

Thousands join walks for El Salvador

Thousands of opponents of the U.S.-backed war against the workers and peasants of El Salvador participated in fund-raising walkathons in more than 60 cities and towns across the country October 15. More than \$200,000 was raised for humanitarian aid projects in El Salvador.

In San Francisco a young, spirited crowd of 1,500 marched from the Longshoremen's union hall along Fisherman's Wharf to the Presidio Army Base. More than \$19,000 was raised that day, and another \$21,000 has been pledged. Some \$500 was contributed by International Association of Machinists members at United Airlines and other companies.

Walkathon participants distributed leaflets describing the role of the U.S. military in Central America to people gathered to observe U.S. naval vessels during "Fleet Week." About 110 people were arrested in a civil disobedience action outside the Presidio Army Base.

In Portland nearly 300 people took part in the 10-kilometer walkathon, many of them high school and college students.

New York's 10-kilometer walk from Columbia University to Union Square in Manhattan also drew hundreds of people.

Students from the University of Maryland and other area campuses were among the 200 protesters who joined the Washington, D.C., walkathon. Young Koreans United also had a contingent in the action. A brief rally featured Angela Sanbrano, national director of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

On October 17 some 1,500 people from around the country demonstrated at the Pentagon, supporting a peaceful civil disobedience action during which 215 people were arrested. Contingents from 71 colleges and universities took part.

The walkathons and Pentagon action were part of El Salvador: Steps to Freedom, an educational, fund-raising, and action project undertaken by CISPES, the Pledge of Resistance, and other opponents of U.S. policy in Central America.

The Salvadoran government of José Napoleón Duarte receives nearly \$100 million a year in U.S. military aid to carry out its war against the workers and peasants of El Salvador. More than 65,000 Salvadorans have been killed since the civil war began eight years ago.

40-year disaster at gov't nuclear plants

BY FRED FELDMAN

For decades the United States has been the scene of a prolonged and secret nuclear disaster, taking place in the 15 plants in 12 states that constitute the government's nuclear-weapons production system.

Federal officials have admitted knowing and concealing for nearly 40 years the fact that a uranium-processing plant in Ohio was releasing thousands of tons of radioactive uranium into the environment. The Department of Energy made the admission in court documents submitted September 30 in order to protect NLO, the corporate contractor running the plant, from a \$300 million suit brought by 14,000 people living near the plant located in Fernald, Ohio, near Cincinnati.

A congressional committee reported October 14 on the government's admissions.

Runoff from the Fernald plant carried some 167,000 pounds of uranium waste into the Great Miami River. Another 268,000 pounds was discharged into the air, and another 12.7 million pounds was stored in leaky pits at the plant.

The officials conceded that heavy rains swept uranium-contaminated water into a nearby stream and then into the groundwater.

The government's General Accounting Office found last July that radioactive contamination of underground water supplies in the area is "hundreds or even thousands of times above drinking water standards" and has spread beyond the plant area to wells.

The Ohio plant has been shut down since



Savannah River nuclear weapons reactor. Washington admits dozens of nuclear accidents at plant were concealed.

October 7 by a strike over wages and safety conditions.

Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste demanded October 18 that it be shut down indefinitely.

The exposure of secret radioactive emissions at the Fernald plant drew renewed at-

tention to similar practices admitted earlier at the government's Hanford Reservation in Richland, Washington. The Federal Centers for Disease Control are studying reports of health damage, including the high incidence of cancer and infant mortal-

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Rally in Grenada commemorates Bishop

BY NORTON SANDLER

GRENVILLE, Grenada, Oct. 20 — Two busy roads come together at the edge of town here at a place known as Ski Hi Junction.

Tonight Ski Hi Junction was packed as more than 1,000 people turned out for a rally called by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) to commemorate the 1983 assassination of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other leaders of Grenada's revolutionary government. Speakers at the rally blasted the current

U.S.-imposed government of Herbert Blaize for its confiscation two nights ago of several boxes of the book *Maurice Bishop Speaks* and other Pathfinder literature that this reporter had brought with him for the rally.

Bishop and other Grenadian leaders were murdered on Oct. 19, 1983, by troops loyal to then Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard. A few days earlier Coard had staged a counterrevolutionary coup that toppled Grenada's workers' and farmers' government, which came to power in 1979.

On Oct. 25, 1983, six days after Bishop's murder, U.S. troops invaded the island and installed a proimperialist government that is today headed by Blaize's New National Party (NNP).

Supporters of Bishop founded the MBPM in May 1984. Tonight's rally was the largest ever organized by the MBPM in Grenville, Grenada's second-largest town.

MBPM leader Terry Marryshow told the crowd that because of their bloody actions that destroyed the Grenada revolution, Coard and his supporters are "condemned forever to the dustbin of history."

Marryshow said Washington's invasion of the island "was another criminal act. They tried to give our people the impression they were rescuers," he said. He asked the crowd to reflect on whether the past five years had brought them any gains.

When MBPM supporters travel the island, Marryshow said, they hear firsthand about the worsening conditions of working people. He pointed to high unemployment, now estimated at 40 to 50 percent; to deteriorating education and health care; and to increased drug use.

He vowed that under the leadership of the MBPM, power would again be restored

to Grenada's working people.

In an attack on the rally and the democratic rights of Grenada's people, customs officials at Point Salines Airport seized four cartons of Pathfinder books and pamphlets and several dozen copies of the *Militant* as this reporter entered the country October 18. Government officials at the airport said they were being seized because "they are against our system here."

Among the books were 50 copies of the new Pathfinder title *One People, One Destiny: The Caribbean and Central America Today*, edited by Don Rojas. Rojas, former press secretary to Maurice Bishop and an MBPM leader, has himself been barred by Grenada's U.S.-imposed government since the U.S. invasion five years ago this month.

Throughout the day on October 19, this reporter and Pathfinder representative James Harris from New York, with the help of MBPM activists, tried unsuccessfully to get the books. Customs Director Patrick Bubb informed us that "samples" of the books had been turned over to the Ministry of National Security.

Later in the day I was told that the literature was being held at the offices of national security, under orders of Police Commissioner Cosmun Raymond. When Pathfinder Director Steve Clark phoned Raymond from New York to protest the confiscation, the police commissioner said that the titles were being checked against "a list of banned books."

MBPM leaders told the *Militant* that this is the first that the Grenadian people had ever heard about such an index of banned books.

At this evening's rally, the MBPM's deputy leader Einstein Louison pointed out that

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Protests condemn slander of frame-up victim Mark Curtis

BY SANDRA NELSON

DES MOINES, Iowa, Oct. 20 — Protests have begun to counter a new campaign of slander against Mark Curtis and his defense committee that opened up here yesterday.

The front page of today's *Des Moines Register* Metro news section reports: "A cross was burned Wednesday into the lawn of the home of a teen-age girl who was sexually abused by Socialist Workers Party member Mark Curtis."

"The girl's father, Keith Morris, didn't see the culprits but said he suspects some connection to Curtis' supporters."

This smear against Curtis, the SWP, and the Curtis defense committee was the featured story on two television stations last night. Curtis is a unionist, political activist, and member of the SWP who was convicted on September 14 on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. Thousands of

unionists, farmers, and youth around the world are backing Curtis' fight for justice.

After being told of the charges yesterday by Tom Alex, a *Register* reporter, Stu Singer, coordinator of the Curtis defense committee, told the press: "This is a total impossibility. Any such charge would fly in the face of the facts. Mark's activities and views, and those of the committee's members and supporters, are in loud and public opposition to racism."

"Such an act could only be committed by someone completely opposed to the goals of the defense committee, someone hoping to confuse the issues, someone hoping to slander and smear the defense effort."

Countering the slander, Singer detailed the activities Curtis was involved in that led to his victimization.

"Mark Curtis was framed up and railroaded to jail by the Des Moines police and

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Algeria: economic crisis sparks protests

BY HARRY RING

Angry protest demonstrations by Algerian youth and workers earlier this month were met with savage government repression.

Estimates of the toll of the five-day confrontation ran as high as 500 dead and 1,000 wounded. As many as 3,000 were reported jailed.

The protests began October 4 in the capital, Algiers, spreading to the port city of Oran and into several provinces.

Demonstrations were sparked when the government warned of a new round of belt-tightening. The threat of further cuts in living standards came in the wake of a series of strikes by government workers. Working people are suffering the worst economic crisis since the country won independence 26 years ago.

The youth who took to the streets torched a police station in one area and, in one town, burned down the mayor's office.

In Algiers, the Ministry of Commerce

and Ministry of Sports buildings were gutted by fire.

The commerce ministry is supposed to deal with massive youth unemployment and the sports agency has a variety of programs aimed at keeping the idle, frustrated youth occupied.

Wealthy people and government bureaucrats were particular targets of the demonstrators. Shops and supermarkets set aside for government officials were ransacked. So were luxury cars and government vehicles.

A major source of the anger is a government austerity program that ended food subsidies. This brought a 40 percent jump in prices since the beginning of the year.

The government of President Chadli Benjedid announced a November 3 referendum to approve allocating power now held by the National Liberation Front (FLN) to the People's National Assembly.

The FLN has held a monopoly of political power and the assembly has had only token authority.

Meanwhile foodstuffs began to appear on previously barren grocery shelves.

The Algerian economy has been crippled by the drop in world oil prices and by a huge foreign debt.

Oil and gas comprise some 97 percent of Algeria's exports. Since 1985 oil income has been sliced nearly in half, dropping from \$13 billion a year to an expected \$8 billion this year.

Half of that \$8 billion goes to pay the interest on a \$21 billion foreign debt. Algerian unemployment is estimated at 25 percent.

Public services are reported in a near shambles. There is a critical shortage of housing and a scarcity of food staples.

Much of the available food turns up at ripoff prices on the black market, which Algerians charge is operated by businessmen with links to the government and FLN.

This explosion, and the savage repression against it, shows the depth of the crisis

in Algeria, where for many years the regime has projected itself as progressive and even socialist.

The government has taken some anti-imperialist positions and given some support to liberation movements and struggles, particularly in the Mideast and North Africa.

In 1962, after a massive revolutionary struggle, the Algerian people wrested their independence from French colonialism.

The principal leadership of the struggle was provided by the FLN. Its central figure was Ahmed Ben Bella.

With the victory over French colonialism, a workers' and farmers' government was created with Ben Bella at its head. Nationalization of foreign holdings was undertaken and an agrarian reform program projected.

But, in 1965, right-wing forces within the FLN executed a coup, ousting Ben Bella.

They destroyed the revolutionary government and reversed the anticapitalist process that had begun to develop. However, the change in political consciousness of the workers and peasants, stemming from their revolutionary struggle and the self-confidence this generated, was not totally erased. This affected some of the stands of the government.

Ben Bella was supplanted by Col. Houari Boumediene, who held power until his death in 1978. He was succeeded by the present ruler, Chadli Benjedid.

Paperworkers discuss end of strike

BY JON HILLSON

JAY, Maine — Paperworkers whose 16-month strike ended abruptly October 9 have begun sorting out the meaning and lessons of this experience.

More than 1,600 paperworkers and supporters attended a union/family meeting here October 12 to hear reports on the end of the strike. The 1,250 former strikers are members of United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) Local 14 and Firemen and Oilers Local 246.

Strikes at International Paper Co. (IP) mills began in June 1987 in Jay; De Pere, Wisconsin; and Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, over company demands for concessions in wages, holidays, and work rules and on other issues. Some 800 paperworkers and supporters also attended a meeting in Lock Haven October 12 to hear reports on the strikes' end. In De Pere, a similar meeting drew 200.

The strikes were terminated by joint agreement of leadership delegations from the three sites during a lengthy meeting with UPIU President Wayne Glenn and union attorneys. The meeting followed the adjournment of the UPIU/IP council meeting October 8-9 in Nashville, Tennessee, which drew 165 delegates from 81 IP plants.

Many strikers had hoped, based on recent reports from union officials, that the council meeting would decide on expanded strike action at other IP mills. Some 12,000 UPIU members at IP primary mills and converting plants around the country have been working without contracts for up to two years.

Locals 14 and 246 members who attended the council meeting reported that Glenn stated that strike funds had been vir-

tually exhausted and new strikes would be met with firings and the replacement of union members by scabs. The strike delegations were told that lack of national strike action would cause a "rush to the gates" by strikers breaking ranks to return to work. To avoid this, they decided to end the strikes.

Since the strike in Jay began, only 78 union members have crossed the picket lines to return to work.

Local 14 Executive Vice-president Felix Jacques told paperworkers and the media at an October 10 news conference at the union hall here that the "facts laid on the table" by Glenn convinced the local leadership to offer IP an unconditional return to work to "salvage what we have left of our communities."

"It's not that we don't want to fight — it's just that we can't," said Local 14 member Roland Samson at the union hall that day. "We have nothing to fight with."

"They should have called a nationwide strike" against IP, said former Jay striker Gerry Oullette, "but they didn't have the guts to do it."

Local 14 officers will meet with IP to try to determine how former strikers will be called back to work. Company spokesmen have stated that openings at the scab-run mill occur at a rate of two or three per week.

While few Jay unionists express disagreement with the decision to end the bitter strike, many feel "it was up to us to say if we'd end it," as one striker said.

"I didn't know we had to change the world to win a strike," said Local 14 activist John Chouinard.

While some ex-strikers have gotten jobs, others have been living on savings and strike benefits, and now face hard times.

Before the October 12 meeting started, Earline Lamb, a strike stalwart whose husband worked for IP for 35 years, said, "No matter what happens, we did ourselves proud. We said no to them. We stood up to them. We showed what we're made of. And we got our eyes opened. Nobody can take that away from us."

Warren salutes paper strikers

The following message was sent by Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate James Warren to Bill Meserve, president of United Paperworkers International Union Local 14 in Jay, Maine.

Brothers and Sisters,

I and my running mate Kathleen Mickells salute the members of UPIU Local 14 and Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers Local 246. Along with striking and locked-out paperworkers in De Pere, Lock Haven, and Mobile, you have waged, for more than a year, one of the most important labor battles in the United States.

For hundreds of thousands of other workers who felt they had no choice but to accept the employers' concession demands in recent years, your fight against International Paper Co. was an inspiration and proof that resistance is possible. Your strike, along with the earlier struggles of packinghouse workers in the Midwest, helped break the pattern of not fighting, of hoping that we could buy time for conditions to get better if only we accept concessions.

Your tireless efforts to win support from other working people throughout the coun-

try helped rebuild working-class solidarity. And the open door you provided at your union/family meetings for other workers and activists, including international guests, was an example for the entire union movement.

The experience of your 16-month strike against IP — which Mickells and I have pointed to as we have campaigned throughout the country — will provide invaluable lessons for other workers fighting in the months and years ahead.

The stock market crash a year ago signaled that the storm clouds of a severe economic downturn are gathering on the horizon. The most important weapon we will have to defend ourselves against the ravages of this crisis is the understanding of our unity as a class — whether we live in South Africa, Japan, Maine, or Nicaragua; whether we're employed or unemployed; Black, white, Latino, or Asian; union or nonunion; male or female; native-born or immigrant.

Only through our collective experience — which will include setbacks as well as victories — can we chart the road forward. Your struggle is a step on that road.

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Farm workers' union leader describes struggles to Mickells

BY CHRIS HORNER

SEATTLE — During her recent campaign stop here, Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate Kathleen Mickells was able to spend several hours talking with Tomás Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS). Mickells was eager to learn more about the conditions farm workers here face and the struggles the union is involved in. These workers produce \$2.4 billion worth of fruits and vegetables each year in Washington State, where agriculture is the biggest industry. Estimates of the number of farm workers in the state range from 50,000 to 100,000.

"The big agricultural growers in this state are looking for slaves, not workers," Villanueva explained. The Washington State Department of Labor and Industry had just carried out the first-ever inspection of hops farms in the Yakima Valley. (Hops are used to flavor beer.) Twenty-five farms were cited for 140 serious health and safety violations, including the death of a 14-year-old killed while working at night.

"That boy would be alive today if farm workers were not excluded from state and national labor laws that outlaw child labor," Villanueva said. The UFWWS is

fighting for health and safety inspections in all crops. It is also preparing to launch a campaign for a Washington Agricultural Labor Relations Act that would expand labor law protection for farm workers.

Minimum wage fight

An example of the kind of struggle that will be needed to win passage of such legislation, he said, was the campaign to put an initiative on the November ballot in Washington State to raise the state minimum wage, and have farm workers covered by this law for the first time. "There would be no initiative if not for the fight farm workers organized last winter," Villanueva stressed.

The union leader described to Mickells how delegations of farm workers repeatedly crossed the Cascade Mountains in February and March to demonstrate, march, and carry out all-night vigils at the state capitol building in Olympia during the legislative session. This weeks-long struggle — which received wide media attention — brought to light the scandal of the state's minimum wage and convinced working people that it had to be raised. Washington's minimum wage of \$2.30 an hour is the 36th lowest in the country and affects some 50,000 work-



Militant/Angel Lariscy
United Farm Workers of Washington State President Tomás Villanueva talks with Kathleen Mickells, SWP vice-presidential candidate.

ers. Another 70,000 workers earn \$3.35 or less.

Many people learned for the first time, Villanueva said, that farm workers are not even covered by this law and are also excluded from unemployment compensation laws. The legislature had voted down all attempts to raise the minimum wage.

Initiative 518, certified in July for the ballot after more than 300,000 signatures were submitted, would raise the state minimum wage to \$3.85 in January 1989 and \$4.25 in January 1990.

"Our fight is to be seen as the same as all other workers," Villanueva said, "not as 'orphans' who have been forgotten in the past even by the labor movement." In the 1960s, farm workers in California "got attention because they fought."

"We are prepared for it to take four or five years of struggling before we even win our first contracts with the growers," Villanueva told Mickells.

A series of recent studies have highlighted just how bad living and working conditions for farm workers are, Villanueva pointed out. The average farm worker has a life expectancy of 49 years, compared to the national average of 72 years. Farm workers have a 25 percent higher infant mortality rate, suffer two and a half times more deaths from tuberculosis, and have a 20 percent higher death rate from influenza and pneumonia.

Doctors at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, Villanueva pointed out, report that diseases of their patients include tuberculosis, hepatitis, intestinal parasites, and even leprosy — diseases almost unknown in the United States in recent decades. Villanueva recalled that in 1969, when he and others in the farm worker community won the hard-fought battle to establish the clinic, the state budget allocated \$11 million for migratory birds and \$5 million for farm workers.

