workers stand up, see their common interests, and wage a struggle. He asked why it was harder to get younger workers involved, especially young Black workers.

"These young workers have no experience in political struggle," Warren said. "Millions of ordinary men and women made history during the civil rights movement. We marched, fought, and died, and knew that only by taking action ourselves could we bring about change."

"After the victory of the civil rights movement and with the decline of the Black nationalist movement, there was a lull in the Black struggle to the point where there was no mass organized movement of Blacks in struggle. The responsibility for this lies in the fact that for 20 years the so-called Black leadership has told us that they will take care of the problems that confront us," Warren said.

"The rally today in Washington, D.C. on the 25th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington is a case in point," he said. It has nothing whatsoever to do with struggle or building a movement.

"It was a campaign rally that promised to solve the problems of the Black middle class if they can mobilize Black working people to vote for Dukakis," Warren noted.

"The Black middle class," he continued, "is and will continue to divide themselves off from working people who are Black and more and more address themselves to their own interests, not ours. This is a necessary process that working people who are Black must go through to begin to lead themselves."

Another worker at the meeting said she marched in the 1963 March on Washington as a teenager. She said she did not see, despite the claims of Black politicians, that Blacks as a whole are making any progress.

Warren said, "Every one of them tells us they will bring about change for us. They will solve our problems. Even if they wanted to, they couldn't. We need to appeal to our class, to working-class Blacks and whites who must forge a leadership in the fight for working-class emancipation and Black liberation."

"In this year's elections, workers and farmers are not in a position to impose our political perspectives as a mass alternative in the November elections," Warren explained. "What vanguard workers do on election day will not be decisive. What is decisive is what we do between now and November and beyond. We must begin to prepare those we can for the battle ahead."

"We aren't trying to overthrow the company," said a textile worker. "We want the company to see that we are human beings, that we keep the plant running, so that they can treat us fairly. Until they do that, we will keep fighting."

"That is what has changed," Warren responded. "With the October stock market crash, the announcement has come that they want to overthrow you. They seek to drive you out of the plant, break your union, tear up your contract."

"Since World War II," he continued, the imperialist rulers have carried out wars abroad and have been able to afford relative class peace at home — not for everyone, Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and others — but for a majority. Now they have to do both — go to war in the world and wage class war here.

Koren Martin, president of United Garment Workers Local 270, commented following Warren's campaign forum: "Of the 150 workers in the plant, 50 belong to the union. The company has especially victimized workers in their divide-and-rule tactics. We are part of the 40 percent of the workers in this country who earn less than \$11,000 a year. We have experienced the takebacks in wages and working condi-

tions. I'm at the point of asking — where do I go to solve these problems."

"Warren made a good point as far as filing charges with the NLRB [National Labor Relations Board]," Martin continued. "We have to go back to the old way — enforcing contracts through strikes. Working people need to be educated and involved in politics."

Martin planned on reading "An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis" proposed by the Socialist Workers Party and setting up a follow-up discussion with campaign supporters. She said, "A different course is needed for us to fight, and I'm going to figure out what that is."

Members of the Young Socialist Al-

liance organized a meeting for Warren at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on August 29. "He addressed the issues that none of the other candidates will bring up," one student commented afterwards. "I bought a copy of the Action Program to learn more about it. I know the way things are right now is not the way they're supposed to be."

Another said that he "needed to get more involved. The big problem is that those who are directly affected by the economic crisis have hardly any way to respond. I'm going to take these ideas out and discuss them with others."

Nearly 40 people turned out to hear Warren at a campaign forum at the Pathfinder Bookstore.



Militant/Andy Coates
Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren.

Mickells blasts Ohio ballot exclusion



Militant/Margaret Jayko
Mickells talks to media about ballot rights fight during August 26 stop in Cleveland

BY MARGARET JAYKO

CLEVELAND — Kathleen Mickells made a special 24-hour stop here on her nationwide campaign tour to talk to the media about the attempt by Ohio Secretary of State Sherrod Brown to keep the names of the Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president off the November election ballot.

Starting at 8:00 a.m. sharp on August 26, vice-presidential candidate Mickells was on the phone in her Cleveland campaign headquarters and spent most of the day talking with reporters at several radio stations. She was also interviewed by the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

In three weeks in May and June, campaign supporters fielded daily teams to collect signatures on nominating petitions. They hit industrial work sites, college campuses, shopping centers, and downtown street corners. Petitioners covered the state, gathering signatures in 53 counties.

State delays processing signatures

The net result was 11,147 signatures — more than double the 5,000 legally required.

The petitions were submitted to the state on June 23. But Brown's office waited two and a half weeks — until July 11 — to send them to the county boards charged with examining them. This delay, Mickells charged, seriously hampered supporters' ability to examine the results of the state's "count" and prepare to challenge its ruling.

On August 8, Brown's office sent a let-

ter to presidential candidate James Warren saying that 6,898 signatures were invalid. That meant the campaign was 751 short of the 5,000 needed.

In addition, Brown ruled that supporters of the SWP ticket couldn't go out and just collect the 751 signatures, but that statutes require all 5,000 signatures to be recollected. This, in effect, invalidated every petition.

Campaign organizer Marty Pettit said that once notified of the ruling, supporters immediately made photocopies of all the petitions they had filed in order to investigate Brown's charge. Next to each signature was either a check mark indicating its validity, or some letters indicating the reason the official who checked it was declaring it invalid.

More than 200 signatures were termed "illegible." A quick look through the petition sheets, however, reveals that at least several of these are perfectly clear.

More than 100 names were dubbed "not genuine." Several of these are printed, rather than in script. But in several cases, the printing on the petitions and the printing on these peoples' voter registration cards is identical.

Cuyahoga County alone disenfranchised 563 residents, claiming that the address they listed did not exist. But a spot-check shows that many of these are legitimate addresses.

The largest category of signatures disqualified was the roughly 4,500 that were declared "not registered." Enormous de-

lays and confusion in processing voter registration forms, said Pettit, makes this a highly suspect category.

On August 22, campaign manager Scott Ware filed a challenge with Brown's office, citing the discrepancies in the validation procedure.

"We collected more than 11,000 signatures from people in this state who believed we have the right to be on the ballot," remarked vice-presidential candidate Mickells. "And now the secretary of state says that we have to start from scratch, despite the rock-hard evidence that we more than met the onerous and undemocratic legal requirements for ballot access in this state," she explained.

Claims no responsibility

The secretary of state's office denies that political discrimination is involved in this case. "That is nonsense," said Steve Fought, a spokesperson for Brown. "We send the petitions to the Board of Elections, and they rule on them."

According to Dwayne Pielech, the secretary of state's assistant communications director, the signatures that the party is contending were wrongly disqualified have been sent out to county officials to be rechecked. After that process is completed, a final decision will be made on the SWP's ballot status.

Seven other parties have applied to be on the November ballot in Ohio, said Pielech. The Democrats and Republicans have already filed and been approved. The New Alliance Party, Workers World Party, Libertarian Party, Workers League, and Lyndon LaRouche, head of the fascist National Democratic Policy Committee, have all submitted petitions. None of these have been checked yet, said Pielech. September 9 is the legal deadline for finalizing the ballots.

Campaign organizer Pettit stressed the importance of "maximizing the political pressure on Secretary of State Brown by flooding his office with letters" demanding that Warren and Mickells' names be placed on the ballot. Dozens of such messages have already been sent. The address is Sherrod Brown, secretary of state, State Office Tower, 14th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43266. Copies should be sent to the Ohio Socialist Workers 1988 Campaign Committee, 2521 Market Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

NEW YORK — Supporters of the Socialist Workers election campaign aim to get the party's presidential ticket on the ballot in 18 states and the District of Columbia. According to the campaign's ballot coordinator, Andrea Morrell, the SWP ticket has been certified on the ballot in New Jersey, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Washington, D.C.

In addition to Ohio, where state officials have challenged the candidates' petitions, ballot requirements have been met in Alabama, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, and Tennessee. The ticket is waiting to be notified of certification in these states.

Efforts to get the Warren-Mickells ticket on the ballot in Louisiana, Michigan, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin are still under way.

Mickells talks with coal miners, students on Pennsylvania visit

BY MARGARET JAYKO

EDINBORO, Pa. — Coal miners in the small town of Marianna south of Pittsburgh, and students here in Edinboro in the northwest corner of the state, were able to have political discussions with Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president, when she toured western Pennsylvania August 27-29.

At the annual picnic of United Mine Workers Local 1197 on August 27, many attending already knew Mickells. She's a laid-off coal miner from the Marianna area.

Most of the miners Mickells talked to were middle-aged and older, reflecting massive layoffs and years of no new hires at the mine here. Local 1197 organizes Beth Energy's Eighty-Four Complex mine. The 420 active miners in the local won a three-day strike in July over health-and-safety questions.

Miners in Britain

Mickells talked with Gwen White from Barnsley, a coal-mining center in Britain. White had first visited the United States in 1986 as part of a delegation from Women Against Pit Closures, a group that was formed to support the 1984-85 strike by Britain's National Union of Mineworkers. White and her husband were back here on vacation, visiting friends made on the previous trip.

Mickells and White discussed the problems facing working people in the British coalfields today in the wake of the defeat of the 1984-85 miners' strike and the stepped-up government attacks on the miners' union.

White, who was a firm supporter of the NUM's strike, said now she wasn't sure that the battle had been worth it. Weren't the miners worse off now than they were before the strike?

"My opinion is that the government wants to close down all the pits [mines], and then reopen some, which would be privatized," White said. The coal industry in Britain is nationalized. But it's not possible, White said, for miners to go on strike again. Many lost their homes and meager savings during the strike, and the coal bosses have succeeded in splitting the NUM and forming a company union.

Mickells said she thought the strike had accomplished something. It prevented the government from going ahead unimpeded with its plan for closing down mines and laying off miners. More importantly, stressed Mickells, the broad movement that the NUM organized around its strike strengthened the union and the rest of the

labor movement, and changed the lives of hundreds of women in the coalfields, who became politically active for the first time ever as part of this battle.

White agreed with that, but said the question was how to save British coal jobs. "I think that's the wrong starting point," answered Mickells. "Coal miners in Britain, the United States, and everywhere else in the world have to be concerned about each other's interests, and not about the effect of competition on British or U.S., or any other, coal bosses." There's no solution to layoffs if looked at from just a national standpoint, she said. "We must join together in an international fight to accomplish this."

United States and the Philippines

Mickells was then introduced to Frank, a Black miner who's a Vietnam veteran. He described the racism he experienced in the navy, where Blacks were given almost exclusively jobs cleaning and cooking.

"The United States is the best country in the world," said Frank. He contrasted it with the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship. Frank had been there as a sailor. "People were treated like dirt," he said.

"That's a result of U.S. government policy," responded Mickells. Washington backed the Marcos regime right up until the very end when a mass popular movement swept him out of office in 1986, she pointed out.

A miner who supports Pat Robertson, the fundamentalist television preacher who ran for president in the Republican primaries, joined the discussion. He said it was necessary for Washington to turn a blind eye to the abuses committed by Marcos in order to protect the two mammoth U.S. military bases that are located in the Philippines.

"What do you think those bases are there for?" Mickells asked him. "To fight the enemy," he responded. Mickells said she thought the bases were there — like all other U.S. bases the world over — to defend U.S. economic and political domination in that area of the world. "They are directed against the workers and farmers there — people like ourselves — who decide to stand up and fight for their rights."

Kipp Dawson, a campaign supporter in the local, then introduced Mickells to the only member of the local's three-person underground safety committee that hadn't been fired after the three-day strike. Mickells told him that everywhere she had traveled during her campaign, the employ-

prisoners, incited by the authorities. They were then assigned to an isolation wing on the claim that they had "provoked" the attacks.

As punishment, prisoners are put in the isolation wing for several days at a time. Efrat and Schwartz were held there for about two months.

The two men, Yaacov Ben-Efrat and Assaf Adiv, were not put in an isolation wing, but they are denied the right to speak with fellow prisoners. Officials have offered no justification for this.

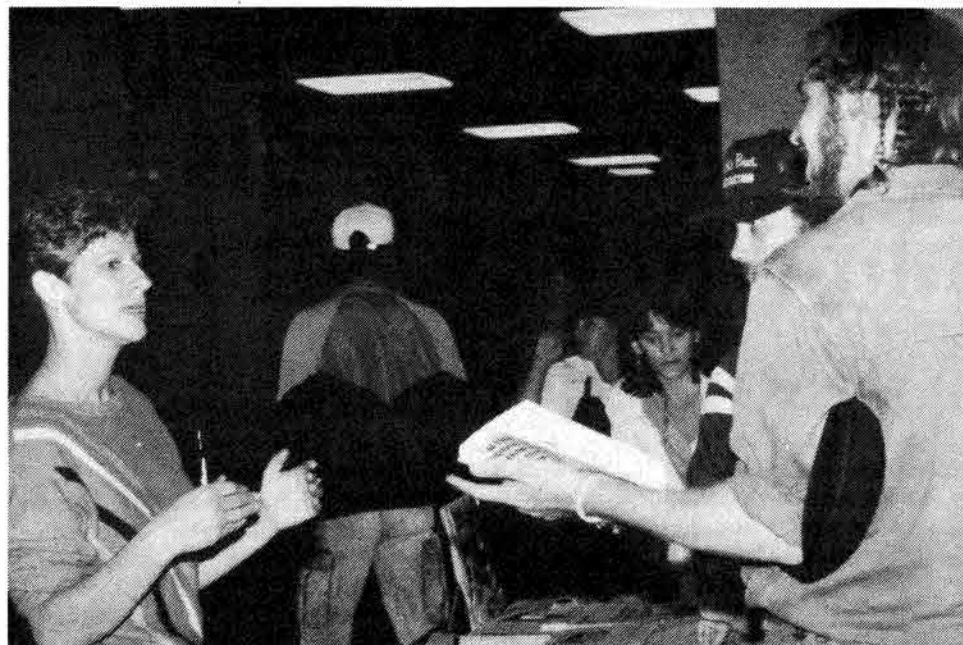
The four went on the hunger strike in July to protest the victimization they were being subjected to. They demanded that their isolation be ended and that they be assigned with other political prisoners.

Three leading Palestinian Israeli political prisoners joined their hunger strike for a day in an act of solidarity.

The hunger strike won wide media coverage and, on its conclusion, the two women were transferred from the isolation wing to the regular prison population.

A supporter of the four, Ruben Bitter-

Continued on Page 12



Militant/Margaret Jayko

Students at Edinboro State University were interested in learning more about Cuba

ers were attacking health-and-safety conditions on the job. And these conditions will get worse, she said, as the social and economic crisis facing many working people today qualitatively worsens tomorrow.

Mickells introduced each person she talked with to a pamphlet titled *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*. It describes the crisis facing workers and farmers around the world today, the even graver one that's coming, and some proposals from the Socialist Workers Party on how to unite working people internationally to fight back.

Edinboro State University

On August 29 Mickells went up to Edinboro State University. The school, situated in this rural area, has about 7,000 students, mainly working-class youth from Pennsylvania and Ohio. Classes hadn't begun yet, but freshman were on campus for orientation.

Mickells and campus supporters set up a socialist literature table in the lobby of the dining hall. A cafeteria worker helped distribute leaflets for a meeting with Mickells that evening.

The posters around the table of Nelson Mandela, imprisoned leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, attracted many students. And several Black students were excited to see books and pamphlets by Malcolm X.

Erich, from the philosophy club, helped staff the table. He used to be in the air force. Now he helps take care of a farm, along with some other students, 30 miles outside of town.

Most of the 20 people who came to hear the socialist candidate speak at the student union learned about the meeting at the table that day. Some workers from nearby Erie also participated. Susan Skinner, a Pittsburgh steelworker, chaired the meeting. She urged everyone present to join the fight against the cop frame-up of Des Moines

political activist Mark Curtis. Several people signed petitions and some agreed to help gather signatures.

