

## Attack on Rushdie strikes at democratic rights

BY MARGARET JAYKO

"The fight to defend Salman Rushdie is a crucial one for working people all over the world," said Brian Grogan, national secretary of the Communist League, in a telephone interview from London.

"The reactionary campaign against Rushdie, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, is a mortal threat to all democratic rights — freedom of speech, freedom to write, freedom of religion. And this crusade against 'blasphemy' has given a handle to the

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ruling parties in Britain to increase the use of censorship against all those — from Northern Ireland to the Asian communities — who are fighting for their rights."

Fire has been focused on *The Satanic Verses*, Rushdie's latest novel. Rushdie was born in Bombay, India, and grew up in Britain. He has written several other novels, including *Midnight's Children*, dealing with India; *Shame*, set in Pakistan; and *The Jaguar's Smile*, a favorable portrait of the Nicaraguan revolution.

"Salman Rushdie, it ought to be remembered, has been an energetic defender of the rights of Asian and Muslim minorities in a nominally Christian England," wrote author Christopher Hitchens in a defense of Rushdie.

Edward Said, author and member of the Palestine National Council, explained in the February 27 *Washington Post*, "Salman Rushdie is after all the same distinguished writer and intellectual who has spoken out for immigrants', black, and Palestinian rights, against imperialism and racism, as well as against censorship. . . ."

*The Satanic Verses* was published last year in Britain. Proponents of a ban on the novel argue that it is a blasphemous book, portraying the prophet Mohammed and his wives in an exceedingly offensive manner.

*The Satanic Verses* was banned in India last October. This was generally seen as an attempt by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to woo voters who were Muslims in the upcoming state elections.

Rushdie responded with an open letter to

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## Eastern steps up drive against airline unions

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

NEW YORK — The National Mediation Board, after presiding over 16 months of negotiations between Eastern Airlines and the International Association of Machinists (IAM), has called for President George Bush to intervene in this contract fight.

A government-imposed "cooling off" period of 30 days is already in place at Eastern and set to end at midnight March 3, at which time the company could impose its final contract offer and the IAM would be free to strike. If Bush intervenes, through the setting up of an emergency panel, the countdown would automatically be extended by 60 days.

Eastern management, led by Frank Lorenzo of Eastern's parent company Texas Air, denounced the National Mediation Board's move. It hopes to implement its contract demands, including massive cuts in wages and pensions, work-rule changes, and the introduction of part-timers.

In its drive to win \$150 million in concessions from the IAM, the company has made no secret of its intention to keep planes flying through a strike, despite the obvious safety problems involved in operating an airline with inexperienced replacement workers and supervisors who have not worked on planes in years.

While the IAM officials and the AFL-CIO leadership have openly called for Bush to step into the labor dispute, many IAM members at Eastern have responded differently. Workers do feel that an eventual government-imposed contract would be better than any one forced on the union by Lorenzo (though many believe it would still not be acceptable.) However, IAM members are virtually unanimous in opposing a further extension of the so-called cooling-off period.

"Another 60 days of this, there won't be any of us left," was the reaction of one



Militant Members of International Association of Machinists Local 702 picketed Eastern Airlines offices in Miami February 23.

ramp service worker at LaGuardia Airport here in New York. Four Eastern IAM members at LaGuardia have been fired in the past two weeks.

In Miami hundreds of IAM members were given 10-day suspension notices after a company-provoked walkout of 1,700 IAM members on February 7. Several dozen shop stewards were also suspended for up to 30 days, effectively removing

elected union representatives from company property.

Eastern management is spending millions to hire and train strike breakers and send out propaganda video tapes to every pilot and mechanic.

In the past week private security companies have set up operations at all Eastern facilities. At LaGuardia Airport, Eastern

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## Chicago socialist campaigns for mayor

BY SUSAN LaMONT

CHICAGO — Omari Musa, a 44-year-old unionist and veteran Black rights fighter, is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of this sprawling industrial city on the southwestern shores of Lake Michigan.

With more than 3 million people,

Chicago is the most important manufacturing, commercial, agricultural marketing, banking, and transportation center in the Midwest. Its population is 40 percent Black, 40 percent white, and 20 percent Latino — mainly Mexican and Puerto Rican.

The general election is coming up April 4, and the socialist candidate and his supporters have recently stepped up campaigning among Chicago's workers and young people, and have also made several regional campaign trips in Illinois and Wisconsin.

"Wherever I speak — whether it's to garment workers, high school students, or unemployed youth in one of the city's prison-like public housing projects — the socialist proposals get a serious hearing," explains Musa.

"The SWP's view that the capitalist system as a whole is in crisis rings true to most working people here," he says. "The problems in Chicago are right on the surface for everyone to see."

"Unemployment here is higher than the national average," Musa explains. "For Black men, the jobless rate is 19 percent; for Latino men and women, it's 10.5 percent; and for youth as a whole in the city, the rate is 28 percent. Although businessmen and politicians crow about the number of jobs created here in recent years, six out of 10 new jobs here were those in the 'low-

est paying occupations,' according to the city government."

The socialist candidate notes that beneath the giant skyscrapers and high-priced condominiums that dominate the skyline, there's growing homelessness, blatant police brutalization of Black and Latino workers and youth, declining wages, worsening medical care and other social services, deteriorating and increasingly segregated schools and housing, and crumbling streets.

"Most working people also understand that there isn't some 'Chicago' solution to this crisis, which can only get worse in the next economic downturn," Musa adds. "They're open to looking at our problems here in a larger context."

"What the socialist campaign offers — in contrast to my opponents in the Democratic and Republican parties," he says, "is an honest explanation of how the capitalist system works, what it has in store for workers and farmers internationally, and a perspective for how we can unify to defend ourselves as this crisis deepens. We explain that working people's understanding of ourselves as an international class, with our own interests, is our most powerful weapon."

The week of February 18-25 was a special one for the SWP campaign here.

Taking advantage of the heightened interest in the election in the days before the

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## International protests force Peru regime to free Blanco

BY SELVA NEBBIA

"I believe that I won my freedom because of the solidarity of the peasants of Ucayali, of the Peruvian peasants in general, and because of international solidarity on my behalf," said Hugo Blanco in a telephone interview from Lima February 27. Blanco had been released three days earlier after spending two weeks in prison.

Blanco is the organizational secretary of the Peruvian Peasant Federation (CCP) and a member of the central committee of the Unified Mariateguista Party (PUM).

He was arrested on February 9 while participating in a peasant strike in the department of Ucayali in central Peru.

The peasants in Ucayali began a strike on January 25 to demand that the income they receive for their produce be adjusted

to the rate of inflation, explained Blanco. In 1988, the rate of inflation in Peru reached 2,000 percent.

"The peasant leaders and the Ucayali authorities met for two days prior to the February 9 march and reached some agreements on local issues," he added. "Among those at the meetings was the prefect of Ucayali. We informed him that we were planning a march and rally for the following day [February 9], and he accepted this and told us to pick up the permit the next day. So we had permission to carry out the march and rally."

The following day while people were lining up for the march, the police began to shoot at the unarmed peasants.

"The contingent that I was heading went

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# Protests explode in Venezuela as gov't imposes price rises

BY DON ROJAS

A government-mandated state of emergency suspending fundamental democratic rights and constitutional guarantees remains in force in Venezuela following three days of rioting that left more than 100 persons dead, 1,000 more wounded, and hundreds arrested.

Tens of thousands took to the streets of the capital, Caracas, and eight other cities earlier this week in explosive protests against severe economic measures dictated to the government of President Carlos Andrés Pérez by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and big banks in New York, London, and other countries.

The spontaneity and extent of the rioting and looting, coupled with the government's harsh crackdown in what had been considered one of Latin America's most "stable democracies," sent shock waves throughout the continent.

Triggering the massive street violence were sudden price rises of up to 80 percent for gasoline and other fuels as well as for public transport.

But the price increases merely sparked a pervasive anger among the Venezuelan masses that had been smoldering ever since the debt crisis in Latin America broke out in 1982.

For seven consecutive years, living standards in the Latin American country with the highest per capita income have declined, and the greatest burden of its \$33 billion foreign debt has been shouldered by Venezuela's workers and farmers.

In response to the outbursts, the Social Democratic government ordered heavily armed troops to repress the protests with the "full weight" of martial law.

An all-night curfew remains in effect in Caracas and other cities while troops armed with machine guns patrol the streets. No public gatherings or public speeches are permitted.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department has advised U.S. citizens not to travel to Venezuela.

In a concessionary move following the protests, the Venezuelan government announced a modest wage increase for most private-sector workers. But it stated that prices on gasoline, public transport, and other essential services will remain frozen at the new, higher levels.

At the very moment the mass protests were raging in the streets, Venezuela's Finance Minister Eglée Iturbe de Blanco was signing a letter of intent in Washington with Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF. The fund agreed to provide \$4.3 billion in credits through 1991.

Conditions on these new loans include an increase in charges for public services, higher bank interest rates, cuts in public spending, removal of government food

subsidies, and elimination of foreign exchange controls.

This onerous package is expected to increase inflation to 70 percent this year, while salary levels will remain stagnant thus further undermining real wages and purchasing power.

In December then finance minister Héctor Hurtado announced that Venezuela would suspend principal payments on most of its debt. It is the continent's fourth largest debtor — exceeded only by Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina — but unlike most other Latin American countries it has continued to pay principal to foreign bank creditors since 1982. In the first quarter of this year it will dish out some \$340 million in interest payments to the imperialist money-lenders.

The country has been hard hit by the decline in international oil prices and by the unjust terms of trade with the imperialist countries, from which all Third World countries suffer. Ninety percent of its export revenues are from oil sales.

Coming merely four weeks after the inauguration of Pérez, this crisis poses a sharp test for the policies of Latin America's leading Social Democratic politician.

A vice-president of the Socialist International, he served as his country's chief

executive from 1974-79 during the height of the oil boom.

By fanning public expectations he won a resounding election victory last December. It was based mostly on promises to ease the pressures of the economic crisis by pursuing populist policies. But now the man who recently lambasted the IMF for its "economic totalitarianism" is calling on the Venezuelan people to "bite the bullet" and accept the IMF's stringent austerity program.

Among the 22 heads of state attending Pérez' inauguration was President Fidel Castro of Cuba. While in Caracas, Castro once more warned of the grave social implications of Latin America's \$430 billion debt.

Ever since 1984 Castro has pioneered a campaign to demand that the Third World's foreign debt, which has doubled since 1982, be canceled. The debt now stands at \$1.3 trillion, according to World Bank statistics.

Castro has repeatedly stated that the debt is not only immoral but mathematically unpayable and uncollectible and has the potential of igniting massive social explosions.

Because of the debt the outflow of resources to the imperialist states is steadily rising. Net payments from the Third World



Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez

to the rulers in the industrially developed capitalist countries increased from \$38 billion in 1987 to \$43 billion last year.

## British Ford plant threatens mass job cuts

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — A secret Ford Motor Co. document leaked to the press here says that the company is planning a 56 percent cut in the work force at its giant Dagenham plant by 1992, a loss of some 6,000 jobs. Ford has justified the job cuts due to the transfer of production of its top-selling Sierra model to its Genk plant in Belgium.

The job cuts at Ford Dagenham are part of the company's effort to increase labor productivity at its plants around the world. Since 1979 Ford's shop floor work force in Europe has been cut from 104,000 to 77,500. During the same period Ford increased production by 37 percent. The Dagenham work force has been slashed from 27,000 to 11,000. Labor productivity has also increased by more than 50 percent since 1983, according to Ford.

As a result, Ford declared record profits in 1988 of £3.1 billion (US\$5.3 billion) for the third year running, up 25 percent from the previous year. This increase is due entirely to Ford's performance in Europe. By contrast its profits in the United States fell by 10 percent.

But in 1987 Ford's market share in Europe dropped from third to fourth place despite an increase in overall car sales in

Europe from 10 to 12 million.

Workers at Ford Dagenham's Paint Trim and Assembly (PTA) plant have taken industrial actions a number of times in the past against company productivity measures.

On February 2 management confirmed the dismissal of prominent trade union activist Mick Gosling. Gosling, an assembly line worker in the PTA plant, is chair of the 1-1107 branch of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), the largest Ford union branch in Britain. Half of the job cuts, the first 500 of which were announced in January, are to take place in the PTA plant.

Gosling, who has 10 years continuous service at the company, was dismissed for allegedly instigating "unconstitutional stoppages" and concealing his university degree. A 1-1107 union branch bulletin distributed to all workers in the PTA said Gosling's dismissal was a "deliberate assault on union organization within the assembly plant aimed at weakening union resistance to speedup and flexible work schedules, and smoothing the road for the removal of the Sierra from Dagenham."

Unions at Ford's second main plant in Britain expressed full support for Gosling's

reinstatement. Some 42 Labour Party members of Parliament presented a parliamentary motion supporting Gosling.

Unions at Ford plants in Valencia, Spain, and in São Paulo, Brazil, also expressed their solidarity with Gosling. In a letter to the director of personnel, the Ford Brazil Ipiranga plant committee stated, "We do not accept the company's arbitrary act in dismissing him as it represents a threat to the organization of workers in the whole Ford group."