Exposure to pesticides is a major health hazard, Villanueva added. One 1988 study showed that 3 percent of the state's farm workers reported that pesticides were sprayed or drifted on them. Half became sick. A 1986 study by the Washington State Migrant Council found that the miscarriage rate for female farm workers is seven times the national average.

As the union has made gains over the past two years, Villanueva explained, the growers have responded with harsher attacks. The cops and courts are used to break strikes, disrupt picket lines, and victimize union militants. "The growers' word against ours is good enough for convictions in Yakima County," he said.

Villanueva asked the socialist candidate about her experiences campaigning around the country. "SWP presidential candidate James Warren and I talk a lot about the Washington farm workers," she said, "and the example you are setting for other workers."

"I know of no other union in the United States today that is doing what your union is — actually organizing the unemployed," Mickells said, referring to a series of rallies for unemployed farm workers across central Washington organized by the UFWWS.

Warren tours Canada with RWL candidates

BY SUSIE BERMAN

TORONTO — James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, just completed a two-city tour of Canada. He joined Michel Dugré in Montréal and Margaret Manwaring in Toronto, Revolutionary Workers League (RWL) candidates in the Canadian federal elections, in discussions with more than 125 workers and students from October 14 to 17.

The socialist candidates explained that the current debate over the U.S.-Canada "free trade" pact has nothing to do with defending the interests of working people. Both sides in the debate propose protectionist measures aimed at defending capitalist profits, while working people, especially in the semicolonial countries, come out the losers.

Warren explained, "If they were really having a discussion on defending the interests of workers and the oppressed, they would have to start with what we start with today — the Oct. 19, 1987, stock market crash and the crisis and coming depression that it announced for working people."

The stock market crash signaled that a

major crisis in the world capitalist system is shaping up, Warren explained. This crisis must be the starting point for figuring out what to do today.

Not only will the depression-like conditions of toilers in the oppressed countries deepen, but growing layers of working people in the imperialist centers will also face a devastating depression and social crisis. These conditions will lead to big class battles, he said. They will make it easier for working people to see themselves as a class in the world that can and must act in its own interests.

Throughout the tour, Warren discussed the Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis being presented by both the SWP and RWL to working people. This program presents a basis for discussion on how to unify the exploited and oppressed throughout the world to defend ourselves from the deepening economic and social crisis.

It calls for canceling the foreign debt of colonial and semicolonial countries, affirmative action for the oppressed, and shortening the workweek with no reduction in pay to spread the available work.

At a meeting at Concordia University in Montréal, a steelworker explained there are only seven women and one worker who is Black out of 700 people at her plant. Fighting for special programs aimed at reversing discriminatory hiring practices, she said, is a way to fight racism and sexism.

Warren said such programs are important and should be supported. But, "the most comprehensive way to address yourself to this problem is the social demand of raising the minimum wage to your pay scale."

"There are lots of women and Blacks who will never work in your plant," he continued. Many of these workers are slotted into minimum wage jobs.

Warren explained that the fight is "to raise the value of the labor power of the most oppressed as the way of defending those who are paid more. . . ."

"The thing we have to explain to the people we work with is that if we don't fight for this," he said, "our wages will be \$4.50 an hour as well. Wages are set from the bottom up, not from the top down. And in the framework of a crisis, they will slash the wages of steelworkers. They will look much more like garment workers. . . ."

Several recent battles have taken place around this question in Canada. On October 15 Michel Dugré and his supporters joined a union-backed demonstration of about 5,000 people in Montréal protesting attacks on welfare recipients. The Québec government is trying to force all welfare recipients to register to work for minimum and subminimum wages.

And in Toronto, Margaret Manwaring joined a rally of 150 people supporting Bell Canada strikers. The 20,000 telephone workers have struck for almost four months, in part against the company's practice of hiring part-time workers at lower wages and with fewer benefits.

Warren explained that one other aspect of this fight is that "unions that go out on strike are increasingly finding the bosses are able to replace them with workers who have been getting minimum wage."

"Steelworkers won't be able to defend themselves in the future if they don't address themselves to this question today," Warren argued. "Better-paid workers shouldn't defend the most oppressed only because it's morally right. They should also do so because it's the only way to defend themselves."

"The same thing is true with the foreign debt," Warren noted. "Workers in the imperialist countries are strengthening ourselves when we fight to cancel the foreign debt of oppressed countries."

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From Britain to New Zealand, Curtis support grows

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is in jail on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international protest campaign to fight

would be writing to the U.S. ambassador to Britain about the case. Ken Livingstone, Joan Rud-dock, and Michael Foot, three prominent MPs, also signed. Few of the 2,000 delegates had heard about the Curtis defense ef-

for, and Billy Etherington — have all backed the Curtis defense campaign.

Secretary of the Labour Party Black Sections, Kingsley Abrams, added his name to the list as well.

Representatives of the Guildford Four, four Irish people who have been imprisoned for 13 years as the result of a police frame-up, gave their support. Labour MP Chris Mullins, author of a book on the frame-up of the Birmingham Six, another group of Irish activists who have been imprisoned for several years, also signed up.

Curtis supporter Jonathan Silberman was able to address the 150 people attending a fringe meeting on defense of democratic rights organized by the magazine *New Statesman and Society*.

Supporters of Mark Curtis visited the southern New Zealand city of Dunedin September 30–October 1. The trip was part of a week-long drive in New Zealand to obtain signatures protesting the frame-up.

Over the course of a day and a half, supporters spoke to dozens of workers and youth. In all, 88 signatures were collected, and 15 subscriptions to the *Militant* sold. As well, 45 copies of the *Militant* and 25 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, were bought.

Petitioning began at Fisher and Paykel, a whiteware (appliance) assembly plant on the outskirts of the city. More than 300 workers are employed there, including recent immigrants from Southeast Asia.

Supporters displayed a large sign at the main plant gate reading, "Protest against the police frame-up of political activist Mark Curtis." Despite being evicted from the factory car park by the bosses, the team was able to talk to many workers as they arrived by car or bus. Five bought copies of the *Militant* and 14 signed the petitions.

The next stop was Otago University, where the team set up a literature table in the Students Association building. Thirty-five signed

petitions and 12 bought *Militant* subscriptions.

At a street table in the central city shopping area, 39 more signatures were collected and 3 subscriptions sold.

Eddie Hatcher is one of two Tuscarora Indians in North Carolina recently acquitted of all charges stemming from an anti-racist protest. His mother, Thelma Clark, is a supporter of the Curtis defense effort.

"Mark cares for people, like Eddie does," she wrote in a recent statement. "The courts discriminate against Mark for trying to help immigrants. It seems the innocent get harassed and the criminals get away. The government is corrupt. The courts make a mockery of the Constitution. It appears that judges are immune from the law; they make their own law. People need to join together and speak out for each other."

Jonathan Silberman and Mike Tucker contributed to this column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

for justice for Curtis. To contact the committee, write Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

Some 707 participants at the annual British Labour Party conference, which met in Blackpool, England, the first week of October, demanded the release of Mark Curtis.

These included 26 members of Parliament and members of the European Parliament. Among them were frontbench spokespeople Michael Meacher, Stan Orme, and Mark Fisher, leaders of the parliamentary Labour Party. Meacher, shadow cabinet employment secretary (responsible for employment matters for the parliamentary Labour Party), said he

fort at the beginning of the conference. By the end of the week, people were seeking out petitioners to add their names to the growing list of those opposed to the frame-up.

The *Independent*, one of Britain's major dailies, reported on the activity of Curtis petitioner Vinnie McInerney in its coverage of the meetings that take place around Labour Party conferences, which are called the conference fringe. The *Independent* explained that the defense effort is being expanded throughout Britain.

Members of the National Union of Mineworkers were keen to sign up. Many had themselves been victims of police frame-ups during their 1984–85 strike. Four national NUM leaders — Arthur Scargill, Peter Heathfield, Jack Tay-

'Des Moines Register' feature about SWP in Iowa

The following article appeared on the front page of the "Iowa News" section of the Sunday, October 9, *Des Moines Register*. It was headlined "Socialist party wants a role in Iowa future." The last section of the article, "Iowa groups respond," was dropped from some editions of the paper.

BY WILLIAM PETROSKI

First it was Cuba. Then South Vietnam and Nicaragua.

If the Socialist Workers Party has its way, Iowa will be the next domino to fall to Marxist influence.

About 20 dedicated Socialist Workers from throughout the United States have settled in the Des Moines area in the past two years with the aim of spreading world communism.

Some have taken union meatpacking jobs in Perry and Des Moines. Many have shown up at farm foreclosures and local political activist gatherings in an effort to convert economic and social misery into a class battle against the rich and powerful.

Their heroes are people like Karl Marx,

Fidel Castro, and Leon Trotsky, and they see the Democratic and Republican parties as tools of the rich.

'We have taken it ourselves'

"No liberal democrat, no politician has ever given us anything. Whatever we have gotten we have taken it and won it ourselves," said Kathleen Mickells, the Socialist Workers Party vice-presidential candidate, during an Iowa campaign speech last week.

The Socialist Workers in Des Moines are people like Jackie Floyd, 29, a native of Miami whose activism was triggered by the slaying of blacks by police officers in her hometown.

Or Jason Redrup, 26, who protested nuclear power plant construction in California and supported striking copper miners in Arizona before coming to Iowa.

Or Marian Carr, 34, who was active in women's rights and peace organizations in her native Glasgow, Scotland, before coming to the United States in 1977.

Floyd now works at Oscar Mayer in Perry as a ham boner, Redrup is an assembler at Fawn Engineering Co. in Clive, and Carr slaughters livestock at Swift Independent in Des Moines.

The group also includes Mark Curtis, 29, who recently was convicted of sexual abuse for trying to assault a Des Moines teenager. A former national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance, Curtis has become a political martyr among socialists nationally and has drawn massive support from activists throughout the world who believe he was framed.

Curtis, who is being held in the Marion County Jail, said in an interview last week that the Socialist Workers have no "blueprint" for Iowa, but they want to be deeply involved in future political and social struggles here.

'Part of Iowa discussions'

"Socialism is nothing more than the generalized experience of people working with people in their fight for a better way of life. That's all Karl Marx had to add and that's all we have to add," said Curtis, who was treasurer of the local party organization.

"We want to be a part of the political discussions in Iowa, from the lunchrooms at Swift to the truck stops where farmers talk about the situations they face and the way to move ahead," he said.

Curtis, who was raised on a New Mexico Indian reservation where his father taught school, calls the Socialist Workers' efforts an international struggle that includes Iowa.

"We have a common enemy — the world corporate monopolies that own land and factories in South Africa and Central

America — and we have a common interest," he said. "Farmers haven't just lost their land in Iowa and the Midwest. They are being forced off their land in the Philippines, in Palestine, and one of the key things in South Africa is that people are denied their right to own land."

The Socialist Workers began arriving in Des Moines in the fall of 1986 to open the Pathfinder Books store at 2105 Forest Ave. The store, part of a chain operated by the Socialist Workers, sells publications on Marxist-Leninist theory, race relations, labor history, women's rights, farm issues, and related topics. Texts are printed in English and Spanish. The store is also the site of political meetings.

About a dozen party members were in the original group that arrived in Des Moines, and their ranks have since grown to about 20, including some Iowa natives, Floyd said.

"There were many, many more who wanted to come here. It was quite a privilege to come," she said.

Nationally, the Socialist Workers Party has about 1,200 to 1,400 adult members, active supporters, and youth members, said a party spokeswoman in New York.

The local Socialist Workers organization is self-supporting, and no financial aid is provided by the Soviet Union's KGB, Cuba, or any other foreign government, said Nan Bailey, 35, of Des Moines. Bailey, a meatpacker at Oscar Mayer, is the party's candidate this fall for the congressional seat held by veteran Democrat Neal Smith.

Blue-collar workers

None of the party members appears to be rich. Virtually all rent modest, inner-city housing and earn blue-collar wages. Court records show that Curtis had earned \$14,000 annually at Swift Independent, where he worked on the livestock kill floor. He owns a 1979 Subaru worth \$750, but he still owes \$500 on the car.

The Socialist Workers have been trying to spread their message by talking politics with co-workers and distributing party literature at shopping malls and plant gates. Recently, however, their efforts have concentrated on assisting Curtis.

His defense has drawn letters of support from many prominent citizens, such as the most Rev. Thomas J. Gumbleton, auxiliary bishop of the Detroit Catholic Archdiocese, and Rosa Parks, who prompted the 1955 Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott by refusing to give up her seat to a white man.

"Mark Curtis has had letters from about every state and some from Sweden, England, Mexico, and wherever," said Marion County Sheriff Marvin Van Haaften,

who supervises the county jail in Knoxville.

The Socialist Workers contend Curtis' conviction is no different from a longstanding campaign of harassment toward them by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In 1986, a federal court judge in New York awarded the Socialist Workers Party \$264,000 in damages for FBI actions dating to 1941, including surreptitious entries of party offices, bugging of telephones, and the use of informants. The judge, Thomas P. Griesa, said that despite years of FBI investigation, there was "not one single prosecution" of any party member "for any terrorist or revolutionary act of any kind."

Iowa groups respond

In Iowa, social and political activist groups have had mixed reactions to the Socialist Workers.

Billie Marchik, international affairs director for the American Friends Service Committee, said that when the Socialist Workers arrived in Iowa, they irritated local activists by acting as though nothing was being done to oppose apartheid in South Africa. Further, in pushing for a bus trip by Iowa activists who went to Washington, D.C., last year, the Socialist Workers' approach was "kind of hard sell and almost browbeating," she said.

David Ostendorf, executive director of Prairiefire, a group that aids Iowa farmers, said his group disavows any relationship with the Socialist Workers. He said he's troubled by their tactics in defending Curtis, including the distribution of fliers at the victim's high school.

The Socialist Workers also have expressed strong solidarity with Iowa Hispanics, "but that's all they've done," said Verne Lyon, director of the Des Moines Hispanic Ministry. "Not one of my clients has said these people have done anything for them," said Lyon, who aids Central American refugees, Mexican immigrants, and other Hispanics.

A different view is expressed by Carroll Nearmyer of Prairie City, president of the American Agriculture Movement in Iowa.

"My opinion is that they are very good people who are concerned about what is going on in this country and government," he said. "They don't have any ideas different from us. They are concerned about the family farmer, and to me that's not communism."

Hearing postponed for small-claims action in attack on offices

BY MARGARET JAYKO

The court hearing on the complaint filed by Pathfinder Books owner Jason Redrup against Keith Morris, set for October 17, was postponed by Judge Louis Anania, according to John Studer from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, Iowa.

More than a dozen supporters of the Curtis defense effort went to the Polk County Courthouse in downtown Des Moines to be on hand for the hearing. When they arrived, the court clerk told them that due to scheduling problems, the hearing would have to be postponed for several weeks. The new date is November 10, 2:30 p.m.

On July 15 Keith Morris broke the three large plate-glass panes in the front of the premises that the defense committee shares with the Pathfinder Books bookstore in Des Moines. Morris is the father of the woman Curtis was convicted of raping.

Morris was trying to attack Curtis, who was inside at the time with two of his supporters. Morris had physically threatened Curtis several other times. Curtis and the others escaped unharmed through another exit.

County Attorney James Smith has refused to arrest and file charges against Morris for this violent attack. Redrup filed the small claims action, demanding that Morris reimburse the bookstore for the \$2,000 it cost.

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Call toll-free 800-521-3044. Or mail inquiry to: University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.



Militant/Stu Singer

March 12, 1988, protest against immigration raid in Des Moines, Iowa.

200 marched against arrest of 17 Latinos at Swift packing plant

BY MARGARET JAYKO

(Fourth of a series)

DES MOINES, Iowa — When Mark Curtis was picked up by the cops Friday night, March 4, 1988, he was on his way to buy some food at the Hy-Vee grocery store. Curtis was the director of the Militant Labor Forum in Des Moines. The next night, the forum was hosting a panel of speakers who had been to Nicaragua. Curtis was going to cook a dinner for forum-goers — his specialty, a chicken and rice dish.

Among those scheduled to speak was Kevin Magee, a friend of Curtis' from Decorah, Iowa, who had recently been on a

The Mark Curtis Story



voluntary work brigade to Nicaragua. Magee and his wife, Myung Kim, were coming into Des Moines Friday night to attend a Rural Women's Conference at the Hotel Fort Des Moines. They were going to stay over at Curtis' house and participate in the forum the next night. Myung Kim was one of the character witnesses called by the defense at Curtis' trial.

On his way to Hy-Vee, Curtis was arrested and taken to the city jail, beaten by cops, and framed up on rape charges.

Even though Curtis was out of jail by the time the forum was supposed to begin, he was in pretty bad shape and couldn't go. However, the forum went ahead as scheduled. One of those who attended was Alfredo Alvarez, chairperson of the city's Human Rights Commission. Alvarez urged everybody there to participate in the protest planned for the next weekend against the arrest of 17 Latino workers at the Swift packing plant on March 1.

The raid at the Swift plant, which is where Curtis worked, ignited deep anger, especially among Hispanics in Des Moines. The worker from El Salvador and the 16 from Mexico who were arrested were charged with felonies for having falsified documents in order to get a job. They were dispersed to jails around the state, so their families couldn't talk to them. And all this was done two months before the deadline to apply for legalization under the federal amnesty law.

March for justice

Alvarez had been involved in the meetings on March 4, held at the United Mexican American Cultural Center, protesting the raid. He had proposed the March 12 demonstration, which had been agreed to. Other forum participants were also backing the protest.

"A march for justice/*Un desfile para justicia*" read the leaflet for the action. The

Mark Curtis is a packinghouse worker, unionist, and political activist in Des Moines, Iowa. On Sept. 14, 1988, he was convicted on sexual abuse and burglary charges, and is currently being held in the Marion County Jail. He is scheduled to be sentenced on November 18.

Unionists, farmers, and youth around the world recognize that Curtis is one of those workers who are starting to stand up and fight back against the employers and their government. In their thousands, working people are beginning to join the fight for justice for Curtis.

The Mark Curtis Story is a multipart series that describes what happened to Curtis, where it fits into the class struggle, and the big stakes for working people in the fight against this frame-up.

purpose of the march, it said, was "to focus public attention on government action against Hispanics at the Swift factory in Des Moines and to educate on the widespread implications" and "to raise money for the Swift 17, who cannot return to their jobs, and cannot work or be hired for other jobs, and do not qualify for any government social programs. They still must feed their families."