Discussion

Mickells talked about the decline of the U.S. empire since World War II. In tackling the task of getting rid of the decaying capitalist system, she explained, working people can learn from the example of the Cuban socialist revolution and its leadership. She urged those present to join the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance. Everybody stayed for the discussion.

Ron asked, "If you were elected, what would your administration do to bring about the changes that you speak of?" He later told Mickells he was a registered Democrat, but he had always been interested in finding out what socialism is all about.

Mickells responded, "There is no administrative way to solve the big problems we face here and around the world. The difference between my campaign and the Democrats and Republicans is that I don't think any politician — not even a socialist one — can solve working people's problems. It's only the workers and farmers ourselves, organized politically, that can bring about fundamental social change."

"The main thing the Socialist Workers Party has to offer," Mickells continued, "is our ideas, our fighting perspective, and our political organization."

The discussion kept returning to the Cuban revolution. Many participants had bought that week's issue of the *Militant*, which reprinted a speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro. They decided they should get together again soon and organize a discussion on Cuba.

After the meeting, Lance thanked Mickells, saying that most politicians wouldn't even consider coming to their campus and having a real discussion. Several students expressed interest in joining the Young Socialist Alliance.

Israel: Sept. 8 trial set for pro-Palestinian journalists

BY HARRY RING

A prison hunger strike by four left-wing journalists forced the Israeli government to ease the particularly harsh conditions imposed on two of the prisoners who are women.

The four are editorial board members of *Derech Hanitzotz* (Way of the Spark), a Hebrew-language biweekly, published in Jerusalem, that supports the fight for Palestinian liberation.

An editor of the Arabic-language edition of the paper is being held without charges in a prison in Nabulus on the West Bank.

The four are slated for trial September 8 on charges of membership in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. An affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Democratic Front is outlawed by the Israeli government.

A legal Israeli publication, *Derech Hanitzotz* was shut down last February. Soon after, the jailing of its editors began.

The two women editors, Roni Ben-Efrat and Michal Schwartz, were subjected to verbal abuse and physical assault by other

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Fidel Castro's trip to Ecuador deals blow to U.S. efforts to isolate Cuba

BY FRED FELDMAN

The inauguration of President Rodrigo Borja of Ecuador was the occasion for Cuban President Fidel Castro's first trip to South America in 17 years. Castro was one of seven heads of state who attended the August 10 event.

Castro's last trip to Latin America took place in 1971, when he toured Chile at the invitation of President Salvador Allende, who was assassinated in 1973.

Castro was welcomed at the airport in the Ecuadorian capital city of Quito by outgoing President León Febres Cordero. While in Quito, the Cuban leader met with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Argentine President Raúl Alfonsín, Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti, and Portuguese President Mario Soares.

The Cuban head of state also held a discussion with 71 members of the Ecuadorian Congress headed by Congress President Wilfredo Lucero. Castro voiced gratitude for the warm reception from "countless Ecuadorians from all political and social levels."

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had also been invited to the inauguration by the incoming president, but Febres Cordero, who severed diplomatic ties with Nicaragua in 1985, refused to allow Ortega into the country for the event. Ortega arrived the next day.

Dengue fever epidemic

One of Borja's first acts in office was to resume diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

Castro's enthusiastic reception from the Ecuadorian people followed Cuba's active solidarity with Ecuador in the face of a recent epidemic there. In the first months of the year, dengue fever swept the coastal areas around Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city. More than 900,000 people were stricken.

The Cuban government sent a brigade of eight doctors and 94 health technicians to Ecuador in May. Cuba's medical personnel had combatted an outbreak of dengue fever

in Cuba several years ago.

The Cuban team proceeded to organize the systematic elimination of breeding places of the mosquitoes in the coastal areas. About 8,000 breeding places were cleaned up, and 250,000 homes were fumigated to keep the insects out. In about two months, the epidemic was overcome.

"Cuba's help was quick, without any red tape. . . . It acted as if it were its own problem," declared Dr. Plutarco Naranjo, now Ecuador's minister of public health, in the Quito daily *El Comercio*.

"Aid in difficult times demonstrates true Latin American brotherhood," Febres Cordero said of Cuba's efforts.

Shultz denounces mural

The inauguration of Febres Cordero's successor was also attended by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Shultz denounced a mural on the wall of the Ecuadorian Congress, where the inauguration took place, as an "insult to the United States." One part of the mural depicts a skeletal head wearing a military helmet bearing the insignia "CIA." The mural was created by Ecuadorian artist Osvaldo Guyasamin.

Shultz delivered a warning to President Borja, according to the August 11 *New York Times*. A State Department spokesman said that Shultz had told Borja that the combination of the mural and the visits of Castro and Ortega "would not send a good message to the people of the United States."

Castro and Ortega's trips to Ecuador marked another setback to Washington's efforts to isolate Cuba and Nicaragua.

In the case of Cuba, where the U.S. policy of ostracism has been in place for decades, the shift, while gradual, has been striking. By the end of 1964, every Latin American government except Mexico had followed Washington's lead in breaking relations with Havana. Today, every Latin American government except those of Colombia, Paraguay, and Chile has diplomatic relations with Cuba.



In addition to Castro and other heads of state, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz attended inauguration of new Ecuadorian president, which took place in Congress meeting hall in Quito (above). Shultz denounced hall's mural as "an insult to the United States" because of its characterization of CIA.

Sandinista leader explains Cuba-Nicaragua solidarity

On July 26 Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomás Borge held a news conference in Santiago, Cuba, for local and international journalists. The Nicaraguan leader was in Cuba as head of the Sandinista National Liberation Front delegation to Cuba's July 26 rally, which was addressed by Cuban President Fidel Castro.

During Borge's news conference he was asked a question by Julia Preston of the *Washington Post* about Cuban aid to Nicaragua. The following is his answer. The transcription and translation are by the *Militant*.

Julia, you've given me the opportunity to say something important, something I have always wanted to say. If we had to measure the solidarity of a country, there would be no tape measure long enough to measure Cuba's solidarity with Nicaragua. It would be impossible to set parameters to understand Cuba's infinite degree of solidarity with Nicaragua. What is unseen is much greater than what is seen. Yes, the aid we have received from Cuba has no limits.

From the first day that [Nicaraguan Minister of Education] Fernando Cardenal organized the literacy crusade, thousands of Cuban teachers came to Nicaragua. When volunteers to go to Nicaragua were requested here, all the teachers of Cuba offered to go. A selection had to be made. I haven't the slightest doubt that if it was necessary to ask for volunteers to go to work with the Nicaraguans or fight for the Nicaraguans, if sign-up tables were set up here and everyone who wanted to go was accepted, Cuba would be left without any inhabitants.

Although it is not an oil-producing country, Cuba has given us oil, and in greater

proportions than what other countries have given us. Cuba has helped in everything.

Moreover, the Cuban people's infinite generosity has never come with conditions. And Cuba's respectful treatment of our decisions has never wavered, from the first day of the triumph of our revolution. So much has been said about Nicaragua being a satellite of Cuba, just as it is said that Cuba is a satellite of the Soviet Union — that is, we are a satellite of a satellite.

Things like this are said and I want to tell you that neither Cuba, Fidel, nor any other leader of the Cuban revolution has ever imposed on us the slightest condition or asked us to make a decision in Cuba's interest. Our views on issues have coincided, but although Fidel sometimes says, "I believe this" or "This is my opinion on this or that" it's never to the extent of even giving advice. Such has been Fidel's tact and respect toward us. He would say, "Although I know you are going to do something else, this is my opinion."

In fact, we frequently do things that do not coincide with the Cuban point of view. Although often we do coincide, which is natural since we are brothers.

Efforts have been made to hinder, deny, and break up this relationship with Cuba. I must say — since I am in Cuba and I've always wanted to say it — that anything can happen here. We could all be destroyed. If all Nicaraguans had to choose between dying, or maintaining our relations with Cuba, we would all prefer to die before breaking relations with our brother republic of Cuba.

I am not saying this out of demagoguery or because I am in Cuba, but because it is necessary to express this sentiment that we have kept to ourselves — I at least have kept it locked in my heart for many years — and I wanted to say it in this country some time. I have finally done it.

1980s U.S. immigration higher than any time in history

Immigration to the United States in the 1980s has been the highest in the history of the country. At current rates, by 1990 some 9 million immigrants are expected to have been officially admitted to the United States in this decade, surpassing the total of 8.7 million who came from 1901 to 1910. The expected figure is double the number who were admitted in the 1970s. The years 1901-10 and the 1980s are the only decades that the number entering has surpassed 8 million.

The statistics, included in a report issued by the Center for Immigration Studies, does not include several million undocumented immigrants — so-called "illegals" — who also arrived since 1980.

The figures include 4 million people admitted as permanent residents in the first seven years of this decade, thousands who have been granted political asylum, and 2.4 million undocumented immigrants who have applied for amnesty under current

law. Assuming a similar pace of legal immigration for the rest of the decade, the statisticians predicted the record total.

The immigration statistics highlight the changing composition of the U.S. population. The largest group of immigrants from 1901-1920 came from southern and eastern Europe, with people from western Europe and Scandinavia close behind.

In the current decade, the largest number of legally admitted immigrants has come from Asia, with immigrants from Latin America in second place. Asia and Latin America account for 85 percent of recent immigrants.

About 70 percent of the recent immigrants settled in six states — New York, California, Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Illinois. Nearly 100,000 immigrants settled in New York City during the 1987 fiscal year alone, while some 64,000 settled in the Los Angeles area and another 38,000 in Miami.

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"Cuba will never adopt methods of capitalism," said Cuban President Fidel Castro during a speech he gave in Santiago, Cuba, on July 26, 1988.

The bulk of this speech is featured in PM's September issue.

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Communist movement wins new members

39 decide to join at Socialist Workers Party national convention

BY HARRY RING

A gratifying number of people joined the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance at the party's convention and the international educational and activists conference held in conjunction with it.

At the Oberlin, Ohio, gathering in early August, 29 people joined the SWP and 12 the YSA. Of these, two joined both organizations, for a total of 39 individuals.

Also, two people joined the Communist League of Britain, and one the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada.

In the weeks prior to the gathering it was apparent that there were new opportunities for winning members to the movement. A special recruiting effort was organized accordingly.

The principal political report to the convention by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes concluded with a strong appeal for people to join up. Other major reports also zeroed in on this.

The convention took the unusual step of electing a committee empowered to vote on membership applications.

This committee was augmented by a broader task force including revolutionary activists from other countries. It organized special meetings for those considering joining, and there were countless additional hours of individual discussion.

Those who joined the SWP came from 15 cities. Los Angeles took first place with five new members. Miami was second with four. The new members included two Iranians, two Haitians, two Salvadorans, a Cuban, a Puerto Rican, and a Honduran.

The youths who joined the YSA included a Kenyan, a Pakistani, a Mexican, a Puerto Rican, and an Australian. Three former members of the SWP rejoined.

What led them to join?

In interviews, a number of the new members discussed what led them to join.

At 16, Karla, a Salvadoran from Los Angeles, is already a veteran of the YSA, which she joined three years ago.

Initially, she was attracted to the Los Angeles Pathfinder Bookstore, located in a large Central American community. There she saw the *Young Socialist* magazine, and right below it, a sign, "Join the Young Socialist Alliance." "So," Karla recalls, "I figured I was young and I considered myself a socialist, so I decided soon after to join."

Now, she says, "after three years in the YSA, I figured it's time for me to broaden my mind. The YSA is a great organization, but if you really want to be a communist, you belong in the party."

Participating in classes leading up to the convention, and hearing SWP presidential nominee James Warren had pretty much convinced her to join the SWP. But the Oberlin gathering cinched it.

Wisconsin worker

Sam, a factory worker and shop steward from Green Bay, Wisconsin, met the party early this year when an SWP member from Milwaukee sold him a *Militant* at a rally of striking paperworkers.

In the 1960s, Sam had been active in Democratic Party politics but finally saw "it was rigged in favor of the capitalists."

For a number of years he limited himself to activity on the job but kept thinking about politics. For the past several years, he said, "I considered myself a communist."

After reading the *Militant*, he subscribed and began attending forums and classes in Milwaukee and reading Pathfinder books. "The first thing was the *Communist Manifesto*," he said. "I think that's as relevant today as when it was written."

From the outset, Sam felt at home with the SWP. He says, "This is the first grouping of people that I've been around who think like I do."

Dave was a college student in Albany, New York. Last spring, he dropped out, came down to New York City and joined the YSA.

When he entered college, he explained, he had been a liberal. "I campaigned for Mario Cuomo for governor." It took two years of discussion with a campus YSA member and a fight to get CIA recruiters off campus to finally persuade Dave where he belonged.

"One really important thing for me," he adds, "is when I went to a rally of striking paperworkers in Jay, Maine."

"I got to see what actually happens when workers get into a struggle," he said. "And how these workers progress so much in their understanding of capitalism. It convinced me there was hope for major progress."

When he came to Oberlin, Dave was weighing the idea of joining the SWP. "Then," he said, "I heard Jack Barnes' report and that decided me." He said he is planning to move to another city. "I'm really excited about going somewhere else, getting an industrial job and seeing what I can do," he said.

At Oberlin, Julie from London decided to join the Communist League of Britain. She had met league members while active in anti-apartheid and abortion rights campaigns. She also began reading Pathfinder books "and became more and more aware of what was happening in the world. I felt I wanted to do something about it. At first I thought you could do something on an individual basis."

But, she added, the work of the Communist League made a big impact on her, and then coming to Oberlin and participating in the rich political agenda "was like the last straw. There was no way I couldn't join."

Initially, joining had seemed like a big commitment. "Your whole life is taken up by it, going into industry, joining the fight."

But now, she added, "It's become very important to me to do this. Now it doesn't feel like a 'commitment.' It's a question of, 'When can I start?'"

Mary Ann of Los Angeles joined both the YSA and SWP. She was initially attracted to the movement by the Pathfinder Mural Project in New York.

Earlier this year she had visited Mexico and had been impressed by the many outstanding murals there. Most of these have social and political themes.

Returning, she thought about why there seemed to be no similar mural movement in this country.

Then, on a Los Angeles radio station, she heard an interview with Mike Alewitz, the artist who conceived the idea of the Pathfinder mural and prepared its basic design.

Hearing his description of the six-story mural featuring international revolutionary figures, she immediately wrote to Alewitz explaining she was a novice artist who would like to help. Her offer was accepted and on a visit to New York she was able to work for a number of days on the mural.

That was an exciting experience, she said. But even more so was learning what was inside the Pathfinder Building, all of which was news to her. She visited the Pathfinder offices and the offices of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *New International*. And saw the presses roll in the printing plant.

On her return to Los Angeles, Mary Ann began visiting the Pathfinder Bookstore and attending forums and classes. The next step was to come to the Oberlin conference where she made the decision to join.

"Politics have been part of my life since I realized they existed," she explained. "But now I've found a framework where they can be an integral, working part of my life."

Farm worker

Sergio, 16, came from Mexico only a few months ago and is a farm worker in Northern California.

He had taken some high school courses in political science, but his real political education began with his experiences in the United States.

"In Mexico," he said, "people have the idea that the United States is a bank where you go to draw out money."

Grueling work in fruit orchards, living in tents with no beds, and wages as low as \$15 a day quickly disposed of whatever illusions Sergio may have had.

In addition, he met Carlos, a cannery worker who had been involved in the bitterly fought, victorious 18-month strike of cannery workers in Watsonville. Carlos discussed politics with Sergio, provided him with copies of *Perspectiva Mundial*, and invited him to forums of the SWP in Oakland.

At Oberlin, Sergio decided to join. "I've learned a lot at the conference about the situation we're living in," he said. "And I learned about how to communicate that to other people so that we'll be able to do something about it."

Wayne, a New Yorker, had started out aiming to be a professional artist. He soon learned that it isn't that easy. In community college he got involved in consumer and environmental issues.

