

Sankara book launched in N.Y.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NEW YORK — More than 300 people gathered here November 13 to celebrate the publication of the Pathfinder book *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*. It is the first collection in any language of speeches by the revolutionary leader.

Thomas Sankara led the Aug. 4, 1983, revolution in Burkina Faso, the West African country previously known as Upper Volta. A former French colony, Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world. Under Sankara's leadership, the Burkinabè toilers, 90 percent of whom lived in the countryside, began organizing to socially, economically, and politically transform their country. Sankara was murdered on Oct. 15, 1987, in a counter-revolutionary coup.

The November 13 meeting here was held at the Harriet Tubman School in Harlem, the same site where Sankara had delivered a speech in 1984, published in the Pathfinder book under the title "Our White House Is in Black Harlem."

Addressing the book celebration were fighters from the United States, the West African country of Burundi, Canada, Namibia, Nicaragua, and Trinidad. The program closed with a musical performance by Women of the Calabash, who had performed in Burkina Faso at Sankara's invitation.

Among the guests in the audience were representatives from missions to the United Nations: Jeronimo de Almeida, delegate from the Angolan mission; Elio Savon, first secretary of the Cuban mission; and Tran Minh Dung, third secretary of the Vietnamese mission. (Other guests and messages will be reported on next week.)

Participants came from throughout the New York area and other East Coast cities. There were workers and students from Africa, from Haiti, from the U.S. struggle against apartheid, and veterans of fights against police brutality and racial segregation. Young people organizing emergency relief for hurricane-stricken Nicaragua were present.

Many participants learned of the meeting through an article in the New York *Amsterdam News* or advertisements in other local papers. Some received leaflets on the street or found out about the gathering when they stopped by a Saturday Pathfinder literature table in their community.

A truck driver from Newark, New Jersey, heard about it when he bought a sub-

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Militant/Alicia Merel
David Gakunzi of International Thomas Sankara Association addressing November 13 meeting in New York.

'Free trade' debate in Canada: trap for workers

The following statement was issued on November 14 in Montréal, Canada, by Michel Dugré and Margaret Manwaring, Revolutionary Workers League candidates in the Canadian parliamentary elections. Dugré, a garment worker, is a candidate in the Montréal constituency of Papineau-St. Michel. Manwaring, a steelworker, is running in Toronto in Eglinton-Lawrence.

The debate over whether the Canadian Parliament should ratify the so-called free trade agreement between Canada and the United States, which has completely dominated the November 21 federal election, is a dead end for working people. At this point the vast majority of workers and small farmers have lined up behind one or another wing of the ruling rich in a dispute over what kind of trading arrangements would best serve Canadian capitalism's interests.

The Liberal Party, led by former finance minister John Turner, has gained substantial support from workers and farmers during the elections with its promise to tear up the trade agreement. While the pact with President Ronald Reagan's administration was initially signed by the Conservative government of Brian Mulroney last January and subsequently approved by the U.S. Congress, it has yet to be ratified by Canada's Parliament.

The pact would eliminate almost all tariffs and trade barriers between Canada and the United States over the next 10 years; remove virtually all restrictions on energy shipments between the two countries; further reduce limits on cross-border

capital investment; and cut down travel barriers for professionals such as lawyers, accountants, and photographers.

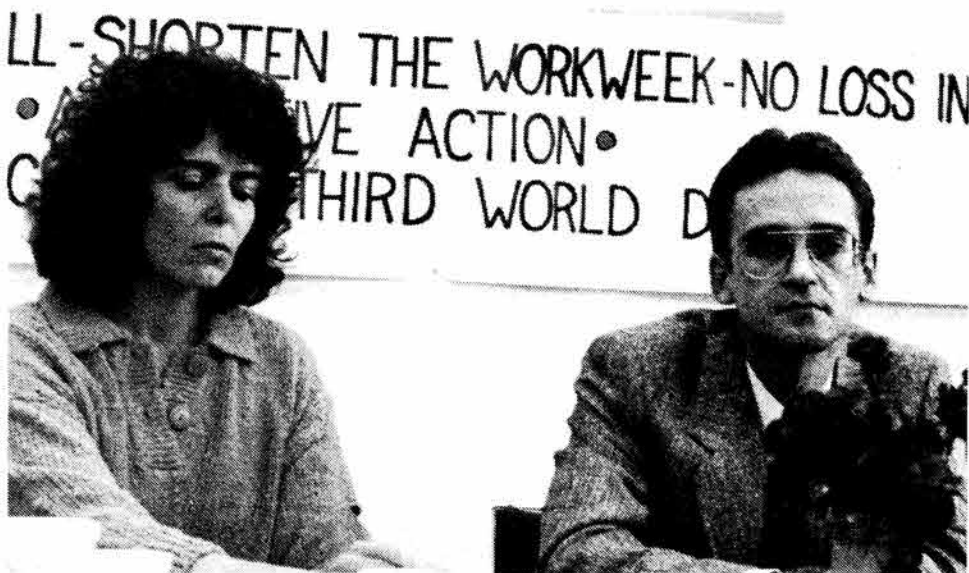
The Liberals, along with the New Democratic Party (NDP — Canada's social democratic-led labor party) and trade union officialdom, claim that these proposals are a huge threat to "Canada's economic and political sovereignty"; would result in massive unemployment as Canadian companies are driven under by more powerful U.S. competitors; and would lead to a major assault on social programs as Canada increasingly came under U.S. domination.

The fact is, however, that the success of

the Liberals and the NDP in lining up growing numbers of working people behind their reactionary nationalist campaign in defense of Canada, one of the six or seven wealthiest imperialist powers in the world, is a far bigger threat to our interests than anything in the proposed agreement.

The debate over the trade pact is a diversion from the urgently needed discussion of the worsening conditions that hundreds of thousands of workers and farmers in Canada already face today. And from what we need to do in face of the massive catastrophe that faces the vast majority of work-

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Militant/Monica Jones

Margaret Manwaring, steelworker, and Michel Dugré, garment worker, are Revolutionary Workers League candidates in November 21 parliamentary elections in Canada.

Bluefields fights for its survival

BY LARRY SEIGLE

BLUEFIELDS, Nicaragua — "The people somehow or the other, they have been trying to rebuild their homes," says Alberto Rigby, pastor of the Baptist Church here.

Sitting in the parlor of the parsonage, Rigby extends an arm through where a wall used to be. "Those houses there," he says, pointing across the street, "the people have raised them up and they jammed the walls with sticks just for them to be sheltered from the rain and the sun and to be able to sleep at night."

Throughout this town of 40,000 on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, working people are laboring long hours to put some kind of roof over their heads. Shortages of tools, and, above all, building supplies, make the job difficult. An estimated 6,000 houses were destroyed by Hurricane Joan when it struck here October 22.

From a distance some of the structures resemble the houses that used to be. But close up they are only patched together pieces of walls and parts of roofs, made from broken lumber and pieces of zinc sheeting.

"The situation, as you can see, is one of devastation," says Sebastián Castillo, who is in charge of the Bluefields office of the Evangelical Committee for Aid to Development (CEPAD).

"Only a few buildings remain in one piece. Most of the houses and public buildings were demolished by the hurricane." Wealthier residents, with concrete houses, fared much better than working people with only wood-frame houses or shacks, Castillo adds.

Emergency efforts are still focused on providing rations of food and drinking water, preventing the outbreak of epidemics, and clearing the debris to make streets

passable. The long, difficult job of rebuilding the town has not yet been seriously begun.

Whether Bluefields will, in fact, be rebuilt depends on the level of aid that will come from other governments. Nicaragua simply does not have the material resources by itself.

"The aid that we have received has been really very little in relation to the needs that have to be met," says Castillo.

"What we need above all are materials

for the reconstruction of the city," he stresses, "and not only for Bluefields. You have to talk about Bluefields and the surrounding areas that were also affected by the hurricane, like Corn Island, Rama Key, Kukra Hill, and others."

Three weeks after Hurricane Joan, there is still no electricity. What little power there is comes from a few emergency generators. Castillo estimates that it will be a "couple

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Court awards damages for attack on Curtis defense committee office

BY MARGARET JAYKO

On November 10 Judge I. Joel Pasternak ordered Keith Morris to pay \$2,000 in damages to Jason Redrup, owner of the Des Moines, Iowa, Pathfinder Bookstore where the Mark Curtis Defense Committee office is located.

Morris smashed the plate glass windows of the store last July 15 in an attempt to attack Mark Curtis and his supporters who were inside. During the court hearing on the small-claims action, Morris threatened to attack the office again.

Curtis is currently in the Marion County Jail awaiting sentencing on charges of first-degree burglary and third-degree sexual abuse. Keith Morris is the father of the woman Curtis was found guilty of raping.

Curtis says that he's not guilty and that he's the victim of a frame-up for his political and labor activity. Thousands of unionists, farmers, and prominent individuals around the world agree and have joined the fight to end this frame-up and free Mark Curtis.

Judge Pasternak ordered Morris to pay Redrup the money it cost to replace the windows as well as interest starting from September 1, when the suit was filed.

Two dozen Curtis supporters filled the small courtroom, but they were then cleared out by the judge. Attorney George Eichhorn represented Redrup. Morris represented himself.

Redrup told the court what happened the evening of the attack. The front of the ground floor premises at 2105 Forest Avenue is occupied by the Pathfinder Bookstore. The defense committee offices are in the back.

That night, when the bookstore was closed, Redrup was working in the back with Curtis and another person when they heard a pounding on the door. Morris was kicking it. They went to call the police and "shortly before we even got to dial the phone, I heard the windows come crashing down," Redrup told the court.

He and the others slipped out the back

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Int'l campaign to aid Nicaragua builds up

BY HARRY RING

From Montana to Sweden and Finland, to Barbados and Puerto Rico, emergency relief is being gathered for hurricane-struck Nicaragua.

In a dispatch from the Bluefields region of Nicaragua, the area hardest hit by the storm, the *New York Times* reported November 14 that 25,000 tons of relief supplies have arrived in Nicaragua.

Social Security Minister Reynaldo Tefel, who is coordinating relief efforts, told the paper that of that amount, half had come from Cuba.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, at a mass rally of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, collectors received a total of \$900.

An additional \$550 was collected door to door at three of the city's housing cooperatives.

On the island of Barbados, relief efforts have been undertaken by Friends of Nicaragua, which has appealed to unions and others for contributions.

An early contribution came from the National Union of Seamen, and the Barbados-based Caribbean Council of Churches agreed to contribute \$5,000.

In Sweden and Finland, a plane is being loaded with relief supplies under the auspices of the World Peace Council.

The plane was made available by the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, and many groups are working to fill it, including farmers' cooperatives, churches, and others.

An important role will be played by the Sweden-Nicaragua Friendship Society, which just completed its annual Nicaragua Must Survive appeal.

Two previous drives for funds for school-books had raised more than \$300,000. This year's collection is now being tabulated, and a Stockholm activist said it seemed the

amount would be double last year's.

From Nicaragua, it was reported that in early November, 20 tons of solidarity aid had arrived from the Soviet Union.

At the same time, 4,000 tons of rice arrived, contributed by the European Economic Community.

The Argentine government announced that an Air Force plane had been dispatched to Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Nicaragua with 18 tons of relief supplies.

In the United States, the Detroit-based Pastors for Peace said support is growing for its relief convoy to Nicaragua.

So far, 20 trucks, buses, and vans are slated to leave for Nicaragua November 29, departing from Detroit; Seattle; Oberlin, Ohio; Portland, Maine; Miami; and Missoula, Montana.

The project has the support of a broad

range of church groups and the Veterans Peace Convoy, which made a similar delivery of vehicles and supplies earlier this year.

Tom Hansen of the Veterans Peace Convoy, is coordinating the Pastors for Peace project. In a telephone interview, he said the group of vehicles will include three eight-ton flatbed trucks and four school buses. The convoy is focusing on collecting rice, beans, powdered milk, and canned foods.

From Montana, Hansen said, a 60-foot bus will depart, carrying relief supplies and a spare engine and transmission as well.

This, he said, is the work of a Montana-wide Nicaragua sister city project that he described as "one of the best-organized groups I've worked with."

November 9, Hansen spoke before a meeting of Detroit airport workers, mem-

bers of International Association of Machinists Local 141.

The meeting voted to contribute \$250 and to urge members to give tools and other relief needs.

Hansen said he's been invited to speak before United Auto Workers Local 160 at the General Motors Tech Center and will be soliciting the support of other unions.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian aid body Quest for Peace obtained a surplus army water purification system that will process 3,000 gallons of water an hour. Quest spokesperson William Callahan said they hoped to have the system in working order and delivered to Bluefields within a month.

Ron Richards in San Juan, Erik Nilsson and Catharina Tirsén in Stockholm, and Mark Friedman in Detroit contributed to this article.

Storm-shattered city fights for survival

Continued from front page

of months" before electricity is restored.

The major source of jobs is the fishing and seafood-processing industry, whose prospects are uncertain. The extent of damage to the processing plants won't really be known until power is restored and the machinery can be tested.

In addition, commercial fishing boats have to be replaced or repaired, and refrigeration facilities restored before processing becomes possible again.

Normal economic activity remains at pretty much of a standstill. Outside of those with government administrative jobs, few working people are getting any regular income. Nonetheless, basic food and medical needs are being met by government-organized efforts. A Regional Emergency Committee has been organized to meet the immediate needs. The committee includes government representatives together with members of CEPAD, the Moravian church, the Red Cross, and other institutions.

"There are also committees in each of the 16 neighborhoods of Bluefields to organize distribution of food and medical care," explains Castillo.

Emergency food rations

Food rations are given to every family once a week. "We get rice, some cooking oil, a little sugar," says one elderly neighborhood resident. Beans? "Sometimes." Is it enough? "Well, it's not much."

Pointing to the uprooted fruit tree in the yard in front of his wooden shack, he adds, "and now we won't even have our bread-fruit."

According to Castillo, the emergency committee is also making milk available to families with small children.

The biggest danger to public health is the absence of drinking water. Virtually all of

Bluefields' water came from wells that are now contaminated.

"Studies are being done to see if water can be consumed from some wells that may not be contaminated," says Castillo. "But as of now there is no answer to the problem of drinking water."

"Today in the meeting of the emergency committee there was a discussion about the need to speed up finding a solution. But right now it's just not possible."

In the meantime, some water is being drawn from wells and chlorinated in holding tanks. Residents are being warned to boil the water they drink.

Preventing epidemics

No effort is being spared to prevent the outbreak of typhoid, malaria, and other epidemics. So far the effort has been a success. "Up through today's report," said Castillo when he spoke with the *Militant* November 10, "no outbreaks of epidemics have been reported." There have been scattered cases of diarrhea, but these have been brought under control.

The biggest danger foreseen is an outbreak of typhoid, according to Castillo, but most of the population has now been vaccinated against it. Malaria pills are also being distributed to all residents.

A major contribution to this public health effort has come from Cuban medical workers who flew in right after the storm passed and have been working tirelessly ever since. "We've had a lot of doctors from Cuba," acknowledges Rigby with a slight smile.

The Cuban medical teams work quietly, without publicity, as do other Cuban volunteers throughout Nicaragua. Their work is not often discussed publicly.

But when Cuba decided to undertake a major commitment to build 1,000 new homes in Bluefields, providing materials

and construction teams at no cost to Nicaragua, it made big news nationally and became quite a topic of discussion in Bluefields.

'Thanks, people of Cuba'

Posters went up around town reading, "Cuba will build 1,000 houses for Bluefields. Thanks, people of Cuba, for your act of brotherhood."

But not all Nicaraguans appreciate the internationalist contribution from socialist Cuba. The Managua capitalist daily *La Prensa* has charged that the Cubans are planning to send "colonizers" to Bluefields.

In response, some Bluefields residents circulated petitions in their neighborhoods protesting the slanders in *La Prensa*, which were being echoed by some right-wingers in Bluefields itself. Ray Hodgson, a Maronite pastor here, headed a delegation of Bluefields residents who flew to Managua. During a protest visit to *La Prensa* they displayed petitions with several thousand signatures.

Hodgson denounced *La Prensa* for "calling our Cuban brothers who have arrived with aid 'neocolonizers.'" He added that residents of Bluefields won't reject aid from anywhere.

"We need 5,000 more houses," Hodgson stressed. "We are ready to receive aid even from the United States, but with no conditions."

Rigby, sitting in his now open-air parlor, agrees. He is glad that "the Cubans have offered themselves to come and rebuild."

But he would like to see the Cuban commitment matched by other countries. "We are going to need help right on through because it will take us quite a while, several years, to rebuild Bluefields over."

"It's not just going to be something done tomorrow."

Meetings to celebrate political contributions of Oscar Coover

Speakers:

Jack Barnes national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

Mary-Alice Waters editor of *New International*.

(partial list)

New York City

Fri., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., 79 Leonard Street, Manhattan. Donation \$5.

Los Angeles

Sun., Nov. 20, 2:00 p.m., Letter Carriers' Hall, 774 S. Valencia St. Donation \$3.

To send messages or for more information: SWP, 79 Leonard St., New York, N.Y. 10013. (212) 219-3679; or SWP, 2546 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90006. (213) 380-9460.

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— John Cruz

World War II vet and member of the Veterans Peace Convoy

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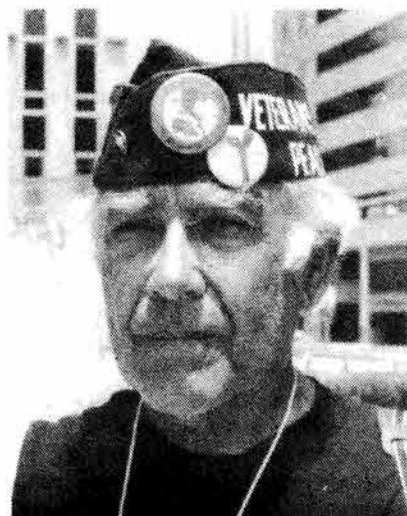
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Pathfinder tour of Caribbean promotes new book on region

BY HELEN MEYERS

KINGSTON, Jamaica — A successful five-island Caribbean tour to promote the new Pathfinder book *One People, One Destiny: The Caribbean and Central America Today* concluded here November 10.

Edited by Don Rojas, the book contains documents and speeches by leaders of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. Rojas was press secretary to slain Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Rojas spoke at meetings promoting the book in Trinidad, and St. Vincent, Barbados, and Antigua. A number of parties and groups who are part of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations hosted or participated in the events.

Pathfinder representative Norton Sandler shared the platform with Rojas at three meetings.

Customs officials in Grenada seized four cartons of Pathfinder books containing 92 titles and several dozen copies of the *Militant* as Sandler entered that country to attend a rally sponsored by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Bishop's assassination on October 19.

The officials confiscated copies of *One People, One Destiny*; *Maurice Bishop Speaks*; and the new Pathfinder title *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*. Other books were by Nelson Mandela, Karl Marx, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and Malcolm X.

Grenada Prime Minister Herbert Blaize defended his government's action during a televised broadcast on November 4 claiming the books are "subversive to the peace and security of the country."

The Grenada government is also barring Rojas and other Caribbean political activists from entering the country.

Rojas and Sandler were interviewed by the media several times during the tour, including here in Jamaica. Newspaper, radio, and television reports focused on the contents of *One People, One Destiny* and protests over the Blaize government confiscating literature.

Brisk sales of 'One People, One Destiny' in Caribbean countries

During the Pathfinder tour to Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent, Barbados, Antigua, and Jamaica, Pathfinder volunteers sold some 850 books and 460 pamphlets.

More than half were sold at the Trinidad book fair, on campuses, and at meetings to promote the new Pathfinder title *One People, One Destiny: The Caribbean and Central America Today*. The rest were sold to commercial bookstores.

The big interest in *One People, One Destiny* was demonstrated by the 125 copies sold. Sixty-three copies of *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87* were sold. Other big sellers were *Nelson Mandela: The Struggle is My Life*, with 54 copies sold; *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, 43; and *Maurice Bishop Speaks, The Grenada Revolution 1979-83*, with 37 sold.

A total of 180 books and pamphlets by Malcolm X and 85 by Cuban President Fidel Castro were sold.

Among the best selling pamphlets were *The Communist Manifesto*, with 100 sold; *Apartheid's Great Land Theft*, 48; *Abortion is a Woman's Right*, 42; and *Black Women's Struggle for Equality*, 40.