In a letter to all workers involved in the strike ballot, management asserted that Gosling's dismissal was not an attack on the union. It then went on to claim that "industrial action on this issue will not only lose you money but will also set back efforts to ensure the future survival of our plant."

Workers on Gosling's shift voted 2-to-1 against the union's call for strike action to force his reinstatement. Management refused to allow the holding of a mass meeting of the workers before the balloting.

Tony Hunt and John Barton, car workers at Dagenham Ford and members of the TGWU, contributed to this article.

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# Support grows for March 18 nationwide actions

## Marches, rallies to protest U.S. intervention in El Salvador

BY DIANA CANTÚ

SAN FRANCISCO — Organizing activity is under way for the San Francisco Bay Area component of the nationwide protest against U.S. intervention in El Salvador's civil war.

New York and San Francisco will be the focal points of the national protest. In both cities, there will be marches and rallies Saturday, March 18.

At the Federal Building in each city there will be nonviolent civil disobedience protests Monday, March 20.

Nationwide, the actions are being coordinated by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and CRECE, a committee of Central American refugees.

In the Bay Area, the March 18 protest, and a series of activities leading up to it, are being organized by a coalition that includes Central America solidarity organizations, religious groups, unionists, and students.

The coalition is led by the San Francisco and Oakland-Berkeley chapters of CISPES and CRECE, and the sanctuary projects of several churches.

Local coalition cochairers include: Sherri Chiesa, president, Local 2, Hotel & Restaurant Workers; Jim Ryder, president, Local 6 of the Longshoremen's union; peace activist Brian Willson; and Jeff Chang, president, Associated Students, University of California at Berkeley.

Participating organizations include Pledge of Resistance, Bay Area Peace Council, Committee for Health Rights in Central America, Environmental Project on Central America, Students Against Intervention in Central America, and Lesbians and Gays Against Intervention.

There have already been a number of successful building marches and pickets. A fast by Salvadoran refugees and others, including some prominent figures, has drawn a good deal of support and media coverage.

On the morning of March 18, demon-

strators will gather at Dolores Park, march through the Mission and Castro districts, and rally at the Federal Building. On March 20, nonviolent protesters will seek to block entry to the building.

With activity under way, volunteers are needed. Contact: Call to Action, 3126 22nd St., San Francisco, California, 94110. Telephone (415) 641-9933.

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — More than 60,000 leaflets issued by the New York Coalition to Stop the War in El Salvador have been distributed by many of the 82 organizations participating in the coalition.

Recent endorsers of the March 18-20 protest include several Democratic Party clubs, the Communist Party, religious and social justice groups, and a high school student group.

Rep. Major Owens from Brooklyn and Rev. Lucius Walker, executive director of

the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, are serving as the cochairers of the coalition.

The March 18 action will feature a send-off rally at Union Square, a march through the midtown shopping area, and a concluding rally at Times Square.

Featured speakers include Owens and Walker, and Arnaldo Ramos, representing El Salvador's rebel coalition, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

In Long Island, where a majority of the metropolitan area's estimated 80,000 Salvadoran refugees live, a group began a hunger strike February 16. They are demanding a halt to U.S. funding of the war being waged by the Salvadoran regime, as well as pressing for political asylum for those who have fled Salvadoran government repression.

To publicize the March 18 action, leafletting and other activity is underway. Volunteers should call (212) 925-0161.

In addition to New York and San Francisco, marches, rallies, and other protests will be held in Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, and some 30 other cities and towns across the country.

## Peace offers debated in El Salvador

BY MARGARET JAYKO

In the face of growing international and domestic pressure, José Napoleón Duarte, the U.S.-backed president of El Salvador, announced that he would reverse himself and accept aspects of the peace proposal put forward by rebel forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Two days later, the Salvadoran army declared it would begin a cease-fire at midnight, February 28, which would remain in effect until June 1. The armed forces demanded that the FMLN also halt military operations.

The high command's decision came in the wake of the rebel leaders' agreement to begin peace talks with the government.

On March 1 the FMLN rejected the cease-fire calling it a "publicity maneuver." The rebel organization said that the army's cease-fire would not stop the repression in the cities or withdraw troops from the countryside.

On February 26, in a televised broadcast, Duarte suggested a six-week delay in presidential elections, slated for March 19; a cease-fire beginning February 28 and lasting through June 1, when his term in office ends; and talks between the government and the FMLN. These would begin as soon as the cease-fire is in effect, to discuss an end to hostilities, merging of the two sides' armies, and the rebels' integration into the country's political and social life.

The U.S. State Department immediately praised the proposal as "potentially the most significant opportunity ever" to resolve El Salvador's eight-year-old civil war.

The ultraright Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), the party that controls the National Assembly and is linked to the death squads, rejected any delay in the election, fearing it would hurt ARENA's electoral chances.

According to a report from San Salvador by Lindsey Gruson in the February 28 *New York Times*, "Opposition politicians charged that Mr. Duarte's plan was little more than a last-ditch effort to save the governing Christian Democrats, who are trailing in the polls. They characterized the proposal as a thinly veiled effort to shift blame to other parties for any breakdown in the peace initiative."

The FMLN rejected Duarte's proposal for a six-week delay in the elections as too short and demanded that the meeting with the government be held in San Salvador, not Guatemala, as Duarte proposed; that Duarte himself participate; and that delegates from the country's 13 political parties take part, not just observe.

### FMLN peace plan

On January 24 the General Command of the FMLN had issued a proposal to postpone the presidential elections for six months, to September 15, and to use the in-

terim period to take steps to democratize the electoral process.

These included: an immediate end to all government repression; a guarantee that the army would remain in its barracks on election day; the inclusion of the opposition Democratic Convergence electoral front in the Central Election Council; and a promise that Washington would not intervene in the elections.

If these conditions were met, the FMLN would agree to respect the activity of all electoral bodies and parties and respect the mayors that disassociate themselves from the army. The rebel forces would decree a four-day truce. (This was later lengthened to 30 days before and 30 days after the elections.) And the FMLN would participate in the elections by supporting the Democratic Convergence, accept the legitimacy of the election results, and accept that the present government would remain in power in the transition period leading up to the postponed elections.

Subsequently, representatives of 13 Salvadoran political parties that had been attempting to jointly prepare a response to the FMLN initiative agreed to an FMLN offer to meet face-to-face in Mexico to discuss the plan.

Prior to the meeting, the parties submitted questions to the FMLN for written answers. In the responses, the rebel forces reaffirmed their commitment to participate in the elections and abide by the outcome, including laying down their arms.

The talks took place February 20-21. No government or army representatives participated.

On the second day of the meeting, the FMLN General Command issued a statement on implementation of its proposal, which expanded on some of the points taken up in its written answers to the political parties' questions. It said:

"We declare ourselves disposed to implement the following:

"(1) For a definitive cease-fire.

"(2) To integrate ourselves into the political life of the country.

"(3) To recognize the existence of one single army" as long as: all those military personnel responsible for assassinations and other political crimes are brought to justice; the size of the army is reduced to 12,000 troops from its current 56,000; and other security forces such as the National Police and Treasury Police are dissolved. "The present security forces are, in fact, real sources of torture and terror, which act in violation of human rights and the existing laws," said the rebel statement.

"If this proposal is agreed to and implemented, the FMLN would put down its arms, and would fully integrate itself into the political life of the country," the FMLN leaders concluded.

### Government-backed repression on rise

Meanwhile, government-backed repression intensifies. The San Salvador offices of the broad-based Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) were attacked several

times in February by right-wing death squads. Union supporters responded with a protest march through downtown San Salvador on February 22.

Recently, the Legal Aid Office of El Salvador's Catholic Church issued a report describing a February 13 raid by elite Salvadoran army troops on a rebel field hospital. The soldiers murdered five medical workers and five wounded guerrillas.

María Julia Hernández, head of the church's legal education office, said that numerous bruises on the thighs of Alejandra Bravo Betancourt, a Mexican doctor; and 14-year-old Rosibel Dubón, a Salvadoran nurse; provided compelling evidence that they were raped before they were repeatedly shot by members of the elite Atlacatl Battalion, which was trained in the United States.

## Curtis defense sponsors near 2,500; backers of frame-up continue attack

BY FRED FELDMAN

More support is being won for the fight to win the release from prison and exoneration of Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist framed up on rape and burglary charges. Curtis is now serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison.

But the supporters of the frame-up are also continuing their efforts to disrupt the defense effort.

The latest example is a January 30 mailing from Martin McLaughlin, editor of the *Bulletin* newspaper, which has been received by a number of supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. McLaughlin writes that the *Bulletin* is published by the Workers League, which he describes as "a socialist organization."

In fact, the Workers League has placed support for the government's prosecution and jailing of Curtis at the center of its activity.

Echoing the prosecution line, McLaughlin claims that the Curtis case is about "a man who is clearly and unquestionably involved in a criminal assault on a black working class girl." He asserts that the defense of Mark Curtis is merely an "SWP campaign." Curtis is a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

McLaughlin's letter comes with a brochure produced by the Workers League. This includes a *Bulletin* reprint of an October 17 letter by Keith Morris, father of Curtis' alleged victim, smearing the defense campaign; copies of five letters, purportedly from individuals rescinding endorsements of the Curtis defense following receipt of Morris' letter; *Bulletin* articles on the Workers League efforts to get others to rescind endorsements; a statement by an official of Iowa's Polk County Victim Services who has supported the prosecution of Curtis from the start; and other items.

Morris' letter of last October attempted

to go the prosecution one better by portraying Curtis as "probably a drug user" who intended to murder the alleged victim and her brother.

He also resorted to red-baiting attacks on the SWP, which he portrays as "knowingly defending a proven rapist and even attempting to turn him into some kind of civil-rights martyr." He invented an incident in which SWP leaders boasted to him about "how much money they were making from the case."

In response to the mailing from *Bulletin* editor McLaughlin, Stu Singer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said in a telephone interview, "The Workers League distributes the Morris letter, without mentioning that the Mark Curtis Defense Committee is widely distributing a response that exposes and answers every one of Morris' false claims. Neither Morris nor the Workers League have been able to rebut this."

Singer said that the facts about the arrest and jailing of Mark Curtis show that the real issue is police brutalization and use of frame-up methods against a young working-class fighter. "Curtis is just one of the thousands of young workers in this country who are fighting back against the attacks of the employers and their government," he said.

"The victimization of Curtis is not aimed at one individual or organization. It is an attack on unionists, farmers, youth, and many others who stand up for their rights."

Singer pointed out that despite the efforts of proponents of the police frame-up — such as the Workers League — support for Curtis among unionists, Black rights fighters, civil libertarians, and many other defenders of democratic rights in the United States and around the world is expanding. "There are now 2,494 sponsors of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee," he reported.



Militant/Lou Howort



# Prominent rights fighters endorse committee

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving 25 years in jail on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an interna-

tralian Socialist Workers Party.

Two leaders of the workers' and peasants' movement in the Philippines have signed sponsor cards:

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

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

Eddie Funde, African National Congress representative in Australia, and his assistant, Ndimiso Ntshinga, are among the first prominent figures in that country to join the rapidly growing international list of endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Curtis supporter Lee Walkington spoke at a Militant Labor Forum in Sydney February 10 to discuss the stakes in this fight and to appeal for support for the efforts of the Curtis defense committee.

Central America solidarity activists, members of political organizations, and immigrant workers from Latin America were among those who attended the forum. Also endorsing was Jim Percy, national secretary of the Aus-

Serge Cherniguin, vice-president of the National Federation of Sugarworkers in Negros; and Felisimo Patayan, vice-president of the Peasant Movement of the Philippines, the Philippine peasants' union.

Cherniguin had issued a protest last year demanding that the Des Moines police and prosecutor drop the charges against Curtis. He was surprised to learn that the prosecution had won a conviction, he said, because the facts showed Curtis had been framed up.

Patayan, 74-year-old veteran of the peasant movement in the Philippines, said that frame-ups of union and peasant activists on criminal charges are a common occurrence in the Philippines. Solidarity with such victims, whether in the United States or the Philippines, he said, is an obligation.

Twenty-two participants at a recent conference on human rights,

held in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, have become supporters of the Curtis campaign. The January 28-29 meeting protested human rights violations along the U.S.-Mexican border. It drew 80 people from immigration rights and other groups in both countries.

Spanish-language Curtis materials were distributed from the main table and displayed on the wall. Curtis activists made an extended announcement about the case at the end of one of the plenary sessions. Several people from Tijuana, Mexico, and Mexico City said they had circulated pro-Curtis petitions in their cities.

Twenty-four conference participants signed a statement demanding justice for Curtis and calling for all "immigrants' rights and other activists to join us in supporting defense of Mark Curtis."

Mercedes Holguín and Clara Rodríguez of the Mexican League for the Defense of Human Rights became sponsors and took materials to reproduce and distribute to their affiliates throughout Mexico.