In April of 1987 he went to Washington for the march of 125,000 against the U.S.-sponsored contra war in Nicaragua.

Read 'Young Socialist'

There, he and a friend bought a copy of the *Young Socialist*. On his return, that brought him to the Pathfinder Bookstore, the YSA, forums, and classes.

Wayne joined the YSA and, at Oberlin, decided he also wanted to be in the party. "I met people from around the world," he said, "and I decided I wanted to be part of this international movement."

Francisco is a factory worker in the Newark area. He first met the SWP at one of its literature tables during a demonstration for Puerto Rican rights. He talked briefly with the people at the table, "and I decided on the spot to subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial*."

"After that I subscribed to the *Militant*, began going to the forums, doing small tasks to contribute to the struggle."

"It's been pretty clear to me for a long time that you have to approach the Puerto Rican struggle in the context of the international working-class struggle," he observed.

Francisco has helped staff literature tables in his community and found "a growing enthusiasm" for the party's ideas, "not only among Puerto Ricans and other Latinos, but also among North American workers, particularly Black workers."

José, a student in the Newark area, is from Guatemala and says he's always been interested in politics. So, when he saw an SWP-YSA literature table at his campus he bought some books and a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*. He received notices of Newark forums and began attending.

Intent on winning others, José said, "I have a lot of friends that I want to tell about this and why they should join. Many of them are already thinking about politics. This is the best way to support Nicaragua and Central America. It's something we must do here to defend the revolutionary movements in Central America and all of the world."

Literature table

Derold, a student in the Miami area, is from Haiti. He first encountered the SWP and YSA at a literature table in Miami's "Little Haiti." He bought several books and began attending meetings.

He had already been interested in politics and had read a good bit, "But I wasn't very well informed about socialism. Now I'm learning a great deal from the party and YSA."

He added, "Coming across that table was very important to me and it's important for the community. So, yes, I'll be proud to be behind that table, to help spread the ideas, help make people aware."

Ronald is also from Haiti and also first encountered the SWP and YSA at a literature table in Little Haiti.

"But," he said ruefully, "I didn't get the address."

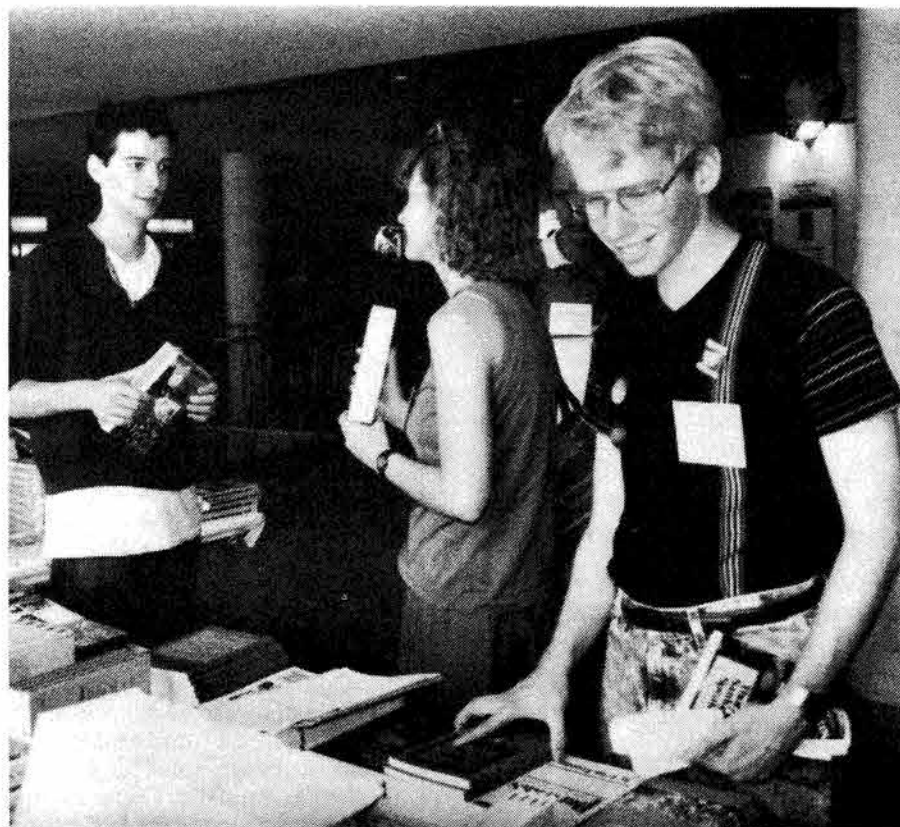
At the table, he bought *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, a compilation of the writings of the famed revolutionary leader. "I had always admired Che," Ronald said. "But when I read the book, I was amazed by the many ideas Che had. So I wanted to meet the people who sold me the book."

Then he ran into another literature table at Miami Community College. And, also, there was a leaflet announcing that Kathleen Mickells, the SWP vice-presidential candidate, would be speaking there. Ronald attended, listened to Mickells' presentation, and had the opportunity to have a political discussion with her.

He too began attending meetings and classes. And then he piled into a van with others from Miami for the 22-hour drive to Oberlin.

It was well worth it, he says. "The conference drove home to me that this is really an international struggle, not just in my country or just in this country. It's everywhere around the world."

Convention-goers grab up Marxist books, pamphlets



Militant/Margrethe Siem

An expansive Pathfinder table at recent Socialist Workers Party national convention and international education and activists conference was site of browsing, buying, and political discussions. Almost \$15,000 in literature was sold over five days. Best sellers were *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, 455 copies; *FBI on Trial* and *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*, 200 copies each; *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, 782 copies; *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, 39 copies; and 79 separate volumes of *Capital*. Eighty-six copies of different issues of *New International* were also sold.

Mark Curtis — political activist, unionist, and

BY NORTON SANDLER

DES MOINES, Iowa — "The cops and prosecutor say this is a criminal case, not a political case."

"They say it's a coincidence that the FBI has files on me," Mark Curtis explained. "They claim it's just a coincidence that a union activist, a political activist, was arrested three days after immigration cops raided the Swift meat-packing plant and just a few hours after I attended a meeting to protest that raid."

Curtis, a 29-year-old packinghouse worker, was talking about his frame-up on rape and burglary charges during an interview at his defense committee office in Des Moines a few weeks ago. He is accused of forcing his way into a house and attempting to rape a 15-year-old Black high school student last March 4.

Curtis has explained that when he left his house that evening, after attending the meeting to protest the raid at Swift, a young woman flagged him down at a traffic light. She said a man was after her and pleaded with Curtis to drive her home.

When they arrived at the house a few minutes later, she asked Curtis to wait on the porch while she checked inside, which he did.

He never saw the woman again.

The cops arrived a moment later and grabbed him. They took him inside the house and pulled down his pants. He was then taken to jail and brutally beaten. Curtis was charged with second-degree rape. He was also charged with assaulting the cops who beat him.

At an arraignment hearing in April, the prosecutor changed the charges to second-degree burglary and third-degree sexual assault. Under Iowa law, anyone convicted on these counts, faces a mandatory 25-year jail term.

It wasn't until Curtis attended a deposition hearing on May 31 that he found out that the woman he gave a ride to on March 4 is not the same woman the cops claim he attempted to rape.

Curtis' trial will begin at the Polk County Courthouse here on September 7.

"Why was I arrested, why was I beaten? Why did the FBI spy on me? It wasn't because of any crimes I committed," Curtis emphasized. "It's because of who I am, what I stand for, what I've done with my

life for the last 11 years."

Curtis recounted how he became involved in politics.

Indian struggles in New Mexico

His family lived on Indian reservations while he was growing up. His father, Stan, was a teacher for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. His mother, Jane, worked as a nurse for the Indian Health Service.

For a number of years, the family lived in New Mexico. "Our home in Mariano Lake was about 50 miles from Gallup on the New Mexico side of the Navajo Nation," said Curtis.

"There was a lot of racism in the schools there," he said, "but my parents taught me not to be a racist."

The struggles of the Navajos against the conditions they face had a big impact on Curtis.

In 1975, activists from the American Indian Movement (AIM) took over the Fairchild electronics plant in Shiprock, New Mexico, demanding an end to layoffs and discrimination in the plant. Rather than give in to their demands, the company closed the plant.

During this period, AIM leaders detained the mayor of Gallup in a sporting goods store to dramatize their demands. After the mayor ran out of the store, the police opened fire, murdering the Indian activists. The next Saturday there was a huge demonstration in Gallup. There were also a number of walkouts by Indian students at the high schools, Curtis said.

"My parents knew I would take the Indians' side, but they didn't want me to get involved."

After graduating from high school, Curtis worked at the United Nuclear Co. in Church Rock. "At that time it was the biggest uranium mine in the world. It was cold going down and hot underground. Most of the workers were experienced hard-rock miners from back east or Colorado," Curtis said.

"The 'grizzly man' job, which was the hardest in the mine, was always forced on an Indian. The grizzly man had to take large hunks of ore and hit them with a sledgehammer until they broke into small chunks."

Curtis said the company had the workers shower in water that was pumped out of the mine.

"The mining companies are destroying the beauty of the area. There used to be a lake up there," Curtis recalled, "but it's gone now. The mining lowered the water table. Every year I would go home and the lake was smaller and smaller. Now it's just dry."

YSA member

Curtis joined the Young Socialist Alliance within weeks of enrolling at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque in the fall of 1977.

"I met YSA members at a literature table," he said. "All the things they were talking about fit with what I had been thinking."

He became involved in the antinuclear movement on campus and the fight against the Bakke decision — a court case that sought to overturn affirmative action gains for Blacks, Latinos, and women.

Inspired by the revolutions in Iran and Nicaragua, Curtis joined the Albuquerque branch of the Socialist Workers Party in 1979.

He went to work at the Motorola plant that year after the YSA decided to concentrate its members in the industrial unions. "We did some good work there collecting 75 names on petitions opposing the reinstitution of the military draft," Curtis remarked.

In 1981 Curtis went on a YSA-organized youth tour to Cuba. He saw firsthand how the Cubans were building a society that served the interests of working people, not a handful of wealthy employers.

He moved to Birmingham, Alabama, the same year. "A recession was coming on and it was tough to get a job. The steel industry in particular was really down," he said. He worked a year in a nonunion lumberyard before getting hired as a mechanic at Hayes Aircraft in 1982. That company made C-130 military transport planes.

Curtis was active in the United Auto Workers union (UAW) at Hayes, helping to get the union to participate in the August 1983 march for "Jobs, Peace, and Freedom," in Washington, D.C., which was organized by civil rights organizations and endorsed by several unions.

"The union officials at Hayes were much older," Curtis said. "Many were in their 50s and had been in the plant when it was segregated. I asked one of them if he had heard about the demonstration."

"He said, 'Yes, somewhere.' I noticed the UAW International's mailing on the march lying in a trash can. He embarrassedly fished it out and said, 'Yes, we should go to this.'"

"Because of company-inspired harassment, it was a fight for socialists to conduct political activity at Hayes," Curtis explained. "The company would egg on a group of right-wingers. My roll-away [tool box] was vandalized around the time of the U.S. invasion of Grenada."

"Harassment came up maybe five times in a big way while I was there. Each time we got a lot of backing from our coworkers and the right-wingers would get isolated."

Curtis ran as a Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from Alabama in 1984.

The company didn't like having antiwar and antiracist fighters in the plant. After an incident with the right-wingers, the company claimed Curtis and another socialist had falsified their job applications and fired them.

Central America solidarity

During his four years in Alabama, Curtis was active in the Birmingham Committee in Solidarity With Central America. "I was one of the two or three people who took a lot of organizational responsibility for the committee," he said.

The group carried out educational activity and participated in demonstrations against the U.S.-organized contra war in Nicaragua and Washington's backing to the government in El Salvador.

"We didn't know it at the time, but the FBI was investigating our group as part of their investigation of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES). I only found out about this after my arrest," Curtis said.

"The FBI was trying to destroy CISPES. The government used this investigation as a jumping off point to go after 150 organi-

Prosecutor uses hearing to harass

BY ELLEN WHITT

DES MOINES, Iowa, Sept. 1 — The Des Moines prosecutor tried to use a hearing early this morning to harass and attack the democratic rights of Mark Curtis and his supporters.

Judge Anthony Critelli called the hearing after Assistant Polk County Prosecutor Catherine Thune claimed that the judge's July 19 court order had been violated because Curtis defense committee leaflets were passed out at Hoover High School where alleged rape victim Demetria Morris attends school.

That order prohibited contact between Curtis and Demetria Morris and her family.

During the past week, leaflets containing the facts on Curtis' case and publicizing a September 4 rally, have been distributed at four high schools, two colleges, two dozen factory gates, and several shopping centers in this city.

Thune argued that the young woman got upset when her friends at school received the leaflets. But Thune added that Demetria Morris did not see Mark Curtis distribute the leaflets.

The judge asked if Thune had any witnesses who had seen Curtis distribute the leaflets. The prosecutor said no.

Critelli turned to Curtis' attorney Mark Pennington, and asked him if Curtis had authorized the distribution of leaflets. After Pennington said no, Mark Curtis was called to the stand. Curtis testified that he had not authorized the leafleting.

The judge then ruled that his court order had not been violated.

Afterwards, Curtis defense committee coordinator Stu Singer said, "This hearing reinforces what we have been saying all along about this being a political case, which is an attack on the democratic rights of everyone."

"The frame-up of Mark Curtis is de-



Detroit Mayor Coleman Young (left) and are among those who have sent messages

signed to intimidate working people from getting involved in politics and standing up for their rights. Today they tried to take the additional step of banning the constitutional right to freedom of speech," he said.

"These kinds of attacks will more and more be the norm as the economic and social crisis deepens in this country and around the world. That's why workers, farmers, and young people have such a big stake in defending the Bill of Rights."

As his trial nears, Curtis is continuing to win new support for his fight against the frame-up.

"I write to express my concern regarding the arrest and upcoming trial of union and political activist Mark Curtis," Detroit Mayor Coleman Young wrote to Polk County Prosecutor James Smith.