The team sold 65 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 40 copies each of the two most recent issues of the Marxist magazine *New International*, and 70 copies of the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

Papers covering the tour included the *Advocate*, *Nation*, *Sunday Sun*, and *EC News* published in Barbados; the *Trinidad Guardian*; the *Daily Gleaner* in Jamaica; and the *Vincentian* and *Justice* in St. Vincent. —H.M.

A team of international volunteers sold a range of Pathfinder titles at meetings promoting the book and at University of West Indies campuses in Trinidad, Barbados, and Jamaica.

Commercial bookstores in several countries also made substantial orders.

The first stop was Trinidad, the site of the Second Caribbean Peoples International Bookfair. The October 19-30 fair was sponsored by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union.

A meeting to launch *One People, One Destiny* was held at the nearby University of West Indies campus in St. Augustine, Trinidad, on October 25.

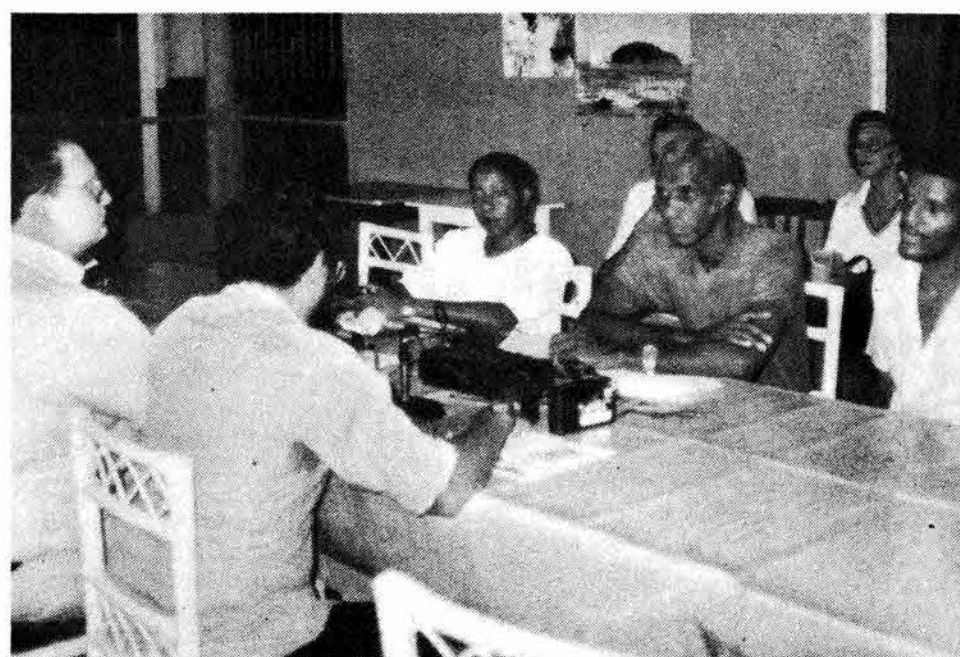
In St. Vincent the United People's Movement (UPM) organized a well-attended news conference for Rojas and Sandler on November 1. The next evening the UPM hosted a meeting attended by 40 people at the Cecil Cyrus Squash Complex.

In opening the meeting, UPM representative Oscar Allen said, "The peoples of Central America and the Caribbean are washed by one sea and molded by one history."

Rojas explained that the anti-imperialist organization was formed at a meeting in Havana, Cuba, in 1984 — in response to Washington's invasion of Grenada the previous year.

"For the first time political parties and liberation movements from Central America and the Caribbean formed a common organization dedicated to opposing imperialist military intervention and economic and political domination," Rojas noted.

The Anti-Imperialist Organizations now consists of some 40 organizations in 23 countries. The organization, Rojas said, is "attempting to overcome the imperialist-imposed isolation of the peoples of the Caribbean islands from those in Central



Militant/Helen Meyers
Norton Sandler, left, and Don Rojas, to his right, talk to reporters in St. Vincent on November 1.

America, as well as the cultural and linguistic divisions within the Caribbean itself."

"Today," Rojas said, "five years after the collapse of the Grenada revolution, there is little disagreement that the Caribbean is in the midst of the chronic crisis — part of the crisis of the world capitalist economy."

Sandler said the banning of activists like Rojas from Grenada and the seizure of books is an attempt to curtail the Grenadian people's right to participate in politics.

The meeting in Antigua was sponsored by the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement and attended by 70 people. It was the ACLM's first public event in its new Weston-Mandela House building.

ACLM leader Tim Hector described Rojas' political work as a close associate of Maurice Bishop during the 1979-83 Grenada revolution and saluted the publication of *One People, One Destiny*.

Hector praised Pathfinder for bringing out the work of prominent "Third World revolutionaries" as well as making known the struggles of the working class in the United States.

A segment of the Cuban video "Response to the South African Escalation" was shown at the meeting.

At each stop Rojas made an appeal for governments in the region to aid in the reconstruction of Nicaragua following the devastation brought by Hurricane Joan.

"The Caribbean community reached out to Jamaica following Hurricane Gilbert. We make a similar appeal for governments to supply humanitarian aid to the people of Nicaragua in their hour of need," he said.

In Barbados several activists from the Friends of Nicaragua attended the book launch. That group is currently focusing its efforts on organizing hurricane relief.

The Barbados meeting was hosted by the well-known attorney and political activist R.M.L. (Bobby) Clarke.

Drive to reach fund goal of \$250,000 enters home stretch

BY CINDY JAQUITH

As the Pathfinder Fund to raise \$250,000 enters the final stretch, collecting the nearly \$137,000 outstanding is at the center of fund organizers' efforts.

Almost \$20,000 was collected last week, a substantial increase over previous weeks. But a systematic, all-out effort is needed by Pathfinder supporters this week to collect from the hundreds of people who have yet to finish paying the money they have pledged.

Supporters in Seattle are organizing such a campaign. Ten activists are telephoning everyone who has offered to contribute to the fund. A schedule of payments has been set up with each donor.

Seattle organizers are confident they will make their goal of \$6,500 by the December 1 deadline. Their enthusiasm stems from holding a highly successful celebration of the book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*, published by Pathfinder/Pacific and Asia, on November 6.

Speaking at the celebration were Elizabeth Stone, editor of Pathfinder's *Women and the Cuban Revolution*; Katalina Montero, regional representative of the Venceremos Brigade, which organizes work brigades to Cuba; Robert Simms, Pathfinder representative in Canada; and Karen Ray of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The 54 participants in the meeting pledged \$800 in new donations. Collecting those contributions right away, as well as donations pledged earlier in the fund drive, is now the main activity of Seattle fund organizers.

The week leading up to Thanksgiving will be critical in this effort, since the holiday will make it difficult to contact supporters and pick up their checks. A big push to take in a sizeable chunk of the remaining pledges before Thanksgiving will make a difference in reaching the \$250,000 goal on time.

Donations are starting to come in from a Pathfinder Fund mailing to all subscribers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Substantial contributions are also anticipated from a series of Pathfinder celebra-

tions scheduled the weekend of November 18-20. (See calendar on page 12.)

The success of the Pathfinder meetings thus far has inspired many new contributors as well as the fund organizers themselves. As the chart shows, supporters in nine U.S. cities raised their goals since last week, bringing the total amount pledged to a little over \$250,000.

Now the big job is to collect as much as possible in the next week.

Pathfinder Fund contributions

UNITED STATES	Goal	Received
Atlanta	5,000	1,505
Austin, Minn.	2,850	1,080
Baltimore	3,000	650
Birmingham	7,000	2,005
Boston	9,000	4,942
Charleston, W. Va.	3,500	1,190
Chicago	10,100	3,755
Cleveland	5,400	3,412
Des Moines	3,300	815
Detroit	6,100	2,875
Greensboro, N.C.	2,800	1,308
Houston	8,500	4,590
Kansas City	3,700	1,965
Los Angeles	16,000	6,698
Miami	5,500	3,108
Milwaukee	3,000	1,515
Morgantown, W.Va.	4,500	870
Newark	10,000	6,570
New York	27,000	11,185
Oakland	13,000	6,530
Omaha	3,800	2,077
Philadelphia	7,000	3,380
Phoenix	3,500	1,160
Pittsburgh	5,000	2,220
Portland, Ore.	4,100	1,105
Price, Utah	1,800	1,040
Salt Lake City	6,300	4,035
San Francisco	11,500	6,886
Seattle	6,500	2,315
St. Louis	8,800	6,423
Twin Cities	12,000	4,905
Washington, D.C.	7,500	2,087
Other U.S.	7,500	2,617
Total U.S.	234,550	106,818
INTERNATIONAL	Pledged	Received
Australia	820	20
Britain	3,966	296
Canada	8,520	3,656
France	200	200
Germany	150	0
Iceland	1,010	102
New Zealand	2,055	435
Sweden	565	565
Other International	1,182	1,182
Total U.S. goals and int'l pledges	253,018	
Total received		113,274

\$250,000

Pathfinder Fund

Deadline: Dec. 1

☐ Enclosed is \$_____ for the fund.

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250,000

↑

Collected \$113,274

SWP presidential campaign made important gains

BY SUSAN LaMONT

James Warren and Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, and their supporters made important gains in the eight months between the campaign's opening March 9 and the November 8 elections. Some of the facts and figures compiled by the national campaign office make that clear.

The candidates and other socialist campaigners spoke to thousands of working people and youth from one end of the country to the other. They visited cities and towns in 35 states, and Washington, D.C., in the course of speaking tours, other campaign trips, and ballot efforts. Members of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) — the communist youth organization that made support for the SWP campaign its central activity during this period — were among Warren and Mickells' most enthusiastic backers.

In addition to the presidential ticket, the SWP also fielded 41 candidates for Congress and other offices this year.

Warren and Mickells — who were on the road during most of the time — addressed citywide campaign forums, campus meetings, union gatherings, informal get-togethers of workers and youth, protest demonstrations, and other events in dozens of cities and towns. They also campaigned at plant gates in many cities.

Their presentations centered on explaining the proposals in the SWP's Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis — whether they were speaking with airline workers in a lounge at the San Francisco airport, to students at the University of Kansas, or to an audience at the public library in Jay, Maine. They got a serious, interested response everywhere they went.

SWP campaign supporters who work in the steel, rail, auto, electronic and electrical, garment and textile, aerospace, mining, meat-packing, and oil and chemical industries were able to utilize the Warren and Mickells campaign to have extensive discussions with fellow union members. They talked about the course the labor movement needs to take in face of the deepening capitalist crisis.

And activists involved in struggles gave the socialist candidates an especially warm reception. Over the course of the campaign, Warren spoke to a demonstration on behalf of the homeless in Salt Lake City, Utah; a United Farm Workers of Washington State fund-raiser in the Yakima Valley, Washington; a rally of hundreds of deaf students at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., fighting for a deaf person to be appointed president of their college; and to an antiracist protest in Lumberton, North Carolina.

Mickells spoke to a rally of 3,000 in Phoenix protesting the "English only" measure on the ballot in that state, and to union meetings of striking paperworkers in Jay, Maine, and De Pere, Wisconsin. Both candidates addressed meetings of the Haitian community organization Veye-Yo in Miami.

The candidates also made several international trips during the campaign to Grenada, Panama, Canada, and Britain.

Ballot drive

As the result of a major drive, the SWP ticket won ballot status in 15 states and Washington, D.C. Socialist petitioners spoke about politics to tens of thousands of working people and youth as they gathered signatures, which is required for getting on the ballot in most states. Petitioners sold thousands of copies of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and Action Program; recruited new members to the SWP and YSA; and won wider backing for the campaign.

The drive to win ballot status for the SWP candidates meant a fight against the obstacles erected by the capitalist rulers wherever and whenever they could to keep independent, working-class candidates off the ballot. In addition to winning a spot on the ballot, the effort to gain ballot status

was part of the fight to defend democratic rights, and to widen, if possible, the political space in which working people can organize.

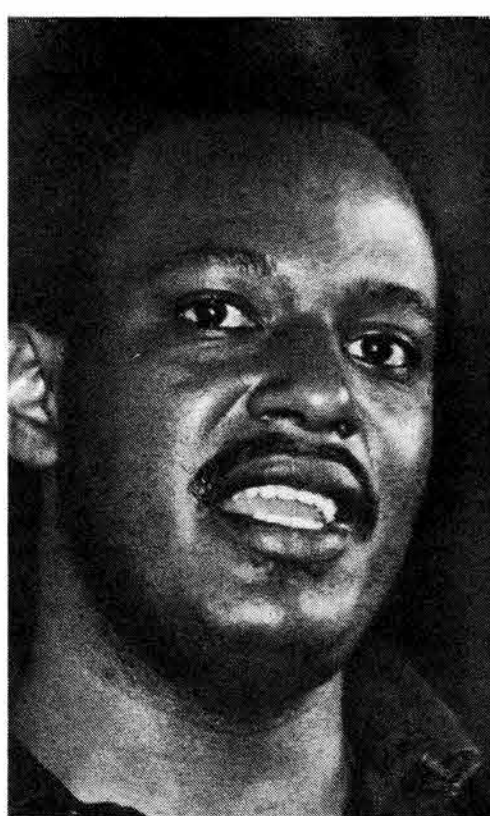
Even fulfilling the onerous requirements is often not sufficient for SWP candidates to get on the ballot. In Ohio and Nebraska, the SWP ticket was ruled off despite getting the needed signatures — and more. In Ohio, a vigorous, well-publicized protest against the state's attack on democratic rights by excluding the SWP has laid the basis for another effort to get on the ballot there in the next election campaign.

Campaigning through 'Militant'

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* carried extensive coverage of the campaign, with articles on Warren and Mickells' speaking tours, the ballot drive, local SWP campaigns, and other aspects of the elections. In the 37 issues of the *Militant* and 10 issues of *PM* that appeared during the campaign, the *Militant* carried 119 campaign articles and *PM*, 17.

For Warren and Mickells' supporters, sales of the *Militant* and *PM* — especially during the two international circulation drives — was the most important way to get out the ideas of the campaign to working people and youth, day in and day out, throughout the campaign.

Messages sent by Warren and Mickells often appeared in the *Militant*, including to the African National Congress of South Africa's headquarters in Zambia after the assassination of ANC leader Dulcie September in Paris; the Palestine Liberation Organization's UN mission after the Israeli government murdered PLO leader Khalil al-Wazir; the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front of New Caledonia following the slaughter of 19 Kanaks by French occupation forces; and the United Paperworkers International Union and Brother-



G.M. Cookson

James Warren and Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president in the U.S. elections, got a serious response from working people, youth, and political activists as they campaigned around the country in 1988.

hood of Firemen and Oilers in Jay, Maine, upon termination of their strike against International Paper Co.

The *Militant* also printed statements issued by Warren and Mickells demanding massive, worldwide aid for Nicaragua after Hurricane Joan struck; drought relief for U.S. farmers; freedom for ANC leader Nelson Mandela; cancellation of Jamaica's foreign debt; and help for flood-devastated Bangladesh.

Warren and Mickells received serious press coverage from the capitalist media in many of the cities and towns they visited. Articles about them also appeared in Black community, campus, and other papers. The *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Milwaukee Journal*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Lewiston Daily Sun*, and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* were just a few of the papers that carried substantial articles on the SWP campaign.

The national SWP campaign issued

three pieces of national campaign material: 100,000 copies of Warren and Mickells' biographies in English; 25,000 copies of the biographies in Spanish; and a "Socialist Workers in '88!" campaign button.

In addition, the Action Program was published as a Pathfinder pamphlet, with an ad for the SWP campaign on the back and an introduction by presidential candidate Warren. Forty-thousand copies of the Action Program have been printed in English; 7,000 in Spanish. Since September, campaign supporters have been participating in the 10-week international drive to sell 20,000 copies of the Action Program.

Between March and November, the national campaign office received nearly 500 inquiries from people in 46 states and Washington, D.C. Some included their endorsement of the Warren-Mickells ticket; 52 sent in contributions that totaled more than \$1,500; others asked for campaign literature or more information; and a number asked to join the SWP or YSA.

Abortion rights set back in Michigan, Colorado, Arkansas referenda votes

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Women's constitutional right to abortion was dealt a blow November 8 when voting on referenda in Michigan, Arkansas, and Colorado banned or upheld a ban on the use of state funds to pay for abortions. This brings to 37 the number of states that either do not have programs to help pay for abortions or prohibit the use of state funds for that purpose. A similar ban on the use of federal Medicaid funds also exists.

In Colorado an amendment that would have allowed state funds to be used for abortions was defeated by a vote of 60 to 40 percent.

In Arkansas an amendment to prohibit state funds from being used to pay for abortions was narrowly passed.

In Michigan, where state funding for abortions has been under attack for more than 15 years, an amendment — Proposal A — barring the use of state-administered funds to pay for abortions except to save the life of the mother was passed by a margin of 57 to 43 percent.

Some 18,000 to 20,000 poor women each year relied on state funding to obtain safe, legal abortions in Michigan.

In the final weeks before the vote, TV commercials were the main arena for debate on Proposal A. The antiabortion Committee to End Tax-Funded Abortions used their ads to claim that the issue was not abortion, but the \$6 million annual cost to taxpayers for state-funded abortions. The People's Campaign for Choice, a coalition of abortion rights groups, ran ads arguing that Michigan taxpayers save millions of dollars every year in welfare payments by giving poor women access to abortions through Medicaid funding.

Passage of Proposal A and the measures in Colorado and Arkansas, as well as the election of outspoken abortion foe George

Bush for president, has put wind in the sails of the so-called right-to-life movement. On November 12, antiabortion protesters blocked the doors of the Women's Advisory Center in Livonia, a Detroit suburb. Police arrested 57 of them.

Meanwhile, two days after the election, the Reagan administration filed a brief with the Supreme Court urging the court to hear the appeal of a Missouri abortion case that it says "presents an appropriate opportunity" for the court to overturn the 1973 decision legalizing abortion for women in the United States. That ruling recognized abortion rights as part of the constitutional right to privacy.

The Missouri case is an appeal by the state of an Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling from earlier this year. That decision declared unconstitutional most provisions of Missouri's 1986 antiabortion law.

'English only' measures pass

In Florida, Arizona, and Colorado, proposals to make English each state's "official" language were passed. This brings to 17 the number of states where such measures have been enacted.

In Florida the proposal passed by a 84 to 16 percent margin. In Arizona the vote was 51 percent in favor and 49 percent opposed.

In Colorado the measure was passed by a 61 percent majority. The Coalition Against English Only and Colorado Unity had organized rallies meetings, pickets, canvassing, ad campaigns and other activity to try to defeat the measure. Before the vote, Ray Otero, a leader of the Coalition Against English Only, explained that the fight had just begun against this kind of referendum. "We don't want to disillusion our people that the solution is at the ballot box. We want our people to be prepared to defend

themselves if this passes."

Working people won a victory with the passage of a measure in Washington State, which will raise the state's current minimum wage of \$2.30 an hour. It will rise to \$3.85 an hour in January 1989, and \$4.25 an hour a year later. Most farm workers and domestic workers will be covered by the minimum wage for the first time.

AIDS-testing measures

In California two measures related to AIDS testing were on the ballot. Proposition 102, which would have required all persons who test positive for the AIDS antibodies to have their names turned in to local health authorities — thus ending anonymous testing for AIDS — was defeated by 66 to 34 percent. The defeated proposal also sought to end the current ban on the use of AIDS tests to determine eligibility for insurance or employment.

The other measure, Proposition 96, however, passed by a similar margin. It calls for mandatory AIDS tests of persons accused of certain crimes, with the results to be forwarded to prison authorities.

A proposal to restore funding to the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration also passed.

In Oregon an executive order barring discrimination against state employees in the executive branch on the basis of sexual orientation was overturned by a 53 percent margin. The order had been the target of a right-wing campaign, which claimed that the antidiscrimination measure "advances homosexuality."

Lea Sherman from Detroit, and Kathy Rettig from Price, Utah, contributed to this article.

Sandinistas champion autonomy process

(Third of four parts)

BY HARVEY McARTHUR
AND JUDY WHITE

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua—During 1983 and 1984, some leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) began to reassess the situation they had encountered on the Atlantic Coast, which was becoming critical. The Atlantic Coast could have become the Achilles' heel of the revolution. They tried to understand why so many Indians and Blacks on the coast were fighting along with the U.S.-backed contras, against the revolutionary government. They began to look for a new political approach to working with the indigenous peoples.

Jorge Jenkins, in his book *The Case of the Miskitos*, (published in Spanish by Vanguard Publishers, Managua), cites an account of this reassessment written by William Ramírez, who headed of the regional government on the Atlantic Coast during the early 1980s.