Other new sponsors include: Victor Clark, Bi-National Center for Human Rights, Tijuana; Louis Akin, president, American Civil Liberties Union, El Paso, Texas; Amador Beltrán, Democratic Peasant Front, Chihuahua; Jorge Hinojosa, Coalition for Law and Justice, San Diego, California; and John Carrera, National Coalition of Advocates for Students, Boston.

Also signing were: Roberto Vásquez Muñoz, Juárez Civic-Democratic Alliance; Dolores Leony, League for the Defense of Immigrants and People of the Border; Mike Flores, Tohono O'odham Nation (a native people whose land extends from Arizona into Sonora, Mexico); and Alicia Lepe, Latino Community Justice Center of Los Angeles.

Supporters of the Curtis defense effort in San Francisco have sent out a letter asking people to get involved, and especially to attend a March 4 benefit where Piri Thomas, the noted Puerto Rican author and poet, will give a poetry reading.

Signers of the letter include: Miles Myers, president, California Federation of Teachers; Michael Davis, Northwest regional director, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES); Ann Poirier, Bay Area Free South Africa Movement; and Bill Leumer, president, International Association of Machinists Local 565.

At a celebration in Washington, D.C., of the 77th anniversary of the African National Congress, Ben Chavis signed up as a sponsor. Chavis is one of the three cochairpersons of the Southern

Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice. The Southern Organizing Committee is also an endorser as are the other two cochairpersons: Anne Braden and Fred Shuttlesworth.

Chavis was himself a victim of a political frame-up. He was one of the Wilmington 10, who were convicted in 1972 on trumped-up arson and conspiracy charges as a result of their antiracist activities in North Carolina. An international protest campaign was mounted on their behalf. Chavis spent four years in prison. He was freed in December 1979, the last of the 10 released from jail. Today, Chavis is head of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice.

Lea Tsemel from Jerusalem, a prominent lawyer who defends the rights of supporters of the Palestinians, has added her name to the sponsor list.

New York State Assemblyman Roger Green, chair of the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, has become an endorser.

Peter Thierjung from Manila, the Philippines; Cynthia Murray from Sydney, Australia; and Barry Fatland and Harvey McArthur from Phoenix contributed to this column.

# Rally in Stockholm declares solidarity with Curtis

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — More than 40 people attended a defense rally here for Mark Curtis on February 18. The featured speaker was Mark Curtis Defense Committee leader Kate Kaku, who is a laid-off packinghouse worker in Des Moines, Iowa, and the wife of Mark Curtis.

Curtis is serving 25 years in an Iowa prison, convicted on phony charges of rape and burglary. The defense committee says he is being victimized because of his political and union activities.

Stellan Hermansson, chairperson of the Communist Youth, the youth organization of the Left Party-Communist in Sweden, was framed up last year in the Philippines. "Both the USA and the Philippines want to look like democratic societies," he told rally participants. "Because of that they cannot put people in prison for trade union activities" or because of what they write. "They have to invent something else and pay witnesses. Because of that Mark is accused and condemned of rape, and I was accused of training guerrillas and leading military attacks."

The Communist youth leader stressed the need for solidarity in order to expose

and break up political frame-ups. "It is needed to spread the truth to all those people who because of the mass media begin to doubt that you are innocent."

"In my case there was tons of evidence that I was not even in the Philippines when the guerrilla attack took place, Hermansson said. "I am here free today. That is not because the Philippine state is governed by law. It is because the international solidarity campaign became too strong. We must promise each other to work hard to free Mark," he concluded.

### 'A framed-up nation'

"We see in Mark Curtis' experience a tragic resemblance to our experience," said Billy Modise, African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa chief representative in Sweden.

"We see in his experience a life that has characterized our society for many years. In fact South Africa today is nothing else but a framed-up nation. We have thousands and thousands of people who have been framed up on charges that they are not guilty of. The constitution itself makes people guilty because of the color of their skin. People are kept in custody for up to three years and not even charged," explained Modise.

"It is for this reason," he said, that the ANC backs Mark Curtis. "Pressure must be applied on all structures in the United States, internationally, here in Sweden, to keep the Mark Curtis issue alive. To do that a lot of money and fund-raising is involved, which is very necessary for this work."

"We are with Mark Curtis. He will come back, not a defeated cadre, but a stronger, greater cadre," the ANC leader stressed.

Gerd Måbrink is chairperson of the Food Workers Union at Ahlgrens in Gävle. Three years ago, as a member of the local council for the Left Party-Communist, she helped a Chilean worker get a job. "After that my life changed. I have been harassed by phone since then. I have received letters. I have been threatened. My companion was taken away and beaten. I feel an affinity with Mark because he supported his immigrant coworkers and showed solidarity like everybody should."

"Workers around the world must have the right to organize in trade unions, the right to express their opinions. For that to happen we must give support against those



Mark Curtis Defense Committee leader Kate Kaku (right) and translator at rally for Curtis in Stockholm.

forces that brutality want to frighten us into silence and submission. We must rouse opinion in favor of Mark's case so he will be a free man to continue his fight for his coworkers and for the peoples in Central America and all over the world."

Gunilla Berglund, wife of Hugo Blanco, longtime peasant leader in Peru who was recently freed from prison as a result of an international protest campaign, expressed her solidarity with the fight for justice for Curtis.

### Why Curtis was victimized

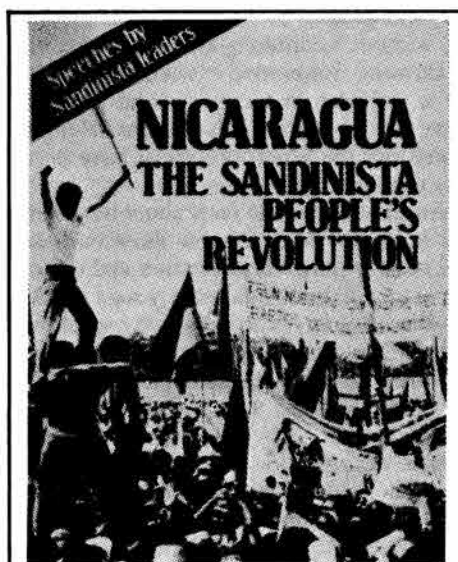
Kaku described the kind of political activities Curtis was involved in leading up to his arrest, from supporting the rights of immigrant workers to fighting against cop racism. "What Mark was doing is not unique," stressed Kaku. "It is the kind of political activity that thousands and thousands of vanguard workers around the world are participating in."

The ruling class in Des Moines didn't make a "mistake" when they framed up Curtis, explained Kaku. "They have to go after the vanguard that inspires the rest of the workers and farmers. That's why they

have to go after Hugo Blanco, Mark Curtis, and the ANC. They want to demoralize the rest of us. But they underestimate the consciousness of workers and farmers, the fact that people can see through these criminal charges as a frame-up to politically victimize people. And we have come a long way in breaking up their frame-up with our political fight."

Several unionists who had been victimized by their employers because they stood up for workers were introduced to the meeting.

Greetings were sent to the rally from the Palestine Workers' Federation in Sweden and from the editors of three left papers, *Internationalen*, *Norrskensflamman*, and *Proletären*, who are on trial for writing about some cops' suspicious behavior around the murder of former prime minister Olof Palme. Anna Christensen, professor of law at University of Lund and prominent defender of democratic rights; Olof Lagercrantz, former editor of *Dagens Nyheter*, largest liberal daily in Sweden; and Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, civil rights fighter from Northern Ireland, also sent greetings.



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# Chicago: socialist candidate for mayor steps up campaign

Continued from front page

February 28 Democratic and Republican party primaries, Musa's backers organized a special target week of campaign activities. Their most important pieces of campaign literature were the *Militant, Perspectiva Mundial*, and a new campaign brochure that describes the SWP's Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. This program centers on the fight for a shorter workweek in order to create jobs for all; affirmative action for Black, Latino, and women workers; and cancellation of the \$1.3 trillion debt owed by semicolonial countries to big bankers in New York, London, Tokyo, and other international financial centers.

The week began with a trip by Musa to Milwaukee to speak at the Militant Labor Forum on the SWP's Action Program. Musa was also interviewed by the *Community Journal*, a Milwaukee Black community paper, which had carried an article announcing the February 18 forum.

He returned to Wisconsin February 22 for another day of campaigning, which started in the morning with an informal political discussion with several unionists from Kenosha Beef, a meatpacking plant in Kenosha, near Milwaukee. Later in the day, he was interviewed by two other Black community papers, the *Milwaukee Times* and the *Milwaukee Courier*.

That night, Musa spoke to 60 students at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee after a showing of the film *Malcolm X: The Struggle for Freedom*. The event, sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance, sparked a discussion on questions ranging from Malcolm X's views on women's liberation to the role of Cuban troops in Angola. Several dozen students signed up to get more information about the YSA.

The next day, Musa and several supporters traveled to Western Illinois University in Macomb, a town in an agricultural area near the Iowa border. Many of WIU's 12,000 students come from farm families, and nearly a quarter come from Chicago, including many of the campus's Black students.

Following a successful news conference at the University Union, Musa spoke to more than 30 students and faculty at a meeting sponsored by the Macomb Progressive Alliance. His talk, titled "Economy, Oppression, and You," was again followed by a wide-ranging discussion.

A number of students responded to a young woman who described herself as a "hard-line capitalist." Why, she had asked Musa, can't everyone just do what I did to "get ahead"? The problem is the system itself not individual failings or weaknesses, several students told her, using their own experiences to illustrate the point.

In response to one student's question about whether there was any alternative to the capitalist system, Musa described the gains made by the socialist revolution in Cuba. Musa visited Cuba last June, and speaks about what he saw there when he's out campaigning.

A prominent article on Musa appeared in the campus paper, the *Western Courier*, the following day — which prompted a number of students to come up to Musa to shake his hand as he was getting ready to leave the campus.

When Musa returned to Chicago, he drove straight to a supporter's apartment for an informal get-together over pizza with several garment workers. The unionists work at Hart, Schaffner & Marx, a large manufacturer of men's suits, and are members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. They told Musa about the conditions they face on the job and in their union, and wanted to hear

more about the socialist campaign.

A 27-year-old Black worker who started at "Hartmarx" last fall, and an older worker who has been there for 16 years, were glad to hear about the good response Musa's campaign had just received at WIU. Musa's statement, quoted in the *Western Courier* article, that the police and businessmen of Chicago are responsible for the city's drug problem "really struck a nerve with me," the younger worker said.

The garment workers talked with Musa about the Cuban revolution and what the Grenadian people, with few resources, accomplished during the 1979-83 revolution in that country, before the revolution's overthrow and U.S. invasion. "The experience of Grenada shows what can be done when people organize themselves to act together to solve their problems," Musa said. It was the example of Grenada for working people here, as well as the Caribbean, that the U.S. government feared, he said.

The target week wound up Saturday night, February 25, with a rally at the SWP's campaign storefront headquarters on the South Side, where supporters gathered after a day of campaigning around the city.

"The rally tonight is a unique event," said Young Socialist Alliance leader Jim Little, welcoming those present. "Ordinarily, you don't get any politics out of 'Chicago politics.' We're here tonight to talk about the world." More than \$800 was raised for Musa's campaign.

## February 28 primaries

Substantial attention has been focused on the Chicago mayoral race by the

capitalist media in recent weeks. Acting Mayor Eugene Sawyer vied with Cook County prosecuting attorney Richard Daley for the Democratic Party nomination, in a race Daley won. Because of the dominance of the Democratic Party in city politics, the Democratic nominee has traditionally gone on to win the general election.

Sawyer, who is Black, was appointed acting mayor by the City Council in December 1987 following the death of Harold Washington, who was reelected to a second term earlier that year. The April 4 election is to decide who will serve the two remaining years of Washington's term.

Sawyer was backed by Democratic Party politician Jesse Jackson, the Chicago-based Operation PUSH organization, and most of the forces in the city associated with the National Rainbow Coalition, which Jackson heads.

Daley is the son of Richard Daley, who was mayor of Chicago for 21 years and old-time city machine boss before his death in 1976. He was endorsed by the *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Sun-Times*, the city's two major big-business dailies.

Harold Washington was first elected mayor in 1983, the first Black to hold that office in a city where the capitalist political machine was renowned for its corruption, cronyism, and racism. Washington's initial victory was made possible by a movement based in Chicago's Black community, which won the support of many Latinos, a layer of whites, and had the backing of some top trade union officials. His election finally forced most of the city's rulers to face the fact that the time had come to move away from some of the worst forms



Omari Musa

Militant/Dennis Chambers

of patronage, racist practices, and other "machine" politicking, and toward recognition of the new reality imposed on capitalist politics by the gains of the civil rights movement.

Alderman Timothy Evans, who pulled out of the Democratic primary earlier, is running as the candidate of the Harold Washington Party in the April 4 election. He claims to be the heir to Washington's legacy, as does Sawyer.

## Des Moines socialist blasts cop racism

BY PAT SMITH

DES MOINES, Iowa — The *Des Moines Register*, in a series covering the March 7 First Ward City Council race here, has been printing responses to a questionnaire from the seven candidates who are running.

On February 28 the topic was the city's Police Department. "The Des Moines Civil Service Commission has charged that racism and sexism are widespread in the Des Moines Police Department," the *Register* said. Did the candidates agree?