"As an early union organizer, I am concerned that Mr. Curtis may be being harass-

Des Moines

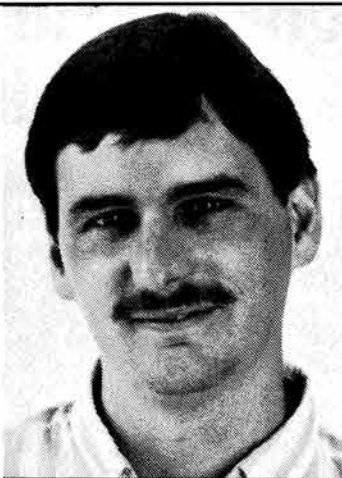
Iowa

Come to 2nd international defense rally for Mark Curtis
Political activist framed-up on rape charges & beaten by Des Moines cops

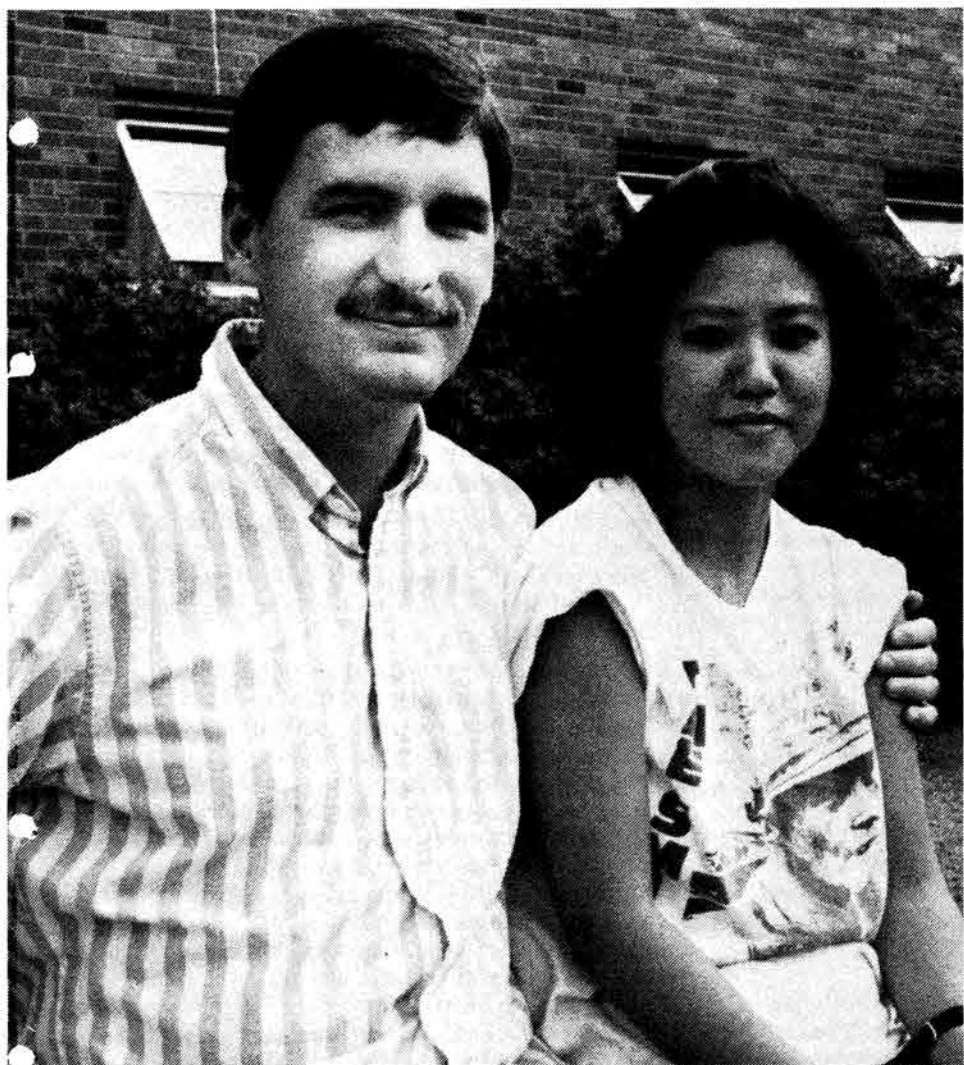
Sunday, September 4, 2 p.m.
Des Moines Convention Center
5th and Grand

Speakers:

Susan Mnumzana representative of the African National Congress of South Africa • **Jack Barnes** national secretary of Socialist Workers Party • **Piri Thomas** Puerto Rican author and poet • **Roger Allison** director of Missouri Rural Crisis Center • **Héctor Marroquín** Mexican-born socialist fighting for permanent residence in the U.S. • **William Taylor** president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union Local 7-507 • **Father William Callahan** national coordinator of Quest for Peace • **Carroll Nearmyer** Iowa State president, American Agriculture Movement • **Ed Long, Jr.** striking member of United Paperworkers International Union Local 1787 • **Kathleen Mickells** Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president • **Catherine Walsh** New Wave, Iowa City • **Mike Henry** director, Latin American Human Rights Advocacy Center, Iowa City • **Edna Griffin** longtime Des Moines civil rights fighter • **Julie Mungai** defendant in Los Angeles 8 deportation case • **Mark Curtis**



antiwar fighter — the victim of a frame-up



Mark Curtis and his wife Kate Kaku. A few hours before arrest, Curtis attended meeting to protest immigration cop raid at the Swift beef-packing plant in Des Moines.

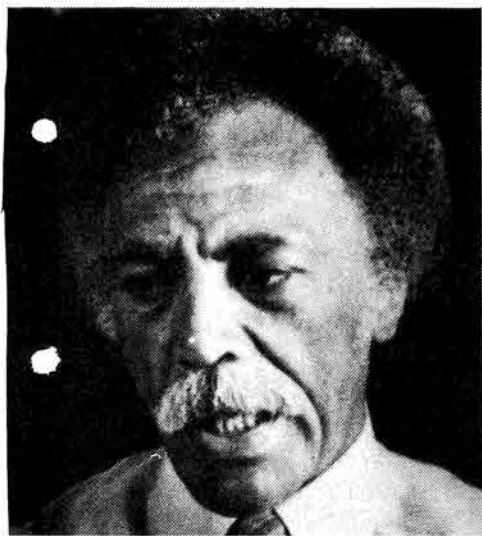
zations involved in legal political activity," he emphasized. "Those files aren't some kind of harmless stenography. The FBI visited people's landlords, they got them kicked out of their apartments. They tried to get people fired from their jobs."

A number of Birmingham solidarity activists are giving Curtis strong backing in his fight. Some attended the public meeting

during Curtis' tour of that city last spring. After an article on the case appeared in a Birmingham daily newspaper, Curtis said, he got several more calls from people expressing solidarity.

Curtis moved to New York in the summer of 1985 to work in the Young Socialist Alliance national office. He served as national chairperson of the YSA.

Mass Curtis and his supporters



California Congressman Ronald Dellums. Curtis case to Des Moines officials.

sed for his political beliefs, rather than fairly investigated and brought to trial for actual criminal activity," Young continued.

In a message to Des Moines Police Chief William Moulder, California Congressman Ronald Dellums wrote, "I add my voice to all many who are asking that you investigate the circumstances surrounding the arrest and severe beating while under detention of Mark Curtis."

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has also received copies of letters protesting the arrest and beating of Curtis from Loni Hancock, the mayor of Berkeley, California; George Baker, president of the Mailhandlers union Local 300 in New York; and Dismas Becker, a Wisconsin state representative.

At the annual meeting of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives in Birmingham, Alabama, 51 farmers signed petitions demanding that Smith drop the charges against Cur-

tis and prosecute the cops who beat him.

In Des Moines, supporters of the Curtis defense committee got a warm welcome when they spoke about the case at the New Friendship Church of God and Christ in the Black community on August 27. More than 20 people signed the petition.

On August 27 in Minneapolis, supporters of Mark Curtis attended the "Take Back the Night" conference and rally. These events are sponsored annually by a variety of feminist organizations, battered women's shelters, rape-crisis centers, and academic bodies such as the University of Minnesota Women's Studies Center.

The aim of the event is to draw attention to violence against women and children. Over the course of the day, several thousand participated.

Working off an information table, backers of Mark Curtis were able to introduce many to his case. They began by explaining that Mark Curtis is charged with attempted rape.

Eighty-five signed the defense committee petitions. Many expressed anger that the cops and prosecutor would cynically use the rape frame-up against Curtis, a longtime fighter for women's rights.

Twenty more signed the petition the same day at a picnic sponsored by the Minneapolis Urban League.

The September 4 defense committee rally in Des Moines will begin at the downtown Convention Center at 2:00 P.M.

The committee is organizing a reception at its office in the Pathfinder bookstore in Des Moines after the rally. The next day the committee is sponsoring a class on the political legacy of revolutionary leader Malcolm X, followed by a fundraising picnic at a nearby farm.

Natasha Terlexis in Minneapolis also contributed to this article.

Curtis and other YSA leaders went on speaking tours explaining the significance of the Nicaraguan revolution and the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

"In early 1986 the YSA participated in the 100,000-strong proabortion march in Washington, D.C.," Curtis said.

In the fall of 1986 he was one of a number of SWP members who moved to Des Moines; Omaha, Nebraska; and Austin, Minnesota, to join the struggles of working people there.

Curtis got hired at the Swift beef-packing plant. His wife Kate Kaku works at the Oscar Mayer plant in nearby Perry, Iowa.

Packing industry

Meat-packing had the highest injury rate of any industry in 1986 — the last year government figures are available.

Nearly 80 percent of the 600 workers in the Swift plant suffered an injury last year, Curtis said. Cuts from the knives, amputations, and carpal tunnel syndrome are the most common injuries.

"Swift treats workers as if they were disposable razor blades," Curtis explained. "They use you for a while and then throw you out. At a union meeting last spring, the business agent reported that Swift had hired 3,000 workers in a 12-month period."

"The company uses this to try to break down solidarity. They tell you it's not worth learning the new workers' names because they won't be there tomorrow."

The company tried to fire Curtis in December 1987. "I was grabbing cattle paunches. They were too heavy and I pulled the muscles in my back. I told the boss that I had to see a doctor. He said I couldn't leave."

"After a couple hours, I told him I was leaving because of the pain. He walked alongside me hollering, 'You're going to be fired, you're going to be fired.'"

"I got help in fighting the firing from my union steward and from many coworkers," said Curtis. "It actually came down to a little hearing where a company official lied through his teeth about what happened. But two coworkers who saw what happened testified on my behalf and I got the job back."

Many workers at Swift were born in Mexico, El Salvador, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and other countries, in addition to the United States. There is no way you can fight for better conditions, he said, unless you fight to cut across the divisions management promotes among the workers.

On March 1 Immigration and Naturalization Service cops invaded the Swift plant. The raid took place not long after the new immigration law went into effect.

"The INS cops would begin weaving their way down the line," Curtis said. "A boss was with them. They would just come up to somebody and grab them."

Seventeen Latino workers were arrested and charged with felonies. Several had applied for amnesty under the new law. The government went through the Swift personnel files, comparing the information there with the supposedly confidential amnesty application forms.

The next day many other Latinos didn't come to work. "The company had to slow down the line because so many workers were out," Curtis said. "That's when the discussions about the raid really began to take place."

The following day, however, most were back on the job. By March 4, many Latino workers at Swift and their families were in a fighting mood. A meeting was called at the nearby Mexican American Community Center that afternoon. When the company tried to block their attendance at the meeting, eight or nine workers walked off the line. They only returned after Swift brought a community activist to the plant to assure them that a second meeting would be held later in the day.

Curtis says the resistance that developed to the raid shows that immigrant workers, in increasing numbers, not only aren't going to be intimidated from fighting back against the conditions the employers try to impose, but they are also going to be among the leaders of future union battles.

At Swift, Curtis was involved in dozens of discussions about the raid. He defended

the right of the immigrants to live and work here. Curtis attended the second meeting at the community center.

"It was mostly guys from the kill-floor," Curtis said. "Company representatives were there as well. Speaking in Spanish, I said, 'We need to get the union involved. It's not just an issue for the workers arrested, it's an attack on everybody in the plant. I volunteered to begin to reach out to the rest of the workers at Swift.'"

A few hours later Mark Curtis was arrested on the frame-up charges.

"The prosecutor claims," he continued, "that in the midst of all this political work, Mark Curtis, who has never been arrested, had no criminal record, managed to attempt a sex crime but was prevented in the nick of time by the police."

Since getting back on his feet from the police beating, Curtis has spoken to dozens of meetings around the country and in Canada. Thousands in the United States and internationally have sent messages to the Des Moines cops demanding that the charges against him be dropped and the cops who beat him be prosecuted. A layer of workers at Swift, Curtis says, are among his strongest backers.

He is also proud of the support his parents and other family members are giving him. A file folder in the defense committee offices is full of protest letters Curtis' relatives have sent the Des Moines police.

In the last several months he has spoken to or corresponded with a number of other victims of government frame-ups. "We have been able to back each other up in our fights for justice."

"All the support I've gotten gives me confidence that we will ultimately win this fight," Curtis emphasized.

Iowa activist wins new support at union conventions

"Unions and union members are among the best supporters of my case," Mark Curtis said in a recent telephone interview. In July and August the packinghouse worker attended four union conventions.

At the United Food and Commercial Workers convention in San Francisco 200 delegates signed a petition demanding that Des Moines prosecutor James Smith drop the charges against Curtis. "A significant number of UFCW members had heard about my case, particularly the delegates from Canada," Curtis said.

At the United Steelworkers of America convention in Las Vegas, Curtis met delegates from Birmingham, Alabama, where he used to live. "They introduced me to union vice-president Leon Lynch," Curtis said. A delegate from Minnesota and one from southern Illinois went out of their way to help out by bringing others to the guest section to meet me."

"At the Postal Workers convention in Chicago I spoke with the head of the Iowa delegation, and the unionist who puts out the newsletter in Des Moines," he said.

Others from Des Moines came down to visit the Curtis defense committee table and took literature on the case.

"No less than three workers said they knew of cases where postal union members had been framed up. It is always the same story," said Curtis, "a supervisor doesn't like a worker and has them falsely accused of theft."

At the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union convention in Florida, Curtis' defense committee collected dozens of signatures on petitions and raised some \$200 for his legal expenses.

Curtis also had a successful tour of the Chicago-Gary area, speaking before three steel union locals.

The vice-president of Local 1014 at the USX mill in Gary introduced him at the union meeting. "The membership really responded," Curtis said. "A woman suggested that a collection be taken up on the spot for my defense. Someone else urged that a plant-gate collection be taken. Others indicated that they would try to get to Des Moines for the September 4 rally."

Imperialism's problems in subjugating Caribbean

Imperialism's attempts at cultural domination of the Caribbean in the 1980s have been more successful than its efforts at complete political subjugation. Unedited U.S. television programs (with commercials et. al.), trashy Hollywood movies, comic books, and comical con men masquerading as evangelical preachers have combined to unleash an unprecedented cultural invasion on Caribbean mass consciousness.

Despite this all-pervasive onslaught, however, more and more patriotic elements of Caribbean society are



CARIB NOTES

Don Rojas

today joining efforts to defend the cultural and intellectual sovereignty of the peoples of the islands.

Nationalist trends in the Caribbean mass consciousness have also put pressure on the neocolonial political and economic elites to modify and in some cases even abandon the more vulgar proimperialist attitudes and positions they used to adopt on key regional and international issues.

For example, Caribbean governments (with the exception of Herbert Blaize's regime in Grenada) have all voted in the United Nations for mandatory, comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Following earlier differences over Haiti, today they are unanimous in their condemnation of the recent coup by military strongman Henri Namphy.

Much to the annoyance of the White House and State Department, their Caribbean client states consistently supported the Contadora process to negotiate an end to the contra war in Nicaragua and hailed the signing of the 1987 Esquipulas II accords.

Three months ago a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) foreign ministers' meeting criticized U.S. economic warfare on Panama and supported that Central American government's right to defend its sovereignty and self-determination.

Since 1986 several Caribbean heads of state have spoken out, some desperately, others plaintively, at the U.S. government's arbitrary cuts in its import sugar quotas.

In a move that surprised some for its boldness, but that was hailed in many quarters as courageous, Caribbean leaders recently sent a collective letter to Reagan protesting the heavy-handed manner by which the U.S. Justice Department and U.S. drug enforcement agents were disregarding Caribbean laws and interfering in the region's affairs as they carried out their antidrug operations.

With their political futures in jeopardy, stemming from their inability to solve the grave social and economic problems of working people, some of these politicians are demonstrating a newfound sensitivity to the progressive sentiments of the masses.

On the other hand, an emerging convergence of factors already alluded to is creating new revolutionary currents and opening up new prospects and possibilities for the Caribbean left. This is so even though, in absolute terms, the left remains weak following the overturn of the Grenada revolution in 1983. But neither is the right in the region as powerful a force as Reagan and his cowboys set out to make it.

For example, the Caribbean Democratic Union (CDU), a coalition of conservative political parties, has yet to live up to the hopes invested in it by its architects at the Heritage Foundation and the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington. Meanwhile the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America forges ahead, expanding its ranks and gaining in respectability and influence.

Even the CDU-inspired project for uniting the islands of the Eastern Caribbean into a more manageable (from the standpoint of imperialism) single state has lost momentum as the ruling elites of each mini-nation state struggle to reach consensus on harmonizing their individual interests.

Both the Jamaican (under Seaga) and Grenadian (under Blaize) models of dependent capitalist development, which were championed by the Reagan administration as the alternative "democratic" path for Caribbean states, are abysmal failures. Both regimes are being discredited in the eyes of the masses. Indeed, the historic example and inspiring vision of the Grenada revolution,

far from being vanquished, is regaining its place on the political agenda for the region as we move into the 1990s.