Some ideas were initially considered taboo by FSLN leaders, said Ramírez. This included autonomy, which "was automatically associated with the separatist plans promoted by MISURASATA." Similarly, "ethnic consciousness" was viewed as "counterposed to national consciousness and revolutionary consciousness."

Over time, Ramírez said, "the very fact of the Indian struggle prompted a deeper questioning of its causes. It was not always possible to satisfactorily explain the causes of the armed uprising of the indigenous peoples against the Sandinistas as the fruit of imperialist manipulation." Nor could the label "counterrevolutionary" applied to Miskito fighters explain away the problems and "unsatisfied demands" of the Indians, he wrote.

This discussion led to a deeper appreciation of the history of the oppression suffered by the indigenous peoples and the problem of prejudice and discrimination by mestizos against Indians and Blacks. This reality and the tasks it created for the workers' and farmers' government began to be looked at in new ways.

"The ethnic problem and the Indian question cannot be reduced to the traditional, I would almost dare say orthodox, analysis of class struggle," Sandinista



Militant/Harvey McArthur
Miskito women's assembly, September 1988, in Miskito village of Santa Marta, North Atlantic Autonomous Region. In 1984 Sandinistas announced they would champion autonomous local governments on Atlantic Coast. Broad-based discussion among coast peoples on their demands and aspirations was organized.

elected to the National Assembly in the November 1984 elections were *costeños*: a Miskito, Hazel Lau; and two Blacks, Ray Hooker and Dorotea Wilson. In Nicaragua each deputy also has an alternate, and one of the three FSLN alternates from the coast was Ronas Dolores, a Sumu Indian.

Then, in December 1984, the FSLN reversed its previous position and announced it would champion autonomy for the Atlantic Coast. Government leaders and prominent individuals from the coast formed a National Autonomy Commission to organize a broad-based discussion among the coast peoples about their demands and aspirations. The discussion was to provide the basis for drafting a law that would spell out the rights of the indigenous peoples and provide for autonomous local governments.

"For the first time in the history of Nicaragua, the word autonomy began to be used without prejudice," wrote the Sandinista daily *Barricada* in December 1984. The paper also ran an interview with William Ramírez, who called the decision "a political advance for the revolutionary leadership, which now saw things from a different perspective."

Luis Carrión, the FSLN leader appointed to the autonomy commission at its founding, also gave an extensive interview to *Barricada* at the time. Autonomy was "necessary to formally guarantee the specific rights of the coast peoples," Carrin said. This would strengthen, not weaken, national unity, he stressed. Defense and foreign policy remained in the hands of the central government, "but apart from these fundamental prerogatives of the state, there are many political and organizational decisions that can be made on the regional level."

The autonomy commission quickly drafted an initial document on autonomy rights. This was widely circulated in Spanish, English, Miskito, and Sumu and thoroughly discussed among the coast peoples.

The new national constitution, adopted in January 1987, characterized Nicaragua as a "multiethnic nation" and included provisions for autonomy for the Atlantic Coast regions. In September 1987 the National Assembly adopted the Autonomy Statute, which was based on the draft prepared by the autonomy commission and spelled out the *costeños'* rights in detail.

Cease-fire agreements

Within the framework of the new policy supporting autonomy, the government's offer of talks found a response among some of the Miskito armed groups. By then, many were losing confidence in the contras, who were suffering heavy blows at the hands of the Sandinista army.

In May 1985 Eduardo Pantín and other

leaders of a group of 200 Miskito combatants signed a cease-fire accord. They agreed to remain in their home area of Yulu, a cluster of a dozen small villages 30 miles southwest of Puerto Cabezas. There, they formed a local self-defense militia and began to collaborate with the Sandinista army to guard against contra attacks.

Juan Salgado, one of the leaders of the group, says he had concluded by 1985 that the CIA and the contras were not fighting for Indian rights. "They were only using us as instruments in their war against the Sandinistas." When Pantín's group returned to Nicaragua from Honduras in early 1985, Salgado recalls, it broke relations with the contra command even though the unit was still planning to fight against government troops.

Dorotea Wilson is a leader of the FSLN who participated in the early contacts with Pantín's group. She says that Pantín expected the Miskito peasants in Yulu to provide his troops with food and other support for continuing the war.

Instead, "the village elders urged him to reach an agreement with the government," Wilson explains. "There had been much fighting there during 1982 and 1983, and many people were killed. The people in the villages told Pantín they wouldn't continue to feed his troops if they kept fighting. In addition, many of the Indian troops were tired of the war, so Pantín was ready to reconsider."

The Sandinista army learned of Pantín's presence, Wilson says, but decided to honor the request of some Yulu Miskitos and not attack. Instead, government leaders sent messages through the Red Cross offering to talk. On May 17, 1985, a temporary cease-fire accord was signed near Yulu.

Pantín's followers soon began to participate in the autonomy discussions. In September 1985, they signed a permanent cease-fire, adopted the name Pro-Peace Kisan, and settled down as a local militia.

This was the first of many cease-fire agreements, which now involve 4,000 Indian former combatants and cover most of the North Atlantic region. Yulu, where the process began, became known as "the capital of peace."

Salgado is now the coordinator of Pro-Peace Kisan. He says he is still not a Sandinista supporter, but "neutral on political questions." He works with the government "since it helps our people" and is planning to run in the next regional elections.

Two more important steps in implementing the Sandinista policy came in May 1985. The government abolished the special passes previously required of all coast residents. Then it announced that all the Miskitos who had lived along the Coco River were free to return home, despite the

continuing contra presence in the area and the danger of attacks from Honduras. This included those who had been moved from the area by the Sandinista army as the contra war escalated in 1982.

"This certainly was a bold move," Tomás Borge told a Puerto Cabezas rally in 1986. The government had recognized that the return to the Coco was a demand of the Miskitos and "a political response that the people had waited for since 1983," he said.

By early 1986, 18,000 Miskitos had returned to the border villages. Most came from settlements inside Nicaragua, but some who had gone to Honduras also began to come home.

When the Miskitos returned to their villages, the government did not send troops with them. "Out of respect for the Miskito people's wishes, we don't have a military presence along the Coco River," explained Ministry of the Interior official Salvador Pérez in 1986.

In the face of contra attacks in the area, Pérez said, the government could militarize the area or "relocate the Miskitos to an area where we can guarantee their safety. But neither of these options is consistent with providing a revolutionary, political solution to the problems of the indigenous people."

The government would provide food and other supplies, Pérez said, "but we won't militarize the zone."

With the start of the autonomy talks, the Yulu cease-fire, and the return to the Coco, the government began to win the confidence of more Miskitos. Thousands who had fled to Honduras in the early years of the contra war began to return home.

"Two years ago, there was a fear of returning to Nicaragua," says Dorotea Wilson. "In Honduras they were told that the Sandinistas would seize them again, and that the Ministry of the Interior would interrogate and then imprison them."

However, as the first Miskitos came back, "they saw this wasn't true, that the rumors were pure lies," she explains. "They received medical attention at the border and went off to their villages." Word spread that Miskitos could return home freely.

Today, more than 25,000 Miskitos have returned from Honduras, according to Jorge de la Mota, head of the Puerto Cabezas office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Some 10,000 Nicaraguan Miskitos are estimated to still be in Honduras, he says, but most are expected to return late this year and in early 1989.

Villages devastated by war

The Coco River area has been devastated by the contra war. When families return home, they have to rebuild their homes and clear the land again. Most have few tools or other belongings. Many used to keep a few cows or pigs that could be sold in an emergency, but most lost all their livestock during the war.

Miskitos returning from Honduras need immediate medical attention. Many have tuberculosis, and many suffer from malaria and malnutrition. They receive a checkup and some treatment when they enter Nicaragua, but regular care is nonexistent in most villages. Only 11 of the 80 river communities have even a small medical post.

The small amount of powdered milk and dry soup mix the government can supply is used to feed small children and those suffering from extreme malnutrition or advanced cases of tuberculosis.

Today, more than one-third of the Coco area's 32,000 inhabitants are dependent upon food supplies distributed by the government, Red Cross, and church agencies. The government also tries to give each family a few sheets of zinc roofing and some nails to build a simple shelter, but the demand far exceeds the available supplies.

Other food and clothing is also provided by the government, but sold through a small network of private merchants. Two wholesalers with warehouses in Leimus and Waspán buy in bulk from the government and then sell to retailers with small shops up and down the river.

Transportation is also a major problem,

Continued on Page 12

In September Harvey McArthur and Judy White of our Managua Bureau made a reporting trip to the North Atlantic region of Nicaragua.

This week we are publishing the third installment of a four-part article they have written on the peace and autonomy process in that area.

This coverage provides background on the economic and social conditions in the North Atlantic area, the shifts in the policies of the Nicaraguan government, and the challenges facing the residents in the post-contra war period.

The most severe damage caused by Hurricane Joan in October was in the Bluefields area on the South Atlantic Coast. —The Editors

leader Tomás Borge explained in a 1988 speech. "Our experience, at least, shows that it is essential to incorporate the specific demands of the indigenous struggle into the general class demands."

Sandinista reassessment

This reassessment led to changes in Sandinista policies. In December 1983 the government released most Miskitos who had been imprisoned on charges of counterrevolutionary activity and offered amnesty to any Indian combatants who laid down their arms.

During 1984 the Sandinista government appointed a Miskito, Mirna Cunningham, to head the North Atlantic regional government. Thomas Gordon, who is Black, was appointed in the south.

By this time the government had started giving land titles to the traditional Indian villages, and several bilingual education projects had been launched.

All three FSLN deputies from the region

Int'l drive to reach circulation targets is making headway

BY NORTON SANDLER

From Auckland, New Zealand, to St. Louis, to London, our distributors are pushing to reach, or go substantially over, their projected goals as we enter the final few days of the international circulation drive.

This effort is being boosted by regional teams that are winning new readers in the West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio coalfields and among meat-packers, farmers, and students in Iowa.

As we go to press, we have sold a combined total of 9,054 subscriptions to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and individual copies of *New International* and the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*. That's 87 percent of our goal.

Also sold so far are 15,813 copies of the Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis, or 77 percent of that goal.

A glance at the scoreboards indicates that we have already gone over the projected *New International* goal.

In the final days, special attention needs to be placed on selling *PM* and *Militant* subscriptions and Action Programs if we are going to reach our combined targets.

As part of spurring the international effort, New Zealand distributors have raised their combined goal by 100 since the beginning of the drive.

That kind of effort can be duplicated in several areas during the final push.

Paul Mailhot reports that a national team in the West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio coalfields is off to a good start. Several people have expressed interest in the *Militant* and the Action Program during sales at the Elkay mine portal and in mining communities near Beckley and Buffalo Creek, West Virginia. That team will be selling at portals near Pikeville, Kentucky, and in Ohio before the week is over. A stop at the University of Ohio campus in Athens is also planned.

Jon Hillson reports that the team in Iowa began its efforts at the big University of Iowa campus in Iowa City. Team members will distribute the periodicals at meat-packing plants in Marshalltown and Davenport, and visit nearby farming communities.

The team that has been traveling through

Canada's prairie provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta and in British Columbia on the West Coast has just concluded a several-week effort.

Robert Simms called to report that they sold 102 *Militant* and 14 *PM* subscriptions, dozens of Action Programs, and \$1,200 in Pathfinder literature on campuses and at picket lines, plant gates, and union meetings.

Simms, who is the Pathfinder representative in Canada, said he is also expecting 35 to 40 orders of Pathfinder books from the more than 50 bookstores he visited during the tour. "Almost all of these are new accounts," he said.

The final scoreboard will appear in *Militant* No. 48, which will be printed on December 1. Distributors should double check their final totals with the figures on hand in our business office by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30. The phone number is (212) 929-3486.

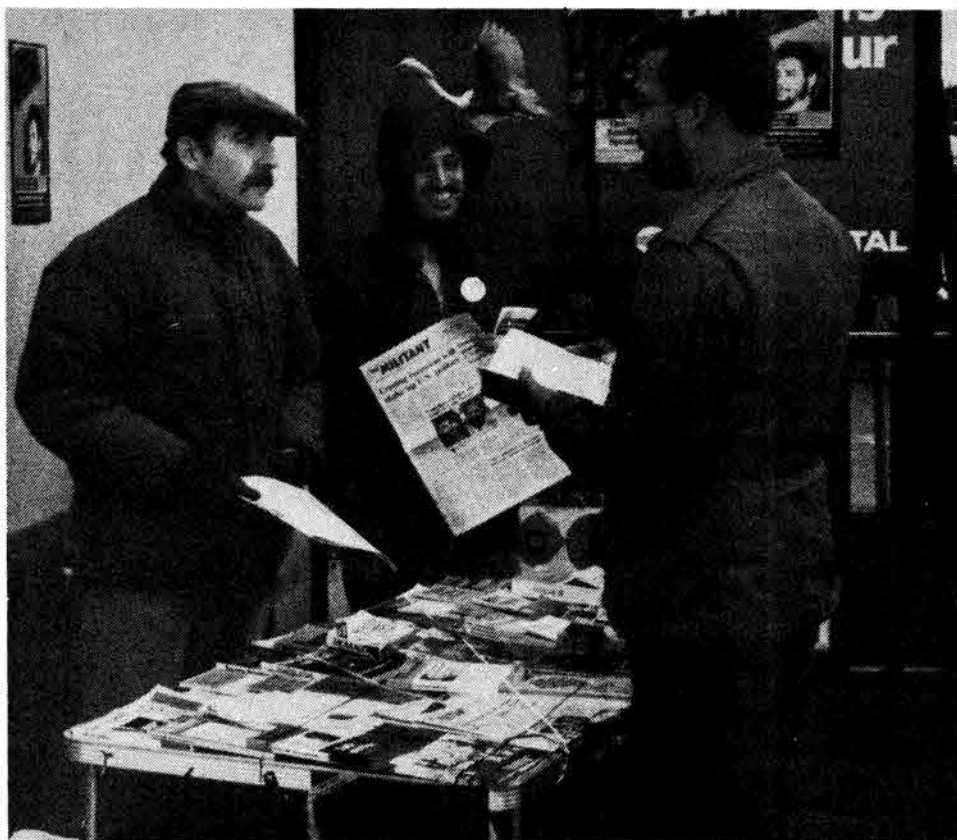
Collapse of big bank in Australia threatens string of companies

BY KATE BLAKENEY

SYDNEY, Australia — The merchant bank Rothwells Ltd. in Perth, Western Australia, collapsed November 4, threatening to take with it a string of companies and financial institutions in the state.

The crash is the biggest in the history of Western Australia, one of the country's six states, and may yet, according to economists, turn out to be the biggest in the country. Two companies backed by Rothwells have already had trading in their stock suspended, and 12 others are under immediate threat of suspension.

With trading losses of some US\$80 million and bad debts of \$400 million, the bank's liquidation also stands to hurt the much bigger Bond Corp. and puts at risk the \$320 million pumped into the corporation by the Western Australian government. The Bond Corp. has a debt of \$6.6 billion — the size of Australia's entire foreign debt only a decade ago.



Militant/Arthur Hughes

In New York, *Militant* supporters and passerby discuss newspaper.

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									
Portland, Ore.	160	160	100	120	123	25	27	15	10
Cleveland	165	160	97	110	106	40	42	15	12
Salt Lake City	125	120	96	90	90	20	16	15	14
Pittsburgh	250	237	95	185	169	45	53	20	15
Birmingham	185	172	93	145	130	30	35	10	7
New York	1,200	1,115	93	600	535	300	338	300	242
Omaha	135	123	91	90	84	25	22	20	17
Newark	530	480	91	275	247	140	147	115	86
Greensboro, NC	150	135	90	110	105	25	25	15	5
Price, Utah	70	63	90	50	45	10	11	10	7
Oakland, Calif.	215	190	88	120	134	45	18	50	38
St. Louis	220	193	88	170	125	40	62	10	6
Los Angeles	700	608	87	375	303	125	112	200	193
Boston	350	301	86	230	178	50	75	70	48
Austin, Minn.	110	94	85	85	70	15	14	10	10
Seattle	275	230	84	200	176	25	22	50	32
Washington, DC	250	207	83	150	106	50	51	50	50
Morgantown, WV	175	144	82	135	107	30	27	10	10
Philadelphia	250	205	82	160	134	40	34	50	37
Twin Cities	350	287	82	270	213	50	45	30	29
Atlanta	220	174	79	160	136	40	13	20	25
Charleston, WV	105	80	76	85	67	15	8	5	5
Miami	300	220	73	185	129	55	50	60	41
Baltimore	215	156	73	175	140	30	4	10	12
Detroit	265	192	72	200	158	40	25	25	9
Milwaukee	170	122	72	110	82	35	14	25	26
Phoenix	160	113	71	80	64	25	14	55	35
Kansas City	120	84	70	75	59	20	15	25	10
Des Moines	210	139	66	150	106	40	23	20	10
San Francisco	350	208	59	200	149	75	16	75	43
Chicago	460	264	57	300	189	60	30	100	45
Houston	215	116	54	140	72	30	20	45	24
National teams	200	64	32	130	60	20	0	50	4
Columbus	25	8	32	25	8	-	-	-	-
Denver	24	24	100	15	11	2	6	7	7
Louisville	5	1	20	5	1	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	-	59	-	-	44	-	13	-	2
U.S. totals	8,909	7,248	81	5,705	4,655	1,617	1,427	1,587	1,166
AUSTRALIA	50	32	64	35	24	5	5	10	3
BRITAIN									
London	145	154	106	75	95	30	32	40	27
Nottingham	61	51	84	35	34	20	10	6	7
Manchester	70	57	81	50	41	15	12	5	4
South Yorks	90	39	43	50	28	20	6	20	5
South Wales	80	29	36	40	24	30	1	10	4
Other Britain	54	86	159	25	51	20	32	9	3
Britain totals	500	416	83	275	273	135	93	90	50
CANADA									
Vancouver	45	43	96	30	28	5	5	10	10
Montréal	275	227	83	125	97	75	87	75	43
Toronto	400	284	71	250	186	75	62	75	36
National team	-	127	-	-	102	-	11	-	14
Other Canada	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Canada totals	720	685	95	405	417	155	165	160	103
ICELAND	32	19	59	25	15	5	4	2	0
NEW ZEALAND									
Auckland	145	144	99	100	96	35	40	10	8
Christchurch	87	84	97	60	55	25	27	2	2
Wellington	118	108	92	85	80	30	26	3	2
New Zealand totals	350	336	96	245	231	90	93	15	12
PUERTO RICO	30	15	50	5	5	2	0	23	10
SWEDEN	65	64	98	35	38	10	5	20	21
Other International	-	239	-	-	110	-	107	-	22
Totals	10,656	9,054	87%	6,730	5,768	2,019	1,899	1,907	1,387
Drive goals	10,400			6,630		1,895		1,875	
Should be		9,375	90%		5,976		1,708		1,690

*Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*

Action Program scoreboard

Area	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Area	Goal	Sold	% Sold
UNITED STATES							
Greensboro, NC	250	327	131	Austin, Minn.	200	92	46
Los Angeles	1,100	1,097	99	National teams	500	405	81
Birmingham	325	315	97	Columbus	50	8	16
Phoenix	230	220	96	U.S. totals	18,180	13,705	75
Portland, Ore.	275	259	94	AUSTRALIA	50	32	64
Twin Cities	700	657	94	BRITAIN			
Salt Lake City	225	205	91	Manchester	100	90	90
Oakland	575	521	91	London	200	132	66
Newark	1,000	902	90	Nottingham	100	62	62
Price, Utah	150	134	89	South Yorks	200	106	53
Morgantown, WV	400	350	88	South Wales	100	40	40
Charleston, WV	350	288	82	Other Britain	100	53	53
Philadelphia	475	383	81	Britain totals	800	483	60
Cleveland	350	282	81	CANADA			
Seattle	425	337	79	Montréal	250	270	108
Omaha	400	317	79	Vancouver	45	33	73
St. Louis	500	390	78	Toronto	700	470	67
Washington, DC	575	442	77	National team	-	82	-
Kansas City	275	200	73	Canada totals	995	855	86
Des Moines	350	252	72	ICELAND	10	4	40
Milwaukee	325	232	71	NEW ZEALAND			
Chicago	700	480	69	Auckland	250	254	102
Miami	500	341	68	Wellington	210	193	92
Atlanta	450	306	68	Christchurch	150	137	91
Pittsburgh	400	266	67	New Zealand totals	610	584	96
San Francisco	700	458	65	PUERTO RICO			
Detroit	525	330	63		30	10	33
Boston	575	350	61	SWEDEN			
New York	3,500	2,125	61		50	30	60
Baltimore	375	213	57	Other international			
Houston	450	221	49		-	110	-
				Totals	20,725	15,813	77%
				Drive goals	20,540		
				Should be		18,515	90%

'Sankara Speaks' book launched in N.Y.