"The police are more openly racist, sexist, and brutal to working people as the crisis of capitalism deepens," responded Socialist Workers Party candidate Nan Bailey.

"The police savagely beat Mark Curtis, a packinghouse worker, calling him a 'Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds.' They framed him on phony charges of rape and burglary.

"Working people should demand: End

police brutality; prosecute the cops who beat Curtis."

Another candidate, David Neff, responded by describing the abuse he received at the hands of the police when, after having been stopped for speeding, he told the cop to change his description on the ticket from white to American Indian.

These answers incensed Police Chief William Moulder, who responded by denying that the cops had been guilty of misconduct, the *Register* reported. "Mr. Curtis had his day in court and was unable to establish any substance to those allegations," Moulder said.

On February 23 Bailey participated in a candidates' forum sponsored by the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). A major topic was the crisis in public transportation. "I reject the idea that \$5.5 million should be spent on a city block to build a \$17 million parking ramp, when \$500,000 can't be

paid for mass transit," Bailey told the forum. Earlier, Bailey had attended the City Council meeting where bus riders spoke out against cutbacks in the city's bus services.

Another question at the forum concerned the real estate and business owners who get tax breaks for "rejuvenating" downtown Des Moines. The mayor has said in the past that ending the tax breaks would be like "shooting ourselves in the foot."

"Who's foot would be shot?" responded Bailey. "We would be shooting the large businesses in the foot, and they need it."

In response to a question about city spending priorities, Bailey explained the beating and frame-up of political activist Mark Curtis. The forum received extensive coverage in the *Register*.

The next day, Bailey appeared on a local talk show on WHO radio in response to a challenge by Jan Mickelson, one of the show's hosts. Earlier in the month, Mickelson had broadcast a phony "interview" with birth control advocate Margaret Sanger, who died in 1966. Sanger held reactionary views on population control, which were featured in the "interview."

Planned Parenthood officials and others denounced the program — which never informed listeners that the interview was a fake — and 15 abortion rights supporters picketed the station. Mickelson invited Planned Parenthood and the pickets to appear on his show; both groups declined.

Bailey, however, took him up on his offer. Although Mickelson told her she could only discuss her campaign platform, not abortion rights, Bailey encouraged listeners to attend the April 9 national demonstration in Washington, D.C., in defense of legal abortion being sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

On February 25, Bailey attended an open house at the Door of Faith Mission, a privately owned shelter for the homeless. There are an estimated 2,000 homeless people in Des Moines.

At the open house, Bailey and others spoke with Mayor John Dorrian about the city's housing problem. He said the city has no shelters of its own, but offers beds to the homeless in the police station and fire station. "Who wants to go to jail?" Jimmy Farley, a former homeless man, asked the mayor.



Militant/Ted Leonard

Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines City Council Nan Bailey (left) and Jimmy Farley discuss crisis for homeless workers, at Door of Faith Mission shelter open house.

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# Why the Grenada revolution is still relevant today

A few days from now thousands of patriotic Grenadians at home and abroad as well as progressive people around the world will commemorate and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the triumph of the Grenada revolution.

This revolution was the seminal political event of the 1970s in the Caribbean that more than any other development contributed to the reshaping of the region's political landscape in the 1980s.



## CARIB NOTES Don Rojas

ment contributed to the reshaping of the region's political landscape in the 1980s.

The overthrow of the hated Eric Gairy dictatorship on March 13, 1979, by freedom fighters led by Maurice Bishop shocked reactionary circles in the Caribbean and alarmed the imperialist policymakers in Washington and London. It was met, however, with jubilation by the Grenadian and Caribbean masses and with wide approval throughout the Third World.

What particularly upset the empire and its neocolonial supporters was the "unconventional" manner in which the New Jewel Movement (NJM) took power: not by winning national elections (which it could have done in 1976 had the elections been free and fair) but by inspiring and leading a swift and popular mass uprising.

This was not a coup d'état where power was simply transferred from one corrupt elite to another but rather a revolutionary shift of political power from the proimperialist ruling class to the masses of workers and farmers, women and youth, and their legitimate representatives.

So significant was the March 13 victory that for four and a half years "conventional" politics in the Caribbean and imperialist policy toward the region were conditioned and crafted by responses and reactions to the initiatives of the Grenada revolution.

As a socioeconomic and political process the revolution was destroyed in October 1983 by a combination of ultraleftism, dogmatism, and counterrevolution within the ranks of the NJM.

Bishop and other outstanding revolutionaries were assassinated by a power-hungry, bureaucratic clique led by Bernard Coard. This opened the door for U.S. imperialism to manipulate the Grenada crisis and carry out its long-planned and well-rehearsed criminal invasion. The Yankee forces simply drove the last nail into the coffin of the revolution's corpse, which had been decapitated earlier by Stalinism.

So you may ask, what is there to celebrate and commemorate come March 13, 1989? First, there is the historical fact that Grenada made the second popular anti-imperialist revolution in the Western hemisphere 20 years after the triumph of Cuba's revolution under Fidel Castro's leadership. It also helped to inspire the final victory of the Sandinistas and the coming to power of the Nicaraguan revolution in July 1979.

There is also the record of social and economic achievements made possible only by the consistent political organization and mobilization of the masses through the revolutionary government and in the organs of a popular, new democracy.

The free health and education programs, literacy campaign, sustained economic growth, construction of a new international airport, and lowering of unemployment from 45 percent to 12 percent, as well as the "intangibles," such as the new-found pride and self-confidence that the vast majority of Grenadians enjoyed, were all noteworthy successes by any objective standard.

But they were even more remarkable when viewed against the backdrop of unceasing pressure by imperialism and in spite of a well-orchestrated campaign of propaganda and economic, diplomatic, and terroristic destabilization carried out by the U.S. government.

Ten years later, the Grenada revolution is not in power but it lives on in our collective spirit as an idea, an inspiration, an example of working people's democracy.

When people get together in a few days time in Grenada, New York, London, Toronto, Havana, and elsewhere to celebrate the historic triumph in 1979 they will not be engaging in mere nostalgic exercises. To be sure, the sentimental memories will evoke conflicting emotions of joy and pain. But more importantly they will gather to reaffirm their commitment to the fundamental principles upon which the Grenada revolution rested: anti-imperialism, national independence, sovereignty, nonalignment, and social justice.

Moreover, they will pause to critically analyze the many historical lessons the revolution has bequeathed to us. How and why it achieved what it did and why it collapsed from within. Understanding and acting upon these

lessons are among the tasks and challenges that confront all revolutionaries who must continue to fight for social change in the Caribbean and the world.

The revolution was much more than just an interesting chapter in Grenadian and Caribbean history. It was a fundamental rupture with neocolonialism as a political and economic distortion of the national independence that the mass movement had struggled for and won in the English-speaking Caribbean in the 1960s and '70s.

The revolution inherited a legacy of corruption and backwardness from a tyrannical capitalist regime led by a megalomaniac who placed his personal interests in the occult and UFOs above the welfare of the people. It inherited a bloated and inefficient state apparatus created by British colonialism as an obstacle to revolutionary transformation.

And now it has been replaced by the antidemocratic bourgeois regime of Herbert Blaize, installed and propped up by the U.S. government. Democracy and economic privilege for the minority has removed democracy and social progress for the majority, thanks to the Yankee invasion and current imperialist domination.

As a revolution made by the sons and daughters of former African slaves and East Indian indentured laborers it had an enormously positive impact on the Third World and on peoples of color in the big imperialist countries.

Far from being irrelevant to present-day Caribbean and Third World politics the overall perspective of the Grenada revolution is more pertinent now than ever before. The deepening social and economic crisis in our region and in the capitalist world at large determines that revolutionary development programs are the only viable alternatives to persistent poverty.

In the coming decade of the 1990s when this crisis in imperialism's neocolonial system will worsen and bring more misery and hardship to the masses of working people and unemployed around the globe, the Grenada revolution, which sought to protect working people from the effects of the capitalist crisis, will be placed on the Caribbean's political agenda for serious reconsideration.

For the Grenada revolution is the patrimony of all Caribbean peoples. Its essence lives on in the political program of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada and in the perspectives of others with similar views in the region.

They are the only true inheritors of the revolution's legacy, and the Caribbean's political future belongs to them.

## Delegation to promote Pathfinder books in Ireland

BY ALAN HARRIS

LONDON — A delegation from Britain will visit Belfast, in the north of Ireland on March 18 to support the right to promote and distribute Pathfinder publications in Northern Ireland.

Participants in the 12-person delegation include Tony Banks, Labour member of Parliament for Newham-Northwest; Larry Cotton, executive committee member of the National Union of Railwaymen; Andy de la Tour, chairperson of the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign; and Brenda Procter, Bridget Bell, and Deborah Patton from the Staffordshire Women Against Pit Closures. Also included are Sam Manuel, director of the Pathfinder Mural Project in New York; a representative of Transport and General Workers Union 1-1107 Dagenham Ford Workers Branch; and Pathfinder representative Peter Clifford.

The delegation formed in response to the arrest and detention of Clifford last November. He was held under the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act following his visit to a prisoner, a purchaser of Pathfinder titles, in the Long Kesh (Maze) prison in Northern Ireland.

Clifford, subjected to abuse and threats, was grilled about his sales activities and Pathfinder's publishing plans. He was released without charges after 24 hours in custody.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act, adopted by the British government several years ago, authorizes violations of many basic democratic rights.

On arriving in Belfast, the delegation will hold a news conference and reception in the Conway Mill Community Center. They will hand over a quantity of books and pamphlets to leaders of the Campaign for Lifers, who will receive them on behalf of prisoners. The Campaign for Lifers publicizes the hardships of political prisoners serving life sentences for resistance to Britain's occupation of Ireland's northern counties and organizes support for their release.

The delegation will then visit some of the prisoners in Long Kesh.

To date, 12 newspapers including the mass-circulation daily *Guardian*, have publicized the arrest of Clifford.

Several hundred figures, mainly from the Labour Party and trade union movement, signed a statement opposing the arrest. These include Labour members of Parliament Claire Short and Ken Livingstone, as well as Tony Banks; Alf Lomas, a Labour Party member of the European Parliament; and the Manchester District Council and King's Cross No. 1 Branch of the National Union of Railwaymen.

The British government has endorsed the actions of the British army and Royal Ulster Constabulary in arresting Clifford. A letter to Pathfinder from the government's Northern Ireland Office conceded that individual civil liberties sometimes are violated in the fight against "terrorism." The letter argues that this is unavoidable and must be accepted by everyone.

A statement signed by Tony Banks and Alan Harris points out that "the arrest of Peter Clifford is not only a violation of the democratic right of Pathfinder representatives to travel freely in Northern Ireland in order to promote the sales of its publications. It is a threat to the democratic right of all to do likewise, and a violation of the right of the Irish people to access to literature of their choice."

A reception and meeting will be held March 17 in central London to show solidarity with the delegation and its aims. Members of the delegation will speak. *Off Our Knees*, a film narrated by Bernadette Devlin McAliskey on the fight for civil liberties in Ireland during the last 20 years, will be shown.

For further details, contact Pathfinder, London, phone: 01-261-1534, or Una Gillespie, Belfast, 0232-620039.



Militant/Janet Post  
Pathfinder representative Peter Clifford was arrested in Ireland by British authorities last November under Prevention of Terrorism Act.

## Events to mark Grenada revolution anniversary

BY DON ROJAS

Preparations are afoot in several cities around the world to commemorate and celebrate the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Grenada revolution this month.

The main activity will be in St. George's, capital of Grenada, where an international conference organized by the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) will bring together political activists, and prominent personalities from the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Canada, and the United States.

Public activities to mark the event are also planned by chapters of the MBPM and by friends of the Grenada revolution in New York, London, Toronto, and Havana.

It was on March 13, 1979, that Maurice Bishop and the New Jewel Movement (NJM) overthrew the dictatorship of Eric Gairy and established the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

On Oct. 19, 1983, the PRG was overthrown by a clique led by Bishop's deputy prime minister, Bernard Coard. Bishop and many others were murdered by army officers loyal to Coard, and one week later the U.S. military invaded the island.

The international conference in Grenada, March 11-13, will feature workshops and panel discussions examining various aspects of the revolution and of the rise to power of the NJM in the 1970s.

U.S. imperialism's policies in the Caribbean in the years after the invasion will also be examined. A number of progressive

political leaders in the region are expected to participate in a roundtable discussion on the state of the left in the Caribbean today and prospects for anti-imperialist unity in the 1990s.

The conference will end with a public rally in the central market square of St. George's on the evening of March 13. MBPM leader Terry Marryshow will deliver the closing address, and messages of solidarity will be given by a number of foreign guests.

In New York City, on March 19, U.S.-based participants in the St. George's conference will speak at a public meeting to report on the outcome of the Grenada event and on the current political situation in that imperialist-dominated country.



# Inside a Nicaraguan garment factory

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "I came to work at Enavés because I wanted to give something back to the revolution," says Indiana Abarca. "We work harder now than before the revolution, but now what we produce is for the people."