What effects has the Reagan administration's economic policies had on the social and economic life of the peoples and nations of the Caribbean? Where can we find the wondrous results of Reagan's magic marketplace or the "triumph of democracy and freedom" anywhere in the region in 1988? Search as you may, such rosy pictures are difficult to find.

Instead, a critical view of the Caribbean's political economy will reveal the other face of paradise, the face hidden behind the glitzy tourist brochures, the pockmarked face of the crisis.

We are left with massive unemployment throughout the islands in the sun and a collective indebtedness so huge that the Caribbean today ranks first as the region with the highest per capita foreign debt in the world. We ship out more money to the transnational banks in New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia than we receive as investment capital from the north.

Countries with some of the most fertile soil to be found anywhere and surrounded by waters teeming with fish still must import \$1 billion worth of food paid for with hard-earned foreign exchange in order to keep their people from starving every year.

Then there is the systematic abuse of human rights and civil liberties, particularly in countries such as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Jamaica. Everywhere, violent crime is on the rise while drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, and prostitution are spreading.

All the major indices on hunger, malnutrition, and illiteracy show that the quality of life has been steadily declining in recent years while the less easily measured indicators of mass social psychology, such as levels of alienation, demoralization, and hopelessness, are all rising throughout the Caribbean. Our region is in deep crisis. And only revolutionary solutions can pull us out of this pit.

Five years after the overthrow of the Grenada revolution and notwithstanding all the trauma, confusion, and despair that ensued, the masses of the Caribbean, in ever increasing numbers, are coming to the realization that, in the words of the late Maurice Bishop, imperialism is not invincible and that more peoples' victories are possible in the future.

Right to travel is issue in contempt-of-court case

BY AUGUST NIMTZ

MINNEAPOLIS — "We see this as a threat to First Amendment rights including the right to travel," said Vernon Bellecourt.

Bellecourt and Bill Means, leaders of the American Indian Movement and International Indian Treaty Council, and Robert Brown of the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, are facing jail on contempt-of-court charges.

Bellecourt, Means, and Brown were found in contempt and ordered immediately imprisoned when they refused to testify July 25 before a grand jury in Fairfax, Virginia. The government sought to force them to give information against alleged members or supporters of the Virginia-based People's Committee for Libyan Students (PCLS).

The three could be imprisoned for as long as the grand jury is in session.

Jailing of the three has been stayed while the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Asheville, North Carolina, considers the legality of the contempt citations.

Grand jury indictments

On July 28 the grand jury handed down indictments against eight people said to be linked to the PCLS. They are charged with violating the 1986 federal regulations that forbid travel to Libya or transactions with it. The eight have pleaded not guilty to all charges, and are scheduled to go on trial October 17.

The Justice Department charged that the PCLS was a front for the Libyan government, with which Washington broke diplomatic relations in 1986. The indictment charges the eight with using funds allegedly sent from Libya for student expenses to establish "relationships with" and provide "financial support to selected American groups to call on them to carry out actions in support of Libya's foreign policies."

Among other alleged crimes, the PCLS is charged with spending \$26,000 to produce 10,000 T-shirts bearing a picture of the infant daughter of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. She was killed in the April 1986 U.S. bombing of Libya.

"The indictments indicate," Bellecourt explained, "that it was the political activities of the American Indian Movement and others who sympathize with Libya" that are at issue in the contempt citations against him and the others.

The government charges that the PCLS helped fund a trip by 200 U.S. citizens, led by Bellecourt and Means, to Libya in April 1987. They attended an international conference to commemorate and denounce the U.S. bombing.

Bellecourt noted that, in presenting its case against the eight, government attorneys frequently cited a demonstration in Washington, D.C.'s Lafayette Park that AIM helped to organize on the first anniversary of the bombing. The protest coincided with the conference in Libya that

Bellecourt attended and was linked to the meeting through a TV-satellite hookup.

"Our belief is that they wanted our testimony not just as witnesses but rather to implicate others who went with us to Libya," Bellecourt stated.

"I don't want to go to jail but I am ready to go to jail. There are some principles involved. I am not going to do anything to incriminate other people that I invited, organized, and asked to go to an international peace gathering."

Phone calls intercepted

During the grand jury hearings, it was revealed that telephone conversations of Brown and the AIM leaders had been intercepted and recorded, supposedly under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Bellecourt, Brown, and Means argue that the surveillance violated the act.

"As a representative of the American Indian Movement, we see this from another perspective," he concluded. "We reserve the absolute right to carry on our own foreign policy and to travel anywhere. We reject the Reagan administration's slander campaign against Libya."

Lawyers from the Center for Constitutional Rights and the firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin, and Standard in New York City are representing Bellecourt, Means, and Brown. "The most immediate thing we need," said Bellecourt, "is for people to become aware of the constitutional issues at stake as well as political and financial support."

Largest newspaper in Iran describes important role of Pathfinder mural

The following article on the Pathfinder Mural Project appeared in the Aug. 17, 1988, issue of *Kayhan*, the largest daily newspaper in Iran. The article, which was on the "Contemporary Art" page, was headlined, "Sattar Khan and Baqer Khan join Zapata, Mandela, and Bishop in New York." Sattar Khan and Baqer Khan were Mojahids, leaders of the armed bodies of the councils that sprang up during the Constitutional Revolution, 1905-11. The translation from Farsi is by the Militant.

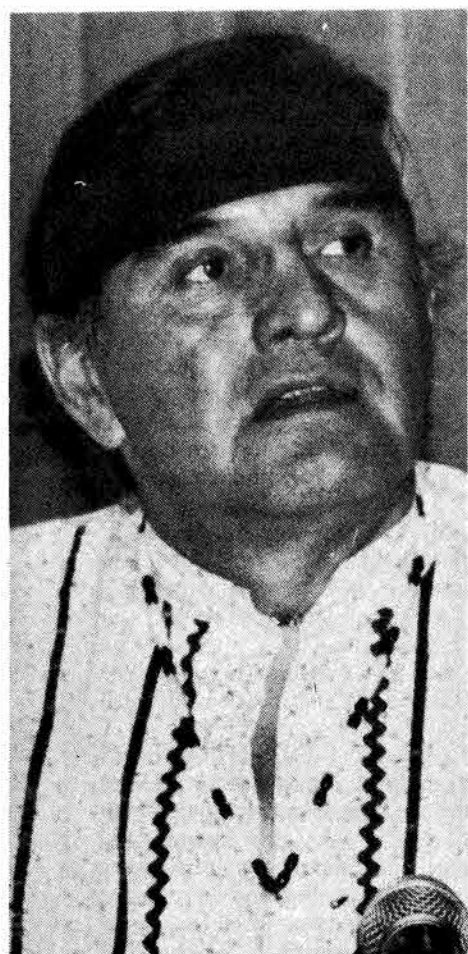
Portraits of two Mojahids, Sattar Kahn and Baqer Khan, have been painted on the wall of the Pathfinder Press building. A major U.S. publishing house, Pathfinder specializes in subjects of political and social interest. In addition to printing and distributing socialist literature, it is widely active in promoting Third World liberation movements as well.

Beginning a year ago, the idea of creating a huge mural that would cover the entire south wall of the Pathfinder Building materialized, and with the assistance of a number of international artists, the project got under way. The work is now nearing

completion.

The Pathfinder mural reflects the important role the printing industry can play in advancing revolutionary ideas and defending worldwide movements of the oppressed. An image of a gigantic printing press with two press operators next to it forms the centerpiece of the mural. On rolls of paper churning out of the press, portraits of dozens of revolutionary figures of this century are painted: from Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata to Malcolm X, leader of the Black movement in the United States.

And recently, with the effort of Nikzad Nodjumi, an Iranian activist living in New York, the features of two Iranian Mojahids have also been added to this unique collection. Now next to portraits of such revolutionaries as Augusto César Sandino (Nicaragua), Farabundo Martí (El Salvador), Maurice Bishop (Grenada), Nelson Mandela (South Africa), "Mother Jones" (United States) ... stand two eminent and imposing eastern faces of Sattar Khan and Baqer Khan, Mojahids of the Constitutional Revolution. Emerging from the wide wall of the Pathfinder Building, they all look into the eyes of thousands of motorists speeding along New York's Westside Highway every day.



Vernon Bellecourt

Militant/Ernest Harsch

Prime minister of Canada hits right to abortion

BY MARGARET MANWARING

TORONTO, Canada — "I don't believe in abortion on demand," declared Canada's Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. He favors abortion in "certain personal situations." Asked to elaborate, he responded, "incest and rape."

Mulroney's statement came on August 20, almost a month after his administration lost the vote in the House of Commons on proposed guidelines for recriminalizing abortion in Canada. At that time Mulroney had refused to state his opinion on abortion and had stayed away from the House on the day of the vote. Now he's hinting that he will attempt to push through antiabortion legislation.

Last January the Canadian Supreme Court ruled that the existing abortion law was unconstitutional. It condemned the law for its denial of women's right to liberty and security of person. It rejected federal abortion law that made a woman's choice on abortion subject to veto by hospital abortion committees comprised of three doctors. The court noted that abortion services were unequally and sparsely available throughout the country.

There was widespread support for that decision from the labor movement and other supporters of women's rights. Polls show that more than 70 percent of people in Canada support a woman's right to choose abortion. Yet the federal and provincial governments have called for new legislation to restrict abortion rights.

Within a month of the court ruling, limits imposed on existing abortion facilities meant that fewer abortions were available than before the Supreme Court decision.

Emboldened right-wing zealots took to the streets, picketing hospital abortion clinics and holding rallies and demonstrations in favor of new restrictive legislation. At a rally against abortion rights in Calgary,

Iraq's rulers continue use of poison gas in attack on Kurds

The regime of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq is unleashing poison gas against Iraqi Kurds who are demanding autonomy.

On August 20, the day that a cease-fire went into effect in the Iraq-Iran war, the Iraqi military carried out a large-scale gas attack against villages in northern Iraq, near the Iranian border. The villages were believed to support the Kurdish Democratic Party.

Kurdish spokespeople have denounced the "virtually genocidal" war waged by the Saddam Hussein regime against Kurds in Iraq.

A delegation of members of the Turkish parliament from the opposition Social Democratic Populist Party recently visited the area near Turkey's border with Iraq. They reported that honey farms and large areas of vegetation on the Turkish side had been badly damaged by mustard gas or nerve gas seeping across the border from Iraq.

"The evidence of citizens and of the authorities all points to chemical weapons having been used," said Onder Kirli, leader of the delegation.

A United Nations committee sent to the Persian Gulf region to study reports that chemical warfare was being waged found that the Iraqi military has been using poison gas in its war with Iran since 1984. Chemical warfare continued after the Iranian government announced readiness to implement a cease-fire on terms set by a UN Security Council resolution.

UN investigators confirmed that Iraq had used mustard gas against Iranian civilians during an air attack near an urban center early in August. The Iranian government reported that 1,000 people were injured in the attack.

Alberta, held last May, the Ku Klux Klan marched in full dress with hoods.

Injunction against abortion

In early July a civil court in the western city of Edmonton agreed to grant an initial 48-hour injunction denying 18-year-old Michelle Brandenburg the abortion she was seeking. The injunction was requested by her former companion, Randy Mock, who charged her with breach of contract, claiming that she had verbally agreed to bear "his" child.

While the request for a permanent injunction was thrown out, the judge ruled that "the causes of [Mock's] action are not frivolous" and suggested that he could sue Brandenburg for damages. Surrounded by well-known foes of abortion rights, Mock announced that he intended to do just that. Abortion rights forces countered with rallies and street actions.

Resolutions defending a woman's right to choose and opposing any new law were debated and voted up at the convention of the Canadian Labour Congress, representing close to 2 million unionized workers, and at the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, representing more than 350,000 women's rights supporters.

In the face of this deepening polarization, Prime Minister Mulroney attempted to rally a so-called middle ground in order to recriminalize abortion. He brought a motion before the House of Commons with the declared intent of achieving a "balance" between women's rights and the "right of society to protect the unborn." The motion proposed guidelines allowing for "early term" abortions under certain conditions while making "later term" abortions illegal unless the woman's health was endangered. No definition of "early" and "late" was attempted.

The July 23-28 debate in Parliament on this motion was dominated by a large anti-abortion rights majority who used this as a tribune from which to rally antiwoman forces across the country. They were unable to agree among themselves, however, on how far and how fast to proceed with recriminalization.

Only a small handful of members of Parliament, most of them from the New Democratic Party, argued that no new law on abortion is needed.

The government's main motion and all amendments failed in the vote that followed.

Government spies on rights activists

The offensive against abortion rights was further pushed back after an admission on July 26 by the former attorney general of British Columbia, Brian Smith. He stated that while in office he had authorized a covert spy operation against abortion rights activists. Smith explained that this was carried out in consultation with Premier Bill Vander Zalm, head of the province's Social Credit government.

Five undercover private investigators posing as supporters of abortion rights joined Concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion (CCCA) in early 1987. They proceeded to copy mailing, telephone, and donors' lists; secretly tape meetings and conversations; surreptitiously photograph members and supporters; and compile "profiles" on CCCA members. Smith claims this operation was necessary in order to block the establishment of a community abortion clinic in British Columbia.

B.C. Federation of Labor spokesperson Tom Fawkes denounced the spy operation as "political intimidation of the basest kind." Mike Harcourt, leader of the opposition New Democratic Party, condemned the government's "contempt for democracy," stating that the premier and the government as a whole, not just Smith, must be held accountable for the spying.

Norah Hutchinson, leader of the CCCA, stated, "This is not just Keystone cop antics. This is much more serious. This took place in the framework of a government



Militant/Illona Gersh

A 1983 march in Toronto for abortion rights

with a clear antiabortion agenda."

Hutchinson pointed to the provincial government decision last February to cut all funding for abortions, a flagrant violation of the Supreme Court decision making abortion legal. The provincial government's action was later ruled illegal.

"This government will go to any lengths to prevent people from speaking out," Hutchinson explained. "That's why this is not just an abortion issue per se. It's a ques-

tion of civil liberties, of the right to dissent."

Opponents of this spy operation are calling for a full public inquiry and for the return of all files to the CCCA.

The provincial ombudsman, Stephen Owen, announced on July 28 his intention to carry out a full investigation of the case. As he gained access to the files of the covert operation he made them available to the CCCA for inspection.

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Thousands massacred in Burundi

An estimated 5,000 people were killed in Burundi in mid-August in fighting between the country's two main groups, the Basahutu and Watusi. In 1972 some 100,000 Basahutus were killed by the Watusi-dominated government and army.

Basahutus make up 85 percent of the central African country's 5 million people. Most Basahutus are excluded from the government, military, and universities. For centuries Basahutus have worked the land as sharecroppers or tenants of the Watusis. This minority-dominated social structure was maintained under Belgian occupation during the World War I.

The recent fighting took place in the Kirendo region on the border with Rwanda, which has a large Basahutu population. Burundi government officials have charged that members of the Paliputu party, which is made up of Basahutu refugees in Rwanda, incited the Basahutus to attack the Watusis.

The government has deployed 2,000 soldiers in the region against the Basahutus, who are armed only with machetes and spears. The region has been sealed off to the press. About 40,000 Basahutu refugees have fled into Rwanda.

North Korea condemns U.S. military maneuver

In a statement issued by its observer mission to the United Nations, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has condemned U.S.-planned military maneuvers in waters off the peninsula to take place on the eve of the Olympic Games. The Olympics are scheduled to begin in the southern Korean city of Seoul on September 17.

The Pyongyang government's statement said the Pentagon planned to send an aircraft carrier "task force consisting of 10 warships, including the *Nimitz*" to waters off the Korean coast in August.

U.S. warplanes and combat forces at bases in Japan and the Philippines had been put on alert for possible use in southern Korea during the Olympic Games, the statement also noted.