Continued from front page

scription to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* on a street corner. A farm worker learned about it from the Pathfinder bookstore in Philadelphia. Two New York airlines workers decided to come when a friend at work told them about the book.

In addition to a large Pathfinder table, literature was available at the meeting from the African National Congress, Committee Against Repression in Haiti, Palestine Solidarity Committee, South West Africa People's Organisation, and Ventana, a U.S. group of artists and others in solidarity with Nicaragua.

Pathfinder Director Steve Clark, one of the meeting's cochair, explained, "What brings us all together here is our common commitment to make Sankara available in his own words to the widest possible audience."

He went on to read one of three dozen messages sent to the meeting, by Flt. Lt. Jerry Rawlings, head of state of Ghana. "I wish to congratulate you, on behalf of the people of Ghana and all who work for the progress of Africa, for making the words of our brother Thomas available to the English-speaking public," Rawlings wrote.

The speeches and interviews in the book were translated from French by Samantha Anderson, who also edited the book.

Striking a theme that many of the other speakers would also sound, Clark said, "The political lessons that readers will find in this book are vitally necessary for every working person, every fighter against imperialist oppression and capitalist exploitation, for national liberation, and for socialism."

"It's a book that's needed by the 80,000 farmers that the U.S. government announced yesterday would face the prospect of foreclosure within 45 days," he pointed out. "And for every farmer and peasant around the world."

"It's needed by fighters against racist discrimination, against police brutality in the Black community, in the Chicano community, and against Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, and Asian-Americans," Clark said. "They need this book, as do the embattled meatpackers, paperworkers, and other unionists fighting employer attacks, as well as women who are fighting for equality in every aspect of society."

A message from Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Mervyn Dymally was read by Marina Dini, from the congressman's office.

'Give back the land'

"I remember Thomas Sankara as a very charismatic, unpretentious young man who wanted to give his country dignity and hope," Dymally's message said. "Most importantly, Sankara wanted power for the people. In particular he tried to give them back the land, which had been confiscated under previous regimes."

"As many of you are aware, Sankara implemented policies meant to improve the lives of the country's poor majority of rural peasants. Ambitious health and education projects were launched by Sankara to combat high rates of infant mortality and illiteracy in rural areas. As a reform-minded African leader, he was a man equally committed to women's rights."

"It is essential that we educate others about Sankara's important philosophy," said Dymally in closing. "For myself I feel very fortunate for having had the opportunity to contribute to the promotion of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*."

The importance of the book for the labor movement, particularly in the English-speaking Caribbean, was a theme of the talk by David Abdulah, education officer of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union of Trinidad and Tobago.

Abdulah pointed out that "imperialism seeks to control us, as Sankara himself said in his book, through the restriction of ideas and information. This restriction of course is particularly severe when we consider the language barriers that have been created as a result of the way colonialism and imperialism have operated throughout the Third World."

"We therefore have to congratulate and thank Pathfinder," Abdulah said, "for making it possible for those of us all over the world to know precisely what Thomas Sankara not just said, but fought and died for. And we want to congratulate Pathfinder for that most important contribution to the international struggle of working people, farmers, youth, unemployed, housewives, and women the world over."

Publishing Sankara in French

The importance of making Sankara available in French as well as in English was stressed by several speakers, including Michel Prairie, editor of the Québec-based *Lutte Ouvrière* magazine and *Nouvelle Internationale*, a Marxist journal of politics and theory. Supporters in Canada of both publications played a central role in producing the English-language edition of the book.

"We welcome with great enthusiasm the announcement by Pathfinder of its intention to publish this book in French," said Prairie.

"This means thousands of workers and farmers who speak or read French will get access to Thomas Sankara's own words: workers and farmers in Québec; Haitians in Canada and the United States, as well as in

one step forward with the masses to 10 steps forward without them."

"The role of the peasantry in the revolution," Gakunzi said, was also important for Sankara. "First because numerically it is the biggest class, and second because it is the most oppressed class. The peasantry suffers a triple oppression: imperialist, bourgeois, and feudal."

Women's liberation

"For Sankara, there could be no social revolution without the liberation of women," Gakunzi explained. "As he said, 'Our struggle, our revolution will be incomplete as long as we understand liberation to mean essentially that of men. After the liberation of the proletariat, the liberation of women still remains to be won.'"

"Like Guevara, Sankara was a Marxist," Gakunzi said, "that is, a revolutionary who not only assimilated Marxist theories, the historical lessons of struggles by working people the world over. But above all he was able to awaken among the oppressed self-confidence and the will to fight. All other communists should follow their path."

Ricardo Espinoza, representing the Nicaraguan embassy to the United States, told the crowd, "When we received the in-

conference held in Burkina Faso, which Brath attended."

"What made Thomas Sankara so important for us was that not only was he a Pan-Africanist, but he was also an African internationalist," Brath said.

"I'd like to join with those who thank Pathfinder for the publication of the book *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, as well as for organizing this book party and manifestation of solidarity with the revolution that came from Burkina Faso and will continue to guide many people in Africa."

Rosemary Mealy from the National Alliance of Third World Journalists, also spoke. A reporter for WBAI radio in New York, Mealy visited Burkina Faso and interviewed Sankara during the revolution.

She told the audience that *Thomas Sankara Speaks* "is a testament to one who epitomized the cause of revolutionary Pan-Africanism in the spirit of our own heroes, such as [Marcus] Garvey, [Paul] Robeson, [Amílcar] Cabral, and [Samora] Machel."

"Sankara spoke for all of us because he understood the pulse of the people, the pulse of the oppressed people beyond Africa."

Utrice Leid, managing editor of the *City Sun*, a widely circulated newspaper in New York's Black communities, spoke on the role Pathfinder plays in filling the gap of information about revolutionary leaders.

"This book by Pathfinder helps us all come closer to history," she said. "It puts into words, it makes concrete, the thoughts of a man that normally would not have surfaced."

"I want to again thank Pathfinder for bringing into being the works and the ideas of Thomas Sankara, as it has with many other leaders — Maurice Bishop, W.E.B. Du Bois — so that we can appreciate the universality of our struggle."

The final speaker was the meeting's cochair, Sam Manuel, who is director of the Pathfinder Mural Project. Manuel also visited Burkina Faso in 1987 to cover the anti-apartheid conference for the *Militant* and has reported on conferences in Zimbabwe and Tanzania, and on the South African-backed war against Angola.

Manuel began by describing the portrait of Thomas Sankara on the Pathfinder Mural, the six-story mural depicting revolutionary leaders many of whose writings are published by Pathfinder. The work is being painted on the publisher's building in Manhattan.

"What does Sankara have in common with Marx and Engels, the Russian leaders of the Communist International headed by V.I. Lenin, Maurice Bishop, Rosa Luxemburg, Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, and Nelson Mandela?" Manuel asked.

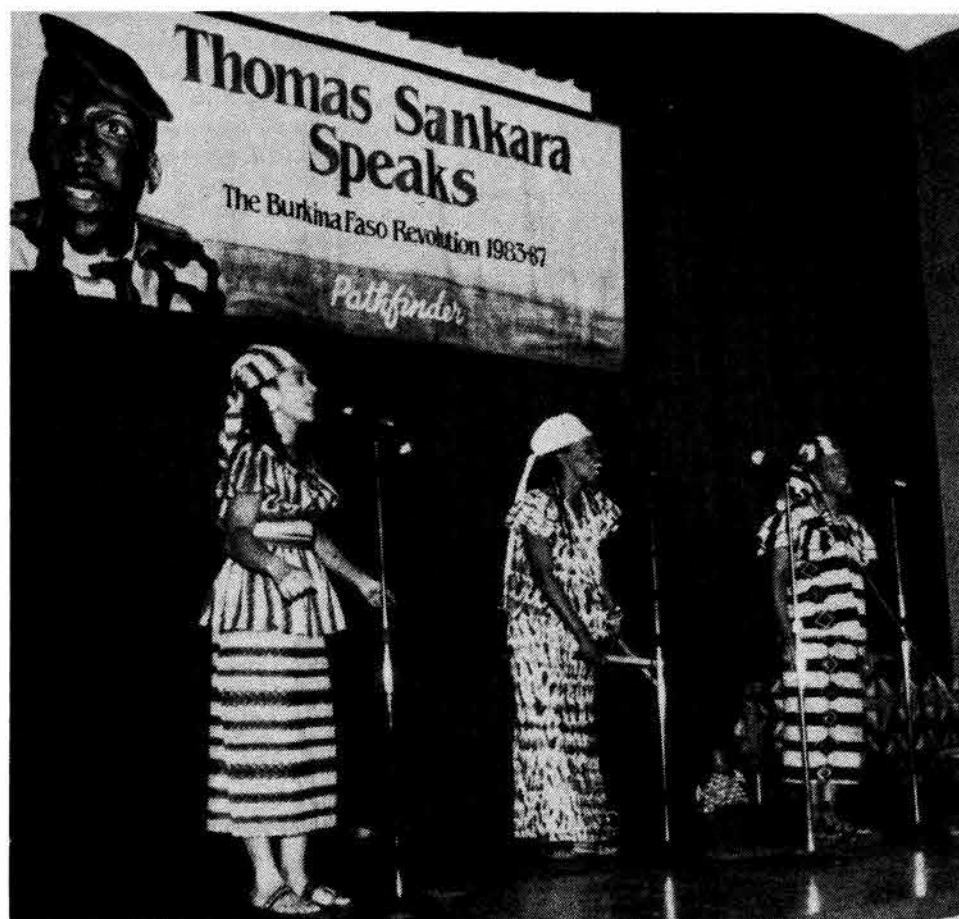
"Like many of the communist and revolutionary leaders featured in the mural with him, Thomas Sankara fought and ultimately gave his life fighting for a political course that placed reliance on the politicization, organization, and mobilization of the working people of town and village at the center of the struggle to bring about change in the interest of the oppressed."

Quoting from an August 1983 news conference by Sankara, contained in the book, Manuel recalled how Sankara had explained, "For some, if you have arms and a few units of the army with you, that is sufficient to take power. But others have different convictions. Power must be conquered above all by a conscious people."

It was in the course of leading the Burkina revolution that "Sankara drew close to the Cuban and Nicaraguan leaderships and visited both countries," said Manuel. "Sankara, along with the leaders of the Cuban Communist Party and the founders and leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front are contributing lessons of enormous importance to fighting workers and farmers around the world."

"The study of speeches, writings, and interviews given by these working-class leaders will be decisive to the political education of millions of young fighters who will emerge from the deepening world economic and social crisis," Manuel stressed. "It is for them, for us, to make us better fighters, that Pathfinder has published *Thomas Sankara Speaks*."

Participants had purchased 58 copies of the book by the end of the evening. A total of \$600 in Pathfinder literature was sold. Titles by leaders of the Cuban revolution were popular.



Women of the Calabash performing at November 13 book launching at Harriet Tubman School in Harlem.

Haiti; workers in France, in West Africa, in New Caledonia and Tahiti.

"Pathfinder supporters in Canada are ready to do everything we can to help this important project get completed," Prairie emphasized.

David Gakunzi, editor of the magazine *Coumbite*, published in Paris, also spoke on the importance of publishing Sankara in French. Gakunzi, originally from Burundi, is a leader of the International Thomas Sankara Association.

"It is important that this weapon also be available in French," said Gakunzi. "From Dakar to Bujumbura, passing through Brazzaville, young people who want to be rid of imperialism want to know what Sankara said, so that they can follow his path. In order for tomorrow's revolts to be victorious, and not sidetracked, books like *Thomas Sankara Speaks* are a vital necessity in Africa as well as in New Caledonia, in Martinique, or even in France."

Gakunzi explained what Sankara and the Burkina Faso revolution had meant for African youth like himself. "As young Africans, we supported Sankara because he broke the silence of our humiliations, but also because he restored our confidence in ourselves. He awoke in us our calling as free men and women."

"What was important for Sankara was to politicize the people, that is, to make them understand that the revolution is not a matter of redemption, or of a messiah, that there is no supreme savior besides the people themselves. He said, 'We should prefer

vation of Pathfinder to be here, we considered it our duty to be present. Because through Thomas Sankara, Nicaragua had established very special links with Burkina Faso."

"The work that Pathfinder is doing by publishing books on Che, on Sankara, on all the revolutionary leaders of the world is a very important one," Espinoza said. "I encourage you to read very carefully what Sankara had to say, because the message that this revolutionary leader gave to the world is a message that you can bring to every one of your friends."

Helmut Angula, chief representative of the South West Africa People's Organisation mission to the United Nations, said, "To all the workers here of the Pathfinder international publishing house, we want you to keep up the struggle on behalf of the workers of the world."

"This work helps our cadres when we are preparing for the defense of the African revolution. Without your publications, many of us would not have gained the knowledge that Che Guevara left on this earth, the knowledge that the Cuban revolution has given the African freedom fighters."

Present on the platform and also in the audience were a number of U.S. activists who had organized material aid and political solidarity with the Burkina revolution. In his speech, Elombe Brath, leader of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, described the impact of Sankara's 1984 visit to the United States and the 1987 anti-apartheid

Text of motion for new trial for activist Mark Curtis

'A powerful indictment of his conviction'

BY MARGARET JAYKO

On November 9 Mark Curtis' attorney filed a motion for a new trial in the Iowa District Court for Polk County. Curtis, a packinghouse worker, unionist, and political activist in Des Moines, Iowa, was convicted on September 14 on trumped-up charges of first-degree burglary and third-degree sexual abuse (rape). The motion was filed before Judge Harry Perkins, who presided over the September trial.

The *Militant* is printing the text of the motion, along with the five exhibits appended to it. Mark Curtis Defense Committee coordinator Stu Singer told a November 10 news conference in Des Moines that the motion is "a powerful political weapon to deepen the battle for working-class public opinion that can help free Mark Curtis."

In a telephone interview later, Singer said Mark Pennington, Curtis' lawyer, filed an additional motion on November 15 requesting that Judge Perkins defer ruling on the request for a new trial until a transcript of the September trial is available. This motion also asked that Curtis be given 10 days after receipt of the transcript to amend the motion for a new trial, based on a review of the actual trial record.

Curtis is scheduled to be sentenced at an 8:30 a.m. hearing on November 18 at the Polk County Courthouse in downtown Des Moines. The first-degree burglary charge carries a mandatory sentence of 25 years; the sexual abuse charge, a mandatory sentence of 10 years. It's up to Judge Perkins' discretion whether they run concurrently or consecutively and therefore whether Curtis is sentenced to 25 or 35 years.

Basis for new trial

The motion for a new trial summarizes major violations of Curtis' rights by Judge Perkins that took place in relation to the trial. These fall into two broad categories:

- Preventing Curtis from introducing into evidence material that was relevant to the defense case.
- Irregularities relating to the composition and functioning of the jury.

In order to understand the motion and the exhibits, a few facts are necessary.

At the trial, two completely different versions of the events of March 4, 1988 — the night Curtis was arrested and beaten by cops — were presented. One was explained by Curtis, testifying on his own behalf, with some of his testimony backed up by other witnesses. The other version was presented by two key prosecution witnesses: the alleged victim, Demetria Morris; and the arresting officer, Joseph Gonzalez.

According to Curtis, he went to a meeting at the United Mexican American Cultural Center at 5:00 p.m. on March 4 to protest an immigration raid three days earlier at the Swift plant where he worked. Seventeen Latino workers had been arrested for not having proper papers.

After the meeting, at 7:00 p.m. Curtis went to a nearby bar and restaurant called Los Compadres and talked to friends from the Swift plant about the meeting.

Swift worker Brian Willey testified at the trial that Curtis was with him at the bar from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. His testimony was not challenged by the prosecution. Curtis arrived home at about 8:45 p.m. and called two different neighbors to ask them to let in two friends he was expecting while he ran out to do some food shopping for a dinner he had to cook the next night. Both neighbors testified about the phone calls.

On his way to the grocery store, while he was stopped at a traffic light, a young woman came up to Curtis' car and asked him for a ride home, saying a man was chasing her. Curtis gave her a lift to what turned out to be the Morris house. She asked him to wait on the enclosed porch

while she went inside.

A minute or two later, two cops arrived, Joseph Gonzalez and Richard Glade. They burst onto the porch, and Gonzalez grabbed Curtis, dragged him into a back bedroom, handcuffed him, and pulled his pants down.

Curtis was then taken to the Des Moines City Jail where he was beaten by several cops, including Charles Wolf and Daniel Dusenbery. As they beat him, they called him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds."

The prosecution's story was that at some time between 7:35 and 8:10 p.m. on March 4, Curtis arrived at the Morris house, and proceeded to beat and rape Demetria Morris. Officer Gonzalez said when he arrived at the house, in response to a 911 emergency call, the young woman ran out the door, saying a man had raped her, and Curtis was on the porch with his pants down.

Improper instructions

Point No. 2 of the motion refers to the judge's improper instructions to the jury before it was dismissed to begin its deliberations. He neglected to explain the importance of Curtis' unchallenged alibi for the time the alleged victim testified she was attacked.

The affidavit of juror Blanche Stockbauer, Exhibit D, is an important new fact that has come to light since the trial.

The jury had deliberated for two full days without reaching a verdict. On the morning of September 14 Pennington moved that a mistrial be declared. He argued that the jury had not been able to make up its mind, which suggested it was deadlocked, unable to reach the unanimous agreement that is necessary for a verdict. A verdict reached under those circumstances, warned Pennington, would be a product of undue pressure on the jurors. Judge Perkins overruled Pennington's motion. The affidavit shows that the guilty verdict was indeed a result of pressure on jurors who thought Curtis was not guilty as charged.

The motion for a new trial has been mailed out to supporters of the defense committee with a cover letter by committee coordinator Singer. The irregularities it documents "are a powerful indictment against Curtis' conviction. They explode the charge that he received a fair trial by his peers," wrote Singer, "and will help to demonstrate to people around the world the frame-up character of the prosecution of Curtis."

This motion, urged Singer, "should be reproduced and widely circulated."

New trial motion

1. The Court erred in its ruling on the following questions of law:

- In overruling Defendant's Motion to Produce wherein the State of Iowa was requested to produce the personnel file of Des Moines Police Officer Joseph Gonzalez;
- In sustaining the State of Iowa's objection to Des Moines Police Officer Joseph Gonzalez' testimony that he had been suspended for lying about police activities by former Des Moines Chief of Police Wendell Nichols (see Exhibit A);
- In granting the State of Iowa's Motion in Limine [a motion made just prior to opening of trial] prohibiting Defendant from introducing any evidence concerning the alleged victim's father, Keith Morris, and his attack on the Mark Curtis Defense Committee Headquarters at the Pathfinder Bookstore and the fact that the Polk County Attorney declined prosecution of Mr. Morris for that incident;
- In granting the State of Iowa's Mo-

tion in Limine prohibiting the Defendant from the introduction into evidence that Defendant Curtis suffered serious injuries in a beating administered by Des Moines Police Officers Wolf and Dusenbery at the Des Moines City Jail after Defendant's arrest;

- In sustaining the State of Iowa's objection to testimony by the Defendant that Des Moines Police Officers Wolf and Dusenbery called Defendant Curtis a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds" at the time of the beating, indicating knowledge by the Des Moines Police Department of his activist work and indicting institutional bias against the Defendant;
- In sustaining the State of Iowa's objection to testimony by Defendant Curtis concerning his sister's sexual abuse, as such evidence was relevant to Defendant Curtis' motivation in stopping to help a woman in distress;
- In sustaining the State of Iowa's Motion in Limine to exclude testimony by Defendant Curtis and others concerning the FBI surveillance of Defendant Curtis and CISPES, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the Socialist Workers Party, and Young Socialist Alliance (see Exhibits B and C); and
- In denying the request by the jury to have portions of the testimony of Police Officers Gonzalez and Glade read to them to aid in their deliberations.