The flier declared, "All Hispanics, Blacks, and whites united in the Clive march. Let us unite again." This was a reference to a march against anti-Black actions by the police force in the western suburb of Clive in February.

Supporters listed on the leaflet included: Ila Plasencia, national Midwest vice-president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Elizabeth Balli, LULAC state executive director; Lando Valadez, investigator for the public defender's office; Mike Murillo, Polk County Democratic Party Affirmative Action Committee chairperson; Stu Singer, Socialist Workers Party; Gilbert Sierra, alderman in the city of Davenport, Iowa; Christina Flores Hansen, Hispanic Political Caucus president; Hispanic leader Mary Campos; and Alvarez.

'A precedent-setting case'

An article in the March 10 *Des Moines Register* by staff writer Victoria Benning reported on plans for the march. She also harked back to the antiracist protest in Clive. "It will be the second time in less than a month that activists have marched in the area to raise concern about the treatment of minorities."

Benning quoted Alvarez: "We want to focus public attention on what we believe to be a precedent-setting case, involving both undocumented aliens and those who have applied for legalization."

According to Benning, "Hispanics and other activists contend most illegal aliens are forced to use fake documents to get work in the United States, and they believe the alien amnesty program is intended to let those people stay in the country without punishment, as long as they apply for legal status before a May 4 deadline."

"They want the government to stop prosecution of those already arrested and to agree that other aliens who apply for amnesty will not be prosecuted on similar charges," Benning reported.

"Officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service have said the amnesty is for illegal aliens," she wrote, "not to protect from prosecution those aliens who have committed crimes. The U.S. attorney's office has said information on those arrested did not come from amnesty applications." The data on the applications is supposed to be confidential.

"For the very first time," Alvarez told the *Militant* at the time, "the U.S. attorney and Immigration and Naturalization Service are backdating prosecution for the falsification of documents. If immigrant workers at one time or another used false documents, they may be subject to prosecution. If doesn't matter if they applied for amnesty or are eligible for amnesty. This goes completely against the intent of the amnesty program."

Swift workers and supporters march

Despite blustery winds and light snow, some 200 people marched and rallied in support of the 17 men. They shouted, "Free the 17!" and "What do we want? Justice! When do we want it? Now!" as they made their way from the United Mexican American Cultural Center to downtown Des Moines.

Marchers included Swift workers, families of the arrested men, leaders of the Black and Latino communities, and students and workers from Iowa City; Omaha, Nebraska; and Austin, Minnesota. Several

of the Swift 17 who had been released on bail participated in the demonstration. At least 10, however, were still in jail.

Protesters sang "We Shall Overcome" and locked arms as they marched. Along the route, some people flashed thumbs-up signs as they walked by.

A rally was held at Nollen Plaza. Norma Jackson, executive director of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission, told the crowd the Swift arrests are evidence that "freedom and justice for all is not a reality."

"All they want is a place in the sun, a place like my father and mother who came to this country illegally" and later became citizens, said Lando Valadez.

In addition to talks by several Hispanic leaders who had supported the march, solidarity statements were read from the United Electrical Workers and from Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born leader of the Socialist Workers Party. At that time, Marroquín had not yet won his decade-long fight for the right to live and work in the United States. Alvarez and other activists were supporters of Marroquín's battle for permanent residence.

Felony charges dismissed

The public outcry against the arrests at Swift paid off. On May 16 federal prosecutors dropped charges against eight of the 17. Seven of these had applied for citizenship under the legalization program before they were arrested and another was in the final stages of establishing legal residence on the basis of marriage to a U.S. citizen. Each of the remaining nine workers pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of illegally entering the United States. That meant all the felony charges were dismissed.

Lawyers for the accused asked U.S. District Judge Harold Vietor for leniency in sentencing the men, each of whom faced up to six months in prison and a \$500 fine. "We're not talking about a crime of moral turpitude," said lawyer Don Nickerson, who represented three of the nine men. "We're just talking about crossing a territorial line."

Vietor sentenced the nine to six months' probation. He set a hearing for May 27 to determine whether eight of the nine should be deported. "Obviously, we would have wanted the charges dropped against all of them," commented Alvarez at the time. "But I'm glad the government had second thoughts and decided to do the right thing." The government "backed off," said Alvarez, because of the support for the arrested men.

'Tremendous victory'

"This is a tremendous victory, not only for my 17 arrested coworkers," said Curtis, when he heard the news. "It's also a help to every worker at Swift and all working people. Mexican, Salvadoran, and all immigrant workers have a right to freely travel

to this country and to work here. We must continue to press for no deportations for the eight workers who face a hearing on May 27."

Deportation threat dropped

Victory was scored on this front, too. In letters dated May 25, U.S. Attorney Christopher Hagen informed U.S. senators Thomas Harkin of Iowa and Paul Simon of Illinois, "The Office of Immigration and Naturalization has advised our office that they do not intend to use this conviction as a basis for deportation."

The next day, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lester Paff issued a press release reporting that Judge Vietor had entered a Judicial Recommendation Against Deportation regarding the nine who had been convicted of misdemeanors. "The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Justice did not oppose the entering of the Order. In essence, the action prevents Immigration and Naturalization from using the conviction as the sole basis for a deportation order," the statement read.

Fight against political frame-up

Bandaged and bruised, Mark Curtis was one of the participants in the March 12 protest. In collaboration with other members of the Socialist Workers Party, Curtis had decided that he wanted to organize a broad, political fight against what was clearly a political frame-up against him. Key to this was assembling a public, nonpartisan defense committee to involve all those who wanted to fight this assault.

At the March 12 protest, the first piece of Curtis defense literature was distributed. It was a typed leaflet, asking people to come to a meeting at the Pathfinder bookstore after the demonstration. It was printed in English and Spanish. "Protest Des Moines police brutality and frame-up" read the headline.

The text of the leaflet explained: "The victim of the police attack was Mark Curtis, a Swift worker and civil rights activist. Mark helped organize the march against police racism in Clive a few weeks ago and he is a well-known fighter in support of women's rights."

The leaflet explained that Curtis had been arrested the previous Friday after the Swift 17 protest meeting, beaten by cops, and falsely charged with assault on the police and sexual abuse. It continued:

"Mark is the director of the Militant Labor Forum, a public forum series held every two weeks at Pathfinder Bookstore. He has been an active leader in the fight against the U.S. war in Central America and against apartheid in South Africa. He is the former national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance."

"The victimization of Mark Curtis by the Des Moines police is an attack on the rights of everyone."

(To be continued)

How you can help

• **Raise money.** The Mark Curtis Defense Committee needs to raise \$60,000 by December 31 in order to cover the expenses of the defense effort. Funds are urgently needed right away.

Contributions should be sent to the Des Moines defense committee. (Checks for large tax-deductible contributions may be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.)

• **Get out the truth.** A combined petition and fact sheet, with excerpts from messages protesting Curtis' conviction on sexual abuse and burglary charges, are available.

Buttons that read, "Justice for Mark Curtis! An Injury to One Is an Injury to

All!" can be gotten from the committee for \$1 each.

Representatives of the defense committee are available to speak at meetings.

• **Endorse the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.** Send your name and how you'd like to be identified to the committee.

• **Write to Mark Curtis.** His address is Marion County Jail, Knoxville, Iowa 50138. Copies of the letters should be sent to the Des Moines defense committee.

Contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

Int'l sales expand as target week nears

SWP election campaign blitz planned

BY JIM WHITE

October 28–November 5 has been adopted as a target week by supporters of the international campaign to win 10,400 readers for the *Militant*, the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*. The mobilization will also help make big strides in the drive to sell 20,000 copies of the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, a Pathfinder pamphlet available in both English and Spanish that contains proposals put forward by the Socialist Workers Party.

In the United States, supporters of the SWP presidential ticket of James Warren and Kathleen Mickells and 41 local SWP candidates are preparing an all-out mobilization that week, including building wind-up campaign rallies.

A hallmark of this drive has been the expansion of the *Militant's* international circulation.

The reason for increased sales in other countries was explained before the drive began by Bill Harmon from Canada. Speaking to a workshop on circulation at the international educational and active workers conference in Oberlin, Ohio, in August, he explained that working-class political life has a weekly rhythm that is determined by how the capitalists organize production. "A weekly paper," he said, "is necessary to respond to political developments in a timely way, as well as being crucial to establishing weekly sales at the gates of the mines, mills, and factories. The *Militant*, as the only weekly English-language communist paper at this time, plays that role."

Our distributors in Sweden are well ahead of the pace needed to reach their goals. On October 8 alone they sold four subscriptions to the *Militant* and 10 to *PM*. Most of the *PM* subs were sold at a meeting honoring Ernesto Che Guevara sponsored by the Sweden-Cuba Friendship Society.

Robert Simms is leading a sales team across Canada that has sold more than 40 subscriptions in less than two weeks. Starting from Toronto, they have crossed the

prairie provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and are heading for several cities in Alberta this week. He reports the best response has been on campuses, where they have also sold Pathfinder books and pamphlets from tables.

Five supporters of the *Militant* from Auckland, New Zealand, who are laid-off meat-packers traveled north for a day to talk to other workers in the industry who face layoffs. The company kicked them out of the parking lot at the Weddel Crown plant in Moerewa, so they set up a table outside the gate. They sold five subscriptions to the *Militant*, along with 19 single issues and 10 copies of the *Action Program*.

At another plant in Whangarei, where the union is on strike against the terms of a layoff, the team talked to three picketing meat-packers, selling one subscription to the *Militant* and one copy of the *Action Program*.

Distributors in Iceland are just starting to sell at plant gates. Grétar Kristjánsson reports, "No one thought it was possible to do that here, not just because of the 'language problem,' but because there are very few large workplaces in this country and working people are sometimes hard to get at when they are going to work. But we have been to three different places and sold 12 *Militants* and two subscriptions."

Jonathan Silberman reports the weekly paid circulation of the *Militant* is now more than 700 in Britain. In addition to successful subscription sales, supporters of the paper sell an average of 12 copies a week outside the Ford plant in Dagenham. Twenty-four other factory gates, coal pits, and rail depots are visited by sales teams every week.

In London, distributors have been invited to set up a book table outside the Latin America football league, which plays every week. So far 12 subscriptions to *PM* have been sold. A worker from El Salvador who recently subscribed to *PM* helped out with the table last week.

No matter what country you are in, you can join in the campaign target week. Just look us up in the directory on page 12 or contact our business office in New York at (212) 929-3486.

Noted journalists hit Israeli trial of pro-Palestine writers

BY HARRY RING

Israel's supreme court denied bail to four members of the editorial board of *De-rech Hanitzotz* (Way of the Spark). Opponents of the oppression of the Palestinian people, they are being tried on charges of abetting "terrorism."

Protest against the thought-control trial, in Israel and internationally, was given a solid boost with a declaration of support from the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

With Walter Cronkite as its honorary chair, the committee's board of directors includes Dan Rather of CBS News, Gil Noble of WABC-TV, *New York Times* columnist Anthony Lewis, and *Washington Post* columnist Mary McGrory.

In a letter to Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the committee noted that no charges of actual violence against the four have been made. They declared, "We therefore maintain that the charges against them violate their right to free expression and association and urge their immediate and unconditional release."

Meanwhile, another Israeli frame-up trial, that of Michel Warshawsky of the Alternate Information Center, was slated to resume October 19. Warshawsky and the center, too, support the liberation movement of the Palestinian people.

In denying bail to the *Spark* editors on October 14, the Israeli high court reversed the presiding judge in the case. He had or-

dered bail on the basis of a new statute that supposedly liberalizes the basis for granting bail. This was the first test of the new statute.

When first imprisoned, three of the four defendants had signed confessions. They immediately retracted them, declaring they had been obtained under extreme duress.

Defense attorney Felicia Langer told the court how such a confession had been wrung from Michal Schwartz, one of the defendants.

She said Schwartz was held in total isolation in a filthy ant-ridden cell without water or toilet.

She was interrogated day and night, subjected to curses and humiliation, and threatened with sexual attack.

In the Warshawsky trial, the sole evidence being presented is written material seized in a raid on the Alternate Information Center. The center published a bi-weekly bulletin, *News From Within*. It has now begun publication of a weekly newsletter, *The Other Front*.

To maintain itself, the center did commercial printing for various Israeli and Palestinian organizations and agencies.

Now, the government asserts that some of the Palestinian unions and associations they did printing for are linked to a "terrorist" network. All were public organizations.

Warshawsky faces 23 years in prison. The Alternate Information Center, which was added as a codefendant, can be hit with crippling fines.



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Selling the *Militant* to workers at the biggest shipyard in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Sales drive scoreboard

Area	Drive Goals			Militant subscriptions		New International* single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions	
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES									
Cleveland	165	123	75	110	77	40	35	15	11
Portland, Ore.	140	95	68	100	71	25	19	15	5
Newark	500	313	63	275	144	110	112	115	57
Philadelphia	240	142	59	160	104	30	20	50	18
Greensboro, NC	145	84	58	110	66	20	16	15	2
Salt Lake City	125	71	57	90	56	20	9	15	6
Oakland, Calif.	215	120	56	120	87	45	6	50	27
St. Louis	220	120	55	170	93	40	23	10	4
Seattle	275	140	51	200	109	25	8	50	23
Boston	350	166	47	230	104	50	31	70	31
Los Angeles	700	326	47	375	166	125	34	200	126
Charleston, WV	105	47	45	85	42	15	4	5	1
Atlanta	220	98	45	160	75	40	10	20	13
Des Moines	210	93	44	150	77	40	10	20	6
New York	1,200	525	44	600	303	300	125	300	97
Pittsburgh	250	108	43	185	84	45	17	20	7
Birmingham	185	79	43	145	65	30	13	10	1
Morgantown, WV	175	74	42	135	59	30	14	10	1
Omaha	135	57	42	90	43	25	4	20	10
Price, Utah	70	29	41	50	20	10	4	10	5
Twin Cities	350	143	41	270	121	50	10	30	12
Detroit	265	107	40	200	96	40	7	25	4
Austin, Minn.	110	44	40	85	35	15	1	10	8
Kansas City	120	48	40	75	34	20	4	25	10
Miami	300	119	40	185	71	55	26	60	22
San Francisco	350	133	38	200	91	75	13	75	29
Chicago	460	166	36	300	120	60	17	100	29
Houston	215	75	35	140	45	30	15	45	15
Milwaukee	170	58	34	110	38	35	6	25	14
Phoenix	160	53	33	80	34	25	0	55	19
Washington, DC	250	77	31	150	51	50	13	50	13
Baltimore	215	64	30	175	58	30	0	10	6
National teams	200	58	29	130	54	20	0	50	4
Columbus	25	3	12	25	3	—	—	—	—
Denver	24	9	37	15	7	2	0	7	2
Louisville	5	0	0	5	0	—	—	—	—
Other U.S.	—	39	—	—	26	—	12	—	1
U.S. totals	8,844	4,006	45	5,685	2,729	1,572	638	1,587	639
AUSTRALIA	50	26	52	35	21	5	4	10	1
BRITAIN									
London	145	80	55	75	52	30	7	40	21
Nottingham	61	26	43	35	23	20	2	6	1
Manchester	70	20	29	50	17	5	3	15	0
South Wales	80	17	21	40	13	30	1	10	3
South Yorks	90	18	20	50	13	20	2	20	3
Other Britain	54	47	—	25	37	20	9	9	1
Britain totals	500	208	42	275	155	125	24	100	29
CANADA									
Toronto	400	172	43	250	121	75	28	75	23
Vancouver	45	19	42	30	16	5	0	10	3
Montréal	275	113	41	125	48	75	40	75	25
National team	—	60	—	—	46	—	8	—	6
Other Canada	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Canada totals	720	368	51	405	235	155	76	160	57
ICELAND	32	16	50	25	12	5	4	2	0
NEW ZEALAND									
Auckland	100	77	77	84	67	12	2	4	8
Christchurch	70	39	56	60	38	8	0	2	1
Wellington	80	42	53	68	40	10	1	2	1
New Zealand totals	250	158	63	212	145	30	3	8	10
PUERTO RICO	30	8	27	5	5	2	0	23	3
SWEDEN	50	48	96	30	28	10	3	10	17
Other International	—	44	—	—	28	—	3	—	13
Totals	10,476	4,882	47%	6,672	3,358	1,904	755	1,900	769
Drive Goals Should be	10,400	5,273	51%	6,630	3,361	1,895	961	1,875	951

*Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*

Meeting hails life of activist Helen Savio

BY KIM KLEINMAN

ST. LOUIS — More than 40 people filled the Pathfinder Bookstore here October 16 to celebrate the political life of Helen Savio.

Savio, a member of the Socialist Workers Party for 15 years, died September 28 of cancer. She was 66 years old.

Savio joined the party in 1973 when a branch was established here. She had been an active supporter of the SWP for many years before. In 1968 she joined the Young Socialist Alliance at age 46, winning a reputation as the YSA's oldest member.

Savio's rich experience in this city and contribution to its political life were reflected in remarks and messages at the meeting.

Tom Leonard, an SWP leader here, described Savio's contributions over the past two years as she budgeted her time and energy to maximize her activity in the face of her illness.

Leonard recounted how she participated in all the recent gatherings of the socialist movement, including an international educational and active workers conference in Oberlin, Ohio, last August.

Just three weeks before her death, Savio attended a defense rally for frame-up victim Mark Curtis in Des Moines, Iowa.

The fight for political rights was a hallmark of Savio's political activity.

She was a prominent spokesperson for the Political Rights Defense Fund over its entire 15-year fight to organize support for the SWP and YSA suit against federal police spying.

When the final decision in the case came down in 1986, Savio set up a meeting with

the editorial board of the major daily the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

She was herself a victim of several threats and attacks by the political police. She was fired twice from her teaching jobs, once successfully winning her job back.

Two local political activists, Mary Watkins and Eldora Spiegelberg, spoke briefly on Savio's commitment to democratic rights.

Watkins, the mother of frame-up victim J.B. Johnson, recounted Savio's contribution to that defense effort in the 1970s.

Spiegelberg, herself a PRDF supporter and a leader of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, also recounted how Savio's participation in the fight against the Vietnam War and for Black rights led to her political radicalization and eventual commitment to the socialist movement.