Since being awarded the 1988 games the Seoul government has charged that Pyongyang or "terrorist" groups may attack and disrupt the games. Thousands of police and soldiers have been placed

on alert, including the 40,000 U.S. troops in the country. Recent talks between Pyongyang and Seoul on increased relations and the possible participation of the north in the Olympic Games broke down August 26.

South African unionist dies in custody

Alfred Makaleng died in a hospital in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 26. The preceding day Makaleng was rushed, in serious condition, from prison where he had been detained for more than two years. The union organizer was arrested on June 12, 1986, the day that President Pieter Botha declared a state of emergency, which remains in effect.

An estimated 30,000 people have been detained without charge since 1986. At least five are known to have died in custody. The Congress of South African Trade Unions, the country's largest, nonracial labor federation demanded that the authorities explain the circumstances surrounding Makaleng's death.

Soldiers murder 10 Haitian youths

The Haitian Radio Soleil reported from Port-au-Prince that 10 youths were killed by soldiers August 14 in Labadie, a small town 80 miles north of the capital. The victims were members of the Movement of Labadie Youth (MJL), who were celebrating the first anniversary of their founding on July 14, 1987. The MJL has campaigned against government and military abuses in the region.

The celebration had been postponed for a month due to the assassination of the group's lawyer, Lafontant Joseph. Witnesses told the radio station that police chief Baguidy Grand-Pierre emerged at the site of the celebration with a group of soldiers. They opened fire on the gathering without warning or provocation.

A police report on the shooting claimed the firing was done by men in civilian clothes and that only four people were killed. It also charged that the MJL had organized a procommunist rally and that the youth had chanted "Long live the communists!" just before the shooting began. The report also said that the police chief could not have been involved in the shooting because he had been sick at the time.

—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

Unlike U.S. politics — Assessing King Hussein's decision to cut Jordan's ties with the West Bank, the *New York Times* advised, "In the subtle style of Arab



Harry Ring

politics, words do not always mean what they say."

Sports, American style — When the Los Angeles Kings paid the Edmonton Oilers \$15 million for hockey star Wayne Gretzky, the *New York Times* headlined it

on the business page. The owner of the Kings estimates that what with added ticket sales and cable TV rights, plus a bigger cut on hot dogs and popcorn, they'll have their money back in three years.

Tender, loving care — Officials are probing a mix-up at a New York nursing home. An elderly patient died and her body was packed in a burial bag and sent to a funeral parlor. Only it was her roommate, who was being treated for a stroke. The error was caught and rectified, assertedly in time.

Proud, confident — A survey by the Israeli Council for the Prevention of Emigration found that 27 percent of Israeli high school students are seriously considering leaving the country after their mil-

itary service.

Sounds like a ripoff — Geraldine Ferraro defended her son who was convicted on a drug charge and is doing four months house arrest in a \$1,500-a-month Vermont apartment. Denying that it's a luxury apartment, the former vice-presidential candidate said, "He doesn't have a maid. They give you clean linens once a week and they vacuum."

Cultural imperialism — Some McDonald's are offering "Fiesta McNuggets." Buy the big box and get a genuine Latin American coin. Plus merengue muzaked in the background.

Yummy — Specialty caterers are offering upscale gourmet dishes for babies and toddlers. Like,

asparagus tips and broccoli with tangerine dip, or chicken breast fingers with French mustard and honey.

They take food stamps? — One purveyor of infant gourmet fare says most of his customers are working parents who, he speculates, feel guilty about not giving enough attention to the kiddies. He adds, "We think there may be a potential to change the way society feeds their children. We really think we're changing people's lives."

Cancer's better? — Religious groups at the University of Virginia are opposing a school decision to convert dormitory cigarette machines to dispense condoms.

The critics assert it will promote promiscuity.

Foolproof — For bomb manufacture, the feds operate three nuclear reactors at a Savannah River, South Carolina, plant. Currently, one reactor is shut down for maintenance, and the other two for emergency repairs.

The Big Sleazy — New Orleans officials deny they were pouring pine-scented oil down French Quarter sewers just for the Republican convention delegates. They said the sewers there reek so bad they dump the oil whenever they get a complaint.

Suggestion box — Wonder if those New Orleans officials have considered spraying some of that pine scent on city hall.

—CALENDAR—

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 10, 6 p.m. 6826 S. Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign.

Open House at Pathfinder Books/Libros Pathfinder. Meet Omari Musa, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor, and Kathleen Mickells, SWP candidate for vice-president. 6826 S. Stony Island Ave. Sat., Sept. 10, 3-6 p.m. Refreshments served. Sponsor: Pathfinder Books.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

Facts, Not Fantasy: Protest Reagan's Policies. Picket the president's appearance in Louisville. Tue., Sept. 6, 6 p.m. Convention Center, 4th St. between Jefferson and Market. Sponsor: Vets for Peace, Louisville National Organization for Women, Pledge of Resistance, Rainbow Coalition, Socialist Workers Party 1988 Campaign. For more information call (502) 363-5550.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Turning Point in the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa. U.S. premiere showing of

Guevara book launch in Harare, Zimbabwe

The book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* will be launched in Harare, Zimbabwe on September 9.

Organized by Grassroots Books of Zimbabwe, the launching will include speakers from organizations in Zimbabwe, as well as the José Martí Publishing House of Cuba and Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia of Australia, the book's publisher.

A seminar on the political contribution of Che Guevara will be held the following day.

Cuban TV documentary on battle of Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola, where Cuban, Angolan, and Namibian troops defeated South African army. Translation to English and French. Sat., Sept. 3, 6:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Justice for Juan Rodriguez, Dominican Worker Killed by Cops. Citywide rally. Thurs., Sept. 8, 4-6:30 p.m. City Hall. Sponsor: Latino Coalition for Racial Justice. For more information (212) 614-5315.

Caribbean Political Unity: A Public Discussion. Speakers: Eusi Kwayana, leader of Working Peoples Alliance of Guyana and opposition member of Guyana Parliament; Dr. James Millett, Caribbean historian and president of the Trinidad and Tobago Anti-apartheid Committee; Don Rojas, executive member of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement and of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America; Michael Douglas, leader of Dominica Labour Party and opposition member of Dominica Parliament. Fri., Sept. 9, 7 p.m. Hunter College Playhouse, 68th St. at Park Ave. Donation requested. Sponsor: Coalition for Caribbean Unity, Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. For more information call (212) 929-0066 or (718) 941-2087.

TEXAS

Houston

Stop Government Attacks on Veterans Peace Convoy. Speakers: John Dickerson, Veterans for Peace; Raúl Valdez, Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America; others. Sat., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Debate Over Surrogate Motherhood and Women's Rights. Speakers: Robin Blumner, American Civil Liberties Union; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

The Peace Accords in Southern Africa. Speakers: Andrew Hunt, managing editor *Utah Daily Chronicle*; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Profits, Leaks, and Explosions: The Kanawha Valley Chemical Industry. Speakers: Jim Gotesky, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 656; others. Sat., Sept. 10, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Victory in Southern Africa. Speaker: Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 17, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

South Africa's Defeat in Angola: What It Means for Southern Africa. Speakers: Akili

Israel trial set for journalists

Continued from Page 5

man, said in a telephone interview from Jerusalem that the victimization suffered by the two women had been difficult for them, but that their health and morale was now all right, "much better than before."

In a statement issued when they began the strike, the four declared that despite the cruelties directed against them, they would not retreat from their condemnation of the Israeli repression of the Palestinian struggle.

Bitterman said that while the charges against them involved alleged membership in a "terrorist" organization, there is no claim of any illegal action by any of them, "only what they have written" in a legal paper.

So far, he added, the government has offered no evidence other than "confessions" by three of the prisoners, obtained under prison duress and retracted immediately afterward.

Their paper reflects the views of the organization Spark, which favors "an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO" and, in Israel, "a new democratic regime, free of national discrimination and class exploitation."

Bitterman estimates that the legal costs alone will come to some \$70,000, a huge amount in Israel. Contributions to aid the defense can be sent to: Fund for Freedom of the Press, P.O. Box 4362, Tel Aviv, Israel 61043.

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

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Millions demand ouster of Burma government

Continued from front page
employment and underemployment.

On August 19 Maung Maung became president and head of the Burma Socialist Program Party (BSPP), the only legal party since the military coup that brought General Ne Win to power in 1962.

Ne Win resigned as head of the ruling party on July 23 as outrage and unrest grew over the repression of student-led protests in March and June. His successor, Sein Lwin, was forced out August 12 after the slaughter of hundreds of protesters failed to crush a general strike and demonstrations by hundreds of thousands.

On August 24 Maung Maung lifted martial law, and troops withdrew from the streets of cities and towns. On the following day, some 1,700 people arrested for participating in the wave of protests were released from jail.

The decision to lift martial law and pull back the troops may have been spurred in

part by sympathy for the protesters among some in the military. During the demonstrations that brought down Sein Lwin, there were instances of troops refusing to fire on protesters.

"As the troops were leaving the City Hall area," a diplomat in Rangoon told the *New York Times*, "they were waving to the people and the people were waving back. There were exchanges of handshakes and congratulations."

Maung Maung offered to hold a referendum on maintaining the single party regime, provided a September 12 congress of the BSPP agreed to the proposal. A party congress in July rejected a similar proposal made by Ne Win in submitting his resignation.

The Burmese Socialist Program Party, despite its name, is a political machine controlled by the top commanders of the armed forces. All troops and government

employees are required to apply for membership.

The party chiefs are beneficiaries of the military-dominated regime's efforts to control legal trade and industry, as well as of corruption and a variety of illegal economic activities.

The government now appears to have lost control of neighborhoods, towns, and possibly major cities. Kathleen Kouril reported from Rangoon in the August 29 *Wall Street Journal*: "At every corner we were challenged by neighborhood guards carrying clubs and homemade slingshots. We were politely waved on once we were seen to be foreigners."

"Thousands of Burmese are patrolling the capital in such hastily organized 'street protection groups.' At night the streets are a maze of barricades. . . ."

Tension was heightened by violent outbreaks August 24 and 25, when groups set fire to shanties and attacked individuals in some neighborhoods. Kouril said that many believed the violence was carried out by government hit squads.

"A tourist who returned from the city of Pegu said that local administration was not functioning and that a committee of students was running the affairs of the city, about 50 miles northeast of the capital," reported the August 29 *New York Times*.

"There were unconfirmed reports that the nation's second-largest city, Mandalay, was being administered by a committee of Buddhist monks."

New political party

In defiance of the ban on political parties, a number of veteran politicians, including former Prime Minister U Nu, and former Defense Minister U Tin Oo, announced formation of the League for Democracy, Peace, and Freedom. U Nu headed the government during most of the years from independence in 1948 until 1962, when he was ousted by Ne Win's coup.

With the dictatorship in retreat, some of the groups and individuals taking the initiative in organizing mass actions are now beginning to function in the open. On August 29, dockworkers and teachers organized the country's first open, independent trade unions in decades.

On August 30, government employees from 120 departments and state-owned corporations formed the All Services General Strike Committee, which pledged to



Revolt in Burma is response to deepest social crisis in decades.

organize further protests against the government.

On August 28, some 50,000 students gathered on the campus of Rangoon University to form the All-Burma Students Union headed by Min Ko Naing. All student unions have been banned in Burma since 1962, when the Ne Win regime crushed student protests and demolished the student union building at Rangoon University.

"Our fight for democracy is not yet over," Min Ko Naing told the student gathering. "We want democracy and right of association and we will continue to resist any government that will deprive us of these rights."

Burma is a southeast Asian country of 39 million people. It is listed by the United Nations as one of the least developed countries in the world, with an official annual per capita domestic product of about \$200. The real figure is somewhat higher, however, since many of Burma's goods are produced and traded outside the legal economy, which the military regime has attempted to monopolize. The official literacy rate is 78 percent. Sixty-six percent of the population is employed in agriculture.

Protests mount in Toronto over police killing of Black

BY MAGGIE TROWE

TORONTO, Canada — The protests against the police killing of Lester Donaldson are gaining support in spite of a campaign of slander and misinformation by the Ontario attorney general, the Metro Toronto police, and two Toronto dailies.

Donaldson, a disabled Jamaican-born worker, was shot dead by police constable David Deviney when Deviney and three other cops entered his rooming house bedroom August 9. Donaldson was repeatedly victimized by police harassment and was partially paralyzed after having been shot by police last April.

Deviney remains on the police force.

A march and rally of 200 in downtown Toronto on August 27 was the latest of a series of protest actions. The marchers called for murder charges against Deviney and an independent civilian investigation. The march was organized by the Black Action Defence Committee, a group formed to protest the Donaldson slaying.

Linda Tornay, Metro Toronto Labour Council president, told the rally, "We in the Labour Council do not want to live in a kind of society that is based on racism. We do not want to live in a kind of a society where there is one law for the rich, one for poor, one for Blacks, one for whites. . . . And we do not want to live in a police state."

June Veacock, Human Rights Committee chairperson of the 800,000-member Ontario Federation of Labour, reported that OFL President Gord Wilson sent a telegram to Ontario Attorney General Ian Scott demanding an independent inquiry.

Metro Toronto Police Association Presi-

dent Paul Walter characterized an August 13 march on Division 13 police headquarters as "hysterical and disgusting," according to the *Toronto Star*, and denounced the leaders of the march. He attacked the proposal for an independent investigation, saying, "I want the best professionals available to investigate the police and I think that happens to be the police."

After Toronto Police Commissioner Roy Williams, who is also president of the Jamaican-Canadian Association, called the Donaldson killing "unnecessary" at another spirited rally August 21, Walter called publicly for Williams' resignation, a demand echoed by some other city officials and *Toronto Sun* columnist Christie Blatchford.

A series of articles in the *Sun* and the *Star* have focused on allegations that the Black Action Defense Committee is using the Donaldson family and that Lester Donaldson had a history of violence, drug trafficking, and mental illness.

Leaders of the BADC and other groups responded angrily to these charges. "We say to the media, 'You can't divide us,'" Jamaican-Canadian Association leader Paul Kafele told several hundred cheering people at the August 21 rally.

Mobilization against the Donaldson killing has led to the revelation of other cases of police brutality. BADC leaders have helped expose the July 9 death in police custody of Gardner Myers, whose body showed evidence of severe beating. The committee has also criticized a police bulletin to downtown merchants concerning store break-ins, warning that "suspects in these entries are usually young Blacks."

Momentum builds toward sales drive

Continued from front page

the state ballot. In the process, they sold 300 copies of the Action Program and collected dozens of signatures for Curtis.

A good response came from coal miners involved in a contract battle with the operators in Zap, North Dakota.

Afro-Caribbean carnival in London

At the Notting Hill Afro-Caribbean carnival in London August 27-28, distributors sold 170 copies of the *Militant* and several copies of *New Internationalist*. More than 200 signed the Curtis defense committee petition.

Militant supporter Jonathan Silberman reports that thousands in the predominantly Black crowd wore stickers demanding freedom for imprisoned South African revolutionary leader Nelson Mandela. "There was interest in the speech in the *Militant* by Fidel Castro that details the defeat of the South African forces at Cuito Cuanavale in Angola," Silberman said, "as well as the statement by SWP candidates Warren and Mickells demanding the release of Mandela."

At the festival in the Butetown Black community, in Cardiff in South Wales, the same weekend, distributors sold 50 copies of the *Militant*.

In New York supporters sold several dozen copies of the *Militant* with the Castro speech in it while building a September 3 forum that will feature the Cuban video on the battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

In Washington, D.C., at the event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Aug. 28, 1963, civil rights march, 200 *Militants* and *PMs*, several subscriptions, and \$700 in Pathfinder books and pamphlets were sold.

A focal point of the upcoming drive will be expanding the readership of the *Militant*, *PM*, *New Internationalist*, and *Nouvelle Internationale* among industrial workers. This includes talking politics with unionists who were introduced to the *Militant* or *PM* during the last drive. Through the course of those discussions, many will decide to resubscribe.