2. The Court erred in refusing to properly instruct the jury on the issue of alibi, as the un rebutted testimony of the alleged victim indicated that the assailant arrived at her home as early as 7:35 p.m., but no later than 8:10 p.m. This testimony was based on her insistent recollection that the attack occurred shortly after the beginning of a television program called "Video Soul." Unrebutted defense testimony demonstrated that the Defendant was at the Los Compadres restaurant from before 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

3. The Court erred in dismissing from the jury, James Garcia. Although Mr. Garcia initially indicated after the trial and before jury deliberations that he thought he could not be fair, upon inquiry by counsel for the Defendant, Mr. Garcia stated that his only reason for his statement was that he knew of two locations referred to in the trial.

Such knowledge in no way disqualified Mr. Garcia from service upon the jury, nor could it constitute bias or prejudice to either the State of Iowa or the Defendant. The removal of James Garcia was without cause, and the removal of the only juror with a Mexican-American background denied Defendant of a fair cross-section of the community and denied his right to a fair and impartial trial. There is a pending defense Motion for Mistrial, which has not yet been ruled upon, and Defendant, hereby, requests a ruling on same.

4. Jury misconduct occurred when a juror indicated that he had made up his mind on Defendant Curtis' guilt before the defense began their testimony, contrary to the opening admonition to the jury by the Court. (see attached Affidavit of Juror Blanche Stockbauer, marked Exhibit D and made a part hereof.)

5. The Court erred in failing to conduct an inquiry into possible juror misconduct. (see attached Affidavit of Patricia Haberman, marked Exhibit E and made a part hereof)

6. Defendant Curtis states that Juror Blanche Stockbauer believes Defendant Curtis to be not guilty of the crime charged, and, therefore, the verdict was not arrived at through a fair expression of opinion on the part of all jurors. (see attached Affidavit of Juror Blanche Stock-



bauer, marked Exhibit D and made a part hereof.)

7. In the foregoing actions and errors, the Court has violated the Defendant's right to due process of law as provided by the 5th, 6th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Iowa.

8. Defendant requests a new trial on the grounds that the verdict is contrary to the evidence presented at trial.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Pennington
Kutmus and Pennington, P.C.
Attorney for Defendant

Exhibit A

An article headlined "Nichols: Pair punished enough" that appeared in the Des Moines Register of May 24, 1978.

By Rox Laird

Des Moines Police Chief Wendell Nichols said Wednesday he feels he took appropriate action against two police officers who were accused of using unnecessary force in arresting two men in March.

As a result of the incident, in which one of the men arrested suffered a head injury, Nichols disciplined four officers, including placing one on probation for a year, delaying one's merit pay increase, and suspending all four for periods ranging from two to 14 days.

Although the incident occurred nearly two months ago, it just came to light Monday night during a meeting of the City Council, which was asked to pay an \$851.50 out-of-court damage settlement for one of the men injured.

Some council members were critical of the police department when the incident was discussed, but Nichols said he believes he took appropriate action against the officers. "I'm not making any apologies for what I did, I think it was ample," Nichols said.

The council approved the out-of-court settlement for John Walte, who alleged he received unnecessarily rough treatment by two officers after he and a companion were arrested at Grandview Park Mar. 31.

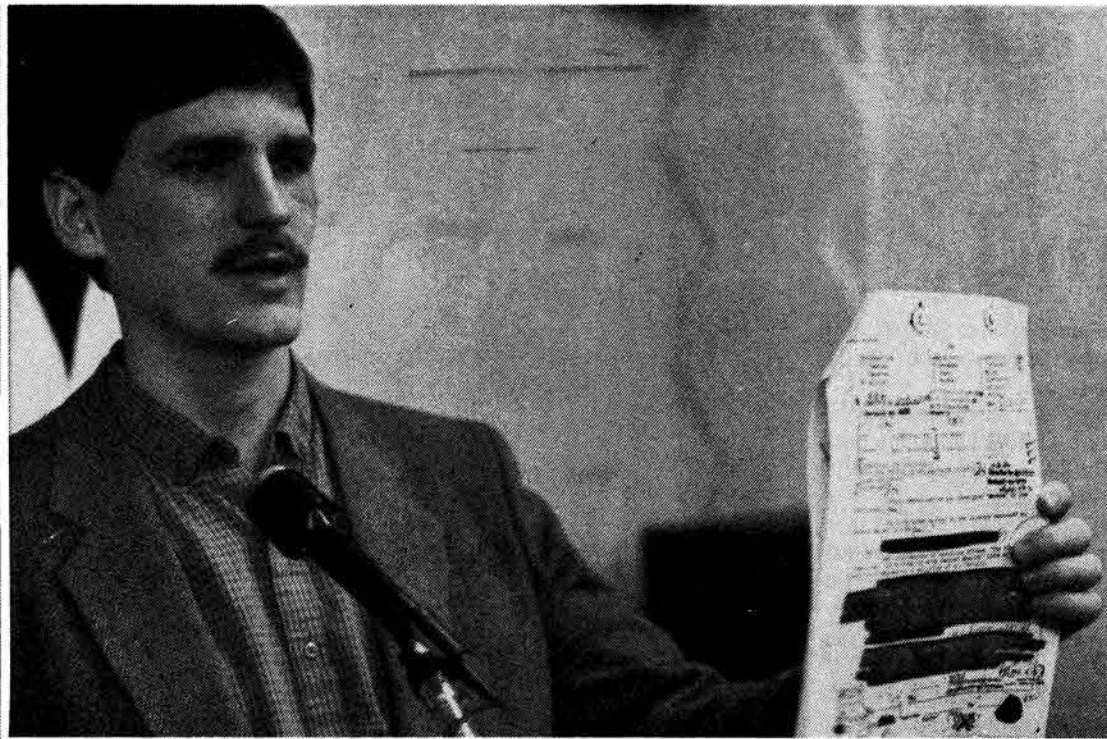
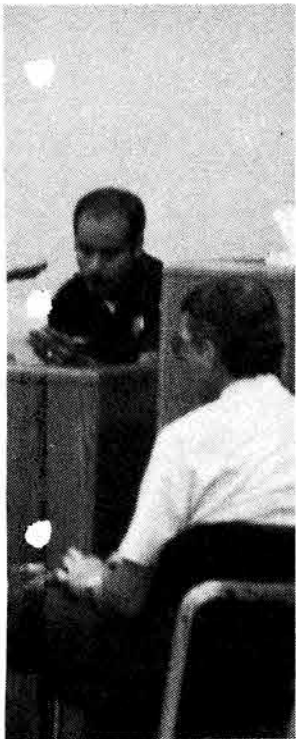
According to a letter to the council written by Assistant City Attorney James Sullivan, Walte and James Dowell, both 28, were taken to City Jail after a fracas involving the two men and officers David Foreman and Joe Gonzales.

According to police records, the officers were responding to a report of a crowd disturbance at the park. Dowell was arrested for an outstanding traffic warrant, which turned out to be an outdated warrant that had not been removed from the crime computer.

According to Sullivan's letter, Office Foreman "without provocation... placed his foot on Walte's chest and pushed him" into a police cruiser.

Later, while the two were being booked at police headquarters, "Gonzales attempted to provoke (Walte) into a fight" and the process Walte suffered a head injury the letter said.

Also, Sullivan's letter said, Foreman "grabbed" Dowell by the hair, "threw him around" and grabbed a phone from Dowell as he was making a telephone call.



Militant photos by Yvonne Hayes, Stu Singer, Jon Hillson
Left, defense attorney Mark Pennington cross-examines police officer Joseph Gonzalez at Curtis trial. Center, Mark Curtis displays FBI spy files on his antiwar activity. Right, defense committee coordinator Stu Singer addresses November 10 news conference announcing filing of motion for new trial.

Councilman Tim Urban at Monday night's meeting said he was "infuriated" by the incident and said, "This council should make it clear to our employees that we don't treat people this way."

Foreman, 25, a member of the force since January 1976, was suspended for six days for unnecessary use of force and seven days for "lying" to superiors about details of the incident.

Gonzales, 25, a member of the force since January 1975, was suspended for four days for using unnecessary force and 10 days for "lying" about details of the incident, Nichols said.

"I also put Gonzales on probation for one year," Nichols said, "and if he screws up one more time, I'll fire him. I told him that."

Besides the suspension, Nichols said he delayed Foreman's merit pay raise for 90 days.

Nichols said he also gave two-day suspensions to Sgt. Bruce Klingaman and Jailer Charles Soderquist "for not taking control of this thing."

Nichols said Klingaman said he didn't observe any of the incidents reported.

But Nichols said, "Bruce should have gone up to the cell with them, and he didn't."

Nichols said part of the altercation was caused by Walte, who the chief said struck Gonzales in the mouth while he was attempting to arrest Dowell in the park.

Nichols said the suspensions were based on the incidents taking place in the jail, however, and not at the park.

"They were reacting to something that occurred out on the street; it was an aggravated situation," Nichols said. But, the chief said, "There is no question about it, they lost control."

He said the two officers should have reported the incident in detail in their reports, but instead "covered their tracks."

Walte and Dowell filed a complaint with the department's internal affairs office which investigated the incident. In the course of that investigation Gonzales and Forman revealed the exact circumstances of the incident to police officials.

Walte sued the city for medical expenses resulting from his head injury and for legal expenses. Sullivan said in the letter that the charge of resisting arrest against Walte would be dismissed.

Nichols said Wednesday that he has to take a number of factors into consideration when he disciplines officers for stepping out of line.

"In every single case of discipline, there will be those who will think I was too severe, there will be those who will think I wasn't severe enough, and there will be those who think I was just right," Nichols said.

He said he must consider what he can prove the officers did, whether his decision will be overturned later, and whether he is being fair.

Nichols said such incidents happen "too often."

"When you've got 300 men out there looking for trouble, and they find it... and they're young men, who lack experience and lack the temperament, and yet they're out there on the firing line. It will happen," he said.

In a related development, Walte was ar-

rested Sunday on charges of driving with his driver's license under suspension. Trial date for that charge was set for June 9.

Exhibit B

An editorial in the Des Moines Register of April 2, 1988, titled a "Sad chapter in FBI story."

Last September, a federal judge's ruling restricted the government's access to information obtained through illegal spying on two small socialist groups. Now the case is at last closed; the government has abandoned its appeal.

For nearly 20 years, the Federal Bureau of Investigation spied on and harassed members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance. FBI agents burglarized their offices and used illegal wiretaps and other methods to infiltrate their membership.

In the end, nothing much was found. Certainly the fate of the nation was not at risk from the activities of this small band of followers of the late Leon Trotsky. But U.S. District Judge Thomas P. Griesa concluded that the nation was harmed by a national police force that would use unconstitutional means to infiltrate and harass organizations on the basis of their political beliefs.

Griesa fined the FBI \$264,000, and subsequently put strict limits on how the government could have access to the 10 million files on the two groups.

A case could be made that the fruits of the FBI's unconstitutional spying should be destroyed, but the government held out the possibility that some information on individuals ought to be preserved for security reasons. The judge also said the records might have historical value.

The government had entertained the notion of appealing the judge's access ruling, but now has decided against it. And that ends another sad chapter in the FBI's story.

Exhibit C

An editorial in the Des Moines Register of Sept., 4, 1987, titled "No benefits from spying."

One of the most important of recent civil-liberties court victories came last year when U.S. District Judge Thomas P. Griesa awarded members of the Socialist Workers Party \$264,000 in damages for nearly 20 years of spying, harassment, burglaries and other illegal actions by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and informants.

The award was nominal; the significance of the ruling was Griesa's finding that the government had no legal grounds to conduct such espionage against "entirely lawful and peaceful political activities."

The Socialist Workers Party espoused the ideals of communism's evangelist Leon Trotsky, yet the small group posed no threat to the republic. It was the FBI's tactics that posed the threat. The government of a democracy must not employ a national police force to spy on law-abiding political groups. Griesa made it clear that such spying is unconstitutional.

The next question was what to do with the reams of documents the government had amassed from its illegal activities. A year after his first ruling, Griesa has issued another, severely restricting the government's access to and use of the information it had gathered.

Griesa concluded logically that since the FBI had no right to engage in the surveillance against the party, "it obviously had no right to obtain the information and documents procured" through wiretapping, spying and infiltration.

Rather than order the documents destroyed, the judge ruled that the government could have access to them only by court order upon the showing of a clear and legitimate need. The documents would also be accessible to scholars, historians and others.

There may well be a case for preserving the records for historical purposes and future legal actions. But the government should never be allowed to benefit from the fruits of its illegal labors.

Exhibit D

Affidavit of Blanche Stockbauer, Nov. 1, 1988.

I, Blanche Stockbauer, state that I was a juror in the *State of Iowa v. Mark Stanton Curtis*. The initial vote of the jury was 8-4 for conviction, and I was one of four jurors who believed the State of Iowa had not proven their case against Mark Curtis beyond a reasonable doubt.

Although I eventually voted guilty, it is my belief that Mark Curtis is not guilty of the crime charged. I did not know that, if I continued my vote of not guilty, a mistrial would occur, which would result in a new trial for Mr. Curtis.

One juror expressed, during deliberations, that he had made his mind up about Mr. Curtis' guilt before the defense presented any evidence in this case.

The above information is true and correct.

Exhibit E

Deposition of Patricia Habermann taken by attorney Mark Pennington on Sept. 14, 1988.

Q. Would you state your name, please?

A. Patricia Habermann.

Q. And how do you spell that?

A. H-a-b-e-r-m-a-n-n.

Q. Where do you live?

A. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Q. Were you present at the trial of the *State of Iowa versus Mark Curtis*?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Do you know who the jurors on the *State of Iowa versus Mark Curtis* were?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. During the trial, I brought you back to make a record before the Honorable Judge Harry Perkins concerning some observation you made concerning a juror. Do you recall that?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. I'm going to ask you questions about that incident that you had previously tes-

tified to before the Court.

During the trial, did you know where Demetria Morris and her family and friends would occupy themselves during breaks outside the courtroom?

A. Yes. They'd go over to the rotunda, the round thing at the bottom of the stairs, and stand there.

Q. And was that a position that they had occupied on more than one occasion throughout the trial?

A. Most — on most days, that's where they stood.

Q. Did you see any of the jurors in close proximity to either Demetria Morris or her family?

A. Yes.

Q. And on what date did you make this observation?

A. Friday, September 9th.

Q. And was this after the jury had been excused?

A. Yes.

Q. And that was after they had — the trial was concluded and the jurors had been excused to go home for the evening?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell us what you saw?

A. I saw one of the jurors, the woman that was wearing red, standing in a group directly right next to the Morris family.

Q. I believe in the previous testimony in chambers before Judge Perkins we indicated that this had been the lady who had been sitting Friday on the far left side, front row, as you face the jury?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did you observe this juror in proximity to Demetria Morris and her family?

A. Less than a minute.

Q. During this time period, did you notice why she was there, or any purpose for her being there?

A. No, I didn't. I — when I looked up when I originally saw her, she had her back to me, and then she turned around and looked down to the first floor, and then turned around and walked away.

Q. I take it, from your statement, that you were on the first floor looking up through the rotunda?

A. Right.

Q. So it's your testimony that she remained in close proximity for some time period less than one minute?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know whether or not — was the proximity close enough for conversation?

A. She was directly next to it, yes. She could have been — was close enough to be talking.

Q. Could you determine whether or not there was any conversation or not from where you were located?

A. No, I couldn't tell.

Q. Based on what you observed, was the gathering of Demetria Morris and her family such that a juror need walk through there in order to exit that area of the courthouse?

A. No. It was on the opposite side of the down stairwell.

Q. Do you have anything further you wish to state regarding this matter?

A. No.

Mr. Pennington: Okay. I have nothing further.

Deepening economic problems spur clashes in Poland

BY FRED FELDMAN

The World Bank voted November 10 to provide an \$18 million loan for an agricultural project in Poland — the first loan ever granted to Poland by that institution. The possibility of another \$250 million in loans from the lending agency is under discussion.

Officially named the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank is linked to the United Nations and dominated by the governments and big bankers of the most advanced capitalist countries.

To justify the loan, officials cited the Polish government's increased encouragement of foreign investment and its advocacy of greater reliance on market forces to guide the economy.

"We're at a threshold in Poland," said John Hardt of the Congressional Research Service. He said that Polish officials had reached an understanding on economic measures with officials of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and governments of the major capitalist powers.

The deepening economic problems in Poland include inflation running at an annual rate of more than 50 percent, stagnant labor productivity, declining living standards for many working people, and a foreign debt of \$41 billion.

The production of many consumer goods has been hard hit this year, with production of refrigerators dropping by 5 percent, cotton fabric by 7 percent, and underwear by 10 percent.

Like the regimes in the Soviet Union and most other East European countries, where capitalism has been overthrown, the bureaucratic caste that governs Poland has responded by proposing to move away from administratively centralized economic planning.

Instead, the government is calling for greater reliance on market forces and profitability to stimulate growth.

Targeted for shutdowns

The Polish government's economic measures include the possible shutdown of plants that persistently fail to show a profit in their accounts, and layoffs of many workers. The bureaucratic officials hope

that the threat of unemployment will help impel recalcitrant workers to labor harder and more efficiently.

Minister of Industry Mieczyslaw Wilczek stated in late October that his staff would draw up a list of 150 plants that might be shutdown targets.

On October 31 officials announced their intention of shutting down the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk. With international competition in the shipbuilding industry intensifying, the shipyard lost \$6.5 million last year.

The shutdown announcement posed the prospect of unemployment for 9,000 shipyard workers. The facility has a total of 11,000 employees, down from 17,000 a decade ago.

The anger that this provoked among workers was heightened by the role that workers at the Lenin shipyard have played in past struggles. The August 1980 strike wave that resulted in the formation and official recognition of the Solidarity trade union began there.

Solidarity, the only independent trade union organization in Eastern Europe, was outlawed after the Polish government headed by Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski declared martial law in December 1981. But the organization continued to exist and retains substantial support among workers and others.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa charged the shutdown plan was "an act of revenge against Solidarity." He termed the move a "dangerous political act" with "no economic justification." The union leader threatened to call a nationwide strike alert, and said that suspension of the shutdown was a precondition for talks with the government.

The government has been using various pretexts to delay the opening of talks with Solidarity and other groups, initially scheduled for mid-October.

A few hundred workers at other Gdansk shipyards staged job actions November 8, but ended them the next day at Walesa's urging.

In the wake of the protests, the government let it be known that it plans to "restructure" the Lenin yard over a two-year period, rather than shut it down outright. In



Workers at Lenin shipyard in Gdansk listen as Solidarity leader Lech Walesa speaks during recent strike.

the latest version of its plan, about 3,000 workers would lose their jobs.

Thatcher visit

On November 2, soon after the initial report that the shipyard would be closed, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrived in Poland at the invitation of the government.

Polish officials sought her support for getting more loans and trade deals from the major capitalist powers. Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski declared his eagerness to "emulate her resoluteness or firmness in dealing with unprofitable companies."

This was an apparent reference to the British government's shutdowns of coal mines and other workplaces that have thrown thousands out of work in Britain.

The leadership of Solidarity also sought Thatcher's support during her official visit.

On November 4 she joined Walesa in placing flowers on a monument in Gdansk to shipyard workers killed during a 1970 protest, as several thousand shipyard and other workers cheered. Banners declared, "Mrs. Thatcher, don't let them shut the yard."

Thatcher urged Polish working people to accept "the hardships and dislocations that inevitably follow with far-reaching changes," and urged the regime to establish a "real dialogue" with Solidarity and other groups.

The Polish government's move late in August to open talks with Solidarity leaders marked a shift from the nearly seven-year effort to suppress or ignore Solidarity.

Last May 10 a 10-day series of relatively isolated job actions ended when several hundred Gdansk shipyard workers marched out of the yard. The actions, which attained substantial scope only at the Gdansk shipyard and the Nowa Huta steel mill in southern Poland, was unable to force the government to make any concessions to the central demand that Solidarity again be recognized as a legal union.

Wave of job actions

In mid-August, however, more strikes began and the demand to legalize Solidarity again came to the fore.

As the strikes spread, affecting coal mines, a steel mill, rail yards, the port of Szczecin, the Gdansk shipyards, and other workplaces, the government attempted to crack down. On August 22, the regime announced emergency repressive measures for the three regions most affected.

Police action ended strikes in some workplaces, but job actions spread to others. On August 31, Interior Minister Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak met with Walesa. On September 4, at Walesa's urging, the last of the strikes ended.

After a September 16 negotiating session between government and Solidarity delegations, the two sides jointly announced that "round table" talks would be held in mid-October involving government officials, Solidarity, and other groups.

A government news service stated that the talks would center on "the model and functioning of the state and public life, the acceleration and modernization of the na-

tional economy, and the shape of the Polish trade union movement."