Abarca, 42, one of several shop stewards, has worked at Enavés, a state-owned garment factory, for three years. Abarca served as my guide during the first few days of my two-week stint as a sewing-machine operator and floor helper at the largest clothing factory in Nicaragua.

Abarca says the buying power of her wages, like those of most workers at Enavés, has dropped severely since February 1988, when the Nicaraguan currency, the córdoba, was steeply devalued.

Many workers see the February devaluation as the point when things really took a turn for the worse. Inflation spiraled higher than 20,000 percent in 1988.

Lesbia Díaz, a 26-year-old overlock operator, complains, "When I went to bed milk was 200 córdobas a liter. When I woke up it cost 340. Meat is more than 1,200 córdobas a pound. Now, only the rich eat meat. I think it was better before the revolution. Then you could get anything."

Maritza Quintero, who says, "I'm not interested in politics," has her own observation. "Last year I was able to drink a soda every day. Now I only buy one a week."

## Economic brigades

Abarca, Díaz, and Quintero are all members of the "economic brigades" at Enavés.

The economic brigades began in 1986, made up of workers who agreed to regularly work overtime, without pay, to help insure the meeting of production goals at the factory. The hours dedicated to this volunteer labor on Saturdays or after the regular workday during the week are known as "brigade days."

At the peak, 100 workers participated out of a work force of 800.

The character of the brigades changed in 1987 when *brigadistas* began to receive material benefits for participation.

Brigadistas now receive extra food every three months, extra clothing, and other incentives just for working on the "brigade days," regardless of how much they produce. "Vanguard" workers have a shot at winning one of 10 houses that Enavés is building each year for the workers.

As a result of this compensation, brigade participation shot up to include 95 percent of the workers at Enavés.

When I ask Maritza Quintero why she is in the brigade, she replies, "Don't you see all the things you get?"

Her close friend Angelina Martínez has a slightly different point of view. "It's for the good of all of us," she says. "By working overtime we produce more. The company earns more money and is able to buy spare parts and guarantee our food."

On "brigade days" it seems that almost everybody spends half the day talking and telling stories.

During the regular workweek, however, some operators use every available second to meet and surpass the production norm and thereby increase their wages.

Miriam Hernández, a supervisor, says the norm is set so that four out of five operators can meet or surpass it. Workers receive incentive pay for surpassing the norm. Workers who meet 120 percent of the norm make double what they would make for 100 percent. But the increase in wages falls off sharply for production above that amount.

## A slowdown

In June, when there was talk of closing the factory because of economic difficulties, production norms were raised 35 percent.

"The workers in one department said the norm was too high, so they organized a slowdown," Hernández says. "After two

months, the administration gave in and lowered the norm a little bit."

Earlier in 1988, workers at Enavés started receiving a market basket of goods including rice, beans, sugar, corn, salt, matches, soap, and other basic necessities. The *canasta*, as everyone here calls it, is worth more than most workers make in wages during the month. All workers with good attendance get the same *canasta* regardless of their actual weekly earnings.

The *canasta* tends both to limit the wage differential between workers and to act as a built-in escalator to protect against inflation, since the value of the *canasta* rises as prices rise.

Enavés workers also receive other benefits. One of the most important is the health clinic on the factory grounds, which provides free medical care. Birth control is free to all women who request it.

The company gynecologist, Dr. Julio César Mendieta, reports that many women ask for abortions. "I try to discourage them," he says. "But usually they insist. So, even though abortion is illegal in Nicaragua, I tell them, 'Don't go to a midwife,' and give them the name of a clinic. But the clinics are expensive, and few of the workers have enough money to pay for them."

## Views on military service

There are frequent complaints heard at Enavés about compulsory military service. All Nicaraguan men between 17 and 25 must serve two years in the army.

"I like the revolution a little bit, that's all," says María Teresa Suárez. She is 21 years old and has worked at Enavés for four years.

"The main thing I don't like is the military service," she says. "My brother who is 12 refuses to study. He says, 'What for? I'll be taking a trip before long.'"

José Antonio, a floor helper who recently completed his military service, says, "Some people don't understand. Those of us who know the best are the ones who have gone to fight the contras up in the mountains. We've seen them burn down the farm cooperatives."

While many workers at Enavés complain about wages and many are critical of compulsory military service, nobody complains about the supervisors.

In two weeks in the plant I never once heard a supervisor shout or swear at a worker, or talk abusively. This is the opposite of conditions in the garment industry in the United States, where abusive behavior by supervisors and bosses is widespread.

Many workers at Enavés make bags out of scraps and add a zipper or two when the supervisors are looking the other way. The worsening economic situation with no clear solution in sight has led to an increase in stealing.

According to Max Kreimann, director of Enavés, theft is about "average" compared to other companies.

Yadira Morales has worked at Enavés for more than 10 years. "There is a lot of stealing," she says. "Some do it as a bad habit. Others for necessity. But, for whatever reason, it's not good."

Morales adds, "The solution is not to fire the worker. The solution is to raise their consciousness. If we all stole, we wouldn't have a workplace left."

Many workers have relatives in the United States, and some are thinking about following them. "I'm not confused. I understand the revolution," Marvyn Bolaños, a mechanic, says. "But my relatives told me I can make \$20 an hour as a mechanic in the States."

Marcela Gómez, 51 years old, has worked at Enavés for 10 years. "I love my revolution," she says. "Life is hard here, and some people don't want to understand that it is because of the blockade."

Gómez adds, "The United States doesn't do to other countries what they do to us."

Gómez would like to move to the United States to be with her family. "But they said I would have to say I'm a political refugee



Militant/Holbrook Mahn

Garment worker in state-owned Enavés factory in Managua.

to get permission to stay. And I'll never do that," she says emphatically.

## Women mechanics

Ramona Vargas and María Lastenia López work as mechanics at Enavés. Vargas, 36, was recently elected organizational secretary of the union at the plant.

Two years ago López and Vargas were trained as mechanics by Enavés, the first women mechanics in the textile industry. Out of 15 women who passed the course, only three are still working as mechanics at Enavés.

"Some of the women couldn't stand the pressure," Vargas comments. "The men didn't accept us at first. They said that a woman can't do the work of a man."

"We wanted to quit too," Vargas adds. "But my supervisor insisted. He said we have to be an example for the rest."

Vargas and López have learned quite a bit. "Now the men come and ask us for help, because we know the quirks of each machine," Vargas says with pride.

During the time of the Somoza dictatorship, Vargas was involved in attempts to unionize the privately owned garment shop that later became Enavés. Because of the repression, those efforts were never successful. "It was only after the triumph of the revolution that we were able to consoli-

date the union," she explains.

"I am a Sandinista," Vargas says. "I've always committed myself to resolving the problems of the workers."

Yadira Morales thinks the biggest difference for workers at Enavés since the revolution is the way they are treated. "Before, we felt oppressed. We could not do anything. Now we can say what we feel."

While many workers at Enavés are strong supporters of the revolution, few are members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Dagoberto Mejía, FSLN political secretary at Enavés, points out, "The nine members of the party here are in the administration, many of them in leadership positions." He says this must change. "Our goal is to recruit the best workers and have party committees in the four subdivisions of Enavés, with at least 10 members in each."

Out of 18 employees who will soon be proposed as candidate members of the FSLN, five are production workers, Mejía says.

Mejía says the Sandinista Youth in the plant also needs to be rebuilt. "The youth like dances, parties, sports. They don't like serious things. So we have to have parties and dances. From the youth we involve in these activities we will find the best and win them to the party."

# Students in New York hear revolutionary from Grenada

BY JON HILLSON

HAMILTON, N.Y. — Don Rojas, former press secretary to the late Maurice Bishop, prime minister of the revolutionary government in Grenada from 1979 until 1983, spoke at Colgate University here.

Rojas, editor of the recently published book *One People, One Destiny*, spoke at the campus student union February 23 as a guest of the West Indian Students Association. Some 40 students and faculty members attended, about half of them from the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa.

Rojas focused on the background to the Grenada revolution led by Bishop, and its accomplishments. He also described the internal crisis provoked by the policies and practices of a clique around vice-prime minister Bernard Coard, which led to a counterrevolutionary coup and Bishop's murder.

Conditions on the small, Black, English-speaking island today, Rojas said, "are worse, economically and socially," than those that produced the revolution of March 13, 1979. Massive unemployment, rising illiteracy, and collapsing social services are now generalized in the Caribbean, he explained, as several students nodded in agreement.

This deepening crisis, Rojas said, puts "reexamination of the alternative provided by the Grenada revolution, its advances and its legacy, on the agenda today for those looking for answers to our common problems."

In 90 minutes of questions and answers and informal discussions, Rojas hailed the example of the Cuban revolution. He described the significance of the defeat of the South African army at Cuito Cuanavale in Angola at the hands of Cuban, Angolan, and South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) forces last year.

Rojas also emphasized the importance of the current process that the Cubans call "rectification." This massive political effort, he said, "puts Cuban working people at the center of political life, increasingly putting the power of government and rule of the economy in the hands of workers and farmers." Rojas served for two years in Havana as propaganda secretary for the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of Central America and the Caribbean.

Questions about Cuba were uppermost in the minds of the students. "I don't know much about Cuba," one Afro-American student said later, "but I know it kicks ass all over the world, and I've got to find out more about it."

A literature table set up by Pathfinder, a New York-based publisher and sponsor of Rojas' tour, was a center of attention at the meeting, where more than a dozen titles were bought on the speeches of Malcolm X and on Cuba, Latin America, and Grenada.

For further information on the Don Rojas tour, write or call Pathfinder, 410 West St. New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone (212) 741-0690.



# Film 'Mississippi Burning': You won't find story of civil rights movement here

Participant in Mississippi Freedom Summer '64 tells of FBI's role in hindering fight for Black rights

**Mississippi Burning.** Produced by Frederick Zollo and Robert Colesberry. Directed by Alan Parker. Featuring Gene Hackman and Willem Dafoe.

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

When I first heard they were making a movie on the Mississippi Freedom Summer, I didn't give it much thought, even though I'd been there in 1964. While I didn't expect a masterpiece, I was at least optimistic we could expect a somewhat accurate portrayal of the civil rights movement. Then, I heard the leading characters would be FBI agents. I became less optimistic.

Shortly after the movie opened, on two separate occasions I ran into people who told me they saw it and liked it. They said they didn't know much about the civil rights movement. But they thought they learned something — including how the FBI had really stuck it to the Ku Klux Klan. I became even less optimistic.

Even though by the time I got around to seeing *Mississippi Burning* it had already drawn sharp rebukes, I still wasn't prepared for what I saw.

Briefly, the plot goes like this: Even before the credits, three civil rights workers driving down a highway are forced off the road, attacked by racists, and murdered. That's the last you see of civil rights activists.

Next, two FBI men arrive on the scene. From here on out, it's a cop story. Willem Dafoe plays a straight-arrow agent from the North who passionately supports civil rights. The other, a rumpus ex-Mississippi sheriff played by Gene Hackman, while not as devoted to the cause as Dafoe, is still favorably inclined to Black rights.

In his zeal for justice, the northern agent calls in a small army of FBI agent clones who, in almost Keystone Cop style, swarm about searching for the bodies. Hackman opts for old-fashioned detective work.

In the climax, Hackman persuades

a *Nation*, hailed by many as the greatest movie of its time, slandered the role of Blacks during Reconstruction in the post-Civil War South. It also made heroes out of members of the Ku Klux Klan, which underwent a big revival after the movie came out. *Gone With the Wind*, which appeared in 1939, created an idyllic picture of life under the slavocracy.

*Mississippi Burning* does not — like *Birth of a Nation* — show sympathy for the KKK. The Ku Kluxers are thugs and murderers. Nor does the movie portray segregation favorably — far from it. Anything else would be unthinkable after the defeat of the Jim Crow system of legal segregation. It's for these reasons that many people like the film — in addition to its slick direction, skillful casting, highly realistic sets, and some fine acting, especially by Gene Hackman.

Our history is precious because it shows us what we're capable of doing. In many ways — some subtle, some crude — the ruling class is always trying to convince us how powerless we are and how powerful and all-knowing they are. Then, when we do manage to wrench concessions, they are presented as a gift — from the ruling class. Franklin Roosevelt gave us Social Security, for example, or civil rights were granted by the Supreme Court or John Kennedy or Lyndon Johnson or Congress.

## Setting record straight

I want to set the record straight on four areas where *Mississippi Burning*'s creative rewriting of the facts amounts to slander. In part, I'll draw on my own recollections. In the days before the June 21, 1964, disappearance of the three civil rights activists — James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner — I was with them at a training session in Ohio. When I first heard they had disappeared, I was in Tennessee, soon to head for Mississippi.

Central to *Mississippi Burning* is the notion that the FBI — and thereby, the fed-

Jackson, Mississippi, July 10, FBI Director [J. Edgar] Hoover declared: "We most certainly do not and will not give protection to civil rights workers. In the first place, the FBI is not a police organization. It is purely an investigative organization. The protection of individual citizens either natives of this state or [those] coming into the state is a matter for the local authorities. The FBI will not participate in any such protection."