Distributors in several countries are also putting an emphasis on organizing teams to outlying campuses and plant gates during the first weeks of the campaign.

An initial scoreboard with goals from around the world will be printed next week.

If you want to help, look us up in the international 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 25¢
Sept. 8, 1978

Massive support for a general strike that began August 25 has brought the U.S. government-backed Nicaraguan dictatorship of President Anastasio Somoza to the greatest crisis in more than 40 years of Somoza family rule.

The strike was called by the Broad Opposition Front (FAO), a coalition of prominent businessmen, attorneys, religious, and academic figures, as well as most of the country's trade unions and political parties. The FAO also maintains links with the dominant faction of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Within four days the strike was 80 percent effective in Managua. The *Washington Post* reported, "Many areas outside the city appeared to be in a virtual state of war between youth and worker-led vigilantes and the National Guard. In Matagalpa, a city of 60,000, large barricades blocked all entrance roads."

This deepening crisis for the regime was foreshadowed by the masses' response to an August 22 guerrilla raid on the National Palace.

After a brief shootout with National Guard troops, about 20 FSLN commandos succeeded in taking over the palace.

They captured the minister of the interior, his deputy, and between 40 and 60 members of the Chamber of Deputies.

The regime made no attempt to dislodge the guerrillas but instead opened negotiations with them. Late in the evening of August 23, Somoza agreed to allow three FSLN communiqués to be read over the radio; to pay a \$500,000 ransom; to free 58 political prisoners; and to provide safe

passage out of the country for the political prisoners and the commandos. The *Washington Post* has described what happened the next day: "Thousands lined the route to the airport cheering the guerrillas as they drove past. The crowds chanted 'Down with Somoza!' and 'Somoza to the gallows!'"

THE MILITANT
Published in the interests of the Working People
Sept. 9, 1963 Price 10¢

Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, one of the few great men born in this country in modern times, died at 95 in Accra, Ghana, August 27, the eve of the great civil rights demonstration in Washington. That was a milestone in the struggle to which Du Bois had devoted his life and talents.

There were many aspects to Du Bois' greatness. He achieved literary greatness. Had he written no more than his early book, *The Souls of Black Folk*, his literary reputation would have been securely established.

His second great achievement was in the field of history. He singlehandedly opened up the whole field of Negro history, which had been buried under piles of neglect and the muck written by anti-Negro Southerners. His crowning achievement here was *Black Reconstruction*, the first work to really examine the Reconstruction Era and show its true importance in the unsuccessful struggle for democracy in this country.

There are two other great achievements in his life. He was a founder of the Pan-African movement even before World War I. And he broke ground in the battle for Negro equality in the United States.

Pledge of Allegiance debate

Proposals to require teachers to lead students in pledging allegiance to the U.S. flag have become an issue in the presidential campaign.

Vice-president George Bush, the Republican candidate, denounced Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis for vetoing, as governor of Massachusetts, a 1977 measure that imposed fines on teachers who declined to lead classes in pledging allegiance.

Dukakis expressed no opinion on the attack on democratic rights that such measures represent. He explained that he had been advised by a majority of state supreme court justices that the measure was unconstitutional.

Their view was consistent with a 1943 U.S. Supreme Court decision, holding that students could not be required to recite the pledge. This legal precedent in the case of students applies to teachers as well.

The Massachusetts legislature overrode Dukakis' veto, but no attempt has been made to penalize teachers under the law.

Instead, Dukakis and the state educational commissioner urged school systems to set a policy of having teachers "voluntarily" conduct recitation of the pledge daily.

Bush insisted that he would have ignored the court rulings and signed the bill. He and his supporters have suggested that Dukakis is unpatriotic for not having done so. The Republican candidate projected his stand onto the "Founding Fathers," claiming that they would have favored requiring teachers and students to recite the pledge. The "Founding Fathers" never recited the pledge or advocated reciting it, since it was written in 1892, long after they were all dead. In 1954 Congress adopted, and President Eisenhower signed into law, a bill inserting the words "under God" into the pledge.

Measures to compel or pressure teachers and students to recite the pledge of allegiance violate the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Like the opening prayers that used to be required in classrooms in many states, classroom recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance — whether openly compelled or

supposedly voluntary — has no place in the public school system.

Bush's baiting of Dukakis on this issue is a reflection of the atmosphere of intimidation that such religious or ideological rituals are often used to create in classrooms. These rituals are introduced for one reason: to heighten pressure on students and teachers to affirm and conform to officially sponsored views, whether they believe them or not, or face the consequences.

There is not much support for that kind of regimentation among masses of people in the United States today. The 1943 Supreme Court decision, which reversed an earlier ruling, reflected the sentiments of tens of millions of working people when it stated:

"If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."

Such sentiment grew more widespread with the democratic gains won by the civil rights movement and other struggles. Among working people, opposition to attacks on democratic rights has continued to deepen.

Recognizing this, editorials in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* urged the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates to drop the "Pledge of Allegiance" issue.

Right-wing forces will continue to press on this front, however, as they have pressed efforts to overturn the right of women to have abortions, reverse court-ordered desegregation of schools and housing, reintroduce prayer in the schools, and attack democratic rights in other ways. Their campaigns dovetail with broader efforts by the employing class and the U.S. government to probe for ways to restrict the rights of working people to fight against their policies.

All working people should oppose these campaigns. The government has no right to impose any religious or political belief — whether in a supreme being, capitalism, or flag-worship — on anyone.

Why did New York cops run amok?

New York City Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward has issued a report on the police department's investigation of the August 7 cop riot at Tompkins Square Park. The handling of the anticurfew protest was not the department's finest hour, the August 24 report said. It went on to criticize the police commanders on the scene that night, as well as the conduct of individual cops.

The report was lauded in the capitalist press for its critical stance. Mayor Edward Koch termed it "brilliant."

A number of recommendations are contained in the report, including that the cops get intensive crowd-control training and new riot equipment.

Several of the 450 cops involved in the riot are being punished, and the ranking commander on the scene that night is being forced to retire. The commissioner also approved the first two of more than 100 charges of police brutality made by the cops' victims.

More than 44 people were sent to the hospital that night. Unarmed demonstrators protesting enforcement of a curfew in the park, helpless passersby, and even reporters and photographers were beaten and bloodied. Vivid pictures of club-wielding cops in action, shown by the media in the days after the riot, fueled anger throughout the city at the police violence. Hence the swift report by the police commissioner, and its critical tone.

Why did the cops run amok? The answer, according to the police, city hall, and the capitalist media, lies in a combination of lack of crowd-control training and youthfulness. The average age of New York's 26,000 cops is

31 years; in 1980, it was 38, they point out. Because most cops weren't on the force in the 1960s, they haven't got the experience in "crowd control" that older cops have. Being confronted with angry demonstrators, says the police report, "was a new and alarming experience to many of our young officers."

Harlem residents who were the victims of what the *Militant* termed a "racist orgy" in July 1964 will dispute that New York's cops had a more delicate touch in years gone by. Following protests in Harlem against the cop murder of a 15-year-old Black youth, "the police went on a rampage throughout the district," the *Militant* reported. "The police fired 2,000 rounds of ammunition, using all they had. They killed one Jay Jenkins . . . and wounded scores of others. . . . Harlem was occupied as if by a foreign power."

Protesters against the Vietnam War during the 1960s also remember being attacked, beaten, and jailed by New York's "finest."

The list of workers, especially Blacks and Latinos, who have been brutalized, framed up, and murdered by the New York City police grows longer every year.

The latest report, despite its self-critical facade, at bottom is simply another cover-up of the cops' role as a racist, antiworking class army, ready to uphold "law and order" for the bankers, real estate tycoons, and industrialists who run the city. What happened August 7 wasn't an aberration — the cops were just doing their job, and a few too many people saw them.

Reagan defeated on PLO UN office

The decision of the Reagan administration to drop its efforts to close the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission at the United Nations is a welcome development.

In June, a federal judge ruled that Washington did not have the legal right to close the PLO mission. After a dispute within the Reagan administration, the Justice Department announced August 29 that it would not appeal the decision.

The court had ruled that the closure order violated Washington's agreement not to interfere with those involved in official UN business.

In 1974, the UN invited the PLO to establish an observer mission, which it has maintained ever since.

The Justice Department had acted after Congress passed an "antiterrorism" law in 1987, including an amendment specifically, and falsely, tagging the PLO as "terrorist."

Using that law, the Justice Department also shut down a separate agency, the Palestine Information Office in Washington. That office, which remains closed, was a

resource center for information on the Palestinian liberation struggle.

The decision to drop the fight on the PLO UN mission came in the wake of broad international protest. The UN General Assembly had opposed Washington's move by a vote of 148-to-2. Only the U.S. and Israeli representatives voted no.

The move against the PLO was particularly gross coming at a time when the Israeli regime — armed and financed by Washington — has been waging an unremitting campaign of terrorism against an embattled Palestinian people seeking the elementary right of self-determination.

In announcing they would not appeal the court decision on the PLO mission, officials said they would continue to oppose moves to reopen the Palestinian Information Office.

Shutting that office was a curb on everyone's democratic right to get the Palestinian side of the story. Pressure to reopen it needs to be continued.

How Cuba instills students with respect for work

BY DOUG JENNESS

In his July 26 speech reprinted in our last issue, Cuban President Fidel Castro noted that one of the reasons Cuba has been able to successfully launch a mass movement around voluntary work is that young people have been educated through a combination of study and work for the past 25 years.

"We have already whole generations — every young person 35 years old or under has in one way or another

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

taken part in programs combining study and work," he said. "That's why when called upon to join a particular project, or do voluntary work, they are not afraid."

Castro explained that Cuba is the first country "in the world to massively and reasonably apply those principles and today we see the fruits in the behavior of our youth."

He said that the idea of combining work and study as part of the education of young people was advocated by Karl Marx, one of the founders of the modern communist movement, as well as by Cuban independence leader José Martí.

Probably nobody has surpassed Marx in describing the physical and mental deformities resulting from child labor under capitalism, nor more ably explained how and why children were drawn into production. The abominable deformation of children and juveniles working in social production should be abolished, Marx argued. But "in a rational state of society every child whatever, from the age of nine years, ought to become a productive laborer . . .," he wrote in 1866. This labor, he said, should be combined with mental and physical education and technological training.

A few years later Marx noted that "an early combination of productive labor with education is one of the most potent means for the transformation of present-day society."

Marx didn't live to see how true this insight is. It's taken the experience of the Cuban revolution to affirm it.

The Cubans, however, weren't the first to experiment with work-study methods of education. In the early years of the Russian revolution attempts were made to initiate such policies. Under the conditions of civil war (1918–20) students and other youth helped establish and work in suburban gardens to augment the food supply.

In a speech to a communist youth convention in 1920, Bolshevik leader V.I. Lenin urged the Young Communist League to "combine its education, teaching, and training with the labor of the workers and peasants, so as not to shut itself up in its schools and not to confine itself to reading communist books and pamphlets. Only by working side by side with the workers and peasants can one become a genuine Communist."

Lenin discussed the work-study approach in the context of promoting voluntary labor in general. When young people participate in these volunteer projects "to help the population," he said, "the people will cease to look upon labor as they looked upon it before."

But under the pressures of international isolation, devastation from war, and economic difficulties the majority of the leadership of the Russian revolution abandoned the communist course after Lenin's death in 1924. And this promising beginning was smothered by administrative routinism and bureaucratic careerism as a privileged caste usurped power from the workers and peasants.

In the early years of the Cuban revolution, one of its foremost leaders, Che Guevara, explained that the physical work students do during their vacations or along with study "is a means of education" or even "a reward in some cases," but "is never a punishment."

This contrasts sharply with the experience in China during Mao Tse-tung's "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution" in the 1960s when millions of secondary and university students were forced to go to work in the countryside, factories, and mines in order to "reform through labor." This shameful coercion was not accompanied by any educational program meriting the name. In fact, the universities, specialized colleges, and secondary schools were closed for nearly three years.

Castro has described how combining productive activity — manual labor — with studies instills a respect for physical work among students at an early age. Working with one's hands assumes a new dignity and most importantly, attitudes of respect and solidarity with those who do physical work regularly are strengthened. It helps to break down divisions between those who do mental work and those who work with their hands.

Moreover, as students and professionals join volunteer brigades, Castro pointed out in a speech last November, "The whole business has become a school for Communists; it really develops the feelings of equality and fraternity."

Shorter workweek would benefit shift workers

BY SCOTT BREEN

As part of the 1988 contract, Amoco and my union local — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) 2-286 — agreed to establish a joint "schedule committee" to investigate alternative shift schedules, and propose changes in the current one.

We certainly need a change. Operators currently work a rotating shift schedule: seven graveyard shifts in a row; one day off; seven afternoon shifts in a row, including a

UNION TALK

mandatory 16-hour "double shift" (6:30 a.m.—10:30 p.m.); two days off; then six day shifts in a row. After four days off, we start this barbaric cycle all over again.

This schedule has been compared to working a week in Tokyo, taking a jet to Paris for another week's work, then continuing on to New York City to work another week — each and every month. In short, we suffer from perpetual jet lag: waking up in the middle of sleeping, inability to sleep, sleeping through alarms.

It's no wonder shift workers are looking for relief from this destructive schedule.

Some 21 million workers in the United States work shifts in virtually every branch of industry. Many hospital and other service workers also work shifts. Some work rotating shifts, like us; others work the same shift all the time.

Recent studies have uncovered the fact that "shifters" have a higher than average incidence of gastrointestinal problems, emotional disorders, fatigue, and general un-

ease and stress. Studies of shift workers in Sweden show they have 20 percent more heart attacks than those not working shifts.

Shift work disrupts our "biological clock." We get less sleep, and what sleep we do get is of poorer quality. These problems have been summarized in several books, including one appropriately titled *Wide Awake at 3:00 a.m.*

Shift work has two other social effects. First, it increases the chances of accidents on the job. It's not simply a coincidence that many major industrial accidents in the last decade have occurred at night.

Second, "shifters" work longer hours because we are tied to machinery that must be operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A typical shift worker labors 300 to 500 extra hours every year, by working holidays, weekends, and mandatory overtime. That's up to 12.5 extra weeks of work each year. This in turn makes it possible for these industries to run with millions fewer workers.

Although there is no "cure" for shift work under present conditions, there are ways to minimize the toll it takes on us.

First, we need to abolish all rotating shifts that change against the clock. They should all rotate with the clock, that is, from a block of day shifts to a block of afternoon shifts to a block of graveyards. Studies have shown that we adjust to our shift 50 percent faster and have fewer health problems, when our shifts progress in this way.

Second, we need more time off for our bodies and minds to recuperate from shifting, including more vacation time, more compensation time off for working holi-

days, and an end to mandatory overtime. This is something our unions can fight for now.

And we desperately need to forge a political and social movement to fight for a shorter workweek for everyone. In addition to spreading the available work, thus reducing unemployment, a shorter workweek would help combat the destructive effects of shift work and possibly end rotating shifts altogether in some industries. This is not an unrealistic proposal. In Brazil, for example, the Constitutional Assembly recently approved a bill calling for a six-hour workday in industries with 24-hour-a-day operations.

In the absence of a fight to shorten the workweek, some shift workers are pulled in the opposite direction — toward 12-hour daily shifts. Under such schedules, workers are promised more days away from work — four days one week and three the next, for example. But the actual hours away from work remain the same as for eight-hour shifts.

Twelve-hour shifts also cause problems for us as individuals. We'll be rotating shifts sometimes twice a week, causing more destruction to our bodies. The daily exposure to toxic chemicals and gases will increase, with less time to recover. This is especially hard on older workers.

We'll have to come to work sick more often. Accidents will increase as a result of the 12-hour day. And the principle of forcing the company to pay premium pay for time worked over eight hours will be eroded.

And if premium pay is somehow preserved, the company will insist on lowering the hourly wage rate to keep the total weekly pay the same.

Scott Breen is an operator for Amoco Oil in Salt Lake City, Utah. He's a member of OCAW 2-286.