There have been no further moves as yet toward ending the ban on the labor organization.

On September 19 Prime Minister Zbigniew Messner resigned, along with all members of the cabinet. Mieczyslaw Rakowski was chosen to replace him.

The Solidarity labor union emerged in 1980 as the voice of millions of workers who had mobilized to oppose government measures that struck at the living standards of workers and farmers. The economic difficulties have since become more severe under the pressure of the economic crisis developing in the capitalist countries.

Neither the Soviet Union nor any other country in Eastern Europe has experienced such organized and sustained resistance by workers.

"We are not against reform," Jacek Merkel, a Solidarity leader in Gdansk, declared in response to the threats to close the yard. "But it should be done in an acceptable way and not by not taking into account the views of thousands of workers."

Solidarity, however, has never challenged the government's basic course of counting on capitalist market methods. It has not sought to develop the political consciousness of working people and solidarity with anti-imperialist fighters in other countries as the way to begin overcoming problems that are now worsening under the pressure of the crisis in the capitalist countries.

Instead, Solidarity has advocated establishing a large degree of workers' management of factories within the framework of the government's economic measures.

Solidarity's seeking of support from an imperialist head of state like Margaret Thatcher — or from right-wing union bureaucrats like the AFL-CIO officialdom in the United States — does not help working-class fighters in Poland to view themselves as part of an international class fighting to end exploitation and oppression everywhere. They do not see the struggles of working people in Northern Ireland, South Africa, or Central America as their struggles.

The absence of a communist, working-class leadership and perspective has placed the Polish working class at a big disadvantage as they grope for a way to defend their gains and open the road to new advances.

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Introduction to Sankara speeches

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Included in the November issue of PM is the introduction to the book recently published by Pathfinder Thomas Sankara *Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*.

This book is a collection of speeches, and interviews of Thomas Sankara, the Marxist leader of the Burkinabe revolution, who was murdered in October 1987 during a counter-revolutionary coup.

The introduction describes Sankara's political history, as well as the conditions faced by the revolution he led in this West African country.

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Why Herbert Blaize quarantined books in Grenada

On the fifth anniversary of the illegal U.S. invasion of Grenada last month, Ronald Reagan sent a message to his minions there hailing the past five years as "great ones" that saw "dramatic progress" in restoring democracy. Reagan's message was read by U.S. Secretary of the Navy William Ball at an October 25 ceremony in Grenada. Ball cautioned Grenadians not to forget those U.S. troops who lost their lives in "the cause of freedom."

Meanwhile, amid all these paeans to democracy, dozens of Pathfinder Press books — including Maurice Bishop's speeches, Nelson Mandela's writings, Malcolm



CARIB NOTES

Don Rojas

X's thoughts, as well as titles by Marx, Engels, and Lenin — were quarantined in police headquarters, far from the eyes and hands of the Grenadian public.

In a recent national radio and television broadcast, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize said the books seized from Pathfinder staffer Norton Sandler, who visited Grenada in late October, were "subversive to the peace and security of the nation."

What an obscenity from a man who could not even identify the law allegedly making such literature illegal, and who hypocritically claims to be a champion of democratic rights. What paranoia from a puppet regime not content to ban political activists such as myself, but must now ban political literature as well.

Why are Reagan's clients in Grenada so afraid of ideas? Why are they attacking the fundamental right of the Grenadian people to learn and to read what they choose? Why is there such insecurity?

Could it be that the dictatorship of bourgeois ideas and imperialist ideology is growing more vulnerable there? Is it that they realize that ideas contain the potential to translate thought into a material force for change and progress? And that the ideas in the banned books can influence the political consciousness of Grenada's workers, farmers, youth, and women?

The answer is yes. Five years after the overthrow of the Grenada revolution, the tide is turning. Progressive forces led by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) are gathering strength and fighting back. The masses are beginning to overcome the trauma of October 1983. And the devastating results of the setback of five years ago are now becoming the stimulus of the present struggle for real sovereignty and national independence.

Such is the desperation of the unpopular rightist regime, such is their fear of a revival of struggles under Bishop's banner, that Blaize has now joined company with Chile's tyrant Pinochet and racist South Africa as a regime that officially bans books.

No other Caribbean country today has such a policy. This makes Grenada a pariah in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Indeed, this book banning has outraged Caribbean public opinion and has been protested in the last couple of weeks by popular forces in Trinidad, St. Vincent, Barbados, and Antigua.

Grenada's government violates the right to travel and to work, as well. Take as examples the cases of MBPM leaders Dr. Terry Marryshow and Einstein Louison.

Almost three years after his return to Grenada to serve the people as a medical doctor, Marryshow is still denied

employment by the government, on blatantly political grounds. Moreover, he is even refused a license to practice medicine privately.

Louison has had his passport confiscated since the beginning of 1985, preventing him from traveling outside of Grenada.

Reagan's message also spoke about "major economic progress" in Grenada since 1983. Could he have been referring to the growth in unemployment from 12 percent to 45 percent today? Or to the growth in the country's foreign debt by more than 100 percent over the past five years?

The deepening economic crisis in Grenada tells the true story. The failure of the Blaize government to create the economic showpiece that Washington promised would be a model for other eastern Caribbean countries helps explain Blaize's desperate attacks on democratic rights.

Rights are under siege in Grenada today, but tomorrow it could very well be Trinidad or Jamaica or Guyana. There is an inherent potential in every neocolonial Caribbean state toward repression of basic human and democratic rights. And that potential will become more apparent as the economic crisis of world capitalism deepens in years to come, worsening living conditions throughout the Caribbean. The extent of the repression will be determined by the degree of organized militant resistance to the onslaught of the rich and powerful.

Books and ideas can inspire and guide such a resistance. That's why the Herbert Blaizes of the world find them so dangerous and subversive.

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.

Grenada leader tours cities in U.S. and Canada

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — "We in the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement call the reality we are living in today a move into backwardness," said Terry Marryshow. A leader of the MBPM, Marryshow was describing current conditions in Grenada to more than 100 people at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn on October 29. His talk there was part of a speaking tour that recently took him to several cities in the United States and Canada.

Marryshow told the Brooklyn meeting that the MBPM was born "to oppose U.S. intervention and to struggle to regain our independence, which we lost on Oct. 25, 1983." On that date, thousands of U.S. troops invaded Grenada — a Caribbean island country of 110,000 people — and installed a government subservient to Washington. The opening for the invasion had been provided a week earlier by a counter-revolutionary coup that overthrew the revolutionary government that had been in power since 1979. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and other leaders of the revolution were murdered during the coup.

Most of those at Marryshow's speech were young people from the Caribbean.

The meeting was filled with a spirit of internationalism.

"I want to pay special tribute to the one revolution in the Caribbean that continues to be a symbol of hope — Cuba," the Grenadian leader said.

Marryshow called on everyone present to "contribute to alleviating the suffering of the people of Nicaragua from Hurricane Joan." He also urged solidarity with the people of Panama, "who are organized to oppose the efforts of the United States to overthrow their government."

The event was sponsored by the Coalition for Caribbean and Central American Unity and the Center for Women's Development at Medgar Evers College and endorsed by many other organizations. Representatives from the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia and the Socialist Bloc of the Dominican Republic were introduced and warmly applauded.

Several days earlier, Marryshow spoke to 200 people at Roxbury Community College in Boston. Dessima Williams, former ambassador to the Organization of American States from revolutionary Grenada, and a representative from the Committee in Solidarity with Haiti also addressed the

meeting. Eric Gill, student government president at RCC, gave greetings at the event, which was sponsored by a number of Caribbean groups.

The next day, Marryshow spoke to a meeting of 40 people at Wayne State University in Detroit.

During his tour, Marryshow also ad-

ressed meetings in Atlanta; Miami; Toronto and Montréal in Canada; and at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Gary Cohen from Boston and Kibwe Diarra from Detroit also contributed to this article.

Nicaragua student tells how youth join in reconstruction

BY LUIS MADRID

NEW YORK — "In our country, 74 percent of the population is under the age of 28, and if we are to consider a process of reconstruction and of transformation, the integration of our youth in it is a must," Erica Tomas told a group of students at Hunter College here October 27.

Tomas is one of four Nicaraguan students who toured the United States, "to establish a more direct contact with the students and youth" in this country. She is a leader of the Nicaraguan high school students' federation.

"We inherited a country with 50 years of Somoza dictatorship," she said. "Half of the population did not know how to read or write and the youth did not have access to either primary or secondary education, let alone to a university level."

"During six months in 1980," Tomas continued, "100,000 youth were mobilized through the literacy campaign in the rural areas. The illiteracy rate was lowered from 55 to 12 percent; and we continue to participate in the different campaigns, such as health and production, and picking coffee or cotton," she noted.

The tour was initiated by Maestros por la Paz and cosponsored by dozens of groups throughout the country. The Nicaraguan students fanned out to Washington, San



Militant/Luis Madrid
Leader of Nicaraguan high school students' federation Erica Tomas.

Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles, and other cities.

The Los Angeles Student Coalition, a group of young people from eight high schools, along with the Nicaraguan Cultural Center and the Young Socialist Alliance, sponsored a meeting for Amalia Sirolli, one of the four. More than 100 attended. Sirolli also addressed a meeting of 40 Chicano youth in Cabrillo Village near Los Angeles.

The other two members of the tour were Róger Zamora and Jorge Cuadra, leaders of the National Union of Nicaraguan Students.

At Hunter College Tomas talked about the devastation caused by the U.S.-organized contra war. The plight has worsened with the hurricane disaster, which has created tens of thousands more homeless, she said.

Tomas said the need for aid following the hurricane has given the tour an added responsibility. She encouraged everyone to join in the efforts to aid Nicaragua.

Judge sentences Puerto Rican activist in trial of Hartford 15

BY TIM CRAINE

HARTFORD, Conn. — Federal District Judge Emmet Clarie has sentenced Luz Berrios Berrios to five years in prison. She is one of 15 Puerto Rican activists charged in connection with the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot.

In September, Berrios pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of involvement in the transportation of stolen money. Berrios entered the plea, she said, because she could not receive a fair trial in Hartford and wanted to minimize the length of time she would be away from her children.

Berrios, an occupational therapist, was arrested in 1983 in Mexico, where she was tortured by Mexican police with the complicity of the U.S. FBI. She then spent 16 months in prison in the United States prior to her release on bail. While in prison she suffered a miscarriage.

More than 80 people had written letters to Judge Clarie and hundreds have signed petitions urging that, particularly in view of the suffering she has already undergone, Berrios be placed on probation instead of being sent to prison.

On October 31 supporters packed the courtroom to hear character witnesses for

Berrios plead her case before she was sentenced. But Clarie went ahead and imposed the maximum penalty of five years.

Meanwhile, the trial continued of five others among the 15 accused Puerto Ricans. Prosecutors have attempted to link Juan Segarra Palmer, who is married to Berrios, directly to the robbery of the depot.

The government's key witness has been Kenneth Cox, who testified that Segarra asked him to get involved in planning the 1983 robbery. The defense pointed out that Cox has a long string of convictions, has committed perjury on numerous occasions, and is being paid \$15,000 by the government for his testimony.

Prosecutors have also attempted to tie Segarra to the purchase of a motorcycle and motor home allegedly used in the getaway and in the transportation of the stolen money to Mexico.

But witnesses who were portrayed as having knowledge of the motorcycle's purchase were unable to identify Segarra in the courtroom. The defense refuted the prosecution's claim that bank records showed Segarra had purchased the bank check used to buy the motor home.

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ARIZONA

Phoenix

Pathfinder Rally: Celebrate the Publication of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Speakers: Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New Internationalist* and Pathfinder; Carlos Madrid, Salvadoran political activist. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 27. Reception 4:30 p.m.; program 5:30 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Books. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Celebrate the Publication of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Nov. 19. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (at Mission). For more information call (415) 282-6255.

Support the Farm Workers. March with Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. Join picket line and rally. Sat., Nov. 19. Assemble 11 a.m. Hawthorne School yard (Folsom St. between 22nd St. and 23rd St. near 24th St. BART station). March at noon through Mission and Castro districts. Rally 1 p.m. at Safeway on Church and Market. Sponsor: United Farm Workers of America, Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice. For more information call (415) 626-8053.

FLORIDA

Miami

Labor Report from West Bank and Gaza. Speaker: Bill Rayson, member American Postal Workers Union, participated in U.S. labor delegation to West Bank and Gaza sponsored by American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; others. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Pathfinder Rally: Celebration of the Publication of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Speakers: Tandi Gcabashe, African National Congress of South Africa; Mike Mears, mayor of Decatur; Sam Manuel, director Pathfinder Mural Project; representative Decatur Sister City Committee; reading by Rebecca Williams. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 19. Reception 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m. Agnes Scott College, Buttrick Hall Room G4, 141 E College Ave., Decatur. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Our Environment: Can It Be Saved? Speakers: Erik Johnson, Greenpeace; Nancy Oden, coordinator Clear Water Coalition, Washington County, Maine; Gary Cohen, Socialist Workers Party; representative of Clamshell Alliance. Sun., Nov. 20, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Pathfinder Publications Fund Meeting: Celebration of the Book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*. Speakers: Michael Baumann, editor of Pathfinder publishers; Mike Guinyard, Young Socialist Alliance, member United Food and Commercial Workers union; Ivette Perfecto, member Puerto Rican Solidarity Organization, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, visited Cuba in summer 1988; Tom Hansen, co-coordinator Pastors for Peace. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 19, 7 p.m., reception to follow. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

tion to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 19, 7 p.m., reception to follow. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Grand Opening of the New Pathfinder Books: Celebrate the Publication of *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*. Speakers: Michael Baumann, editor Pathfinder publishers; José Silva, trade unionist from El Salvador; Emily Vardaman, staff person for Central America Solidarity Coalition; Leonard Peltier Defense Committee representative; James Shumate, Kansas City Art Institute; Steve Marshall, member United Transportation Union and director of Pathfinder Books. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 20, 6 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

St. Louis

Eyewitness Report from Nicaragua. Two classes by Harvey McArthur, *Militant* correspondent. "Peace and Self-Determination for Nicaragua's Native Peoples." Sun., Nov. 20, 4 p.m. "Land Reform in Nicaragua." Sun., Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Pathfinder Publications Fund Rally. Speakers: Norton Sandler, Pathfinder publishers; Wilton de Coteau, New York representative of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement; others. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Books. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

Benefits for Nicaraguan Hurricane Victims. Dance fiesta. Sat., Nov. 19, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14th St. Donation: \$5.

Video festival. Showing of film on Hurricane Joan and the relief effort. Sat., Nov. 26, 6 p.m. Goddard Riverside Community Center, 593 Columbus Ave. (at 88th St.). Donation: \$5. Both events sponsored by Casa Nicaragua. For more information call (212) 769-4293.

Gala fiesta dance. Fri., Dec. 2, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Local 1199, 310 W 42 St. Donation: \$8. Sponsor: Chelsea/El Jicaral Sister City Project. For more information call (212) 924-0468.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Nuclear Weapons Plant Disasters: 40-year Government Cover-up. Sun., Nov. 20, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OREGON

Portland

Can Protectionism Save Jobs? A Canadian Woodworker Discusses the Free Trade Issue. Speaker: Fred Nelson, member International Woodworkers of America-Canada Local 1-357, New Westminster, British Columbia. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 2732 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

TEXAS

Houston

Celebration of Pathfinder Publications. Featuring the new book *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Speakers: John Riddell, editor of the series the *Communist International in Lenin's Time*; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. Two classes: 1. On *Thomas Sankara*

Speaks, Sat., Nov. 19, 3:30 p.m. 2. On *Communist International in Lenin's Time*, Sun., Nov. 20, 11 a.m. Donation: \$1.50 per class. 4806 Alameda. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Uprising in the West Bank: The Struggle for Palestinian Self-determination. Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; representative of General Union of Palestinian Students. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Rising Rebellion in Haiti. An eyewitness report. Speaker: Fritz Longchamp, Washington Office on Haiti; Kathryn Crowder, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

The Drug Trade: A Profitable Capitalist Business. Speaker: Derek Bracey, Young Socialist Alliance National Committee. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Celebrate the Publication of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Speakers: Patrick Bellegarde-Smith, professor of Afro-American history, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee; Patricia Grogan, Pathfinder Bookstore; representative of African Student Union at UWM; Sat., Nov. 19. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

BRITAIN

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Your Rights Under Attack. Speaker: Peter Clifford, recently detained under Prevention of Terrorism Act. Thurs., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. Women's Centre, Cleveland Street. Sponsor: New International Forum.

London

Cuba and Angola: "Response to the South African Escalation". First time in Britain, a showing of the 3-hour Cuban documentary video in English and Spanish, followed by social. Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 47 The Cut, London SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum.

Celebrate the Publication of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Speakers: Helen Arthur, Pathfinder publishers; David Gakunzi, editor *Coumbite*, secretary International Thomas Sankara Association; Bernie Grant, MP; senior representative of South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia; Geoff Revell, National Union of Railwaymen. Sat., Dec. 3, 2 p.m. The Africa Centre, 38 King St., WC 2 (tube Covent Garden/Leicester Sq.). Donation: £1. Sponsor: Pathfinder. For more information call 01-401-2293.

Manchester

Ireland and the Attack on Democratic Rights. Speaker: Peter Clifford, recently detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Wed., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. Mechanics Institute:

Princess Street. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum.

CANADA

Montréal

World Capitalism in Crisis: The Challenge Before Working People. Speakers: Margaret Manwaring, candidate of the Revolutionary Workers League in the Toronto riding of Eglinton-Lawrence; Michel Dugré, RWL candidate in the Montréal riding of Papineau-St-Michel. Translation to English and Spanish. Sun., Nov. 20, 1:30 p.m. 4274 Papineau, Suite 302. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: RWL and Young Socialists. For more information call (514) 524-7992.

Celebrate the Joint Launching of the New *Lutte Ouvrière* and the Third Issue of the Magazine *Nouvelle International*. Speakers: Michel Prairie, editor *Lutte Ouvrière*. Translation to English and Spanish. Sat., Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m. 4274 Papineau, Suite 302. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 524-7992.

Toronto

Aid Nicaragua Now! Speaker: Gary Kettner, Revolutionary Workers League, garment worker. Sat., Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Voice Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Angolan and Cuban Victory Over South African Invasion: Turning Point in the Liberation Struggle of Southern Africa. Showing of Cuban TV documentary "Response to the South African Escalation." In English. Sat., Dec. 3, 2 p.m. Katarina Fridsgård, Götgatan 45, T-bana Medborgarplatsen. Sponsor: Pathfinder.

Sandinistas lead autonomy process

Continued from Page 5

with a critical shortage of trucks and motorboats. Many villages can be reached only by the river, and travel is dangerous since contra bands on the Honduran side of the river and Honduran troops often stop boats and rob or kidnap the passengers.

Unusually heavy rains this year, even before Hurricane Joan struck the country, have compounded all these problems. Many families lost part or all their crop to prolonged flooding. The wooden bridge over the Likus River south of La Tronquera washed out in June, sharply curtailing truck traffic between the Coco River and the rest of the country.

Faced with this situation, the Nicaraguan government has issued an emergency appeal for international aid, especially for food and medicine.

As has been true for years, the most support came from Cuba. One-third of the region's population of 150,000 people depends entirely on food and clothing donated by Cuba. Puerto Cabezas Mayor Henry Herman Hernández says he thinks the region can soon be self-sufficient in food. But until then the Cuban aid "is indispensable," he says.

(Next week: Moving forward with autonomy)

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SWEDEN

Stockholm: P.O. Box 5024, S-12505 Älvsjö. Tel: (08) 722-9342.

Drop that jalapeño! — Jailers in Orange County, California, banned serving chiles with meals, classifying them as lethal weapons.



Harry Ring

ons. An official said hot peppers could cause damage if smashed into someone's eyes. This hasn't

happened, but they're taking no chances.

Land of privacy — A West Virginia paternity survey asks welfare mothers for the dates when sexual relations with the father began and ended. Other questions: "Is there anyone else who could possibly be the father of the child? Did the child's father ever suggest abortion? How often have you had sexual relations with him?"

Might be there already — One recipient of that paternity quiz said, "Why don't they just put a

video camera in my bedroom."

Sheer coincidence — Forty-eight hours after the election, a presidential commission began hearings on a pay raise for Congress members and other officers of government.

One foot in the poorhouse — Currently, members of Congress are scraping by on \$89,000 a year, plus fringes, perks, and whatever they can pocket.