**August 24.** "When will FBI bring killers to justice?" is the headline on an article reporting that the bodies have been found. The FBI is silent on what's being done to apprehend the killers. Civil rights worker David Dennis said in a eulogy for James Chaney at a church in Meridian, Mississippi: "I believe the people in Washington and Jackson are just as much to blame for this death as the people who pulled the trigger."

**October 12.** Headline: "Racist violence against Negroes in Mississippi continues in the absence of adequate law enforcement — local or federal."

FBI agents told a female German civil rights worker who had attended a Black church that had been bombed: "You offended the whole community... [who felt] you came to the church to demonstrate, and you still wonder what the reasons for the bombings were?"

**November 2.** Lead headline: "Gov't fumbles around while Miss. racists bomb, jail Negroes." The article accuses the federal government of "half-hearted moves... against racist murderers."

**November 9.** Black reporter Louis Lomax revealed in a national magazine article: "Within 24 hours after the triple lynching, everybody in the country, Negro and white, knew that the civil rights workers were dead. They also knew who committed the crimes."

Civil rights attorney William Kunstler said, "Ultimate responsibility for the lives of these three blameless young men — and

scription. Yet the federal government cannot enforce elementary law even in a dusty rural southern village."

Speaking at the March on Washington in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963, SNCC Chairman John Lewis said, "In Albany, Georgia, nine of our leaders have been indicted not by Dixiecrats but by the federal government for peaceful protest. But what did the federal government do when Albany's deputy sheriff beat attorney C.B. King and left him half-dead. What did the federal government do when local police officials kicked and assaulted the pregnant wife of Slater King, and she lost her baby?"

Among those adding their voices to the chorus of criticism of *Mississippi Burning* is the *New York Times*. An editorial criticized the movie for suggesting that the FBI might resort to "lawlessness." The editors assure us that the Justice Department's top man on the scene says no such lawless tactics were used. Against the Klan, no, but the record of lawless FBI attacks on the civil rights movement is voluminous.

To begin with, the FBI's opinion of Blacks did not seem to vary greatly from the Klan's. A biography of J. Edgar Hoover reveals that in the early 1960s "in about 90 percent of the situations in which bureau personnel referred to Negroes, the word 'nigger' was used."

As is well known, the FBI carried out a secret, illegal campaign against the civil rights movement. It relentlessly harassed Martin Luther King, Jr.

The FBI circulated tapes supposedly made in King's hotel room in an attempt to embarrass him — anonymously sending them to his wife, then sending a message to him saying the only way out was suicide.

In 1963, during a civil rights drive in St. Augustine, Florida, state officials later revealed that FBI agents had told them the agency "had this very lurid tape recording [which could be used] as a weapon if we wanted to run King out of St. Augustine by threatening to expose him."

The FBI's infamous Cointelpro disruptions played a significant role in the destruction of SNCC, as well as the Black Panther Party and other organizations.

## Role of Blacks misrepresented

There's another thing about *Mississippi Burning* I find especially offensive. It not only fails to depict Blacks as the strong leaders they were — it shows them as being paralyzed by fear. We see the FBI pleading for some Black person to summon the courage to come forward and help the FBI get the killers.

What's the truth? While the FBI hid behind anonymous poison pen letters in its secret plots, Blacks in Mississippi often stood up and risked everything.

I once spent the night in a "Freedom House" in Vicksburg, near the Mississippi River. A big, old structure, it was the home of a Black woman who had opened it to the movement, where it became a 24-hour-a-day target. Some weeks later I read in the paper that dynamiters had blown up the house and two people were injured.

One afternoon I drove over to Ruleville County to visit Fanny Lou Hamer. We walked up to the porch where Hamer was sitting, surrounded by several other women. One was cutting her hair. You quickly sensed that here was a leader who commanded great respect.

Hamer was one of the first people to join the young SNCC workers when they went into Mississippi. In 1962 she went to a "mass meeting," which she later described this way: "Until this I'd never heard of a mass meeting, and I didn't know that a Negro could register and vote... When they asked for those to raise their hands who'd go down to the courthouse the next day, I raised mine. Had it up high as I could get it. I guess if I'd had any sense I'd a-been a little scared, but what was the point of being scared. The only thing they could do to me was kill me, and it seemed like they'd been trying to do that a little bit at a time ever since I could remember."



The murder of three civil rights workers — from left, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner — is the starting point of *Mississippi Burning*. From then on, only the FBI agents investigating case are the heroes.

Dafoe to toss out the rule book, and the FBI turns the tables on the racists, conducting a Ku Klux Klan-style terror campaign of its own. As things proceed, the film degenerates further into a comic book-like story line.

Blacks are relegated to the back of the movie—where they sing mournful spirituals, pray, and suffer beatings, lynchings, and burnings.

Finally, Hollywood gets around to making a movie about the civil rights movement, and who are the heroes? Not Blacks, but the FBI.

Now, I don't insist that a movie about real events stick to the letter of the historical record. A film that did would probably be pretty boring. Nor need a movie correspond to my political views — or even be political at all.

## Rewriting history

But Hollywood doesn't have a good record when it comes to the history of Blacks in the South. During World War I, *Birth of*

eral government — spared no resources in winning justice for Blacks during these events. (Personally, the first time I ran into an FBI agent in the South was a couple of years later, when they were often seen conspicuously spying on the movement against the war in Vietnam.)

To check the record on the federal role in Mississippi in 1964, I looked at *Militant* issues from that year. The dates and some of what was reported follows:

**July 13.** Headline: "Johnson's refusal to act is encouraging more lynchings in Mississippi." President Lyndon Johnson sent CIA head Allen Dulles to Mississippi on what turned out to be a "fact-finding junket consisting mainly of having a conversation with the governor." James Forman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) managed to see Dulles and told him that the federal government must honor the "repeated requests made by local and national civil rights leaders for a federal protective force in Mississippi."

**July 27.** "At a news conference in

so many others — must rest squarely with the federal government." Kunstler added, "An imposing body of existing law... gives the president ample authority to do what is necessary" to put a stop to racist violence.

**December 14.** "Some seven months after the crime was planned, six months after it was committed, and two months after the description of the crime and the existence of eyewitnesses to it were reported, the FBI has finally made arrests in connection with the murder of three civil rights workers."

The truth is that despite a big show in the area where the murders took place, in response to broad national and international outrage, the FBI steadfastly refused to protect civil rights workers around the state — opening the way for other possible murders.

Further insight on the federal role comes from Martin Luther King, Jr., who wrote in 1964: "We are nearing the year 2000, and our national power almost defies de-



When she and 17 others went to the courthouse, they were arrested. "Police said the bus was painted the wrong color — said it was too yellow," she said. When she got back to the plantation, the owner gave her until the next morning to forget about registering to vote or get off the plantation, where she'd lived since she'd married in 1944. She left that night.

"Ten days later," she said, "they fired into Mrs. Tucker's house where I was staying. They also shot two girls at Mr. Sissel's."

Once cops ordered Black male prisoners to hold her down and brutally beat her, including on the soles of her feet.

Fanny Lou Hamer is only one example. Despite the tremendous risks, thousands came forward to participate in and lead the momentous struggle that overturned Jim Crow segregation.

#### Distorting the role of whites

*Mississippi Burning* twists the truth in yet another way. It leaves you with the idea that the problem boiled down to a bunch of ignorant whites. With rare exceptions, they are depicted as virulent racists, genetically deficient products of years of inbreeding. It's true that backward types were drawn into the Klan, or hired to be cops. They did the dirty work. But back in the 1960s some thought "uneducated, lower-class" whites were behind all the troubles. Of course, this view reflected a class prejudice among people who had little idea about what made working people tick, Black or white. These same liberals made heroes of the Kennedys, the federal government, and maybe even the FBI, though I doubt that was common.

Civil rights fighters in the thick of the struggle looked at it differently. Certainly SNCC leaders did. They believed that Black and white working people had a common enemy, although too many white workers fell into the trap that had been set for them.

In 1964, while still a teenager, I was added to the SNCC staff — a member of what was usually called the White Folks Project. This work was underwritten by a grant from the Southern Conference Education Fund (SCEF), headed by Carl and Anne Braden. My original assignment was to have been working among coal miners in Kentucky. The miners were in the midst of a struggle then drawing national attention. It happened, SNCC's work with the miners never came off.

When I announced to my father that I was going to work with the coal miners, he was proud. However, I had been vague about under whose auspices I was going to Kentucky. And when I made a brief visit home to Atlanta, he said he'd figured it out: "You're not working with the coal miners. You're mixed up with Martin Luther King and the communists." Recalling something Carl Braden had said, I told

#### For further reading

On the Black struggle and civil rights:

**By Any Means Necessary**, by Malcolm X, 184 pp., \$7.95.  
**Malcolm X On Afro-American History** 74 pp., \$4.95.  
**Two Speeches by Malcolm X** 32 pp., \$1.00.

**Workers in the Changing South** by Nelson Blackstock. 30 pp., 95¢.

On the role of the FBI in disrupting civil rights, antiwar, and socialist groups:

**Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom**

By Nelson Blackstock. 190 pp., \$7.95.

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 for postage.



The fight to end Jim Crow segregation in the South was spearheaded by thousands of Blacks, who often risked everything for the cause. Here, protesters face mass jailing in Albany, Georgia, in 1962.

him, "You don't know the difference between communism and rheumatism."

It turned out he was right, however. I hadn't been with SNCC long before I became quite interested in Marxism and communism.

While participants in the Mississippi Freedom Summer settled down to work in Black communities across the state, I was among those — mostly white southerners — involved in an experiment in the "white community" of Biloxi. Some, who were interested in doing what was called "human relations" work, concentrated on such activities as talking to school administrators about easing the coming court-ordered desegregation of the schools.

Those of us interested in orienting to

working people were less certain about how to proceed. We met an official of a local carpenters union; he visited us where we lived and said he'd been waiting for years to see something like this. We also met an oyster fisherman, who joined our project. He became a part of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegation to the Democratic Party convention in Atlantic City at the end of the summer.

In the course of the summer, I traveled around the state quite a bit. On the afternoon of August 3, I was sitting in a small cafe in the Black community in Meridian, the town where Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman had been based. They had been missing 43 days. The radio was reporting something about the North Vietnamese at-

tacking a U.S. ship in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Four days later Congress passed the "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution" — under its authority (war was never declared) presidents Johnson and Richard Nixon sent thousands of U.S. GIs off to die and kill many times more Vietnamese.

That night we attended a mass meeting in a church in Meridian, where it was announced they had just found the bodies in neighboring Neshoba County.

I've always seen a link between the two events that happened that day. The U.S. government could spend billions to go halfway across the world to fight against the people of Vietnam — yet it couldn't protect civil rights workers in Mississippi.

In the following years a huge antiwar movement would develop — inspired by the civil rights movement. By 1955, political action had been reduced to voting for one or another politician. The Montgomery bus boycott that year set an example of a new kind of struggle.

The civil rights movement shook up many things in this country. Most important, it broke the back of segregation, which had gripped the South like an iron vise. Congress was forced to enact the public accommodations law during the summer of 1964. Blacks quickly moved to make the law a reality. Already, by November 1964 the *Militant* was reporting that Blacks were being served in restaurants and movie theaters in McComb, Mississippi, a hotbed of racist violence.

The defeat of this hated system strengthened the whole working class. It advanced the struggle for affirmative action and helped establish the basis for a new level of united struggle.

The economic crisis looming today will eventually bring forth a new generation of working-class fighters. They, too, like the hundreds of thousands who filled the ranks of the civil rights movement, will be capable of unimaginable heroism and creativity.

Until a movie appears that tells the truth about these days, your best bet is *Eyes on the Prize*. While not perfect, this public television series first broadcast in 1987 provides a remarkably accurate and inspiring look at the major episodes during the movement.

Nelson Blackstock is the author of *COINTELPRO: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom* (Pathfinder, New York, 1988, \$7.95). He currently lives in Los Angeles.

## Minneapolis Blacks protest racist cop raids

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — The killing of an elderly Black couple here a few weeks ago has stirred up a storm of protest.

Lloyd Smalley and Lilian Wiese were burned in their home in north Minneapolis while sleeping, when a concussion grenade was tossed into their bedroom by Minneapolis police in an alleged drug raid. No drugs were found in the house.

More than 400 such raids were carried out here last year. The majority of them, conducted in military fashion, have taken place in Black and Native American communities. On several occasions cops have used bulldozers to invade homes. Often no search warrants have been used.

In response to the January 25 killings the Urban League and other organizations denounced the police and demanded a federal investigation. City authorities granted that demand.

But Police Chief John Laux's assertion that the deaths were "unavoidable casualties in the war on crack" have fueled further anger in the Black community.

On February 3 a dozen cops attacked about 20 Black youths at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Many of them were students and members of the Africana Student Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota. They had gone to the hotel for a birthday party, after attending a Black history month event

where Don Rojas from Grenada was the featured speaker.

The youth were leaving the party when the police, yelling racist slurs such as "welfare scum," "niggers," and "coons," attacked them. The youth, including a two-year-old child, were sprayed with mace. Several were locked in a room, handcuffed, and beaten for approximately 20 minutes.