Norton Sandler, speaking on behalf of the SWP National Committee, was one of several socialists who moved to St. Louis in 1973 in response to a request by YSA members here who wanted to help set up an SWP branch.

"We did not start from scratch," Sandler recalled, "we built on the work Helen and others were already doing."

Sandler described the role of big battles for Black rights in the St. Louis area in the late 1960s, such as the Black community's economic boycott of Cairo, Illinois, and a rent strike at the Cochran Housing Project.

"Helen and the other YSA members joined in the defense of these struggles. On a 1973 subscription drive, people in Cairo would greet me warmly once they found out I knew Helen Savio."

With the rest of the YSA in St. Louis, Savio made a significant contribution to the fight against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

"Some of you may remember Helen's red and white van," Sandler said. "It was quite a political organizing center in itself. It moved the mimeo machine and literature around town, as well as many a young person to a national march on Washington, an antiwar conference in Chicago, and many political meetings in St. Louis."

Sandler noted the special importance Savio placed on the fight for women's rights. "She knew from her own life what it meant for women to participate fully in political and social life."

She was a founding member of the National Organization for Women and the Coalition of Labor Union Women in St. Louis. And, as Sandler recalled, "Helen fought actively for a woman's right to abortion in the face of intense opposition from the antiabortion movement here."

Sandler noted that Savio's seriousness was best shown in the period after 1978 when the SWP voted to concentrate the overwhelming majority of its members in the industrial unions.

Because of her age Savio did not become an industrial worker, but as Sandler observed, "Helen never tried to shape the party to her situation. She stretched herself to help the party as a whole take advantage of these opportunities."

Her political activity, he said, reinforced the rhythm and priorities of branch life that helped deepen and reflect the involvement of the party in the working class.

Earlier, Leonard noted Savio's conscientiousness in helping to organize and lead the financial work of the St. Louis SWP branch over the last two years.

Savio also ran as the SWP candidate for governor of Missouri in 1976, for mayor of St. Louis in 1977, and for St. Louis School Board in 1983.

Her own union activity in the bitter 1973 St. Louis teachers' strike was remembered



Militant/Lou Howort

Helen Savio during her 1976 campaign as Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Missouri.

in a written message from fellow teacher Lois Turner.

Savio's commitment to learning from and defending the Cuban revolution was noted in a message from Ted Braun, a solidarity activist from southern Illinois who organizes annual tours to Cuba. Savio visited Cuba twice.

Echoing an earlier observation by Leonard, Sandler said, "I agree with the sentiment that Helen was not extraordinary in terms of the world. She was extraordinary to us, yes, but in the world there are many who are coming to politics and through that struggle being transformed."

Argentine painter begins tour

Ricardo Carpani, the internationally known Argentine painter who recently completed a portrait of Ernesto Che Guevara as part of the Pathfinder Building mural in New York City, began a tour of the United States and Canada October 18. Guevara was an Argentine-born revolutionary who became one of the central leaders of the Cuban revolution and the Cuban Communist Party.

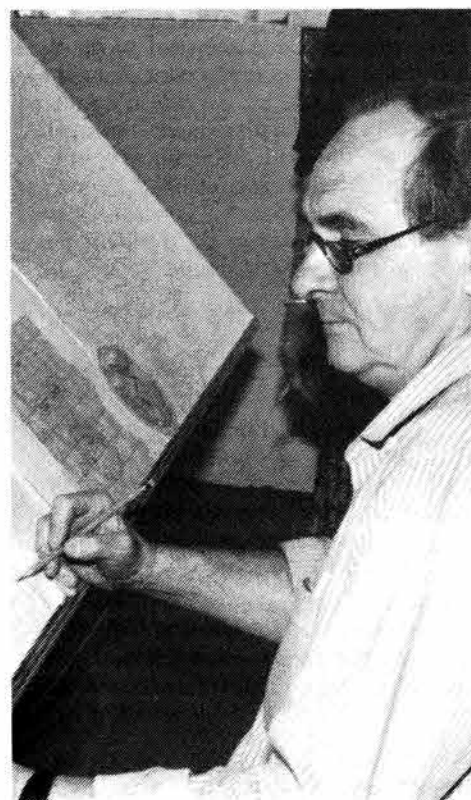
During the tour, Carpani will be available to speak on his work and views on art, political struggles in Latin America, the Pathfinder Mural Project, and other issues.

Many of Carpani's most important works, including posters, murals, and illustrations, have been created for the Argentine labor movement.

When death squads began striking at Argentine unionists, intellectuals, and political activists in 1974, Carpani lived in exile in Spain. He returned to Argentina in 1984, after the military regime established in 1976 had fallen and a constitutionally elected government had come to office.

After visiting Chicago from October 18 to 21, the artist arrives in Montréal on October 22. He will spend the next four days in Canada.

On October 28 and 29, Carpani will be in Detroit. He will be in New York City October 31 and November 1 and 2.



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Ricardo Carpani recently completed portrait of Che Guevara as part of mural going up on Pathfinder Building in New York City.

Meetings across U.S. will urge support to \$250,000 fund

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Beginning the last week of October, a series of meetings will take place in 32 cities in the United States to celebrate books published or distributed by Pathfinder. The meetings will also help raise donations for the \$250,000 Pathfinder Fund, whose deadline is December 1.

Speakers platforms at these meetings will bring together activists from the labor and farm movements and Black rights struggle, supporters of the Cuban revolution, and many others who share an appreciation of Pathfinder's contribution to the education of young fighters today.

An October 29 meeting at the Pathfinder Bookstore in Miami, for example, will center on the book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia. The book's editor, David Deutschmann, director of Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, will be on hand to speak. So will Andrés Gómez, editor of the magazine *Areito*; Dr. Rodney Dathorn and Rita Vega, from the Association of Caribbean Studies; and Rick Walker, an Eastern Airlines worker and member of International Association of Machinists Local 702.

That same weekend, Pathfinder Mural Project Director Sam Manuel will speak at meetings in Boston and Philadelphia on the book *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*. Manuel visited Burkina Faso during the revolution there and has written extensively on it.

On November 5 and 6, meetings to celebrate *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* will take place in Seattle and Portland. Elizabeth Stone, who edited the Pathfinder book *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, will speak, as well as others.

Celebrations will be held in Salt Lake City and Price, Utah, the weekend of November 12-13 on the Pathfinder books *FBI on Trial* and *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*. Speaking at the meetings for Pathfinder is Tom Leonard.

This week, as the scoreboard here shows, Pathfinder collected \$7,800 and the total now stands at \$53,769, or only a fifth of its goal. About \$200,000 has been pledged. Leading up to the Pathfinder meetings around the country, supporters will be reaching out to as many readers of Pathfinder books as possible to urge them to make a donation as part of inviting them to attend the meetings.

\$250,000

Pathfinder Fund

Deadline: Dec. 1

☐ Enclosed is \$ _____ for the fund.
☐ I pledge \$ _____ to the fund.

250,000

Collected \$53,769

↑

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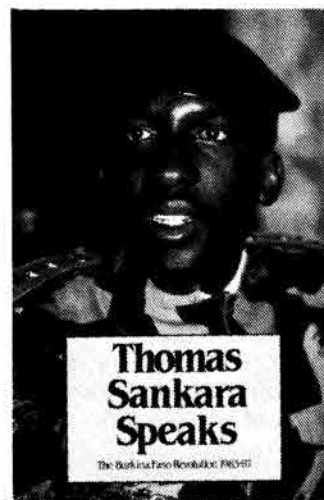
Clip and mail to: Pathfinder Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

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Thomas Sankara Speaks

Political turmoil, economic crisis deepen in Yugoslavia

BY FRED FELDMAN

A drive to reassert Serbian dominance in Yugoslavia, spurred by the top leader of the Serbian branch of the ruling League of Communists, has sparked the most severe political crisis that this country in southeastern Europe has experienced in 40 years.

Since July, massive demonstrations backing Serbian party leader Slobodan Milosevic, who came to office 13 months ago, have forced the resignation of several provincial government and party leaders. Milosevic's demand for further leadership changes, however, was not accepted by the party Central Committee meeting that took place in the capital city of Belgrade, which is located in Serbia, October 17-19.

Pressured by the protests, the Yugoslav federal government has backed constitutional amendments strengthening Serbian rule over the autonomous regions of Kosovo and Vojvodina. Restoration of Serbian dominance in the two regions has been among the central demands of the



nationalist protests. Before the Yugoslav revolution that overturned capitalist rule in the mid-1940s, Serbians had been the politically dominant nationality in Yugoslavia. This was true even though the northern regions of Croatia and Slovenia were stronger economically.

On October 6 a crowd of 100,000 Serbians surrounded the League of Communists headquarters in Vojvodina's capital of Novi Sad.

The provincial party and government leadership were forced to resign, as the crowd chanted "Slobo, Slobo," Milosevic's nickname.

While Serbians are a majority of the population in Vojvodina, a substantial minority is Hungarian.

On October 8 the Serbian protests spread to Montenegro, the smallest of the Yugoslav republics with a population of 600,000. Most Montenegrins are Serbs.

A crowd of up to 20,000 people besieged the parliament building in the republic's capital of Titograd. They demanded the resignation of all the republic's leaders except for three regarded as supporters of Milosevic. Truncheon-wielding riot police broke up the gathering.

Protests resumed October 10 as an estimated 30,000 workers occupied the yard of an iron works in Niksic.

On October 9 Yugoslav President Raif Dizdarevic warned that the protests could lead to "extraordinary conditions." He called on people "to refrain from actions and expressions of dissatisfaction that might lead to undesirable circumstances." The party's national Political Bureau condemned the use of street demonstrations to remove party leaders.

'Army to Kosovo'

Milosevic has also been encouraging the wave of demonstrations that have taken place since July across Serbia and elsewhere demanding that Serbian authorities in Belgrade take strong measures against Albanians in Kosovo. Since July, demonstrators have chanted slogans such as "One Serbia," "Army to Kosovo," and "Give us arms, we go to Kosovo."

About 1.7 million Albanians in Kosovo make up more than 85 percent of the popu-

lation there, where the Serbian minority long held an economically and politically privileged position. The Albanians, who are economically the worst off section of Yugoslavia's population, are predominantly Muslim and the only substantial sector of the country that speaks a non-Slavic language. According to some Serbian chauvinists, Serbians in the area are targets of an Albanian plot to drive them out of the province. The conspiracy, they say, is responsible for actions ranging from violent crimes against Serbians to the relatively high birth rate among the Kosovo Albanians. Milosevic has denounced what he calls "the terror in Kosovo."

Milosevic and the Serbian Communist party recently demanded that three top leaders of the Communist party in Kosovo resign. One of them, Kolj Siroka, submitted his resignation October 16 as a member of the Political Bureau of the Yugoslav League of Communists.

These events stem from the economic crisis shaking Yugoslavia — the most severe in Eastern Europe. The economic difficulties facing working people in these countries and the Soviet Union are being sharpened by the economic crisis that has begun to develop in the capitalist world. Yugoslavia, with its longtime extensive trade with and loans from capitalist countries, is particularly vulnerable.

Production down, unemployment up

Industrial production in Yugoslavia is declining, unemployment has risen from 6.8 percent in 1965 to 15 percent today, and inflation is running at an annual rate of 200 percent — while wage increases are restricted to 139 percent. The standard of living has been dropping for most of the past decade.

Beginning in 1983 the Yugoslav government introduced an "economic stabilization," or austerity plan.

One goal of the plan was to enable the government to make payments on its foreign debt, which rose from \$6.6 billion in 1975 to about \$20 billion today.

In June, under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, the federal government lifted price controls and devalued the dinar, the main unit of currency, by 23 percent.

Restrictions affecting 40 percent of the country's imported goods were lifted.

Real wages are estimated to have dropped by 20 percent this year.

Since summer, bakeries have been ordered to produce a lower-grade, cheaper quality of bread for working people, who

Yugoslavia forged in wars, revolution

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is made up of six republics and two autonomous provinces. The republics are Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Montenegro. The autonomous provinces within the Serbian republic are Vojvodina and Kosovo. Each republic has its own government with considerable autonomy.

According to 1987 estimates, Yugoslavia's 23.4 million people are distributed as follows: 36 percent Serbs, 20 percent Croats, 8 percent Slovenes, 8 percent Albanians, 6 percent Macedonians, and 3 percent Montenegrins. In addition, there are more than 750,000 Turks, Romanians, Hungarians, Gypsies, Slovaks, Bulgarians, Germans, Ruthenians, Czechs, and Italians.

The majority of the Serbs are Eastern Orthodox, and the majority of Croats are Roman Catholic. About 10 percent of the population are Muslims.

There are three officially recognized languages: Serbo-Croatian, Macedonian, and Slovenian. Hungarian and Albanian are also spoken.

Before 1918, there was no Yugoslavia.



Striking steelworkers, displaying Yugoslavia's flag, back efforts to reassert former dominance of Serbian nationality in Yugoslavia.

can no longer afford bread of formerly standard quality.

About 1,500 strikes for higher wages took place last year, and many have occurred this year as well.

The government is considering other measures to allow expansion of foreign investment and private ownership, and to permit government-owned factories that fail to show a profit in their accounts to be closed. These most recent proposals are consistent with a 30-year pattern in Yugoslavia of experimenting with "profitability," "market forces," and private initiatives to spur productivity. More than in any other Eastern European country or the Soviet Union, capitalist enterprises, rents, and commerce have been permitted to develop.

The measures employed in Yugoslavia have similarities, however, to those now beginning to be applied or under consideration elsewhere in Eastern Europe and under the name "perestroika" in the Soviet Union.

The government's policies, in the face of Yugoslavia's declining rate of economic growth worsened by the world capitalist crisis, are heightening social inequality among workers with different types of jobs and from different regions of the country. As of 1985 a worker in Slovenia earned, for example, an average of 70 percent more than a worker in Macedonia.

The economic crisis is hitting Kosovo, the least-developed part of Yugoslavia, hard. There unemployment stands at 35 percent — and per capita national income is one-third that of Yugoslavia as a whole and one-sixth that of Slovenia, the most industrially developed province.

Albanians become scapegoats

Increasingly, the governments of the more prosperous provinces are voicing resentment at being asked to contribute to the development of Kosovo and other relatively undeveloped parts of Yugoslavia.

In 1981 thousands of Albanians partici-

pated in demonstrations demanding that Kosovo be made Yugoslavia's seventh republic. Dozens of Albanians were reported killed as the federal government cracked down hard, stationing 20,000 troops in Kosovo. More than 1,000 Albanians were jailed, some for terms of more than 10 years.

Now the Albanians are being cast in the role of scapegoats for the economic and political crisis in the country as a whole.

By appealing to Serbian nationalism, Milosevic has also been able to channel some of the discontent caused by the economic measures. Protesters in the rally in Vojvodina carried placards proclaiming, "We have strength but we have no bread," and "The same bread for everybody."

When factory workers from Rakowicz in Serbia marched on the parliament building in Belgrade October 12, Milosevic addressed them. He convinced them to disperse by appealing for their support to his fight for "Serbian rights."

Milosevic, like many other top leaders of the League of Communists, is a strong supporter of the government's austerity measures and further changes that will extend even more the role of market mechanisms and private enterprise. His target is not this, but the weak central government established under the 1974 constitution. This setup went into full operation only after the death in 1980 of Josip Broz Tito, who had headed the government since the end of World War II.

Since his death there has been a collective presidency, including leaders of the six republics and the autonomous regions of Kosovo and Vojvodina, with the office of president rotating among them.

"Milosevic believes the reform needs strong central control," Slovenian President Janez Stanovnik, a critic of the Serbian leader, told a *New York Times* correspondent October 14. "He wants to build Serbia as the strong central power, and then carry out liberal reform."

among themselves, and occupying it.

A massive resistance of workers and peasants against the occupation emerged, led by the National Liberation Army (Partisans), which was headed by Communist leader Josip Broz Tito. By 1945 the Partisans were the dominant force in the country.

A coalition government was formed in March of that year with representatives of the royal government in exile. This coalition regime began to fall apart, however, when a thoroughgoing expropriation of the landlords was launched in mid-1945. This led the representatives of the capitalists and landlords to resign. The capitalist parties boycotted the elections on Nov. 11, 1945, and the Federal People's Republic was inaugurated a couple of weeks later.

In the latter part of 1945 and throughout 1946 the workers' and peasants' government widened its control over the economy and moved toward establishing a workers' state — the first extension of the socialist revolution since the revolution opened in Russia in 1917. The nationalization law of 1946 prepared the ground for taking over all of industry, and a five-year plan was begun in April 1947.

Court ruling victimizes Wyoming miners

BY KATHY RETTIG

SHERIDAN, Wyo. — One year after 250 members of United Mine Workers Local 1972 struck the Decker Coal Co. in Decker, Montana, a federal judge has declared unconstitutional a Montana law under which almost \$1 million in unemployment compensation was awarded to the miners. Decker is just north of here, across the Wyoming-Montana border.

In January a Montana state agency ruled that the miners — who went on strike in October 1987 — were entitled to unemployment benefits because Decker had committed unfair labor practices.

The union ended its strike in late June and decided to return to work under the last terms agreed to by Decker. But when the miners reported to work, Decker told them no jobs were available. While the company said it would put some miners on a preferential hiring list in the event jobs opened up, it also issued a blacklist of 151 workers it refuses to rehire because of "strike misconduct."

The UMW immediately filed grievances for every worker on the blacklist. Because they went on strike over unfair labor practices, the union explains, its members should have been reinstated the day they agreed to return to work.

The miners continued to receive un-

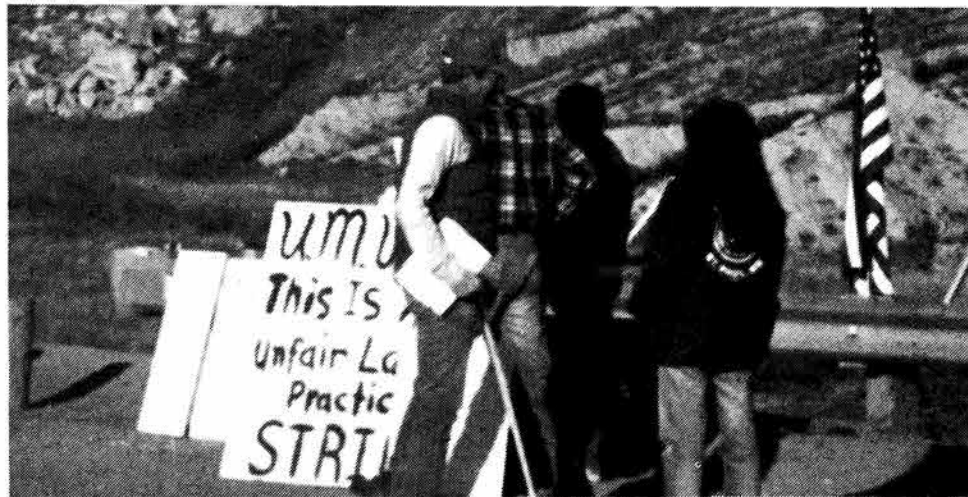
employment compensation, along with UMW strike benefits.