Reducing the overhead — Rep. Fernand St. Germain, chairman of the house banking committee, was

defeated for reelection in the wake of revelations about his role as a favored charity of the savings and loan lobby. The response of a top lobbyist to his defeat: "It's a blessing."

He does look blue-blooded — President-elect Bush is the 13th cousin, twice removed, of Queen Elizabeth.

Marines pay well — "In my previous occupation I would have got combat pay for this" — Oliver North, confronting vigorous protest at Boston College where he pocketed a \$25,000 fee for a rap

on family values.

They seem to be doing fine — The board of the New York hospital system endorsed the decision of director Jo Ivey Boufford to retain a \$950-a-day consultant to help improve her image, along with a \$1,000-a-day "facilitator" — by coincidence, a Boufford buddy. A "facilitator" helps officials get along better.

Consultation City — A consulting firm was awarded a \$194,000 contract to find out why New York City ambulances break down so frequently.

Free trade debate in Canada is trap for workers

Continued from front page

ing people: the coming devastating worldwide economic depression and social crisis signaled by the October 1987 stock market crash. The result, as in the 1930s, will be massive unemployment, poverty, and hunger in Canada, the United States, and around the world.

The depression will be the inevitable consequence of the explosive pressures building up in the capitalist economies since the late 1960s and early '70s. No government policies designed to shore up the crisis-ridden profit system — including a North American "free trade" pact on the one hand or Canadian protectionist measures on the other — will do anything to prevent the coming crisis, much less protect working people from its consequences.

That's why none of the three major parties have said a word throughout the entire election campaign about the deepening economic problems that point to a depression. Working people, who will be its victims, can hardly afford the same response. We urgently need to discuss a political perspective that can unite workers in Canada and around the world in a common struggle for demands directed against the bosses and their governments — demands that can give us some protection against the ravages of the deepening economic and social crisis.

The proposals of both sides in the trade debate point in exactly the opposite direction. Despite all the sound and fury, their differences are really quite narrow. Moreover, their dispute is not really about free trade at all.

The fact is that both wings of the Canadian ruling class are for maintaining protectionist barriers against their Japanese, European, and other imperialist competitors, as well as to keep out cheaper manufactured goods from semicolonial countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Their main difference is over the extent to which tariffs and other trade barriers between Canada and the United States should be lowered or eliminated.

But why should working people in Canada oppose the elimination of tariffs between the two countries? The argument that we should fight to defend "our" jobs against workers in the United States or any other country by supporting protectionist measures is a deadly trap.

The same goes for the argument that working farmers in Canada should be defending "our markets" against farmers in the United States.

Workers in Canada do not have any interests separate and apart from their brothers and sisters around the world. We are part of a single international working class that shares a common exploitation and a common enemy, regardless of what country we live in.

Our class cannot think of itself as "Canadian," "American," "British," or "Japanese." Canada — like every other capitalist country — is made up of different social classes with diametrically opposed interests. We have absolutely no more in common with the Mulroneys and Turners of this world than we do with the Reagans and Thatchers. They are all deadly enemies of the world's oppressed and exploited.

The debate over whether the trade pact would lead to the importation of "Reaganomics" to Canada and result in major attacks on vital social services is also com-

pletely phony. The truth is that both Liberal and Conservative governments have been carrying out increasingly sharp cuts in unemployment insurance, hospital care, welfare, and education for more than 15 years. Canada's capitalist rulers have every intention of stepping up these attacks as the crisis of their system deepens. That will be just as true whether the "free trade" pact is signed or not.

Similarly, the Canadian nationalist forces that are leading the campaign against the trade pact argue that Canada is a "caring, sharing" society that should be defended against the threat of U.S. domination. That's also a brazen lie.

As in the United States and every other imperialist country, growing numbers of working people in Canada are already experiencing a deepening social crisis even before the depression hits. Over the past decade real wages have been driven down by some 12 percent; close to 1 million are unemployed; hundreds of thousands are dependent on welfare; tens of thousands of

farmers have been driven off the land; discrimination has deepened against Native people, Blacks, Québécois, immigrant workers, and women; and thousands are homeless or forced to turn to food banks to eat.

Far from being threatened with becoming a U.S. colony, Canada's banks and monopolies are a major part of the international imperialist system, exporting John Turner's "Canadian dream" of exploitation, misery, and oppression to Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa.

Far from defending any aspect of this made-in-Canada system of exploitation and oppression, working people must unite to fight against it. We must break away from all false alternatives that are rooted in efforts to reform the disintegrating capitalist system. That's really what the debate between North American "free trade" and Canadian protectionism is all about.

Instead, working people need to chart a course that is completely independent of capitalist political parties, programs, and perspectives. We can begin to do that by

uniting with the oppressed and exploited around the world in a common struggle for jobs for all through shortening the workweek to 30 hours with no cut in pay; by demanding an end to discrimination against workers who are Black, Québécois, immigrant, or female and championing demands for affirmative action; and by backing the struggle of the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America to cancel their massive foreign debts to U.S., Canadian, and other imperialist countries and to eliminate the unequal and unjust trade relations that are imposed on them.

As such struggles develop, they will begin to point growing numbers of working people in the cities and countryside in the direction of a struggle to overthrow capitalist political rule and establish our own government — a government of working people that will act in *our* interests, not the interests of those who oppress and exploit us. It's this perspective that the Revolutionary Workers League is advancing in these elections. We will continue to do so long after they're over.

Damages awarded in attack on defense office

Continued from front page

and went to a friend's house to call the police, who informed him that they had already been notified.

When Redrup returned to the store, two of the large plate glass windows were completely shattered and the other one, he said, was very badly broken with holes in it. The window frames were destroyed and the light hanging over the display case was smashed as well. It cost \$2,089.36 to repair the damage.

Morris readily admitted in court that he had broken the windows. He charged that Redrup, rather than simply replacing what was damaged, had remodeled the storefront and was now trying to make Morris pay for it.

The reason he attacked the office, said Morris, was that the Socialist Workers Party (which Curtis is a member of), the defense committee, and the bookstore, "have perpetrated and attacked not only my children but my family."

Morris explained that three days before the attack, on July 12, there was a hearing where the judge in the Curtis case ruled against several prosecution motions. At that hearing, Morris had threatened Curtis, saying he had five grown sons and he "constantly has to talk to them to let the judicial system work."

After that hearing, said Morris, he and his wife decided to go over to the defense committee office. He described how he proceeded to kick and punch out two windows and his wife smashed the third with a chair. This was the first admission by Morris that the attack was not a solo act.

At the end of the hearing on Redrup's complaint, Morris made a new threat: "I broke them out just as fast as I could, and if they keep harassing me and my family, I will break them out again, only I will do a better job."

At a November 10 news conference prior to the judge's ruling, committee coordinator Stu Singer explained that Morris' latest outburst "is a direct threat to the committee and its supporters." By refusing to prosecute Morris, Singer said, the county attorney is giving him a green light to carry

out another attack.

On July 16, the day after the windows were broken, Curtis told a news conference, "County Attorney James Smith has the responsibility to arrest and file appropriate charges against Keith Morris for this violent attack."

In August Smith announced he wasn't filing charges against Morris, and instead referred the case to the Polk County Neighborhood Mediation Center.

Curtis committee spokespeople have explained that the international defense campaign is not directed against the Morris family, but against the cops, courts, and

prosecutor's office. Keith Morris, however, has become a key part of the pro-frame-up forces.

He recently issued a five-page letter slandering Curtis, repeating the frame-up charges, and urging people to withdraw their backing. It has been mailed out to many Curtis supporters, particularly in the labor movement. The letter has been published in the *Bulletin*, newspaper of the Workers League, which is campaigning internationally in support of the frame-up of Curtis. The defense committee will be sending out Morris' letter, along with a reply, said Singer.

Auto local foils anti-Curtis effort

BY CRAIG HONTES AND HENRY ZAMARRÓN

AUSTIN, Minn. — Supporters of Mark Curtis and his defense effort in United Auto Workers Local 2125 recently beat back an attempt to involve that local in supporting the political frame-up of this meat-packer and fellow unionist.

Supporters have been actively campaigning for several months at Crenlo, a shop in Rochester, Minnesota, that makes tractor cabs for John Deere and Caterpillar.

The campaign began in April, with 30 workers signing petitions protesting the frame-up and Curtis' beating by Des Moines, Iowa, police. In May Curtis visited the local union hall and spoke to members following a union meeting.

Prior to Curtis' September trial on rape and burglary charges, 19 letters were sent by Crenlo workers to Des Moines Police Chief William Moulder and Polk County prosecutor James Smith protesting the attack on Curtis. Six of the letters were from union executive board members.

Before the last union meeting on November 15, a letter was circulated in the plant slandering Curtis, supporting his victimization, and demanding that people rescind their support. It was signed by Keith Morris, father of the alleged rape victim. "Curtis' supporters, and the people who align themselves with Curtis, to me are like

jackals," wrote Morris, indicating the general tenor of the letter.

Those circulating the letter tried to get backers of the Curtis defense campaign to withdraw their support and dissociate themselves from the defense effort.

The campaign against Curtis included large doses of red-baiting, branding anyone who defended him as a socialist.

An executive board member proposed that Keith Morris or a "representative of his family" speak before the next union meeting.

Curtis supporters obtained a copy of the letter, and showed it to other Curtis defenders in the plant. They discussed in detail the lies that were being circulated and how to respond by explaining the facts and the stakes for working people around the world in the battle over this frame-up.

Inviting any supporter of the prosecution to the next union meeting, they argued, would be a boost for the antiunion, pro-frame-up forces.

Copies of Curtis' motion for a new trial were also distributed, which effectively challenges the validity of the guilty verdict.

A heated debate took place in the plant and in the union between foes and supporters of the defense. The result was the union soundly rejected the proposal to have Keith Morris or a "representative of his family" speak at the next union meeting.

Anti-Canada slurs in U.S. media

The U.S. media is waging a high-pitched campaign, including anti-Canadian insults and slurs, in the context of the November 21 federal election in Canada.

The U.S.-Canada trade pact signed in January and ratified by the U.S. Congress has been virtually the only issue discussed in the election campaign.

Editorials in major U.S. newspapers are using threats to pressure Canadians to vote for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Conservative Party, which favors the pact.

The pact is opposed in the election campaign by the Liberal Party, headed by John Turner; the New Democratic Party, which has the backing of many unions; and the trade union officialdom. They call for maintaining protectionist barriers against goods produced in the United States as well as those from other countries.

• The November 14 *Wall Street Journal* denounced "the nativist streak in Canada's political culture." The *Journal* threatened: "The U.S. has special interests that can't wait to declare open season on imports from Canada."

If Turner wins, the *Journal* editors continued, "We'd sure like to be in the room when the prime minister who tore up the free trade pact asks President Bush to spend billions on acid rain. Read his lips, John."

• "If Canadians now choose to reject this opportunity for guaranteed free entry to the world's largest market, that's their business," grouched the *New York Times*. "And their loss."

• A *Christian Science Monitor* editorial writer was moved to portray even Canada's transportation network as a slap in the face to Uncle Sam. "Canada has set up its roads and railroads running east and west, not north and south, in an attempt to keep its back turned to its larger southern neighbor."

AFL-CIO officials, on the other hand, criticized the pact because it obstructs their campaign to erect more protectionist barriers against imports from Canada and other countries.

Mark Anderson, an AFL-CIO spokesman, charged in January, soon after the pact was signed, that it was wrong to abolish tariff barriers "with our largest trading partner, and one with which we have so many problems."

The stand of the AFL-CIO, whose affiliates have thousands of members in Canada, is a roadblock to sol-

idarity between workers in the United States and those in Canada and other countries. Instead, it intensifies competition and divisions among workers in the name of saving the jobs of "U.S. workers." Not a single job will be preserved in this way, and only the employers will benefit.

Supporters and foes of the pact in the United States and Canada aim to convince working people that our jobs, living standards, and futures depend on what kind of protectionist barriers the employing classes set up. But working people in both countries have no interest in protectionist barriers of any kind.

The future of workers and farmers in the United States, Canada, and all other countries will be determined by our struggles against the employing class, not by lining up behind the employers' chauvinist "great debate" over trade.

That is true today, when millions of workers and farmers are facing increasing difficulties — joblessness, foreclosures, homelessness, and declining real wages. It will be even more true as the current capitalist "prosperity" — which has brought growing misery to so many of us — is succeeded by a deep recession and the approach of a catastrophic depression.

In the struggles that working people wage today and in the future, workers in the United States and Canada have common interests — not conflicting ones, as the participants in the current trade debate preach. They have common interests as well with workers in all countries, regardless of whether the U.S. or Canadian bosses score surpluses or deficits in their trade dealings.

Workers on both sides of the border are part of an international class engaged in a worldwide struggle. From South Africa to Cuba, from Britain to Northern Ireland — the battles of those who are struggling to shake off imperialist domination and capitalist exploitation are our battles too.

The candidates for Parliament of the Revolutionary Workers League — Michel Dugré and Margaret Manwaring — have been the only voices in the Canadian elections who have spoken for the interests of workers and farmers against chauvinist demagoguery and protectionist scams. Their working-class internationalism deserves support and emulation.

Reagan's farewell to farmers

Just one week after the November 8 elections, 80,000 farmers received notices giving them 45 days to show cause why their farms should not be taken from them.

The notices from the Farmers Home Administration were the result of Reagan administration regulations that became effective October 14. The warnings were sent to 40 percent of the farms that have received FmHA loans.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, predicted that from 9,000 to 10,000 farms will actually be foreclosed on in the near future.

In the weeks before the election, federal farm credit officials were reassuring farmers that they had successfully weathered this year's drought — the worst in 50 years — and hinted that only a few would be threatened with foreclosure.

The big-business media crowed about improving conditions in the farm regions. Things had changed since the

early to mid-1980s, the October 16 *New York Times* asserted, a period when 270,000 farmers — 11 percent of the total — were forced off their land.

The latest threats to working farmers come in the midst of an upturn in the capitalist business cycle that has affected agriculture as well. The upturn has stuffed the coffers of big capitalist farm operations just as it has benefited other capitalist big businesses.

The upturn in the capitalist business cycle has meant lower wages, long-term joblessness, and homelessness for growing numbers of workers. Similarly, "prosperity" has brought no relief for thousands of working farmers from debt slavery and plunder of their land. And the pressure on farmers will increase enormously when the upturn is inevitably followed by a recession.

Unions and other organizations should join farmers in protesting the foreclosures. In the wake of the drought, an immediate moratorium on debt payments is needed and a ban on all foreclosures.

'Homework' ban lifted further

A license for the capitalists to expand and deepen the superexploitation of women, immigrants, other workers, and even children was granted November 10 when the Reagan administration lifted a 46-year-old ban on industrial homework in five industries. Regulations set to take effect Jan. 9, 1989, will allow commercial work to be done at home making gloves and mittens, buttons and buckles, embroidery, handkerchiefs, and jewelry. The action follows the 1984 removal of the ban on knitted outerwear "homework."

Despite its illegality, hundreds of thousands — if not millions — of workers, the vast majority female, already do work at home. Laboring under oppressive conditions, they are often paid far less than the federal minimum wage, with no benefits. As adults tire, children are inevitably drawn into production.

Assurances from the Labor Department that bosses hiring home workers will now be licensed and inspected are preposterous and insulting. Workers know that it is an impossible task — even if the government were interested in trying — to monitor conditions in the home.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, other unions, and the AFL-CIO have spoken out against the legalization of homework and lobbied Congress to oppose Reagan's moves.

The truth, however, is that the officials who sit astride the garment and textile unions deserve a share of the blame for the growth, and now legalization, of homework. From 1979 to 1985 the combined memberships of ACTWU and the ILGWU declined from 622,000 to 438,000. By 1985 only 24 percent of the 1.8 million U.S. garment and textile workers were organized, and the figure continues to decline.

As wages and working conditions for these workers — organized and unorganized — have been forced down by the employers' offensive, the only response of the labor tops has been a joint campaign with the bosses against imports. No serious effort has been made to organize the ever-expanding number of nonunion shops, or fight for wages high enough so workers would not be forced to take on homework just to survive.

Is Gorbachev democratizing the USSR?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev refers to the policies that he calls *glasnost* (openness) as democratic reforms. And this is the way they are often presented in many liberal and radical publications in the United States and other countries.

But is it true that Gorbachev's moves are democratizing the Soviet Union or increasing democratic opportunities for the country's working people?

To think so is a misreading of what's happening. In fact, the fundamental direction of Gorbachev's measures is the opposite. They aim to consolidate greater powers in the hands of the Soviet leader.

Ever since he became general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party in 1985, Gorbachev has been purging opponents of his proposed economic restructuring from

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

leadership bodies. This reshuffling has generally been popular as all purges of corrupt and arbitrary bureaucrats by new officials tend to be.

In September at a suddenly called Central Committee meeting Gorbachev scored one of his biggest successes in strengthening and consolidating his position in the party leadership. In a shake-up of the highest echelons of the CP and government apparatus, he engineered the dismissal of five top Soviet leaders, including three Politburo members. Yegor Ligachev, Gorbachev's principal rival in the bureaucracy and considered to be the second-ranking party leader, was reassigned to lesser responsibilities.

Gorbachev also replaced Andrei Gromyko as president of the governing Council of the Supreme Soviet or national legislature.

A few weeks later the government issued detailed proposals for amending the constitution to reorganize the country's top governmental bodies in such a way as to enhance Gorbachev's authority even more. The amendments are part of a proposed new electoral system given general approval at a special Communist Party conference in July. A special session of the Soviet legislature is to discuss and approve the new laws on November 29.

The proposals provide for electing a new Congress of People's Deputies of 2,250 members to replace the 1,500-member Supreme Soviet. The Congress, which will meet once a year, will elect a president and a full-time legislative body called the Supreme Soviet.

While the measures are being touted as a major step toward democratization because competition among multiple candidates, secret ballots, and nonparty organizations will be permitted, the key feature is the strengthening of presidential powers. The president will not only be the head of the state and represent the government inside the country and abroad, but will head the powerful Defense Council and name a prime minister.

Gorbachev, who plans to assume the position of the new, more powerful president, also holds the top position in the Communist Party. Andrei Sakharov, who supports Gorbachev, has publicly criticized the new government reorganization for creating a national leader "vested with absolute power."

The pressure for a stronger top authority arises from the need to stabilize the regime in face of the mounting economic and social crisis in the Soviet Union. While Gorbachev's economic proposals call for greater decentralization of decision-making — giving plant managers greater leeway to make choices based on profitability and market considerations — driving this through requires considerable central authority.

Decentralization of the economy and greater reliance on market forces does not equal nor lead to democracy in the Soviet Union.

This is not negated by the fact that Gorbachev has encouraged greater freedom of expression, including in the press. But this openness, as Gorbachev calls it, isn't leading to greater democracy for the population as a whole, particularly for working people.

Rather, it gives a little more space to layers of the bureaucracy, as well as technicians and professionals. This is aimed primarily at widening Gorbachev's support in the bureaucracy itself and giving his supporters more leverage in beating back his opponents.

One sign of its limits was demonstrated on October 28, just a week after the proposed electoral reorganization proposals were made public. At a meeting on that day, the Supreme Soviet adopted decrees backed by Gorbachev banning unauthorized public demonstrations, increasing penalties for those who defy laws on such activities, and empowering the Interior Ministry with the right to conduct surprise searches and to undermine protests and strikes.

Organizing elections with more discussion and apparent competition is a masquerade for concentrating greater power in Gorbachev's hands. Moreover, the very need for such a masquerade testifies to the sharpening crisis facing the bureaucracy.

'On Trial' features Mark Curtis frame-up trial

"On Trial." Nationally syndicated television program. Aired on November 11 and 12.

BY MARGARET JAYKO

"A political and union activist is accused of burglary and sexual assault against a 15-year-old girl — did he do it or was he framed?" That's how the narrator opened the Friday, November 11 segment of "On Trial," a half-hour TV series shown every weekday that uses footage from actual trials. It was shown in Des Moines, Iowa, the following day.

The decision to film the September 1988 Des Moines trial of Mark Curtis on charges of first-degree burglary

TELEVISION REVIEW

and third-degree sexual abuse (rape) is another indication of the growing interest in this case.

Despite its unavoidably truncated summary of the three-day trial, enough of the contradictions in the prosecution's case come through in the program to raise serious doubts in the minds of previously uninformed viewers about the jury's verdict of guilty on both counts.