LETTERS

Nicaragua embargo

On April 24 President Reagan once again renewed the economic embargo against Nicaragua. In his letter of notification to Congress, he stated, "The actions and policies of the Government of Nicaragua continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

In addition, a regulation was contemplated and circulated that would have prohibited the importation into the United States of any Nicaraguan product reprocessed in a third country. Due to moves made in both houses of Congress to oppose this toughening of the sanctions, the regulation was put on hold.

A national coalition of religious and secular organizations is calling for a lifting of the embargo as an integral component of normalizing relations with Nicaragua. Congressional support for this effort is already significant.

The campaign calls for extensive lobbying efforts by citizens directed at all members of Congress. Even congressional offices strongly opposed to contra aid are expressing the need to hear the support of constituents before going out on a limb to pursue lifting the embargo. Leaders of the business community who previously invested in Nicaragua are being contacted to support an end to the embargo.

Finally, Nicaraguan "coffee parties" (modeled after the Boston Tea Party) were held in many cities around the United States.

John Van Hecke
St. Paul, Minnesota

Reopen In'ash El-Usra

For the past eight months, Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza have risen up against the Israeli occupation of their land and the continuous brutal harassments and human rights violations committed daily against them.

One of the latest and most alarming of such violations is the two-year closing of the society of In'ash El-Usra. This is a philanthropic, charitable women's society carrying out vital welfare work for thousands of Palestinian families in the occupied territories. It operates from the town of Bireh, seven miles north of Jerusalem.

We urge you to support our call

for the immediate reopening of the society and the cessation of the harassment of its president, Mrs. Samiha Khalil. The humanitarian services of this society must go on, hence we kindly ask you to make an urgent appeal on its behalf to Israeli Minister of Defense Yitzhak Rabin; the Israeli ambassador in your country; and to your government.

Committee of Friends
for In'ash El-Usra

Send sub

Please send me a six-month subscription. Having worked in Managua for over a year, I often read the *Militant* and *New Internationalist*.

M.S.
Playa Del Rey, California

Super Barrio

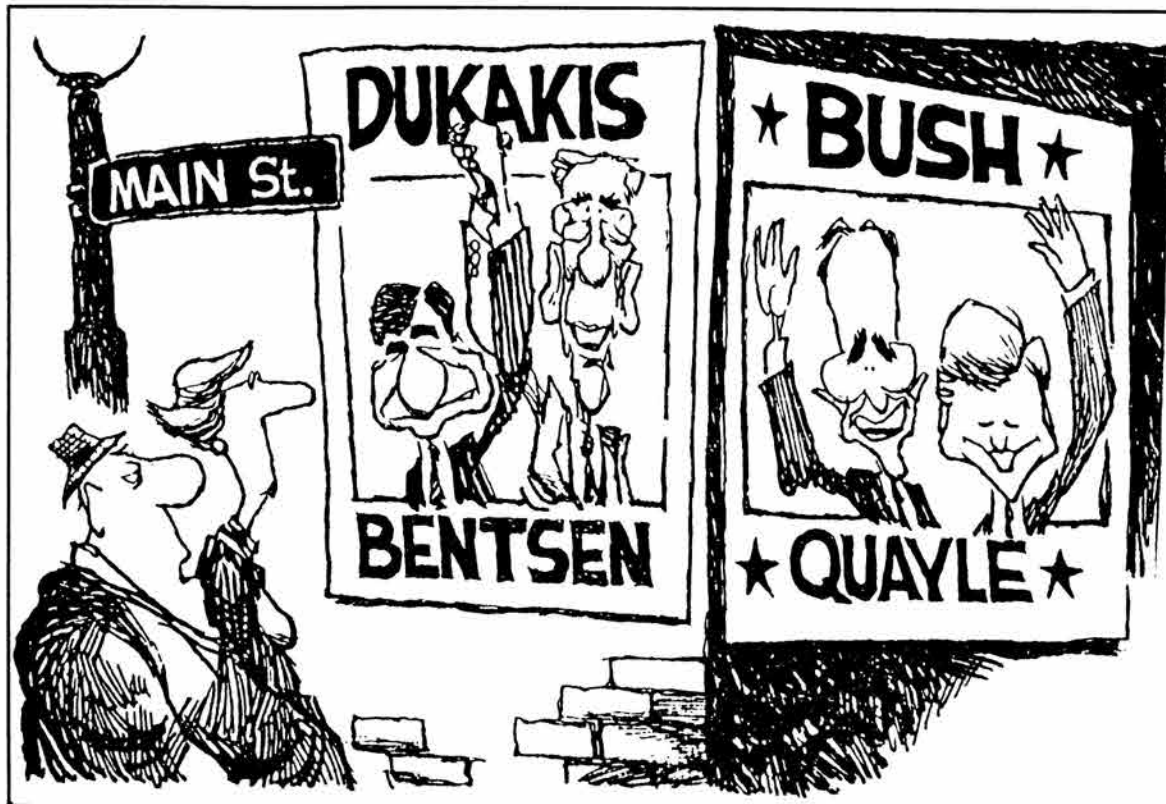
I thought the *Militant* would appreciate having attention called to a phenomenon in Mexico City reported on in the August 15 *New York Times*. Headlined "The Poor Man's Superman Bounds to Fame in Mexico," the article focuses on the exploits of "Super Barrio," a self-styled champion of working people and the oppressed who dons a mask and costume while fighting greedy landlords threatening tenants with eviction.

Emerging out of the neighborhood struggles for housing in the wake of the 1985 earthquake, SB appears to be a synthesis of Superman, Batman, and Marx as he wages a never ending struggle for fair housing, electricity, and sewers. He calls his apartment the "Barriocave," which is complete with a telephone hotline and a "Barriomobile."

He is a genuine hero in the barrios of the city — the picture accompanying the article showed SB holding hands with a group of children in front of a mural of him leading a large procession of townspeople marching with clenched fists in the air.

Super Barrio is rapidly becoming a national figure, winning the endorsement of National Democratic Front presidential candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, appearing at university conferences, and anti-nuclear demonstrations and taking on issues such as police corruption, pollution, and transportation.

He zealously guards his true identity, explaining, "We are all Super Barrio. If I take off my mask



"I keep forgetting . . . which one of these four millionaires represents the little guy?"

and disclose who I am, all of that changes and you lose the collective identity."

Kevin McGuire
San Francisco, California

Distorted society

It is helpful for me to understand different aspects of the world in which we live. Thank you for your efforts to make progress in our distorted society.

S.W.
Flushing, New York

Quayle affair

I can't understand how in the last issue of the paper not one word was printed about the Quayle affair. Didn't you feel that it was worthy of mention?

Also, some weeks ago you had headlines that the contra war in Nicaragua was over. I did not at the time share your optimism and still don't. Reagan is a dangerous snake who can attack anytime. I dread it but I still don't rule out an American invasion of Nicaragua. I hope with all my heart that I'm wrong.

Sam Lesser
Danbury Connecticut

Editor replies:

For coverage on Dan Quayle, see the Learning About Socialism

column, "Who fights Washington's wars — and for whom?" in the September 2 issue of the *Militant*.

Impressed

We're very impressed and often cut out articles for future reference or to send to relatives in Latin America.

I.B.
Albany, California

Unfair to Daffy Duck

At the recent Republican convention, a TV pundit stated that Sen. Dan Quayle was a cross between Robert Redford and Daffy Duck. This remark was repeated several times.

I found the remark was grossly unfair to Daffy Duck, a true working-class hero. In his numerous cartoon films, Daffy Duck worked as a telephone lineman (chasing crows), a farmer (chasing more crows), a miner, ranch hand, plumber, babysitter (numerous small ducks), fireman, short-order cook, sailor, carpenter (chasing more crows), and crossing guard.

Daffy Duck had a remarkable career in the working class, and his exploits should be remembered with the proper honor and respect.

Tom Jones
Morgantown, West Virginia

Too expensive

Great reporting. Too expensive. It doesn't compare favorably in price with other working-class, communist-oriented newspapers.

D.F.

Washington, D.C.

Changes for better

I find the *Militant* very informative and it helps me a lot to get a better understanding of international news. It also helps me by giving me concrete suggestions of how I can become involved to get some changes for the better happening.

E.K.
Middletown, Connecticut

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.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Namibia Day celebrated in New York

Rally marks SWAPO founding, advances against apartheid regime

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — "The battle of Cuito Cuanavale will be recorded in the annals of military history as the time and place where the guns of freedom smashed the long-held myth of the military invincibility of racist South Africa," explained Don Rojas, a leader of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada.

The MBPM leader joined other speakers at a rally of 250 people here, August 26, to celebrate Namibia Day. On that date 22 years ago soldiers of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) fired their first shots against South African troops, which have occupied Namibia since 1915. PLAN is the armed wing of the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia (SWAPO). Today there are 100,000 South African troops and police in Namibia, a country of 1.3 million people.

In March of this year South African troops and those of the Angolan counter-revolutionary group, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), were dealt a crushing military defeat by combined combat units of Angola, Cuba, and PLAN. That battle for the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale decisively altered the relationship of forces against the apartheid rulers.

Negotiations held

It has led to a series of meetings between representatives of the South African, U.S., Angolan, and Cuban governments in an effort to negotiate an end to the U.S.- and South African-sponsored war against Angola and to obtain independence for Namibia.

At the last meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, South Africa agreed to withdraw its troops from Angola by September 1, begin implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia by November 1, and to complete withdrawal of their troops from Namibia by Feb. 1, 1989.

New talks in Brazzaville, Congo, were taking place as the rally happened. Those talks concluded with no agreement on a timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. Cuban troops came to Angola in 1975 to help repel a massive South African invasion. They have remained ever since, helping to defend Angola's sovereignty. The negotiations will resume September 5.

SWAPO fights to free Namibia

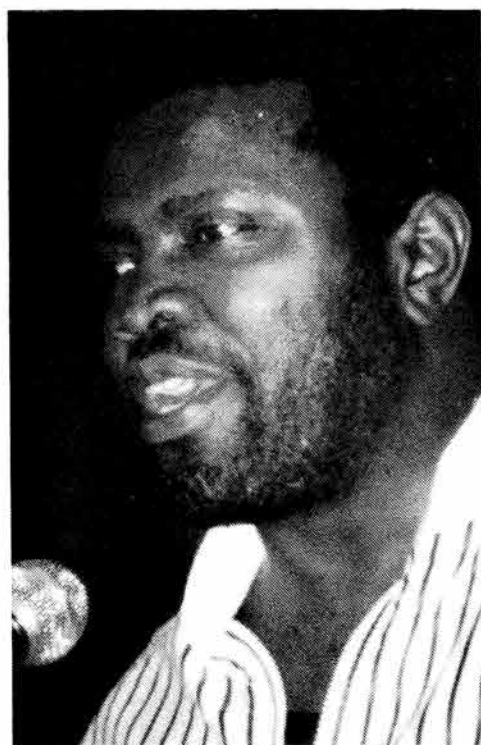
"When I was in this country we went around to churches, schools, and other places to appeal for support for our cause," said Hage Geingob, a SWAPO political bureau member and director of the United Nations Center for Namibia in Lusaka, Zambia. "I remember speaking about the American revolution and telling people that we want what you had," he said.

Geingob continued, "We petitioned the UN for our independence. We even went to the highest court in the world, the International Court of Justice in Amsterdam, but at that time they simply threw out our case. We had to decide whether we would submit to that or fight. We decided to fight," the SWAPO leader explained.

Stressing the important role of the Cuban internationalist fighters in southern Africa, Geingob told the crowd, "SWAPO President Sam Nujoma told me to be sure to clear up any misunderstanding about one little island. Some are saying the Cubans are interfering. That they may go to Namibia after Angola. We say don't worry about the Cubans, they are our friends." Geingob explained that SWAPO is briefed daily by Angola and Cuba on the negotiations.

African National Congress

"As comrades in arms the ANC sees the unfolding events in Angola and Namibia as



(From left) Hage Geingob of South West Africa People's Organisation, Toco Serão of Angolan mission to UN, and Don Rojas of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement were among speakers at New York rally.



Militant/Sam Manuel

encouraging signs for its own fight against the apartheid regime inside South Africa itself," said Solly Simelane, deputy representative of the African National Congress of South Africa to the United Nations.

The ANC leader appealed to those present and to all opponents of apartheid around the world to "intensify support and assistance to all victims of apartheid" and to step up the campaign to "impose comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against the racist

Pretoria regime."

"We know that we cannot consider ourselves free if the people of Namibia continue under the colonial and racist occupation of South Africa," said Toco Serão, representing the Angolan government.

Serão told the crowd, "Your solidarity has also been very, very important for our cause in the region. We know that one of those important elements that compelled

the South African regime to go to the negotiations was international pressure. And we call on the American people to say no to apartheid, no to aggression against the Frontline States and no to the illegal occupation of Namibia," concluded Serão.

Other speakers included Black rights activist Herbert Daughtry, Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, Samori Marksman of the African-Caribbean Resource Center, and attorney Lennox Hinds.

Immigrant farm workers score victory

BY LINDA JOYCE

MIAMI — Immigrant farm workers in the Southeast recently won a significant victory in their fight to win legal residency in the United States. On August 22 U.S. District Judge C. Clyde Atkins granted a

preliminary injunction against the Immigration and Naturalization Service's denial of residency to 15,000 Haitian and Mexican farm workers. Atkins ordered the INS to review all these cases, using procedures more favorable to the farm workers.

Under the Special Agricultural Worker Program of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, undocumented workers who harvested perishable crops for 90 days during the year prior to May 1986 could apply for amnesty until Nov. 30, 1988. With amnesty, a person can apply for temporary residency.

Thousands of Haitian and Mexican workers submitted their applications along with affidavits from employers. The INS, however, demanded payroll records, which employers do not ordinarily supply to farm workers, who usually receive cash from labor "contractors."

The INS then denied many applications, with no explanation. In one case, an employer supplied identical affidavits to an entire work crew. Half were rejected, and half accepted. Those who were rejected lost their work permits and were threatened with deportation.

In June, the Haitian Refugee Center, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach, and 17 Mexican and Haitian farm workers filed suit in federal court charging the INS with violating the immigration act.

In his ruling, Atkins ordered the INS to reconsider all cases that had been denied on the basis that the applicant failed to produce payroll records. "Congress intended that the Special Agricultural Worker Program be liberally applied," he said. "The evidence before this court suggests that applicants are being required to produce exactly what they cannot, i.e., payroll records."

The judge also ordered the INS to give temporary work authorization to the farm workers, pending the final outcome of their suit. He further ordered the INS to provide competent translators in Spanish, Creole, and other languages where necessary at the amnesty hearings.

Atkins' ruling applies directly to 15,000 immigrant agricultural workers in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. Lawyers for the Haitian Refugee Center said this case will also set a legal precedent for similar court cases in other parts of the country. "The lawsuit will have a far-reaching and significant effect on farm workers throughout the United States," Ira Kurzbaum, an attorney for the farm workers, said.

The ruling came after a summer of demonstrations in Miami — including several that drew 1,000 people — supporting the farm workers' demands. Hundreds of farm workers, organized by the Haitian organization Veye-Yo (Watch Them), rallied repeatedly at the federal courthouse and INS offices here.

Gerard Jean-Juste, director of the Haitian Refugee Center and a central leader of Veye-Yo, said that they would continue to pressure the INS with legal action and street protests.

"The Haitian Refugee Center, Veye-Yo, and I are demanding that the Reagan administration issue a blanket parole to all Haitians who arrived here before November 1986," Jean-Juste said. "We demand that this administration give us work permits and stop the deportations. We have suffered enough — first in Haiti under the U.S.-backed military government, then interdiction at sea, and now racism in the United States. Stop the deportations, give us our work permits, and extend these rights to all immigrant workers!"



Militant/Robert Kopec

Participant in July 23 rally at INS center in Miami, demanding residency for farm workers.