U.S. District Judge James Battin called the January decision awarding unemployment benefits to the miners "unconstitutional." Only the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), he claims, has the jurisdiction to determine whether an employer has engaged in unfair labor practices.

This is the latest court decision that takes the side of the mine operators — Peter Kiewit & Sons, a giant construction company, and NERCO, a subsidiary of Pacific Power & Light Co. They own Decker Coal Co., and Kiewit also owns Big Horn Coal. UMW Local 2055 struck the Big Horn mine near here at the same time Local 1972 struck Decker. Eighteen members of Local 2055 are also on a company blacklist.

Meanwhile, the NLRB continues to stall on ruling on the charges the union filed against Decker. The board's Denver office has twice referred the union's charges to the NLRB office in Washington, D.C. The same Denver office, however, filed a 39-charge complaint against the UMW on June 3 for acts of "intimidation" toward Decker and its employees.

Kiewit & Sons hired three private security firms, including Baker & Associates, to harass strikers. The Baker firm



Militant/Scott Breen

Miners picket Decker Coal Co. mine in Decker, Montana, during strike, which ended last June.

is well-known here as the union-busting outfit hired by Geo. A. Hormel & Co. to go after striking meat-packers in Austin, Minnesota, two years ago.

"We believe the company's gun thugs have committed many acts of violence in our community in an effort to blame these acts on local union members who have resided in the Sheridan area for years," a

union brochure points out.

Another recent court ruling held that private video tapes illegally seized from a striker's home can be used as evidence for the frame-up perjury charges brought against him. The seized tapes include tapes of internal union meetings and discussions with union lawyers, as well as tapes of social activities of the miner's family, and commercial movies.

The UMW went on strike a year ago when Decker refused restrictions on subcontracting any or all of its mining operations, insisted on severe cuts in miners' health insurance, and demanded unrestricted and secret control of pension funds.

The union has stated from the beginning that what's at stake is whether coal in the western states is going to be mined union or nonunion. When the Decker miners voted in 1983 to throw out a company union and join the UMW, this question was posed directly. Six of the largest U.S. coal-producing mines are in the Powder River Basin near Gillette, Wyoming, and they are all nonunion.

On October 1 workers gathered here for a Jobs With Justice rally sponsored by the Wyoming and Montana AFL-CIOs and the UMW. Many came to show their support for the Sheridan miners and their families, who were a majority of those present.

Miners came from Hanna, Wyoming, where members of the Arch Minerals Employees Association recently voted to merge with the UMW. A spirited contingent from UMW Local 8880 in Zap, North Dakota, also attended the day's activities, which included a dinner and dance. Forty-four miners from Zap recently returned to work following an NLRB decision that found the North American Coal Co. guilty of unfair labor practices. Miners and other unionists also attended the events from other parts of Wyoming and Montana, and from Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Alabama steelworkers' strike victory

BY BETSY FARLEY
AND ALYSON KENNEDY

BESSEMER, Ala. — Workers won a victory here in a six-week strike against Pullman Standard, a manufacturer of rail cars. On September 18, some 500 members of the United Steelworkers of America voted overwhelmingly to approve a contract with Trinity Industries, the new owner of the Pullman plant.

The agreement will establish seniority rights in layoffs and job bidding, lower the probation period from 90 to 60 days, and even out wage disparities — giving the lowest-paid workers substantial raises. A provision in the contract also outlaws discrimination on the basis of race or sex and prohibits sexual harassment.

Pullman Standard had been a major employer in the steel industry here until it closed down in 1980, putting 3,500 people out of work. Trinity Industries bought the plant and reopened it nonunion in 1984. Average pay was \$6 per hour prior to the strike. The new work force was a combination of some who had worked at the old Pullman, and others.

In January 1988, Pullman workers won a union organizing drive and had been trying to negotiate a contract until they finally decided to strike on August 7. Workers on the picket lines described some of the conditions that led to the strike.

"People would be working right beside you who made \$1 more an hour but were doing the same job," explained Donnell Jones, who was hired five months before the strike. "If you were friends with the

boss, you got a raise."

Other strikers told of arbitrary firings. Workers had been fired for wearing union buttons and stickers, and there was no appeal process. Unsafe conditions prevailed in the plant, with inadequate ventilation; old, unsafe hoist cables; and faulty, dangerous welding machines. Temperatures sometimes reached 140 degrees inside the cars where workers have to weld.

Pickets Harry Mason and Cyrus Embry said that before the strike Trinity had hired a lot of new people hoping they would cross the picket line. "Very few of the new people scabbed," Embry said. "At the union meeting where the strike vote was taken the union signed up everybody, no matter how long you had worked there."

The company bought big ads in the Birmingham papers urging workers to apply at Trinity. Pickets stopped cars and explained what the strike was about, appealing for solidarity.

Strikers distributed a flyer to passing cars explaining the issues in the strike. Printed by the Local 9226 negotiating committee, the leaflet said, "We are fighting not only for ourselves and our families, but for all working people whether they are union members or not."

While the company was able to get some people to cross the picket line, production re-

mained shut down at the plant. Not a single rail car was produced during the strike.

Several strikers were arrested or harassed by the Bessemer police during the walkout. Local cops provided a police escort for the scabs going to and from the plant. Two weeks into the strike a company-hired private security guard opened fire with a pistol on a crowd of peaceful pickets, including some children. While no one was hurt, this action and other company-inspired violence endangered the lives of strikers and their families.

After the incident with the guard, the company went to court and got an injunction against "mass picketing" that limited the number of pickets to 10 per gate, and 30 at the trailer on the vacant lot across from the main gate. The lot had been rented by the union, and the trailer was used as a strike headquarters to organize picket duty rotations and cook meals for the strikers.

The victory in the Bessemer strike has inspired workers and spurred discussions throughout the Birmingham area. In an interview with the *Birmingham News*, negotiating committee member Grady King pointed out that it was the unity of the workers at Pullman that won the strike. "Others can do what we did," he said. "The road has been paved. Now all you've got to do is travel."

D.C. actions demand gov't release AIDS drugs

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Thousands of people from across the country came to Washington the weekend of October 7-11 to mark the first anniversary of the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights and to participate in actions demanding that the government release more drugs for use by people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

The actions were organized by the Names Project and ACT NOW, a coalition of AIDS groups in many cities. The centerpiece of the weekend's activities was the display of the Names Project Quilt on October 8 and 9. The quilt was displayed at the Ellipse, which is between the White House and the Washington Monument.

The quilt contains 8,288 handmade panels, each commemorating someone who has died from AIDS since 1981. The quilt covered five times the area it did last year when it was first displayed at the national march. Panels have been made by children, families, friends, and lovers. Some have been made by coworkers. There were panels that said "American Airlines attendants" and "Western and Delta flight attendants."

The quilt is an international project. There are panels from Canada, in memory

of "all the Haitians who have died," and for our "Irish brothers."

Since last October the quilt has traveled to 20 U.S. cities and to Stockholm, where it was displayed at the International AIDS Conference.

Thousands of people viewed the quilt during the weekend. On the evening of October 8, a candlelight vigil of 12,000 people circled the White House and then gathered at the Reflecting Pool near the Lincoln Memorial for a memorial to those who have died.

Cleve Jones, executive director of the Names Project, told the vigil that "we can defeat AIDS in the heartland of America, but not from the Oval Office or the halls of Congress."

Three rallies during the weekend focused on the failure of the government and the Food and Drug Administration to release drugs for use by people with AIDS. The largest action was a rally and civil disobedience action on October 11 at the Food and Drug Administration office in Rockville, Maryland. More than 1,500 demonstrators blocked the entrance to the FDA building for more than nine hours.

Chanting "Shame, shame, shame" and "No more deaths," protesters hung signs from flagpoles, burned Reagan in effigy,

and lay down in the streets holding mock tombstones. The inscriptions read, "Baby Doe died waiting for drug approval," "I died for the sins of the FDA," and "Dead from lack of aerosol pentamidine." Chalk lines were drawn around bodies in the positions of death.

More than 350 police officers — in riot gear and many wearing rubber gloves — arrested 176 demonstrators. Most of the cops removed their badges. As the arrests began, the crowd chanted, "Arrest Frank Young." Young is the commissioner of the FDA. He spent the day in California.

The action was organized by ACT NOW. The protest demanded that persons seriously ill with AIDS have access to experimental drugs once there is evidence that the drug is safe and effective. Currently only one drug — AZT (azidothymidine) — has been FDA approved to treat AIDS. However, a 1987 FDA provision allows the FDA to release some drugs before final approval for conditional use by seriously ill persons. Despite that decision and despite the fact that 80 drugs are now being tested, only one — trimetrexate — has been released. Other drugs, such as aerosol pentamidine, which has proved effective in treating pneumocystis, are not widely available. Where it is available, the cost is prohibitive to most.

Festivities honoring Columbus' arrival ignore native peoples

A committee of representatives of 22 Latin American countries, along with Spain and Portugal, are readying plans for marking, in 1992, the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Western Hemisphere.

When the delegates met in Caracas, Venezuela, a couple of months ago Minerva Wilson, a Miskito Indian representing Nicaragua, voiced concern that she was the only indigenous delegate.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan Council of Indian Nations protested the slated celebration, which was initiated by the Spanish government.

"Our national identities are ignored by governments at all levels," the council declared.

"Our existence as the first inhabitants of the continent is denied. We reject the festive character that Spain and other governments want to give to these 500 years of domination of our people."

Crisis in agriculture hits farmers, consumers

The control of agricultural production in the Caribbean by U.S., British, and other foreign corporations contributes greatly to the economic and social crisis in the region, retarding development and growth potential. This process has grown steadily in the pseudo-independence period of the 1970s and '80s.

More than ever before, our region today consumes what it does not produce, and produces what it does not



CARIB NOTES

Don Rojas

consume. This is increasingly true for agricultural as well as industrial production.

One hundred fifty years after the abolition of slavery in the British colonies, the legacy of the plantation economy continues to plague the region's agricultural production. Agriculture continues to be a labor-intensive process, with high rates of exploitation of peasants and small farmers. In many countries, the legacy of semifeudal relations still persists in rural areas.

Despite the urgent need to diversify farm output, Caribbean nations still rely on a handful of export crops to earn foreign exchange. The prices of these crops have been steadily sinking below the cost of production.

Bananas and cocoa, for example, were selling in 1980 at prices 20 to 40 percent lower than in 1960, while sugar since the beginning of the 1980s has been selling on the world market at up to five times less than production

costs. And in the U.S. and Western European markets, quotas for Caribbean sugar imports have experienced severe cutbacks in the last two years.

The English-speaking Caribbean's cumulative food import bill was US\$1 billion in 1987, and will be even higher this year. Most countries in the region import more than 50 percent of their food; some — such as Trinidad, Barbados, and Antigua — import more than 80 percent. Countries with food-processing industries import more than 80 percent of the food ingredients for their products.

Figures show that 70 percent of Caribbean children are malnourished, and the diet of more than 50 percent of the population is lacking in both protein and calories. As a result, protein deficiency, iron deficiency anemia, obesity, and related health problems such as hypertension and diabetes are rising throughout the Caribbean.

All this in a region containing some of the earth's most fertile soil and favorable weather conditions for bountiful food production!

Yet agriculture is still not given the priority it demands. So-called development planners in most countries seem oblivious to the fact that a small and vibrant agricultural sector will not only make it possible to feed ourselves, but will also generate a surplus needed for industrial development.

Large U.S. food-processing monopolies benefit most of all from the region's agricultural dependence, since 70 percent of imported food comes from the United States. The food and beverage processing industry in the region is dominated by corporations such as R.J. Reynolds, Coca Cola, Wometco, Phillip Morris, United Brands, Proctor and Gamble, Hines, Kellogg, Gerber Products, Quaker Oats, and so on.

Moreover, U.S. government food aid is designed to

promote U.S. investment capital. For example, investors from the United States profit from funds generated by the Caribbean governments' sale of food provided by U.S. grants. Washington requires that these governments use this income as matching funds for USAID projects, most of which are directly tied to U.S. investment.

The crisis in Caribbean agriculture has pushed large numbers of small farmers and farm laborers off the rural lands into the towns and cities. This situation is compounded by the complete absence of thoroughgoing land reform programs and agricultural cooperative projects that would keep people on the land and motivate them to engage in productive agriculture.

This phenomenon has not only depleted the number of agricultural jobs, but has also given rise to unprecedented urbanization. This in turn has opened up vast new markets for U.S., British, and other food-processing monopolies, and has exacerbated urban social problems such as joblessness, housing, sanitation, and the drug trade.

The MacDonalds, Pizza Hut, and Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises are changing the eating habits of hundreds of thousands of Caribbean people for the worse, while mass media hype has increased the demand among the middle class for high-cost luxury food products.

Nowhere is the psychology of dependency more clear than in the results of a recent survey. The study found that many Caribbean people regard it as something of a status symbol to prepare a meal consisting exclusively of foreign food from tins and boxes.

Don Rojas is a leader of Grenada's Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement and a Coordinating Committee member of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America.

Mozambique leader addresses UN, students in N.Y.

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — "During our liberation war we faced Rhodesian, South African, and Portuguese soldiers. It is no surprise that even now, today, South Africa is still trying to defeat our struggle for independence and development," said Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi.

About 150 people attended a meeting at City College of New York (CCNY) on September 30 to hear Mocumbi, minister of foreign affairs of the southern African country of Mozambique. Mocumbi was also in New York to attend the 43rd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Since gaining its independence from Portugal in 1975 Mozambique has been the target of armed bands known as the Mozambique National Resistance, or Renamo. The group is armed, trained, and financed by the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The Mozambican government estimates that some 100,000 people, many of them civilians, have been killed due to fighting with Renamo. As many as 150 wounded people per month were admitted to the central hospital in Maputo, the capital, in 1985 alone.

Mocumbi told the UN assembly that 1

million people have been displaced because of the war. Of that number 800,000 have fled to neighboring countries. In addition 2,269 primary schools have been destroyed. And 400 teachers have been murdered, kidnapped, or tortured.

Despite the tremendous toll inflicted on the people and the economy of Mozambique by the South African-backed killers, Mocumbi reported that the country has made small but important military and economic gains.

Mozambique has been greatly aided in its fight against Renamo by 10,000 Zimbabwean troops deployed along the Beira railway line. The economically important Beira rail corridor, which transports goods and passengers between Zimbabwe and the Beira port in Mozambique, has been a frequent target of Renamo bands. Tanzanian troops also carry out operations against Renamo with Mozambican troops in northern Mozambique.

Mocumbi reported that about 2,000 members of the Renamo bands have surrendered to Mozambican authorities since the approval of an amnesty law in December 1987. Renamo has also been hit by factional struggles. Evo Fernandes, former general secretary of the outfit, was kidnapp-

ped and killed in Lisbon in mid-April.

Fernandes' wife charged that Mozambican security forces were involved in the killing. But a former spokesman for Renamo in Lisbon, Paulo Oliveira, said the decision to eliminate Fernandes had been discussed more than seven months before.

As a result of the improved military situation, Mozambique's economic situation has improved. The country's overall economic growth rate for the first six months of 1988 was 5 percent as against 4 percent for 1987.

A student at CCNY asked Mocumbi about the impact of the negotiations between Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States. Mocumbi explained that his government fully supported the Angolan and Cuban positions and hoped that the talks would soon lead to independence for Namibia.

Another student asked about talks between South African President Pieter Botha and Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano. Botha and Chissano met in Songo, Mozambique, on September 12. Mocumbi reported that at that meeting the South African regime agreed to end support for Renamo and to adhere to the Nkomati accord.

The Nkomati accord is a mutual nonaggression treaty signed by Botha and the late Mozambican President Samora Machel. Under its provisions South Africa would end its support for Renamo and not allow its territory to be used to stage armed attacks inside Mozambique. In exchange Mozambique would end use of its territory for transit of African National Congress fighters entering South Africa. Despite Mozambique's compliance with the accord, South African aid to Renamo has continued.

Mocumbi added that the current talks were made possible by the new situation in the region, especially following the defeat of South African troops in a strategic battle for the Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale. In the wake of that battle South African troops have withdrawn from Angola. Pretoria has also agreed to begin implementation of a UN plan for the independence of Namibia on November 1.

Another person asked if it were possible that South Africa was negotiating only to buy time and would at the last moment not allow elections for the independence of Namibia.

Mocumbi answered, "That may be possible and there is a basis to be distrustful of commitments made by South Africa. But it is the whole situation that is key, not just the elections. South Africa has failed in its attempt to destroy SWAPO."

The South West Africa People's Organi-



Militant/Arthur Hughes
Mozambique's minister of foreign affairs, Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi.

sation has conducted a 22-year war against South African military occupation of Namibia.

"South Africa has failed in its invasion of Angola and has been defeated," Mocumbi continued, "and the racist regime has failed in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. These are equally important elements that South Africa must consider."

Petition demands 'U.S. nukes out of S. Korea'

Young Koreans United, Korea Information and Resource Center, Church Committee for Human Rights in Asia, and other organizations in the United States have announced a drive to gather thousands of signatures on a petition demanding the removal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea. More than 15,000 people had signed by September 22.

"The United States maintains more than 150 nuclear weapons in South Korea — the only nuclear weapons on Korean soil," the petition notes. "To the Korean people, national survival is at stake. The people of Korea never agreed to the stationing of these weapons on their soil."

Copies of the petition and more information on the issue can be obtained from Korea Information and Resource Center, 1314 14th St. NW, Suite 5, Washington, D.C. 20005. Telephone (202) 387-2551.

In French

"The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop"

by Steve Clark

What led to the murder of Maurice Bishop, central leader of the Grenada revolution from 1979 until its overthrow in 1983? What are Bishop's lasting political contributions to revolutionary thought?