A young woman was repeatedly fondled by a cop as she was being frisked. Two students, who asked what they were charged with, received special treatment. One suffered a broken wrist; the other's nose was broken. Five students, who were arrested and held overnight, were refused medical attention. They were released the next day after being charged with "disorderly conduct."

More than 200 people, mostly Black youth, marched at Mayor Donald Fraser's office on February 6, chanting "Stop police brutality," "Defend the Black community," and "This is not Johannesburg."

Chris Nisan, an organizer of the rally, who is the director of the Africana Student Cultural Center, presented the mayor with several demands. They included:

- Filing of criminal charges against, jailing, and suspension of the police involved in the two incidents.
- Dropping of all charges against the Black students.
- Ending of police harassment of com-

munity organizers.

Clyde Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement explained during the rally that many Native Americans have also been victims of police brutality. "We are here to join any type of coalition with the Black community," he said.

Community meetings of several hundred were held at different locations in north Minneapolis over the next two nights.

"Your police is far more dangerous to us than the drug dealers," one community activist said at the meeting with the mayor and Police Chief Laux on February 8. As the city officials turned down the demands of the Black community one after another, the crowd's anger grew. Dozens of people enumerated incidents of police brutality and racism and a subsequent whitewash by the police internal affairs unit once complaints were filed.

Two marches to the Minneapolis City Hall of from 400 to 500 people each were held on February 17 and February 24.

An ad hoc coalition against police brutality has been formed. The coalition has called for a statewide march on the state capitol in St. Paul, on March 25. For more information call (612) 625-0045.

There will be weekly community meetings to build for the march. The first one will be held at Sabathani Community Center in south Minneapolis on March 8, at 7:00 p.m.



# Attack on Rushdie hits rights

Continued from front page

Gandhi. "Clearly, your Government is feeling a little ashamed of itself and, sir, it has much to be ashamed about. It is not for nothing that just about every leading Indian newspaper and magazine has deplored the ban as, for example, a 'Philistine decision' (*The Hindu*) or 'thought control' (*Indian Express*)," wrote Rushdie.

The apartheid regime of South Africa also banned the book, along with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and several other countries. Muslims in England's northern city of Bradford burned *The Satanic Verses* in front of the City Hall in January.

On February 12 police in Islamabad, Pakistan, shot dead five protesters and wounded more than 100 during a march against Rushdie's novel to the U.S. cultural center. The demonstration was organized by foes of the administration of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. In India, police also killed and wounded demonstrators.

## Khomeini calls for Rushdie's execution

Seeking to seize the leadership of these mobilizations, and deal some blows to opponents in the Iranian government who were pressing for closer ties with the United States and Western Europe, Iranian leader Khomeini issued a call for Rushdie's murder.

On February 14 Khomeini exhorted Muslims to execute Rushdie and all those who helped publish or distribute *The Satanic Verses*. In a statement broadcast by Radio Tehran he said, "I inform the proud Muslim people of the world that the author of *The Satanic Verses* book, which is against Islam, the Prophet, and the Koran, and all those involved in its publication who were aware of its contents, are sentenced to death."

"I ask all Muslims to execute them quickly wherever they are found so that no others dare to do such a thing," Khomeini said, adding, "Whoever is killed doing this will be regarded as a martyr and will go directly to heaven."

The next day the senior cleric in Iran, Hassan Sanai, offered \$1 million to any foreigner "who would punish this mercenary of colonialism for his shameful act." The award was to be tripled if the killer was an Iranian.

Demonstrations were orchestrated in Iran to rally support for the campaign against Rushdie. According to the Iranian press agency, the February 15 rally in Tehran drew 10,000 people.

Rushdie responded to the threat by canceling a projected U.S. speaking tour, and going into hiding in the English countryside. He was given police protection.

## Death threat impact

Viking-Penguin, the publisher of *The Satanic Verses*, has received bomb threats.

Waldenbooks, B. Dalton, and Barnes & Noble — the three largest U.S. bookstore chains — announced they would remove the book from their shelves to protect their employees. Five days later B. Dalton, which owns Barnes & Noble, moved to restock the book; Waldenbooks is currently letting each individual outlet decide whether to stock it or not.

In Berkeley, California, two bookstores that had prominent displays of Rushdie's novel were firebombed on February 28.

The Canadian government announced it was reviewing *The Satanic Verses* to see if it could be declared "hate propaganda," which is banned under the Canadian Criminal Code. As free speech protests mounted, the government announced the book passed muster and could be sold in Canada.

Several publishers who had planned to bring out the book in other languages initially reneged, though some have since changed their minds.

After some hesitation, protests by writers began to be organized. Across the United States, public readings of the book

were held and bookstores that refused to carry the volume were picketed.

Britain's foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, told reporters that Khomeini's declaration was a matter of "very grave concern" and it illustrated "the extreme difficulty of establishing the right kind of relationship with a manifestly revolutionary regime with ideas that are very much its own."

London announced the shelving of plans that had been in the works toward establishing closer relations with Tehran.

The British government has taken advantage of Khomeini's call for Rushdie's assassination to step up its surveillance of Iranian students in Britain, according to the London daily *Guardian*. Some capitalist politicians have called for the deportation of immigrants who are Muslims who support Khomeini's threats against Rushdie.

A motion was introduced into Parliament by a Labour Party representative to expand Britain's blasphemy laws to include Islam, arguing that it's racist to only punish people who are guilty of irreverence toward Christianity.

The foreign ministers of the 12 governments that are part of the European Community recalled their chief diplomats or ambassadors from Iran and suspended official visits to and from that country.

One week after Khomeini had called for Rushdie to be murdered, U.S. President George Bush called the death decree "deeply offensive to the norms of civilized behavior" and warned that Iran would be "held accountable" for any violence against "American interests."

High officials of various religions have tended to echo the charge that Rushdie is a "blasphemer" who deserves condemnation, while distancing themselves from the call to murder him.

The top figure in the Anglican church, Robert Runcie, archbishop of Canterbury, said, "Only the utterly insensitive can fail to see that the publication of Salman Rushdie's book has deeply offended Muslims both here and throughout the world."

Roman Catholic official Cardinal John O'Connor of New York said the book is "insulting and insensitive to the Muslim faith." O'Connor has not read *The Satanic Verses* and has "no intention" of doing so, according to the cardinal's spokesperson. While O'Connor did not order Catholics not to buy or read Rushdie's novel, he "trusted the judgment of Catholics as being mature and recognizing the affront it poses to believers in Islam," the spokesperson said.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze held a meeting with Khomeini in Tehran on February 26. The Soviet official didn't mention the Rushdie case in his public statements. Two days later, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesperson Gennadi Gerasimov made the first official comment by Moscow on the affair, saying Shevardnadze had discussed the Rushdie book with Iranian government figures.

"The situation that has emerged" around Rushdie's book, Gerasimov said, "causes grave concern to the Soviet leadership." He added, "Unless a reasonable solution is found, the implications could really be unpredictable."

Expressing no opinion on the call for Rushdie's murder or banning the book, Gerasimov reported, "The Soviet side gained the impression that the Iranian government is sincere in seeking a settlement of the situation and believes that the Soviet Union could have a positive role to play."

## 'Blasphemy'

"Khomeini's call for Rushdie's murder is an attempt by a state power to enforce an international blasphemy law," said Communist League leader Grogan. "This is a mortal threat to democratic rights. By pushing this reactionary line," he continued, "Khomeini is leading the assault on a world scale on religious rights and freedoms, under the guise of defense of religion."

According to Webster's dictionary, blasphemy is the "act of insulting . . . God." Blasphemy laws give the state the power to victimize individuals by charging them with irreverence toward the official deities. Blasphemy laws were not designed to, nor do they, protect people who are religious,

or guarantee the right to espouse any beliefs one might choose.

"Like laws against pornography, 'hate literature,' crimes against the socialist state, or any other censorship legislation," Grogan pointed out, "blasphemy laws have as their prime victims the oppressed and exploited. They give those in power a weapon to restrict rights."

Religious freedom, like other democratic rights, has always been incompatible with official state religions, and won in struggle against them. As one commentator on the Rushdie affair put it, "Intolerance in the name of piety is not unique to Islam."

In Israel, you can only have the rights of citizenship if your mother is a Jew. And it's in the name of defense of Judaism that the Palestinians are brutalized and deprived of their basic human rights. "Israel bans hundreds of books in occupied Palestinian territories, and Palestinian writers are jailed without trial: where are the protesting voices of Western writers and intellectuals?" asked Palestinian leader Said.

Using anti-imperialist demagoguery, Khomeini and other figures in the Iranian government try to equate their defense of totalitarian blasphemy laws with the struggles of the oppressed and exploited peoples in the Middle East against racist insults by the rich and powerful of the world. Those who can't understand the need to ban Rushdie's book and punish the author, we are told, are victims of colonial bigotry.

"Islam is not the culture of the oppressed and exploited," argued Grogan. "People of differing social classes adhere to the religion called Islam, and they give it a different content depending on their class interests. In the name of Islam, there have been important struggles against imperialism and other forms of oppression. Islam is also the religion of the ruling classes in many countries, and terrible repression and pogroms have been carried out under its banner, which give aid and comfort to the forces of reaction on a world scale."

"It's not Islam that the imperialists hate," added Grogan. "It's the workers and peasants, fighting for their rights, who happen to be Islamic."

## 'Western' values

Many who have come to Rushdie's defense have spouted fulsome praise for "Western" values while heaping racist abuse on "barbaric" Islam. Ruling-class mouthpieces have seized the opportunity to demand the U.S., British, and other imperialist governments take stronger diplomatic, economic, and, in some cases, military sanctions against Iran.

"This is a deadly trap for working peo-



Salman Rushdie

ple," insisted Communist League leader Grogan. "By clamoring for government sanctions against Iran, we end up supporting our own worst enemy — the imperialists — who are guilty of not only great crimes of censorship, but of terrible military and economic aggression against the peoples of the world, including the people of Iran."

"But democratic rights, the Bill of Rights that is part of the Constitution of the United States, these are not part of 'Western culture' — they are gains won through struggles by workers and farmers against the exploiters," Grogan said. "They are the conquests and property of working people everywhere — from Tehran to Bombay and from California to Manchester."

"It's a patronizing, imperialist lie," added Grogan, "that working people of color who are followers of the Islamic faith are incapable of understanding the importance of democratic rights in the fight for a better world. Anyone who works in a car plant in London, for example, knows that some of the most militant workers, who have the most experience and are doing the most thinking about politics, are the workers from Asia, the Caribbean, and Africa, many of whom are also religious," he added.

"For working people around the world," Grogan concluded, "our main job as we defend Rushdie and all democratic rights is to keep our political fire on the main source of restrictions on civil liberties — London and Washington. In this way we can most effectively fight for our rights and counter the reactionary drive of the ruling class."

## London Pathfinder Bookshop issues statement on Rushdie

The Pathfinder Bookshop in London released a statement on March 2 condemning the attacks on Salman Rushdie. It is being sent to other bookshops and distributors in Britain to garner their support.

The statement "deplores" the attempt to extend censorship that is at issue in the Rushdie case.

"The Home Secretary's claim that the attempts to censor Rushdie's novel are somehow 'alien to British democratic tradition' are false," says the statement. It lists several recent incidents of restrictions by the British government on the right to free speech, including the attempt to silence former intelligence officer Peter Wright, author of *Spycatcher*; the broadcasting gag on Sinn Féin, a political organization in Ireland; customs' seizures of books imported by the Gay is the Word bookshop on the grounds of obscenity; and the arrest in Northern Ireland under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of Pathfinder representative Peter Clifford.

"Demands to have *The Satanic Verses* banned helps to legitimize this course and indeed threatens to provide a cover for further encroachment on civil liber-

ties," the statement asserts.

Pathfinder argues that free speech cannot be defended "by associating with the British government's diplomatic measures against Iran or by calling for further sanctions." The British government, it points out, "is one of the foremost sponsors of terrorism and assassinations in the world."

It was the British government's anti-Iran campaign that has helped pave the way for the racist attacks on workers who are Muslims, which have occurred in the wake of Khomeini's threats against Rushdie. The statement quotes a recent interview with Rushdie, who repudiates the daily *Sun* for its anti-immigrant racism:

"It's no pleasure to me to be supported by the *Sun* when it is referring to Asians as rats. I am not on the *Sun*'s side in that. I'd sooner be with the rats."

The Pathfinder statement concludes that "defense of democratic rights is indivisible," and calls for complete separation of church and state, including repeal of the blasphemy laws. *The Satanic Verses* is available in the Pathfinder Bookshop in London. — M.J.

This publication is available in microform from University Microfilms International.

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





# Report on Aboriginal deaths reveals racism

## Australia: gov't inquiry details systematic abuse by cops, courts, prisons

BY MEGAN MARTIN

SYDNEY, Australia — A government inquiry into Aboriginal deaths in police and prison custody has released an interim report and four case reports in recent weeks. The interim report criticizes police attitudes toward Australian Aborigines. The case reports reveal the depth of discrimination and oppression suffered by Aboriginal people in Australia.