The show opens with a shot of the house where Curtis was arrested on the night of March 4, 1988, on charges of raping a young Black woman who lived there. Due to a court order, the identity of the alleged victim is concealed from viewers.

Next the camera focuses on a tape recording of what

the police say was a 911 emergency call that night. The caller, said to be the younger brother of the woman Curtis is accused of raping, asked police to come to his home because his sister was being raped on the front porch.

Next, a picture of Curtis flashes on the screen — the person the cops arrested that night.

The next thing the viewer sees is the Mark Curtis Defense Committee office in Des Moines, where a few of the thousands of messages and resolutions protesting his arrest, conviction, and beating at the hands of the cops on the night Curtis was arrested are mounted on poster boards. His arrest "sparked a worldwide storm of protest," notes the commentator.

Then the camera cuts to the Swift Independent meat-packing plant in Des Moines. At the time of his arrest, the host explains, Curtis worked there and was involved in a fight against an attack on immigrant workers.

Then we're taken to a support rally addressed by defense committee coordinator Stu Singer, and see activists preparing defense petitions to collect signatures.

The viewer is told that Curtis' friends and other political activists were convinced from the beginning he wasn't guilty and that he was being victimized for his socialist political and union activity. They formed a defense committee and "elicited the support of political, labor, and farm activists across the world."

The actual trial footage begins with the first witness — the alleged victim. Prosecuting attorney Catherine Thune is shown questioning the young woman, who testified that on the evening of March 4 a man she didn't know, breath reeking of alcohol and cigarettes, pushed his way

onto the enclosed porch of her house and proceeded to beat and rape her until the cops showed up at about 8:55.

Defense attorney Mark Pennington then cross-examined the witness, pointing out that if the assault occurred at the time she said, the attacker couldn't have been Mark Curtis. Later, Brian Willey, a coworker of Curtis' at the Swift plant, is shown testifying that he was with Curtis at a bar that night from 7:00 until 8:30.

Next come excerpts from the testimony of arresting police officer Joseph Gonzalez. He testified that he found Curtis on the porch with his pants down, while the alleged victim was running out of the house yelling, "He just raped me."

Prosecution witness Paul Bush, a "criminalist" from the Division of Criminal Investigation of the state police, testified that there were no pubic hairs, seminal fluid, or any other physical evidence to connect Curtis with the alleged victim.

Excerpts from the testimony of several defense witnesses is then presented, including Curtis'. He explained what actually happened that night.

He was driving to a store at about 8:50 p.m. when a young woman ran up to his car and asked him to drive her home because a man was after her. Curtis took her to the house she directed him to, and she asked him to wait for her on the front porch while she went inside. Then the cops came bursting onto the porch, handcuffed Curtis, and pulled down his pants.

The show ends with the judge reading the jury's verdict. Watching the program two months after the trial, I was struck by how even these brief excerpts will give viewers serious doubts about that verdict.

LETTERS

Cuito Cuanavale

The South African racists "thought they could eat Angola for breakfast. [The battle of] Cuito Cuanavale proved otherwise."

That's how Yusuf Saloojee, chief representative in Canada of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), described the Angolan and Cuban victory earlier this year that turned the tide in South Africa's 13-year-old war against Angola.

A spirited meeting of 150 people in Toronto viewed the Cuban documentary "Response to the South African Escalation" recently. The video documents events leading up to the battle at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola where Angolan and Cuban troops decisively drove back the apartheid army.

Joining Saloojee in addressing the gathering was Cuban Consul General Rolando Rivero. The audience cheered when Rivero declared, "We are and always will be fighters against apartheid as long as this regime exists. We have thousands of fighters in Angola who, with the Angolan army, are defending the sovereignty and security of Angola."

The victory and its significance have scarcely been reported by the big-business media in North America. But, as Rivero explained, "As a result of Cuito Cuanavale, the course of African history has changed. We are negotiating because we won the war." Never before had South Africa agreed to negotiate its withdrawal from Angola.

Saloojee said that in contrast to the tremendous morale of the Cuban and Angolan fighters, South African forces are in crisis. As a result of heavy losses in the war, he said, today in South Africa every month, 2,000 white youth are refusing to report for military duty.

Nancy Walker
Toronto, Canada

Wear Curtis button

I went to vote for the Socialist Workers Party in Catskill, New York, a very conservative town in upstate New York. A polling assistant asked to read my Mark Curtis button, and I was quick to accommodate her.

In talking to her I found she was very sympathetic, having worked to defend activist Ben Chavis. She took a fact sheet and petition, and we're going to be in touch.

Moral: wear your button and

carry Mark Curtis defense materials whenever possible — you never know.

Sam Chetta
Catskill, New York

Sales to Cubans

I was part of a team of socialist campaigners who recently set up a literature table in the Cuban community of the Union City-West New York area, which is in northern New Jersey.

In the past, this area has been a stronghold of right-wing Cubans who left Cuba after the 1959 revolution there. Last year, a similar team was able to sell for only half an hour before being forced to leave by thugs and local police.

The first book we sold was *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*. A Cuban woman bought it. But this was only the beginning. We sold five subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, several more books and pamphlets, and seven copies of the Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. Many leaflets for a showing that night of the Cuban documentary "Response to the South African Escalation" were also distributed.

After the team had sold for two hours, a knot of Cuban right wingers gathered and tried to harass us. Their efforts failed, however, as we continued to discuss the political questions facing working people with those who stopped to talk, buy literature, or just to tell us they were glad we had come.

Then the police arrived and forced us to take down the literature table, claiming we needed a permit.

The cops' intervention emboldened the Cuban thugs, who then began to grab literature from us, shredding it onto the sidewalk, and trying to provoke physical confrontations. Passersby tried to restrain the thugs and spoke up for our right to be there.

We held our ground until the cops again intervened. They acknowledged that we had the right to be there and campaign, but ordered us to leave, claiming they could no longer "control the crowd."

The many interested working people we spoke with during the nearly three hours we were there, and the fact that the right wingers were not able to drive us out without police assistance, reflects the changes that are taking place in an area that used to be politically

Justice for Santiago Ventura

Supporters of Santiago Ventura Morales, an immigrant farm worker now serving a life term for a 1986 murder, have been stepping up efforts in his defense.

Ventura was accused of stabbing another immigrant farm worker, Ramiro López Fidel, in the strawberry fields near Sandy,



Santiago Ventura

Oregon, in July 1986. He was convicted on Oct. 2, 1986, and, at the age of 18, sentenced to life imprisonment after a 10-day trial in Oregon City.

Ventura's supporters say he is the victim of a frame-up. They explain that he was convicted despite the lack of any physical evidence and in the face of massively conflicting testimony. Moreover, neither witnesses nor the accused were given the right to hear or give testimony in their own language.

Ventura is one of several thousand Mixtec Indian from Oaxaca,

Mexico, who work in the Oregon fields each summer. The first language of Mixtec Indians is neither Spanish nor English, but an Indian language.

The proceedings of the trial, including questions put to the witnesses, were translated only into Spanish. At no time during the trial and arrest were Ventura or the witnesses, also Mixtecs, addressed in their language. According to Ventura's supporters, the trial transcript proves that the witnesses neither understood the questions put to them nor had the ability to answer.

One of the arresting officers, Tim Skipper, denied this was a problem. Skipper told the *Oregonian*, "Just because a guy speaks a dialect doesn't mean he can't understand Spanish. They go hand in hand in Mexican country down there."

Since the police assumed Ventura's guilt, they did not investigate any other suspects nor finish necessary lab work. They also did not make clear to Ventura that he was entitled to an attorney if he could not afford one.

In the days following the trial, four of the jurors reversed their opinions, saying they believed Ventura to be innocent. They said they had voted for Ventura's conviction under pressure from other jurors and without looking clearly at the evidence.

Three of the jurors are now working with other Ventura supporters in the Santiago Freedom Committee. The case has begun to get some press coverage, including an article in the *New York Times*.

During this year's harvest season, hundreds of migrant laborers joined in the defense effort, including making financial donations out of their meager incomes.

The Santiago Freedom Committee organizes speaking engagements before solidarity organizations, schools, and churches. The committee is also circulating hundreds of petitions to help publicize the case. They hope to pressure Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt to grant a commutation of sentence.

For more information, contact the Santiago Freedom Committee, P.O. Box 301, Marylhurst, Ore. 97036. To protest Ventura's conviction, send letters to Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, State Capitol Building, Salem, Ore. 97310.

Supporters can write to Ventura in prison, where he has been studying both Spanish and English: Santiago Ventura Morales, No. 14710, Oregon State Correctional Institution, 3405 Deer Park Dr., Salem Ore. 97310.

Janet Post
Portland, Oregon

dominated by the right-wing Cubans.

Robert Dees
Newark, New Jersey

Homeless protest

Seven students from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, were arrested in former vice-presidential candidate Lloyd Bentsen's office in Washington, D.C., October 25. A University of Massachusetts-Amherst student and a local peace activist were also arrested.

These activists were demanding that the Democratic ticket, which claims to represent common-person interests, deal more substantially with the issue of homeless-

ness, rather than continue the rhetoric. President Reagan cut the federal housing budget by 75 percent during his administration. The protesters demanded that the Democrats replace every dollar of that.

The Community for Creative Non-Violence, a large homeless shelter in Washington, D.C., sponsored this campaign. It started the day autumn began and ended the day before the elections. Every day, activists came from different parts of the country.

The Washington contingent began its protest with a vigil on the steps of the Capitol. Demonstrators held up signs saying "Housing now" and "Homes, not bombs." One homeless woman from New York City held up a sign reading,

"I'm homeless, but I vote."

Scott Nance
Amherst, Massachusetts

Correction

The article "Massive worldwide aid needed for Nicaragua" in the November 4 *Militant* gives a figure of 300,000 for the number of homeless in Nicaragua as a result of Hurricane Joan. The correct estimate is tens of thousands.

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.

Israel, U.S. reject Palestinian moves PLO concessions aimed at negotiated settlement

BY HARRY RING

Concessions by the Palestine Liberation Organization aimed at opening the way for a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have been rejected by the Israeli regime and its mentors in Washington.

At its mid-November meeting in Algiers, the PLO-led Palestine National Council voted to declare an independent Palestinian state. It did not define the borders for such a state. PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat cited the 1947 United Nations resolution, which partitioned Palestine into Palestinian and Jewish sectors.

To provide a basis for international negotiations, the council meeting also voted to endorse a 1967 UN resolution — number 242 — that demanded recognition of the territorial integrity of all existing Middle East states, including Israel's.

The PLO declaration emphasized that any negotiations must guarantee "the legitimate national rights" of the Palestinian people, above all, "the right to self-determination."

Resolution 242

Until now, the PLO has withheld endorsement of Resolution 242. It has advocated replacing the Israeli state with a democratic, secular Palestine where Palestinians and Israelis can live in peace and equality. Israel was established through the forcible expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians from their homeland.

Acceptance of the UN resolution as the basis for international negotiations was included in a political resolution, the full text of which has not yet been published.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared that the PLO's overture "is another step in the war of Arab terror organizations against Israel's existence and independence, and we shall respond accordingly."

In Washington a State Department official commented, "We don't support this idea of a unilateral declaration." Other U.S. officials reaffirmed a 1975 agreement with the Israeli government barring any U.S. dealings with the PLO unless it explicitly recognized Israel. "It must be unconditional and unambiguous," an official emphasized.

An added U.S. condition for negotiating is that the PLO must renounce "terrorism."

The statement of the Palestine council meeting rejecting "terrorism in all its forms" was dismissed by the editors of the *New York Times* who demanded an end to the Palestinian struggle. The November 16 editorial objected that while rejecting "terrorism" the council also said it "affirms the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation and colonialism and race discrimination and their right to struggle for independence."

"Thus," asserts the *Times*, "the Palestinian extremists retain a license to kill."

Meanwhile, PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat reaffirmed the right to struggle: "Let it be clear," he told reporters, "no matter how long it takes, no force on earth can deprive my people of their right to statehood."

Uprising in West Bank, Gaza

The PLO's latest attempt to establish a basis for negotiations came as the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which are under Israeli military rule, was in its 11th month. These fighters, like Palestinians elsewhere, regard the PLO as their representative.

With a toll of more than 300 dead, thousands beaten and maimed, and thousands more jailed, these fighters have demonstrated that their struggle is irrepressible. It is fueled by the Israeli government's oppression, exploitation, and denial of human rights.

Driven off their land and denied economic

development, the people of the West Bank and Gaza have been blackjacked into becoming an integral part of the Israeli work force.

Commuting across the "green line," Israel's pre-1967 borders, they do the hardest work at the lowest pay, victims of racist abuse and economic superexploitation.

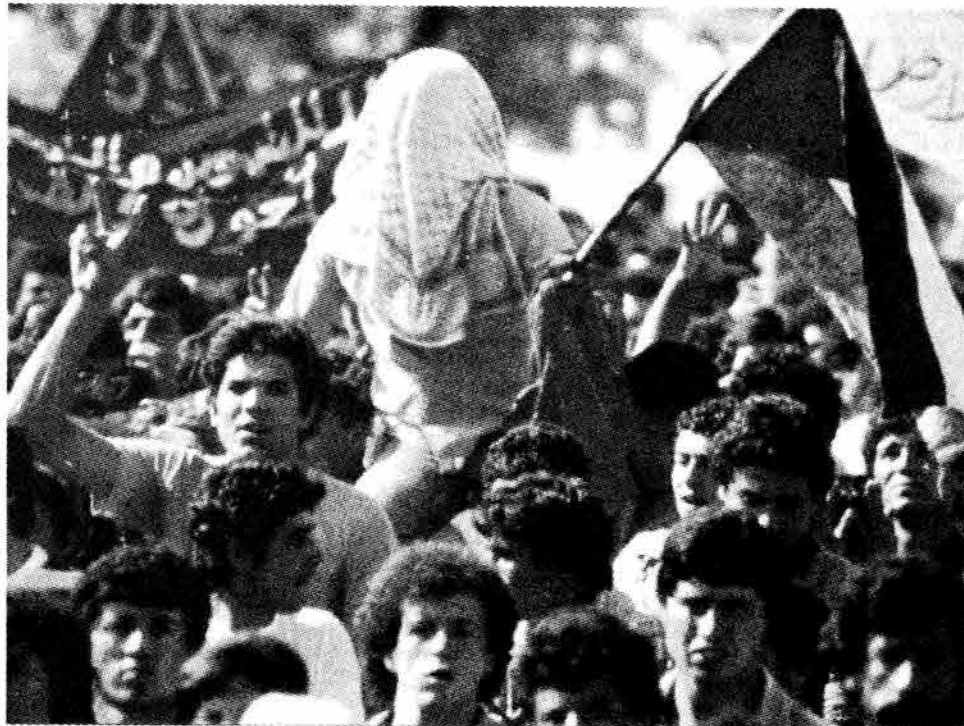
They are the most oppressed sector of Israel's labor force, which also includes tens of thousands of Palestinian workers living inside the green line.

Legally, those inside the green line are Israeli citizens. But, they are second-class citizens at best. They are discriminated against in every sphere — employment, housing, education, religious expression, medical care, civil rights, and political life.

Almost from the outset of the Palestinian uprising, militant youth in East Jerusalem, inside the green line, have joined in, forcing the Israeli police to augment their forces there. And, in the very first weeks of the West Bank and Gaza uprising, Palestinians across Israel joined in a general strike in solidarity with the struggle.

Conflict between the Israeli rulers and these Palestinians is going to deepen. That means the struggle of the Palestinians inside the green line will increasingly merge with that of their brothers and sisters in Gaza and the West Bank.

Today, the Israeli economy is kept afloat by massive injections of U.S. aid. With an economic crisis looming in the United



Uprising in West Bank and Gaza Strip is in 11th month. PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat reaffirmed right to struggle against Israeli government's oppression.

States and internationally, Israeli capitalism will be rocked to its foundations.

Workers and farmers throughout Israeli-held Palestine will be the targets of ever more savage exploitation and repression. This will lay the basis for hundreds of

thousands of working people — Palestinian and non-Palestinian — to unite to fight back.

This dynamic advances the prospect of replacing Israeli capitalist rule with a democratic, secular Palestine.

Pathfinder representative describes arrest, grilling in north of Ireland

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Pathfinder sales representative Peter Clifford recently suffered 24 hours of detention, harassment, and intimidation at the hands of the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

Held under provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the north of Ireland on November 8 and 9, Clifford was subjected to five hours of questioning.

In a recent interview, he explained what happened. "Trained interrogators questioned me over and over about the same things," said Clifford. "What was a book seller from London doing in the area? Who did I know and stay with? What are my views on Ireland? What were my contacts with Paddy Pira?" (Paddy Pira is an anti-Irish racist taunt directed against the provisional Irish Republican Army.)

Clifford was on a 10-day tour of Ireland promoting Pathfinder literature in Dublin, Belfast, Derry, and Cork.

Pathfinder London has for some years been making books available to Irish prisoners upon request. One such prisoner is Brendan Donaghy, a 22-year-old republican fighter jailed for life four years ago in the infamous H-blocks of the Maze Prison, also known as Long Kesh.

On his way to the Donaghy family home in Ballygawley, Clifford was stopped by the authorities. His bags were searched, and he was questioned.

Later, Clifford was given a warm reception by the Donaghy family, who are small farmers. After spending the night at their home, Clifford set out the next morning for Long Kesh accompanied by Brendan's brother-in-law, Michael Bannon.

"It takes a full hour and a half after arriving at the jail with its high walls, barbed-wire security, its watch towers, cameras, and listening equipment to actually meet up with the person you've come to visit," said Clifford. "During this time all your possessions are removed, your body searched.

You are taken from one waiting room to another, and driven around in a locked windowless van."

During their brief visit, Donaghy told Clifford that the prisoners study six hours a day. Their reading and organized discussions cover Irish culture, language, and history; basic socialist texts by Marx, Engels, and Lenin; and revolutionary struggles from the Russian revolution in 1917 to the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions today.

It took Clifford half-an-hour after leaving Brendan to meet up with Michael Bannon at the car parked outside the jail. Bannon had been visiting another republican prisoner.

An army checkpoint had been assembled 100 yards down the road during the time the two were at Long Kesh. Ordered out of the car by the soldiers, Clifford and Bannon were body-searched and questioned. They were then separated and taken under armed guard to the Maze Search Center.

There six soldiers dismantled the car. "They claimed that it contained explosives and that I would soon be charged with possession," Clifford said.

Clifford had with him a map of Belfast with the bookshops he was visiting circled. An army sergeant suggested that from one of the circles a grenade attack could be launched on a government building.

Clifford and Bannon were "officially" arrested at 6:45 that night, some six hours after being detained. They were taken to Gough barracks 30 miles away in Armagh where they were to spend the next 18 hours.

"The RUC and prison staff were keen to make us appreciate that we had no rights," Clifford continued. "They gloated over the Tory government's recent announcement that prisoners who elected to remain silent should be considered guilty in court."

"The RUC refused to phone a friend or relative on my behalf, failed to contact a lawyer I had named, and wouldn't even provide me with pencil and paper," he said.

"The only food I got was half a sandwich at 10:00 that night," Clifford explained. "They took my clothes and told me they would do forensic tests on them and swab tests on my hands. When I objected, they made it clear that I would face difficulties if I didn't cooperate."

Swab tests were the sole evidence used to frame the Birmingham Six on a pub bombing 14 years ago. The cops claim the swab tests showed the six had handled explosives. It has since been proved that the same results could come from touching playing cards.

Clifford was taken to a bare eight-by-eight foot cell with a bed and chair chained to the floor. "The noise outside the cell of prison guards whistling and manhandling another prisoner made it almost impossible to sleep, so you are not in the best of shape when the interrogations start up again the next morning," he said.

Meanwhile, Pathfinder offices in New York; Toronto; Sydney, Australia; and London contacted prison authorities demanding Clifford's release.

Labour Member of Parliament Tony Banks had also protested the detention to the British government's Northern Ireland office.

It was this campaign that secured Clifford's release.

The authorities finally acknowledged that salt, not explosives, had been found in the car and that the forensic tests were negative.

Before letting Clifford go, they fingerprinted him. He was again told that refusal to cooperate would be dealt with forcibly. This didn't stop them from later asking Clifford to sign a statement saying he had been well treated.

Articles on Clifford's detention have appeared in the *London Guardian* and in *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, published by the Irish republican organization Sinn Féin. Tony Banks has submitted official parliamentary questions to the secretary of state that will require a response in Parliament.