This issue of *Nouvelle Internationale*, a French-language magazine of Marxist politics and theory, also contains the two speeches by Fidel Castro that launched the current rectification campaign in Cuba, and a speech by Thomas Sankara, leader of the revolution in Burkina Faso 1983-87. 232 pp. US\$8, Can.\$9.50, FF50.

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Nouvelle Internationale
Une revue de théorie et de politique marxistes

GRENADA
Le deuxième assassinat de Maurice Bishop
par Steve Clark

Le processus de rectification à Cuba
Deux discours de Fidel Castro

Discours de Thomas Sankara sur la révolution au Burkina Faso

1988 50 FF

Armed Miskito Indian group makes peace with Sandinistas

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua — Leaders of 320 armed Miskito Indians, one of the largest Indian groups that once fought with the contras, signed a peace accord with the Nicaraguan government October 1. The agreement was reached in meetings here after pressure from many in Miskito peasant and fishing villages convinced the fighters to talk with government representatives.

This agreement is the latest of a series that now covers most of Nicaragua's North Atlantic region, and involves 4,000 former anti-Sandinista fighters. The accords register Nicaragua's success in defeating the U.S.-financed contra army, and the growing ability of the Sandinista government to work politically with the Indian peoples of the coast.

The 320 fighters were part of the anti-government Miskito organization YATAMA, and are natives of the Prinzapolka River area. They had fought with the contras since 1982 and dominated the many small villages located along a 60-mile stretch of the river. During this time the government had no presence in the area except for military units on combat missions.

The Prinzapolka is one of the major rivers in Nicaragua, emptying into the Caribbean Sea about 30 miles south of Puerto Cabezas. It had long been an important waterway providing access to the mining towns of Bonanza, Siuna, and Rosita. It was also the center of major logging and lumber operations and a big rice-growing area. However, this economic activity ended when the contra war began.

"For years we had nothing but war," Octavio Edward told reporters in Puerto Cabezas. He helped initiate the recent contacts between the YATAMA troops and government leaders. "There were no jobs, no building materials for our houses," he said. "We couldn't even vaccinate our children, since health workers were afraid to come. We survived on the little fishing and farming we could do."

With the cease-fire, the Prinzapolka is now open to navigation again. The government has pledged to restore health and education services and to resume logging operations. Sandinista officials have also announced plans to build a small sawmill in the area to provide jobs for the YATAMA members.

The YATAMA troops are reorganizing as a local self-defense militia in the Prinzapolka area, and will receive supplies from the Sandinista People's Army. They

have agreed to collaborate with the government in social and economic development projects and to provide protection for teachers, health workers, and government officials who are now entering the area.

At a news conference in Puerto Cabezas October 1, YATAMA leader Alfredo Logan explained his decision to stop fighting. "We saw the suffering of the people in the communities," he said. "They did not want any more war. We also considered the fact that we were not winning anything, and that the only results of the war were poverty, destruction, and death."

The Prinzapolka area was one of the sites of sharp conflicts between Sandinista officials and Miskito Indians in the early 1980s. Leaders of the revolutionary government have explained that these reflected the difficulties it had in learning how to work with the indigenous peoples to bring about economic development and social change.

The North Atlantic is a sparsely populated region with 150,000 inhabitants. About half are Miskito Indians, and most of the rest are Spanish-speaking mestizos. There are also 7,000 Sumo Indians and a small number of English-speaking Blacks in the region.

When the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in 1979 it had only a handful of members and organized supporters on the Atlantic Coast. Thus, most of the new officials appointed to the region, including military and police forces, came from the Pacific region. They were largely ignorant of the traditions and the concrete situation of the coast peoples.

The new government officials assumed they knew how to organize and develop the Atlantic Coast. However, many coast peoples viewed them with suspicion and distrust.

Furthermore, attempts to impose farm cooperatives, village committees, and militias often clashed with the traditional forms of organization and the desires of the Indians. And some Sandinista cadres brought with them attitudes that reflected the ignorance and prejudices about the coast peoples prevalent in the Pacific region.

Washington provokes armed attacks

The U.S. rulers, working through the CIA and the contras, quickly seized upon these conflicts to exacerbate divisions and instigate armed actions against the Sandinista government. A central figure in their intervention was Steadman Fagoth, a Miskito leader of the MISURASATA Indian organization.

"We saw Fagoth as a god at that time," Susana Morley, a Miskito from the Coco River, explained in an interview here. "We didn't understand his real aims and later felt deceived when he openly joined the contras." Morley is today coordinator of the Women's Movement of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region and a leader of the Peace and Autonomy Commissions in Puerto Cabezas.

"Fagoth told us the Sandinistas were going to take away our land and give it to the Russians," she continued. "He said they planned to kill all the Miskitos, so we should flee and take up arms to defend ourselves."

The government responded to this challenge by arresting Fagoth and other MISURASATA leaders in February 1981. In the town of Prinzapolka, four Miskitos and four Sandinista soldiers were killed when fighting broke out as soldiers attempted to arrest a MISURASATA leader.

The arrests sparked protest demonstrations in a number of towns, and the government soon released the prisoners. Fagoth then went to Honduras to work with the U.S.-backed contras, urging other Miskitos to join him.

As the conflicts deepened, the government imposed a form of martial law on the coast, arresting many Miskitos accused of collaborating with the contras, restricting travel, and requiring all residents to carry special passes.



Militant photos by Cindy Jaquith
Miskito women of Nicaragua's North Atlantic Coast region in discussion with a Peace and Autonomy Commission last year. Nearly all Miskitos who fought alongside contras and received CIA support have now abandoned war. Inset, Susana Morley, a Miskito and commission leader, described how Indians saw through the lies contras spread about Sandinista government.

However, this approach resulted in greater resentment and provided more opportunities for counterrevolutionary propaganda.

"The majority of the 80,000 Nicaraguan Miskitos fled to Honduras in late 1981 and '82," Morley said. "Thousands took up arms against the government." The weapons and military training were provided by Washington through contra camps in Honduras.

Sandinistas change course

By late 1983, however, Sandinista leaders had realized that a purely military response would not solve the crisis on the Atlantic Coast. They began implementing a new policy aimed at improving relations with the indigenous peoples. The government released most Miskito prisoners and offered amnesty to any fighters who laid down their arms. It also abolished the special passes required of coast residents.

In addition, some Black and Indian leaders began urging the government to establish new relations with the coast peoples, taking into account their history of oppression and discrimination. In December 1984 Sandinista leaders announced they would support autonomy for the Atlantic Coast. Sandinista leaders and prominent figures from the coast then formed a commission to draft a law specifying the rights of the coast peoples and providing for autonomous regional governments. The law was adopted by Nicaragua's National Assembly in September 1987.

During this time, Morley said, many Miskitos who had remained in Nicaragua began seeking a way to end the war. "The war was terrible for the Miskitos," she said. "There were ambushes right outside of Puerto Cabezas. Many were killed, including defenseless Miskitos. This began to make us think: here were Indians being killed by Indians. And we began to work on the FSLN to open up a dialogue and stop the fighting."

"Furthermore, we were living the reality of Nicaragua, and we knew that the Sandinistas were not bad like the contra propaganda said," she continued. "The contras said the vaccination programs would kill our children, but we saw that was a lie. We saw the Sandinistas were concerned with providing health care and education."

Many Miskitos also became involved in extensive discussions organized to draft the Autonomy Law, Morley said. "Autonomy

came from us, from the coast peoples. We are its protagonists."

'They were our relatives'

Morley and a number of other women played a central role in initiating cease-fire talks. "We were in contact with the Miskito fighters all along. They were our relatives. We'd talk with our boys, and they would go back to their group and talk it over with the others."

By 1986 Peace and Autonomy Commissions had been organized in most towns and villages in the North Atlantic region. They worked to promote peace talks, and also participated in discussions on how to develop autonomy for the coast.

The Prinzapolka River was one area where Peace and Autonomy Commissions developed. They kept in touch with the government in Puerto Cabezas and played the key role in bringing about the recent cease-fire.

"We had been trying to start a dialogue for years," said Octavio Edward, coordinator of the commissions in the area. "But we were not able to establish any contact with the YATAMA fighters because of the fighting."

In January of this year, the Nicaraguan government signed a temporary cease-fire accord with top YATAMA leaders. "This gave us the opportunity to work for a definitive peace agreement," Edward said. "The YATAMA troops came into the communities and stayed, and we could talk with them. Ever since the start of the year, there has been no fighting, no kidnapping, no killing."

"We talked to them about the reality of Nicaragua and about autonomy," he said. "We explained what was good about the revolution. And we talked about the suffering of the community because of the war. The YATAMA troops had a lot of distrust of the government, but we kept pushing."

On September 29 members of the Peace and Autonomy Commissions from 22 villages accompanied the YATAMA commanders to Puerto Cabezas for talks with government leaders. "They met for a whole day, but there was no agreement," Edward said.

"So we took the YATAMA leaders aside and said: 'Look, you have to do what the people said to do. The villages don't want any more fighting. You have to reach an agreement.' And then they signed the cease-fire."

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Edited by Don Rojas

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ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Fight for a Shorter Workweek: Yesterday and Today. Speaker: Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Hunger and Homelessness in Phoenix. Speakers: Mary Davis, restaurant owner arrested for feeding the poor; Jim Mendoza, director of community care and shelter; Ruth Nebbia, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Report From Cuba. Speaker: Roni McCann. Discussion and slideshow. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

South Korea: An Economic Miracle? Speakers: Minn Chung; George Johnson, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 2244. Slideshow on U.S. military role in South Korea. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 22, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

Supporters of Mark Curtis on Gay and Lesbian Rights TV Show. Sonja Franeta and Phil Duzinski interviewed on "Electric City," Fri., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Cable Channel 35.

FLORIDA

Miami

Homelessness: America's Growing Crisis. Speakers: Marland Bluhm, project director Camillus Health Center; Jeff Miller, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 702; representative Miami Coalition for Care to the Homeless. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

Hear Bob Livesey, Founder of Veterans Peace Convoy. Sun., Oct. 23, 7 p.m. Congregational Church, 3010 DeSoto Blvd. Coral Gables. Sponsor: Miami Peace Convoy Support Coalition. For more information call (305) 666-5234.

Pathfinder Publications Fund Rally: Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: David Deutschmann, Pathfinder/ Pacific and Asia; Dr. Rodney Daithorn and Rita Vega of the Association of Caribbean Studies; Rick Walker, member International Association of Machinists Local 702 at Eastern Airlines; Derold Saintilus, Young Socialist Alliance; Andrés Gómez, editor *Areito* magazine. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

Response to the South African Escalation. Showing of Cuban TV documentary on the defeat of South African troops in Angola. In English and Spanish. Sat., Oct. 22. Reception

5:30; video 6:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Battle of Cuito Cuanavale: Victory in Angola. Showing of Cuban TV documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." In English and Spanish. Sat. Oct. 22, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sat. Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Reception to follow. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Michigan Socialist Workers 1988 Campaign Committee. For more information call (313) 961-0395.

Politics and Underdevelopment in the Caribbean: Grenada and Beyond. Speaker: Terry Marryshow, leader Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement; film *Future Coming Toward Us*. Wed., Oct. 26, 5 p.m. Wayne State University, Student Center, Room 289. Sponsor: Pan African Students Organization, Young Socialist Alliance, others. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Farm Workers' Struggles Today. Video showing of the *Wrath of Grapes*. Speaker: Henry Zamarrón, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 23. Mexican dinner 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

Two Anti-apartheid Poster Collections: "Nelson Mandela: His Life in the Struggle" and "Apartheid's War Against Africa." Open Thursday to Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. until November 1. Pathfinder Bookstore, 508 N Snelling Ave. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Apartheid Army Defeated in Angola. Cuban three-hour video documentary on dramatic turning point in struggle to drive South Africa out of Angola. Sat., Oct. 22, 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 30. Dinner and reception to meet James Warren and Raúl González, SWP candidate for governor, 4:30 p.m.; rally 6 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: dinner \$3, rally \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (816) 753-0224.

St. Louis

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sat., Oct. 29. Reception 6 p.m.; rally 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Response to the South African Escalation. Showing of Cuban TV documentary on the defeat of South African troops in Angola. In English and Spanish. Sat., Oct. 22. Reception, 5:30 p.m.; video 6:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

Pathfinder Publications Fund Rally. Speaker: Malik Miah, former *Militant* editor. Fri., Oct. 28. Open house 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Turning Point in the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa. Showing of Cuban video "Response to the South African Escalation." In English and Spanish. Translation to French. Sat., Oct. 29, 6 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Recent Developments in Grenada and the Caribbean. Speaker: Terry Marryshow, leader Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Sat., Oct. 29, 5 p.m. Medgar Evers College, 1150 Carroll St. (between Rogers and Nostrand Ave.) Sponsor: Grenada Foundation. For more information call (718) 282-6861.

Manhattan

Celebrate the 8th Anniversary of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador. Sat., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14 St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: El Salvador Information Office. For more information call (212) 219-0480.

Latin American Art and Culture. Speaker: Ricardo Carpani, Argentinian muralist. Sun., Oct. 30, 3 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation requested. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project, Ventana, Pathfinder Books. For more information call (212) 226-8445. Carpani will also speak at Boricua College, Conference Room, 1st Floor, 156th St. and Broadway. Mon., Oct. 31, 4 p.m. For more information call (212) 694-1000.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

New Stage in the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speaker: Sherrie Love, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 23, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

TEXAS

Austin

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Tue., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. University of Texas, Texas Union Building.

Houston

The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 23. Reception 5 p.m.; rally 6 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Warren will also speak at the University of Houston, University Park, Tue., Oct. 25, noon, University Center, and at Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall Law School Faculty Lounge, Wed., Oct. 26, 1 p.m. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

A Victory Over Apartheid. Showing of Cuban

Socialist Workers '88 presidential campaign wrap-up rallies

In New York

Hear **James Warren**, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sun., Nov. 6. Reception 4:30 p.m.; rally 5 p.m. 79 Leonard St., Manhattan. Donation: \$5. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

In Los Angeles

Hear **Kathleen Mickells**, SWP candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sat., Nov. 5, 7 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

TV documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." In English and Spanish. Sat., Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

How Cuba Helped Repel South African Invasion of Angola. Video showing of "Response to the South African Escalation." In English and Spanish. Sun., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$4. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Toxins in the Workplace: Do Aerospace Workers Have the Right to Speak Out? Speakers: Bryan DuPaul, Safety Committee recording secretary International Association of Machinists District 751; Jill Fein, Socialist Workers Party and member IAM District 751 Local E. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Defend Women's Right to Abortion. Speaker: Gail Skidmore, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council and member International Association of Machinists Lodge 1759. Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

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Celebrate the Publication of Pathfinder's Thomas Sankara Speaks. Speaker: John Riddell, Pathfinder, editor of *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*. Sat., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Books. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

CANADA

Toronto

Cuba: A Revolution Within a Revolution. The rectification process in Cuba. Speaker: Monica Jones, Revolutionary Workers League, member of United Steelworkers of America, recently returned from Cuba. Slideshow presentation. Sat., Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Voice Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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Silver-lining dep't — Han Young Ja was Korea's top money-maker last year, racking up an income of \$7.3 million. She's head



Harry Ring

of the Sam Young Chemical Co., which enjoys a monopoly on the production of tear gas. Last year, rioting cops sprayed a record amount of the stuff on protesters.

And jail people — Former White House aide Richard Goodwin recalls the late Robert Kennedy, then attorney general, soliciting his impressions of Che Guevara. Kennedy listened and mused, "You know, sometimes I envy him. At least he was able to go out and fight for what he believed in. All I do is go to chicken dinners."

Share and share alike — In Britain, government curbs imposed in April have cut the number of poor children receiving free school meals by 21 percent. Meanwhile, it was reported that executive salaries rose 10 percent last year, more than double the of-

ficial inflation rate.

Educational note — A survey of high school biology teachers found that about 30 percent held the creationist belief that the universe was created in seven days, 10,000 years ago. Only a minority of the virtually all-white grouping surveyed totally rejected the racist notion that "some races are more intelligent than others."

The perfect soldier — The army plans to give troops in the field stimulants like amphetamines to keep them alert when they go for days without sleep. Researchers say that extensive use of amphetamines (speed) can induce paranoia, hallucinations, and

violent behavior.

Upwardly mobile pimps — A Nevada investment group has registered on Wall Street to peddle stock in the Mustang Ranch, a legal brothel near Reno. A financial prospectus says the company derives its profits from "independent contractors" who pay \$10 a day room and board, plus 50 percent of the gross.

It figures — About that World War II incident in which George Bush survived by bailing out when his plane was hit. An ex-GI who was in a nearby plane suggests that Bush jumped prematurely, leaving his two crew members to perish. Bush said he thought they were al-

ready dead when he jumped.

Catch-22 — John Thiry of Pittsburgh has been hit with numerous traffic tickets. Now he's been busted for standing on a roadside with a placard warning motorists to stay within the speed limit because of a police speed trap ahead. The charge against Thiry? Obstructing traffic.

Thought for the week — "You know, I believe Danny Boy when he says he joined the National Guard to serve his country. He wanted to kill commies for America. The only problem was they never sent his unit to Kent State." — Comic Will Durst.

Gov't hid 40-year disaster at nuclear arms plants

Continued from front page
ity along what is known as "death mile" near the reservation.

"In their zeal to produce plutonium at the end of World War II and for years after," reported the October 17 *New York Times*, "Hanford's managers secretly allowed huge clouds of radioactive iodine, ruthenium, cesium, and other elements to be released from the processing plant emission stacks for more than two decades. Reports that were declassified in 1986 show pasture, crop land, forests, and gardens hundreds of miles away were contaminated. . . .

"On the evening of Dec. 2, 1949, in an experiment to test the capability of equipment to detect radiation, 5,500 curies of radioactive iodine were released," the *Times* stated. "The levels of radioactivity from that single test, the 'green run,' were hundreds of times greater than the 15 to 24 curies released in the 1979 partial core meltdown at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg, Pa.

"Some experts have estimated that farm families living downwind of Hanford received doses of radiation that were 10 times higher than the doses received by Soviet citizens at Chernobyl."

Of the nine reactors at the reservation, which produced the plutonium for the U.S. atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, at the end of World War II, eight have been permanently shut down. The remaining active reactor is also out of operation at present. A plutonium processing plant is still in production.

On October 8 an emergency order from the Energy Department halted plutonium processing at the Rocky Flats plant in Colorado. The shutdown followed an incident in which several employees at the plant suffered radioactive contamination.

An investigation by two congressional committees has spurred revelations of a decades-long pattern of serious nuclear accidents at the Savannah River plant near Aiken, South Carolina.

For 31 years, it was revealed on Sep-

tember 30 and the following days, U.S. officials had treated dozens of nuclear accidents at the government-owned plant as a closely guarded secret. The plant was built for the government's nuclear-weapons program by E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co..

As of today, two reactors at the plant have been shut down permanently, while the other three are shut down and awaiting start-up. U.S. Secretary of Energy John Herrington stated October 11 that he planned to have these reactors back in operation by next summer.

A report prepared for the Energy Department cited 25 instances in which workers at

the Savannah River plant have been contaminated by radiation.

A 1985 memorandum prepared by a top official at the Savannah River plant was made public September 30. The memorandum listed what he called the 30 "reactor incidents of greatest significance" that had occurred at the plant from 1957 to 1985.

These included a December 1970 incident in which fuel rods melted, a grave accident that can trigger a meltdown of the reactor core. Only three other incidents as serious as this at U.S. nuclear reactors have been reported, including the meltdown at Three Mile Island.

Energy Department safety official Richard

Starostecki admitted October 10 that safety problems exist throughout the nuclear-weapons production system.

Some officials cited "national security" as the reason for suppressing the facts, citing fear that the Soviet government would learn of the difficulties that nuclear weapons-producing plants in the United States were having.

But the October 5 *New York Times* described former Atomic Energy Commission member Peter Bradford as arguing, "disclosure could have seriously undermined public confidence in the safety of nuclear power and set back the nascent civilian program."

Foes of Iowa frame-up denounce slander

Continued from front page

prosecutor's office," Singer told the press, "because of his activities on behalf of packinghouse workers, immigrant workers, and victims of police brutality and racism."

"When the Des Moines police got Curtis to the jail, they beat him, shattering his cheek bone. As they hit him, they yelled at him, 'You're a Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds.'"

Referring to the reported cross-burning, Singer said, "If this occurred, I, Mark Curtis, and the members of his defense committee unconditionally condemn this act. We call for an immediate and thorough investigation by the authorities to get to the bottom of this charge, and to apprehend anyone responsible for such a racist act."

"This slander attack is dangerous to the fight against racist attacks. It is an old trick to try to turn the victim into the criminal."

Most press reports of the incident and the charges against the defense reported the committee's denial of involvement, but focused on reporting the slanderous charges themselves.

However, Channel 13, the NBC affiliate

in Des Moines, concluded its coverage by interviewing Mark Curtis through his attorney, Mark Pennington, over the phone from his jail cell in Knoxville, Iowa. Curtis condemned all acts of racist violence and demanded that whoever was responsible for any such attack be apprehended and prosecuted.

Twenty-five supporters of Curtis gathered in the defense committee headquarters last night for the committee's weekly meeting. "We need to gather statements protesting this slander from far and wide," defense activist John Studer said. "Those who are behind this smear must have recognized that they failed to silence Mark Curtis or the defense campaign by winning a conviction against Mark," he pointed out. "They hope that this slander will prejudice people."

"But this effort will backfire," Studer stressed. "People who are familiar with the views and activities of the supporters of the defense committee, of Mark, of his party, the Socialist Workers Party, will be outraged and they will speak out. A smear like this against Mark and the defense raises questions in the minds of thousands more people about the frame-up charges con-

cocted against Mark to begin with."

Messages of support have already begun to come into the defense committee office.

Statements from farm activist leader Merle Hansen and T.J. Lauritsen, United Food and Commercial Workers organizer at the Excel meat-packing plant in Ottumwa, Iowa, were the first to arrive.

"I do not believe that the SWP and supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee could commit such an act. To me this seriously challenges the credibility of the prosecution's case," said Hansen.

These charges, Lauritsen emphasized, are "simply ludicrous. The knowledge I have of the Iowa SWP is they have a long history of support for struggles of labor, women, and minorities."

SWP candidate for Congress in the 4th Congressional District, Nan Bailey — herself a longtime activist in the Black rights struggle — pointed to the SWP's 50-year record in the struggle against racism. "It's precisely because Mark Curtis is a fighter against racism, sexism, war, and exploitation that he is being framed up. If a cross was indeed burned on the lawn of the Morris home, we call for prosecuting those responsible to the fullest extent of the law."

Bishop commemorated in Grenada

Continued from front page

the seized titles include "the collected speeches of Maurice Bishop; the collected speeches of Thomas Sankara, a leader of the Burkina Faso revolution; and speeches and posters of Nelson Mandela. They came in with a new book edited by Don Rojas, *One People, One Destiny*. They came in with a few books by Marx and Lenin.

"To take books away from you is to take knowledge away from you and to mess with your head," Louison said. "We in the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement are going to make noise and bring shame on this government that respects no people's rights."

Louison then introduced Pathfinder representative James Harris.

"I know that the ideas in those books will get into the country somehow," said Harris. "They will be part of your struggles. They can ban books, but they can't ban the ideas in those books. Proof of that is the fact that you are gathered here tonight."

"People the world over are inspired to see the Grenadian people rebuild through the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement,"

he said. Maurice Bishop was not just a Grenadian leader, Harris emphasized, but a revolutionary leader looked to by people around the world.

"The Grenada revolution showed that ordinary working people, those who work with our hands, the farmer and the worker, can take control of our own history and our own destiny."

An international emergency campaign got under way today, with telephone and telegraph protests to Grenada's customs and police officials coming from the Caribbean, North America, and Britain. Inquiries were made by the office of U.S. Congressman Ronald Dellums, the PEN American Center in New York, and others.

The confiscation of the books was covered tonight by Radio Antilles, which broadcasts throughout the region. Three Grenadian newspapers conducted interviews with this reporter and Harris earlier in the day.

As we go to press October 20, Grenadian government officials are still refusing to release the confiscated books. Protest messages should be phoned to Grenada's Police Commissioner Cosmun Raymond, 440-2823.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
Oct. 27, 1978

For the millions of jobless in this country, the new Humphrey-Hawkins "full employment" law is a cruel hoax.

The cold fact is that it won't provide a single job.

The statute, which went to the White House for President Carter's signature October 15, sets a "goal" of reducing unemployment to 4 percent by 1983.

How is the "full employment" goal to be reached?

By shortening the workweek to make more jobs?

No.

By providing federal jobs for those who can't get work in private industry?

No.

Each year, the president will advise Congress on economic policies that, in his opinion, will reduce unemployment. Congress, in turn, will "consider" the president's advice.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Oct. 28, 1963

Price 10¢

Fidel Castro reported to the Cuban people over radio and TV October 21 on the effects in Cuba of Hurricane Flora. Describing the storm as the worst natural disaster ever to hit the island, the prime minister said Cuba had received "generous aid" from "socialist countries, and aid from capitalist countries as well." Cuba had refused official aid, he said, from only "one single government, that of the United States, which the whole world knows is trying to destroy us."

"What we demand is not aid from the United States," said Castro, "what we demand is that they cease the blockade against our country. And we put the government of the United States on trial before world public opinion, to cease the criminal blockade that they maintain over our country."

What prosecution wasn't able to accomplish in Mark Curtis trial

Building the broadest possible backing for the Mark Curtis defense effort among workers and farmers and in the union movement is the key task facing all supporters of the fight for justice for Curtis, in the United States and around the world. This is a cause for all working people and will become increasingly so.

What will shorten Curtis' sentence and spring him from prison before his time is up will be the cumulative political pressure brought to bear by a mounting international defense campaign. It is this campaign that brings as a by-product legal victories, such as the dropping of the charges of assaulting the cops who beat him the night he was arrested. It is this that will win Curtis' freedom and vindication from the frame-up against him.

Heading into Mark Curtis' September trial on charges of third-degree sexual abuse (rape) and first-degree burglary, the county prosecutor's office had three goals:

- A conviction.
- Making the trial and conviction so convincing that the big-business media would be able to stop covering the Curtis case. They hoped this would lead current and potential supporters to the conclusion that any effectiveness of the defense campaign was now past. This would release the pressure the prosecution has had to live with since the defense committee began fighting this frame-up.

• On that basis, the Des Moines rulers hoped to break the spirit of the Socialist Workers Party, the party Curtis is a member of, and other Curtis supporters in the United States and around the world. They wanted to politically isolate supporters, placing them on the defensive thereby taking the wind out of an effective, ongoing international defense campaign.

By achieving this, the powers that be would be able to portray the SWP as a sect standing outside and to the left of real developments in the Des Moines area and internationally, rather than as a *part* — even if a small part — of the vanguard of real politics and class forces, involved in social and political conflicts in Iowa.

Des Moines' rulers wanted to be able to reduce the Mark Curtis defense to an SWP case, instead of a fight by a growing layer of workers and farmers in Iowa and around the country and the world.

The government achieved its first goal. Curtis was convicted on both counts. He is currently in jail, awaiting sentencing.

But the rulers failed in the other two, leaving the conviction itself vulnerable. This demonstrated the correctness of the efforts of Curtis' supporters in countering the government's moves. Their three-pronged strategy consisted of:

- Transforming the growing support for the Curtis defense effort into a springboard to prepare Curtis supporters to continue and deepen the political offensive, not shift onto the defensive, as the trial approached. The success in doing this was capped by the international defense rally in Des Moines on September 4, just three days before the trial opened. It demonstrated the broad support for Curtis in the world and in Iowa.

• Operating on the understanding that while Curtis could not and would not get a fair trial, and that an acquittal could not be the outcome, the government would fail in its goal of gaining a convincing verdict that would cripple the mobilization of further opposition to the

frame-up. Supporters knew that mounting political pressure from the international defense effort would both create new openings for support and place its stamp on the trial proceedings themselves.

This was confirmed in the weeks leading up to and during the trial as support deepened among layers of workers in the region who are Black and among farmers.

The political campaign, combined with careful preparation for and attention to the trial proceedings themselves, placed Curtis supporters on stronger ground to press forward with the international defense effort once the trial was over.

- The fact that Curtis supporters were prepared going into the trial for the likelihood of a conviction put them in the best position coming out of it to take advantage of the government's failure to put an end to the case with the conviction.

This fact has been registered in the ability to continue winning broad support after Curtis' conviction.

There are many impressive examples of this: 50 percent of the delegates at the recent International Union of Electronic Workers convention signed up to back the Curtis defense effort; 707 participants at the Labour Party conference in Britain signed Curtis petitions; Curtis supporters got a favorable response at a recent board meeting of the National Save the Family Farm Coalition, which is made up of more than 40 farm and rural organizations; and support among unionists and others in New Zealand, Canada, Sweden, and elsewhere has continued to grow.

An example of the prosecution's failure, even while gaining a conviction, to ease up the political pressure from the international campaign against the Curtis frame-up was the major article on the SWP that was featured on the front page of the Iowa section of the October 9 *Des Moines Register*. (See page 4.)

In an attempt to recoup their political losses, supporters of the prosecution are trying to blame the defense committee for the October 19 burning of a cross on the lawn of the woman Curtis was convicted of raping. Their effort is designed to undercut, particularly among Black working people, the growing support for the fight against this frame-up. But this is itself testimony to the accomplishments of the defense campaign. In the month leading up to the trial, especially, several figures in Des Moines' Black community were won to visible public support of Curtis' fight.

One of the most important reservoirs of support for the fight for justice for Curtis are the thousands of people in the labor movement, immigrants' rights organizations, and elsewhere who made possible the recent victory of Mexican-born SWP leader Héctor Marroquín in his battle for permanent residence in the United States.

The unbreakable political connection between these two fights lies in their emphasis on the struggle for the unity of all working people, whatever their national origin.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is mapping an ambitious campaign of raising \$60,000 by the end of the year; having committee representatives speak to meetings of unionists, farmers, students, and community groups; and signing up thousands and thousands of new supporters of the case, all with the goal of making the political price of keeping Curtis in jail too high for Iowa's rulers to pay.

We urge all our readers to join this fight.

Gorbachev's new farm plan and 'perestroika'

BY DOUG JENNESS

Yegor Ligachev, Mikhail Gorbachev's principal rival in the Soviet bureaucracy, has had a bad couple of weeks.

First, he was removed from his influential responsibilities in foreign affairs and ideology and assigned to head a new commission on agriculture. This was part of

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

a shake-up engineered by Gorbachev in the highest echelons of the Communist Party and governmental apparatus at a suddenly called Central Committee meeting at the end of September.

This reshuffle, in which five top Soviet leaders, including three Politburo members, were dismissed from their posts, was the latest success in Gorbachev's drive to strengthen and consolidate his position in the party leadership.

Ligachev was hit with another whammy two weeks later. In the absence of the new agriculture head, Gorbachev held an important meeting on October 12 with agricultural experts and directors of state-owned farms where he outlined a major shift in agricultural policy. His speech was broadcast the next day on television countrywide. Ligachev was reportedly on vacation at the time.

If implemented, Gorbachev's proposals would mean the most far-reaching reorganization of Soviet agriculture since the early 1930s.

Gorbachev's main recommendation is to promote private farming. He proposed that farmers be permitted to lease land from state and collective farms for as long as 50 years. Today, the great majority of workers on the land are part of either large state or collective farms.

The Soviet leader sharply criticized the collectivized system of agriculture, accusing it of turning millions of Soviet farmers "from the masters of their land into day laborers" who are losing all interest in the land. He suggested that the role of collectives be minimized and private leaseholds become standard.

Gorbachev stated that attempts to increase food production during the past two decades through massive investments had failed. He reported that annual production was only 41 percent higher than in the period from 1966 to 1970, despite the fact that investments in agriculture had increased 140 percent.

The proposed increase in leasehold farming would go hand in hand with expanding the role of farmers' markets where produce can be sold directly to consumers rather than through state purchasing agencies.

The Soviet leader's proposed shift in agriculture is part of his entire perspective of restructuring the Soviet economy — what he calls *perestroika* — to rely more on market mechanisms, profitability of enterprises, and bonuses. To modernize the economy and increase labor productivity, Gorbachev's supporters contend that workers and farmers need the incentive of knowing that if they work harder they may have a chance to earn and buy more for themselves and their families.

One of the consequences of driving through leasehold farming in the Soviet Union will be a cut in the social benefits — child care, health clinics, and so on — that farm workers now receive from their collectives or state farms. Gorbachev didn't detail what would have to go; the Central Committee will meet in February to draft a long-term farm plan, he said.

But the Soviet leader emphasized that giving farmers a secure living on collective farms must end. "No fool is going to work on a lease contract as long as he can have a salary without earning it," he argued.

One thing is certain — if farmers are no longer guaranteed an income based on selling their produce to the government at set prices, they will become more vulnerable to the ups and downs of market prices as farmers are in capitalist countries.

A second result will be the growth of inequalities — between working people in the cities and the countryside and among workers in the countryside. The introduction of private farming and farmers' markets on a large scale will lead to those farmers with better land, their own means of transportation, or other more favorable circumstances to accumulate wealth. Private marketeers will emerge who buy cheap from farmers and sell on the market to make a profit. This will breed hoarding and price-gouging.

Moreover, accumulation of wealth among a small layer of farmers will intensify pressures to "buy" or rent leases from neighboring farmers and to hire wage labor. The political and social result will be to undermine the potential development of solidarity between workers and farmers.

The bitter truth is that capitalist methods can't be introduced without the same ill effects they have in capitalist society — the worst being the aggravation of divisions among working people and blunting of their political consciousness and self-confidence.

Nuclear plants — Shut them down!

"The government was lying to us, and they lied and lied."

That angry charge was made by Doris Clawson. She lives on a farm next door to the Fernald nuclear plant, 18 miles from Cincinnati. The government-owned unit processes uranium for nuclear bombs.

Clawson, her mother, and her sister have all been treated for cancer. Their neighbors' children have been afflicted as well.

Since 1959, defective dust-collecting bags at the Fernald plant permitted thousands of tons of radioactive uranium dust to escape into the atmosphere.

Meanwhile, for apparently urgent safety reasons, the government has shut down two other nuclear weapons plants — the Savannah River complex in South Carolina and the Rocky Flats installation in Colorado.

In Ohio, Gov. Richard Celeste has demanded the government keep the Fernald plant closed until it cleans up the contamination in the area. Commenting on revelations about the plant, the governor declared, "The admission of deceit and mismanagement confirms and emphasizes what we have known in Ohio for a long time. This facility is an environmental disaster, threatening the health and safety of thousands of Ohians."

That surely is the fact. And the same is true of the other

nuclear weapons plants.

Washington now says that all its weapons plants are aged and therefore unsafe.

It argues that they should be rebuilt or replaced, at a cost of billions. But the same rapid, deadly process of deterioration of safety would be repeated in new or reconditioned plants.

Every one of these plants should be shut down — and not replaced.

But, the government argues, doing so would "cripple" the production and maintenance of nuclear bombs.

If that is indeed the fact, it's an excellent added reason for shutting them down.

Equally urgent, all of the nuclear plants generating electricity should be shut down as well. Three Mile Island and Chernobyl were graphic warnings about the need to do this.

The current revelations underscore that no reason exists to believe the government is any more concerned about safety in these plants than it has proven to be in its weapons plants.

There is no way that nuclear plants, whether for military purposes or for generating electricity, can be made safe. They should all be closed down.

Garment talks find workers 'in a mood to fight'

BY PAUL MAILHOT

A new contract covering 16,000 garment workers was negotiated in early September between the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) and the Cotton Garment Manufacturers Association. This contract, which covers workers employed by some of the country's largest shirt manufacturers, will set the pattern in contract negotiations for an additional 27,000 ACTWU garment workers.

The new 18-month agreement has little to offer workers in the garment industry, whose wages and working

conditions have been on a steady downward slide for the past decade.

in the September 30 *Militant* described how the contract was passed by Philadelphia ACTWU members. The turnout for the ratification meeting was small, very little discussion occurred, and a big majority voted to pass the contract.

But in some areas, discussion among garment workers during the negotiations and significant opposition to the contract itself showed that a mood exists to fight for better wages and working conditions. Most long-time sewing machine operators will tell you that they made more in piece-rate wages 10 years ago than they're making today.

A small opening was created for ACTWU members to express our willingness to fight when negotiations for the new contract got bogged down at the 11th hour. The union's leadership called for a nationwide strike vote.

Workers at the Morgan Shirt factory were unanimous in favor of a strike. We felt it was the way we needed to go to get a decent contract. Dozens of workers volunteered to start picketing at midnight, August 31, when the contract expired, even though the first work shift didn't start until the following morning at 7:00 a.m.

Arrow Shirt workers throughout the South had already held informational rallies in front of most plants to protest the takeback demands the manufacturers were putting forward in the negotiations. The vote to strike was nearly unanimous in many Arrow Shirt plants, one of the largest companies represented in the Cotton Garment Manufacturers Association.

After our strike vote, Morgan Shirt's owners informed us that they would sign whatever contract was negotiated nationally. Workers voted to ask for strike sanction anyway.

By midnight August 31, a contract agreement still had not been reached and plants with midnight shifts — such as Arrow Shirt Co. — went out on strike. Within a few

hours, however, an agreement was reached between the national union officials and garment bosses, and workers were told to go back to work.

Even though economic pressure on garment workers not to take strike action is intense — a significant number of ACTWU members are single mothers with families to support — many were ready to fight. "There's nothing in it for us," many workers said about the contract.

In Georgia and Alabama, 1,100 Arrow Shirt workers approved the contract by only nine votes. Union delegates representing ACTWU members in the western Pennsylvania and West Virginia region voted against the contract by an overwhelming majority.

The sentiment was so strong for strike action at Morgan Shirt that the company immediately agreed to sign a contract maintaining insurance coverage for early retirees from the plant.

Many of my coworkers felt that we missed a good opportunity to fight back around the recent contract. But more opportunities are on the way.

The fact that garment factory owners keep pushing to get the work out faster and pay us less means this new contract doesn't settle much. The bosses wring takebacks out of garment workers each time a new line of clothing is introduced and piece rates are reduced, not when a new contract is negotiated.

Leading up to the latest contract, garment workers in many shops saw that we could unite and decide to take on these companies. Strengthening that unity will be crucial for us in the struggles that lie ahead.

Paul Mailhot is a member of ACTWU Local 347 in Morgantown, West Virginia. Kate Daher, an ACTWU Local 365 member in Atlanta, Georgia, also contributed to this article.

UNION TALK

conditions have been on a steady downward slide for the past decade.

The contract raises piece rates 25 cents an hour for the first year, and 15 cents an hour for the following six months. In the shop where I work — Morgan Shirt Co. in Morgantown, West Virginia — that brings the piece-rate pay to \$5.95 an hour. Of course that doesn't mean you're guaranteed that wage. As company engineers are always quick to point out, you're only guaranteed the "opportunity" to make the base rate. In reality, most sewing machine operators don't.

The new contract basically maintains the same conditions we've been working under for the past three years. However, one significant concession to the bosses is that supplemental insurance for workers who retire at 62 years of age rather than 65 has been cut out completely after the first four months of retirement.

According to a press release issued by ACTWU President Jack Scheinkman, the contract was approved by a two-thirds majority nationally. A "Union Talk" column

LETTERS

SWP campaign

So far the two leading political parties in the United States have held a presidential and a vice-presidential debate. We've seen one millionaire tackle the views of another millionaire.

We've heard Republican vice-presidential candidate Dan Quayle say on national television, "You can be all that you want to be." This comes from a man whose family is not only worth \$600 million but bought his way through college, the military, and law school.

In the background of this "political" squabble is the defeat of the new minimum wage bill. Both parties played an active role in its death. Also defeated (by filibuster) was the Child-Care Bill. This latter bill also held an anti-child pornography measure.

It becomes increasingly clear that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats have the interests of workers, the family, or children at heart. If you are fortunate enough to have Socialist Workers Party candidates running for office in your state, give them some thoughtful consideration. They represent the best alternative.

John-Michael Eggertsen
Salt Lake City, Utah

West Virginia ballot

I am writing to express my outrage at Judge John Copenhaver's decision of September 13 upholding all repressive details of the West Virginia ballot-access law.

In 1986 the West Virginia legislature revised the election law to make it even more difficult for third party and independent candidates to get on the ballot, especially for offices other than U.S. president. Since then, no one has been able to get on the ballot in West Virginia (for any office other than president) as a third party or independent candidate.

Petitions are due the day before the May primary. The law requires that the signers "pledge" to vote for the candidates named on the petition, even though the election isn't until November and most people won't know in May whom they're voting for in November.

Furthermore, the circulator of the petition must tell the potential signers that if they sign the peti-

tion, they cannot vote in the primary. It is a criminal offense if they do. Furthermore, the West Virginia law requires signers to sign still another petition, or else the candidates must pay filing fees of thousands of dollars.

Richard Winger
San Francisco, California

Malcolm X play

Charles Pace is an actor, lecturer, teacher, and former resident artist for the Texas Commission on the Arts and Humanities, as well as cofounder of the Afro-American Players in Austin, Texas. He is making a significant contribution in keeping the ideas of Malcolm X and Frederick Douglass before the American and world public.

His efforts to present the one-act, one-man plays *Malcolm X* and *Young Mr. Douglass* have met with considerable success. These works, based on the labors of the two leaders themselves, have been performed in 12 countries, including in the southern African country of Swaziland, South Africa.

Pace performed *Malcolm X* on October 8 at the University of Illinois in Chicago. To underscore the change and evolution of Malcolm's thought in his last years, the author-actor used a powerful device. When the sentences reflected the experiences of Malcolm's autobiography, Pace spoke without glasses, with a speech peppered with street slang. When the dialogue reflected the last period of his life, the audience saw another image — the familiar heavy, dark-framed glasses and speech that was still strong and direct but more organized and precise.

The underlying theme this one-man show knits is that Malcolm X continues to struggle for survival as a Black man in the United States, but he has gone from the strategy of "pimping for the white man" to one based on a broader view of the problem and the enemy, as well as who his allies are.

The impact of this is well-prepared by Pace's own introductory historical sketch marking certain dates in the history of struggles in Africa and South and Central America.

The performance was jointly

sponsored by the Nicaraguan Solidarity Committee and the Chicago Mozambique Support Network. Both made brief presentations before the show. When the representative from the Mozambique Network spoke he mentioned the victory of Cuito Cuanavale and a big cheer rose up from the 200 people present.

In the question period afterward someone asked the author if Malcolm changed his mind about white people being the enemy and if he considered working with other groups. Pace explained that it was Malcolm's trip to Africa that caused him to rethink many aspects of that question and "at the end of his life he was very interested in the Socialist Workers Party and their newspaper."

John Votava
Chicago, Illinois

The best

In the 10 years I've been here in prison, your paper is the best I've read.

A prisoner
Tennessee Colony, Texas

Tom Falvey

Memorial services will be held for the late Tom Falvey, who was taken from us so tragically on August 25. The service will be held on Sunday, October 30, at 2:00 p.m. at the Carmelite Church, 339 East 28th Street in New York.

In keeping with his life span of service to the Irish revolutionary movement, Falvey was accorded a traditional republican funeral in his native Kerry by his old comrades and by many young men and women who knew Tom only by repute.

All who subscribe as Tom did to the achievement of a free and independent Ireland are cordially invited to attend.

During the course of our lives there are always people who emerge as trusted friends and comrades. In the personal sense of the word, Tom was surely one of those and established himself on a par with many great Irish patriots of another era. Death cannot break the bonds nor erase the memory of his splendid loyalty and dedication.

A measure of Tom's greatness and humanity is to be seen in his



C.P. Houston
"Our theory is that nobody knows it's here, and what nobody knows can't hurt 'em."

desire that freedom should be for all peoples regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin.

George Harrison
Frank Durkan
New York, New York

Rosalyn Bradford

This letter is an update about the death of Rosalyn Bradford, a Black female inmate who was allowed to die due to lack of proper medical attention at Silverdale Workhouse located just outside of Chattanooga, Tennessee. This facility is operated by Corrections Corporation of America and was the world's first privately managed prison when it opened in 1984.

Ms. Bradford's relatives filed a civil lawsuit against Corrections Corporation of America that was settled out of court this past week, allegedly for \$100,000, according to local media. It was further reported on local television that a spokesperson for CCA had stated that the company did not feel responsible in any way for the death of Bradford but had settled out of court to prevent years of litigation and expenses.

So that is in the good old USA! Another racist killing amounting to murder. The withholding of proper medical attention when it is an official responsibility and results in death is murder. But this is covered up in the South. Nothing has changed, nor will it until it is made to change with the spirit of John Brown in the South.

A prisoner
Pikeville, Tennessee

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

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.

Puerto Rican activists' trial opens

BY SELVA NEBBIA

HARTFORD, Conn. — "I don't think that a Puerto Rican who believes in his country's independence can get a fair trial in the United States," Juan Segarra Palmer told reporters outside the Federal Courthouse here following the October 10 opening of the trial of five Puerto Rican activists.

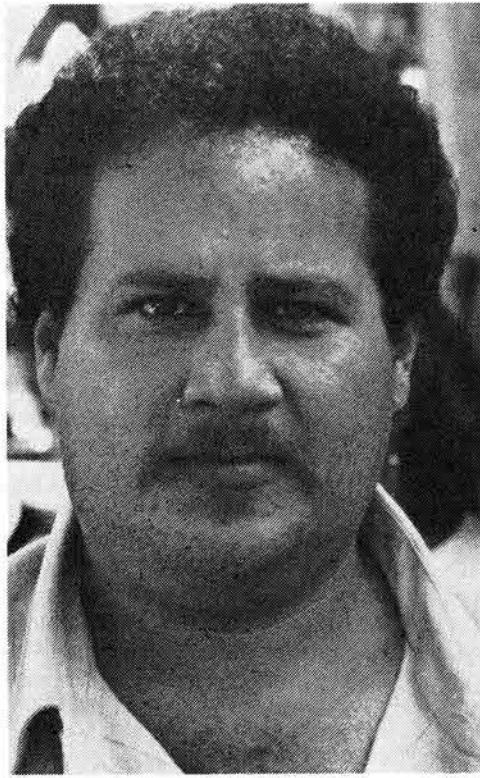
The five are among 15 Puerto Ricans facing charges related to a 1983 Wells Fargo depot robbery. A sixth defendant, Luz Berrios, was also scheduled to go to trial October 10. However, before it began she pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to transport stolen money. In exchange, all other charges against her will be dropped and she will not be required to testify at the trial of the other defendants. Her sentencing is scheduled for October 31.

During the pretrial hearings, which lasted more than two years, the defense was able to have thrown out of court at least 50 tapes presented by the prosecution as evidence. It was proven that the tapes, recording hours of FBI surveillance of the defendants had been tampered with. The government is appealing that decision. The other nine defendants will face trial when this appeal is resolved.

The five whose trial has begun are: Juan Segarra Palmer, Carlos Ayes Suárez, Norman Ramírez Talavera, Roberto Maldonado Rivera, and Antonio Camacho Negrón.

The government alleges that the robbery was carried out by Victor Gerena, a Wells Fargo security guard.

"Victor Gerena did not act alone," said federal prosecutor Albert Dabrowski in his opening statement to the jury. "The Macheteros planned the robbery and moved the money. . . . This organization, which funded itself through robbery, included Juan Segarra Palmer, and other individuals acted behind the scenes just as if they had been there," Dabrowski told the jury.



Militant photos by Don Gurewitz
Carlos Ayes Suárez (left) and Juan Segarra Palmer, two of five Puerto Rican independence fighters whose trial opened in Hartford October 10. Ten others also face charges.

Segarra Palmer, described by the prosecution as the main defendant, faces charges on 17 counts, including nine counts relating to robbery. He is charged with taking \$6 million from the Bank of Boston, \$305,000 from Connecticut National Bank, \$17,000 from New England Savings Bank, and \$95,520 from Connecticut Bank and Trust, as well as federal reserve notes.

He and the other defendants are also charged with several counts of interstate transportation of stolen money and of participating in a toy giveaway in 1985, allegedly financed with stolen money.

At the trial lawyers for the five defendants were given 10 minutes each to address the jury.

"The four banks are presented as 'victims,'" explained Leonard Weinglass, Segarra Palmer's lawyer, during his opening remarks. But there was "one single robbery. Yet the prosecution claims that the money belonged to four different banks so that is why there are four different counts." There was one single robbery carried out by one single man "who is not here," he explained.

"Victor Gerena was a Puerto Rican born

in Hartford who was attached to the struggle of his people. That commitment led him to plan the robbery. He gave the money to Juan Segarra Palmer, who was a member of the Macheteros.

"The Macheteros is known as an organization that fought for the independence of Puerto Rico," continued Weinglass. Juan Segarra Palmer "knew Victor Gerena did the robbery, and he received the money after the robbery." But this does not amount to robbery, he concluded.

Acting as his own counsel, Maldonado attempted to put the case in the context of the struggle for Puerto Rican independence. "The only reason I am here is because Puerto Rico was invaded in 1898," he began, when Judge T. Emmet Clarie interrupted him and ruled his remarks out of order.

"My being here is the same as if your country was invaded by another country and you were taken to that other country," Maldonado told the jury. The prosecution interrupted, objecting to his "line of argument." Judge Clarie sustained the objection.

"This is my case, what I live for," insisted Maldonado. He was again interrupted by Judge Clarie, "This is about a bank robbery," the judge declared, "not about how you feel about the independence of Puerto Rico."

"The prosecution will try to say I am a criminal. . . . It will try to show involvement of myself with the Macheteros. . . . It will try to establish my guilt by association. I reject that guilt," explained Maldonado.

"I have not violated any laws, even if they are laws that Puerto Ricans cannot vote for, like they cannot vote for president or for members of Congress. . . . I am falsely accused because my life has been devoted to the defense of human rights and the independence of Puerto Rico," concluded Maldonado.

Juan Ramón Acevedo, representing Ramírez Talavera, said to the jury, "Norman Ramírez Talavera is accused of being a member of the Macheteros. So what. Membership, association, or participation in the political struggle is not a crime. . . . Norman agreed to struggle for the self-determination of his country."

Following the opening statements, Weinglass moved for a mistrial on the grounds that comments made by the judge during the opening statements of Maldonado and Acevedo had indicated his prejudice against the defendants in violation of "very basic criminal justice that the judge be neutral." Clarie denied the motion.

"There is no chance for a fair trial," said Maldonado at the end of the day's proceedings. "There are two prosecutors in this trial, the judge and the federal prosecution."

Angola foreign minister speaks in N.Y.

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — Angolan Foreign Minister Alfonso Van Dunem spoke on the situation in southern Africa at a reception in his honor held here at the Harlem School for the Arts October 14.

Van Dunem said, "We have been unable to reach any further agreement because of South Africa's intransigence." No further meetings have been agreed to, he added.

Representatives of the governments of Angola, Cuba, the United States, and South Africa have been holding talks since May aimed at ending the U.S.- and South African-run war in Angola and achieving the independence of Namibia.

The impasse in the talks had also been reported by Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcón at a briefing earlier that week. Alarcón was joined by the Angolan ambassador to the United Nations, Manuel Pacavira, and by Monica Nashandi, deputy representative to the UN of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) of Namibia.

So far the four governments have agreed to a cease-fire. SWAPO, the leading organization fighting South African military occupation of Namibia, has also agreed to observe the cease-fire.

In addition, South Africa withdrew its troops from Angola on August 30 and has pledged to begin implementation of a UN plan for the independence of Namibia on November 1.

Van Dunem explained that the U.S. and South African governments have insisted on linking the implementation of UN Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. A State Department representative has said that Washington will ask the UN Security Council to vote on a timetable for the

withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

"The timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops, who have come to our assistance against South Africa, will be decided solely by Angola and Cuba. I repeat," said Van Dunem, "It is not subject to negotiations by anyone else — not South Africa, the United States, or the Security Council."

"Two months ago South African troops were forced to withdraw from our country due to the heroic efforts of Angolan and Cuban troops," explained Van Dunem.

In March South African troops along with their Angolan clients, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), were dealt a decisive defeat

in a hard-fought battle for the Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale.

"South Africa's passport, which is a military passport, to enter our country has been revoked. South Africa's passport to enter our skies has been revoked. And if they come back, they will be shot down," Van Dunem assured his listeners.

"Angola has been attacked because of our active aid to SWAPO and the ANC [African National Congress of South Africa] in their fight to liberate their countries from apartheid," Van Dunem explained. "Whatever happens in the talks, Angola will continue to spare no resource in aiding SWAPO and the ANC until apartheid is destroyed," he declared.

North Carolina Indians found not guilty

BY RICH STUART

GREENSBORO, N.C. — "It wasn't the system that brought justice, it was the people." With these words, Eddie Hatcher celebrated a stunning victory for working people.

Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs, two Tuscarora Indians from Robeson County, North Carolina, were found not guilty of all charges in federal court in Raleigh, the state capital.

Hatcher, 31, and Jacobs, 20, were charged with hostage-taking, committing a violent crime with an illegal firearm, conspiracy, making and possessing illegal firearms, and making a false bomb threat by telephone.

The two faced long prison terms if convicted. The charges stem from their Feb. 1, 1988, takeover of the Robeson County newspaper the *Robesonian* and holding 20

people hostage in a 10-hour siege by police.

The takeover occurred on the heels of a broad social movement in Robeson County protesting police terror against working people there, especially Indians and Blacks, who make up about two-thirds of that impoverished county's population.

Hatcher said in the trial that he was forced to act because he feared for his life since he had evidence of widespread drug-running by Robeson County government officials. He told the jury, "When those who are sworn to uphold the Constitution — you can't go to them — what do you do?" In his closing statement to the jury, Hatcher pleaded, "We have been abandoned by the law. Can you imagine 60,000 people lost, abandoned people in Robeson County? You can hear them crying out. Their cries may be faint, but they are still

crying out."

Even one of the hostages, *Robesonian* editor Bob Horne, testified that Hatcher and Jacobs were "the conscience of the community" and accomplished more in 10 hours than had been accomplished in 100 years.

Despite their acquittal in federal court, Hatcher and Jacobs could face charges in state court.

The acquittal came in spite of serious abuses of democratic rights. Both Hatcher and Jacobs were denied bond under the Bail Reform Act of 1984. The government also denied them a jury of their peers, striking from the jury pool all Native Americans and anyone with ties to or sympathy with the struggles of Native Americans.

The government also repeatedly attempted to separate the two defendants, who insisted on being tried together.