At the same time, police and prison officers in Western Australia, one of the country's six states, have launched a legal challenge to the inquiry's work.

Australian Aborigines are 1.46 percent of the Australian population but are 14.76 percent of the prison population and account for 21 percent of deaths in police and prison custody.

In response to a campaign led by Aboriginal organizations, in 1987 the Australian government set up a joint federal and state government inquiry, a Royal Commission to look into Aboriginal deaths in custody. The Royal Commission is instructed to investigate the deaths of all Aborigines who have died in police or prison custody since 1980 and to inquire into the investigations that were made at the time of the deaths.

A Royal Commission can compel witnesses to give evidence, although such evidence is not admissible in subsequent legal proceedings. All previous inquiries into Aboriginal deaths in custody, including coroner and police investigations, have been regarded as inadequate by family members of those who have died in custody.

In many instances the deaths were not the subject of any coroner's inquiry. In others, a coroner's examination was held, but critical witnesses were neither interviewed nor called as witnesses. In some of

the internal investigations conducted into deaths in prison, prison officers declined to give statements to police or to provide evidence at inquests.

At the end of November 1988 there were 103 cases of Aboriginal deaths in custody formally before the Royal Commission, and four more deaths since that time are expected to be added to the list.

The findings in the first four cases were released on February 2. They included the cases of Kingsley Dixon, age 19, found hanging in Adelaide Jail, in South Australia, in 1987; Eddie Murray, 21, who died apparently by hanging in a police cell in Wee Waa, New South Wales, in 1981; John Highfold, 30, who died in Adelaide Jail in 1983; and Charles Michael, 31, who died in 1984 in Barton's Mill prison, in Western Australia.

The royal commissioner found that Dixon was substantially under the influence of drugs when he fashioned and secured the noose from which he was found hanging but that it was unlikely that he had intended to take his own life. No effort had been made by prison officers, the commissioner found, to obtain a medical assessment of Dixon. And when searching him for drugs, the prison officers involved had ignored relevant prison regulations. The commissioner considered that if such regulations had been followed, it is unlikely that Dixon would have died.

The commissioner's findings were ambiguous in the case of Murray. Counsel representing Murray's family asked the commissioner to find that he had died at the hands of one or more police officers and that these police officers had then conspired to mislead the Royal Commission. Murray was found hanging by a noose fashioned from a strip of blanket. The in-

quest into the death had heard that the prisoner's blood alcohol level was too high for him to have torn the strip of blanket and fashioned the noose. The inquest returned an open verdict, death at the hands of a person or persons unknown.

The Royal Commission heard several expert witnesses on the subject of levels of alcohol tolerance. The witnesses were unable to agree as to whether Murray would have been able to fashion the noose. The royal commissioner also found that the autopsy conducted following the death was unsatisfactory and that the police investigation into Murray's death was inadequate. It was based on assumptions that he had committed suicide and that the officers involved were "reputable and dependable."

The case report on Highfold concluded that he died of natural causes, but that no clear cause of death emerges from the evidence and that the investigation at the time was not thorough.

Michael died from a heart attack following a struggle with prison officers. The royal commissioner found that the prisoner had first been handcuffed. Then his ankles were restrained, and finally a baton was used as a tightening agent on the handcuffs and the ankle restraint. The commissioner's report found that Michael's heart condition was unknown to the Prison Medical Service. Moreover, no one in the prison had any training to attempt resuscitative measures.

The families of the four victims are considering whether to take further legal action. Meanwhile, Aboriginal communities have been reporting a wave of police harassment following the release of the Royal Commission's reports.

In Western Australia, where the greatest

number of Aboriginal deaths in custody have occurred, the Royal Commission is facing a legal challenge from the Western Australian police and prison officers' unions.

The Western Australian State Government, which claims to support the Royal Commission, has agreed to provide financial assistance to the WA Police Union and the WA Prison Officers' Union in their legal challenge.

The interim report has made 56 recommendations, aimed at limiting deaths in custody, reducing the number of Aboriginal prisoners, and improving the quality of post-death investigations. A number of the recommendations relate to sentencing practices and propose the decriminalization of public drunkenness in all states.

The majority of Aborigines in custody are arrested for minor offenses such as fine defaulting or drunkenness. The commission's report concluded that racist attitudes within the police force and the community meant that Aborigines are frequently arrested for minor street offenses for which whites would not be taken into custody.

The commission's report also found that the risk of Aboriginal deaths in custody was significantly increased by the general poor levels of health of Aboriginal people in Australia.

One set of recommendations dealt with recruitment and training of police and prison officers. The report proposed that "appropriate screening procedures should be implemented to ensure that potential officers who will have contact with Aboriginal people in their duties are not recruited or retained by police and prison departments whilst holding racist views which cannot be eliminated by training or re-training programmes."

# Hundreds at Toronto rally protest cop brutality

BY MAGGIE TROWE

TORONTO — Three hundred people turned out in bitterly cold weather February 25 for a Rally Against Racism, Police Murders, and Police Brutality. The demonstration took place at Queen's Park in front of the Ontario provincial legislature building.

Most of the demonstrators came from Toronto. Some came from other Ontario cities, and from as far away as Québec, Nova Scotia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Florida.

The action, which was organized by the Black Action Defence Committee (BADC) and the Justice for Michael Wade Lawson Committee (JMWLC), was the latest in a series of protests against the murders of Blacks by Toronto-area cops.

Last August, Lester Donaldson, a Jamaican-born Black disabled by a previous cop attack, was shot and killed by cops in his room. In December, Michael Wade Lawson, a 17-year-old high school student was killed by a shot in the back of the head with a hollow point "dum-dum" bullet by police in nearby Mississauga.

Speakers at the rally included Dan Heap, New Democratic Party member of the fed-

eral Parliament, and speakers from the Native rights movement. Representatives from the Caribbean Students Association at York University; Unity Force, an organization of young Blacks; and the March 8 Coalition, which is organizing an International Women's Day march, also spoke. Activists from several antiracist organizations addressed the action as well.

Evangeline Paine-Grant, president of the Parent Student Association of Preston, Nova Scotia, also spoke. Paine-Grant's group is gathering support and funds to defend 10 Black students arrested for defending themselves against racist attacks in January at Cole Harbour High School in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Antiracist activist Thabo Ntweng described the long string of cop murders of Blacks in Miami and the recent outburst against it. Ntweng is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami.

### 'Racism can't be tolerated'

Dudley Laws, a leader of the BADC and the JMWLC, who co-chaired the meeting with Nomvuyo Nzinga-Hyman, a leader of the Toronto All-African People's Revolutionary Party, described efforts by politicians and police to isolate and discredit antiracist fighters and the Black community in general.

Charles Roach, a civil rights lawyer, explained, "An attack on the Black community is an attack on all people" and linked the Canadian government's stepped-up attacks on immigrants and refugees with the antiracist struggle.

Both Roach and Alissa Trotz of the Caribbean Students Association denounced the view, presented as science, that Blacks are racially inferior. This assertion is being spread by University of Western Ontario Professor Philippe Rushton and has received wide publicity in recent weeks.

Trotz charged that Rushton's theories are part of the "intellectual groundwork... which facilitates the vicious and racist acts of society against our people mostly committed by the police."

Members of Unity Force urged Blacks to learn about their real history and contribution to society, holding up the perspective



Black Action Defence Committee leader Dudley Laws (left) and Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor in Miami, Thabo Ntweng, spoke at rally, the most recent protest against murders of Blacks by Toronto cops.

of U.S. revolutionary leader Malcolm X, who was assassinated in 1965, as the way forward.

Many of the speakers called for the setting up of an independent civilian board to "police the police." Others urged the hiring of more Blacks, Native people, and other oppressed people by the police forces. The BADC is organizing an April 2 forum to discuss the proposal for an independent civilian police review board.

"What we're fighting here is against international injustice. What we're fighting is the injustice of the police, whether they be white, whether they be Black, whether they be Latino, or whatever," Ntweng told the rally. "The interests of the police are to serve and protect the rich, the ones that own the banks, the ones that try to keep immigrants out of the country," he said.

"We have to demand that the cop that shot the brothers in Miami be convicted. Isn't that the same thing that you want here?" Ntweng asked.

The crowd shouted "Yes!"

Under the pressure of the outrage against cop violence the cops who murdered Donaldson and Lawson have both been charged with manslaughter. Lawson's killer, Anthony Melaragni, faces trial on August 21.

Following the rally many young demonstrators attended a special Militant Labor Forum on "Fighting Racism from Miami to Toronto." More than 100 people heard Ntweng, members of Unity Force, Dari Meade of the Black Action Defence Committee, and Maggie Trowe of the Revolutionary Workers League discuss the international fight against racism.

**ISRAEL'S WAR AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**  
by David Frankel & Will Rosenberg

**\$2.00.** Pamphlet available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for handling.



## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

**International Solidarity vs. Protectionism.** Video showing of *We Are Driven*, a documentary about Japanese auto workers. Speaker: Dave Alvarez, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 4, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

**Celebrate International Women's Day: The Struggle for Women's Rights Today.** Speaker: Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**The Cuban Revolution Today: What Has It Accomplished, Where Is It Going?** Speaker: Ronnie McCann, chair Los Angeles Socialist Workers Party, visited Cuba in 1988. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

**Stop the U.S. War in El Salvador.** March and rally Sat., March 18. Assemble 11:30 a.m. Olympic and Broadway downtown. March to City Hall, Spring and 1st. Rally 2 p.m. Sponsor: Days of Decision, Winning Democracy in El Salvador. For more information call (213) 851-4951 or (714) 840-6862.

### San Francisco

**Stop the U.S. War in El Salvador.** Sat., March 18, gather at Dolores Park at 10 a.m. and march to Federal Building for a rally. Mon., March 20, direct action, time and place to be announced. For more information call (415) 641-9933.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Defend the Rights of Immigrant Workers.** A panel discussion. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**Learning About Socialism: The Truth About the Cuban Revolution.** A Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance class series held every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. through March 16. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

**The Fight for Women's Rights: Support International Women's Day.** Speakers to be announced. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Stop the U.S. War in El Salvador.** Demonstrate March 18. Assemble 12:30 at Tribune Tower, 435 N Michigan. Sponsor: El Salvador Action Coalition. For more information call (312) 227-2720.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**Abortion Is a Woman's Right.** Build the April 9 march for women's equality and women's lives. Celebrate International Women's Day. Speakers: Sharon Jandorf, Baltimore National Organization for Women; Cathy Schorreck, student Loyola College; Betsy Whittaker, Socialist

Workers Party, member Transportation and Communications Workers Local 126; Nadine Mildice, Montgomery County Education Association, president Montgomery County NOW. Sat., March 4. Dinner 6 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner \$3, forum \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Worldwide Fight for Women's Rights.** Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

## MINNESOTA

### Austin

**Police Brutality from Miami to Minneapolis.** Speakers: Chris Nisan, spokesperson for Minneapolis Ad Hoc Committee Against Police Brutality; Jackie Floyd, recently returned from Miami. March 12, 6 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

### St. Paul

**Stop Police Brutality From Miami to Minneapolis.** Speakers: Keith Ellison, member of African-American community; Jackie Floyd, recently returned from Miami; Denise McInerney, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Minneapolis; Kimberly Washington, community activist. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

**Capitalism in Crisis: A Working-Class Approach to Confront the Growing Economic and Social Crisis.** Speakers: Denise McInerney and Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers candidates for mayor in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 18, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

**El Salvador: Prospects for Peace.** Speaker to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 25, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Grand Opening of Pathfinder Bookstore in Brooklyn.** Sat., March 4. Open house beginning 10 a.m.; reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Program donation: \$5. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

**The Battle at Eastern Airlines: Which Way Forward for Airport Workers?** A panel discussion and speak-out. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., March 11, 7 p.m. Public School 321, 7th Ave. between 1st and 2nd Streets. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983, (212) 219-3679, or (201) 643-3341.

### Manhattan

**Protest Israeli Occupation.** Weekly vigil to support Palestinian uprising. Every Wed. 5-6 p.m. through March 29 at the Israeli UN mission, 42nd St. and 2nd Ave. Sponsor: Palestine Solidarity Committee. For more information call (212) 964-7299.

**Defend Academic Freedom.** Fund-raising party for Committee to Support Professor Fred Dube, African National Congress leader fired from State University of New York for his political views. Fri., March 10, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Hospital Employees Local 1199, 310 W 43rd St. Donation: \$15.

**Fund-Raiser for New York Coalition to Stop the U.S. War in El Salvador.** Fri., March 10, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. New York Marxist School, 79 Leonard St. Donation: \$10. For more information call (212) 925-0161.

## OHIO

### Cleveland

**"South Africa Belongs to Us"** A video on Black women and the fight against apartheid. Speakers: Grace Jones, Cleveland chapter of TransAfrica, American Friends Service Committee; Margi Husk, Young Socialist Alliance, member United Auto Workers Local 2000. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

**El Salvador: The Struggle for Peace.** Speakers: Sheldon Liss, professor of Latin American history and government, University of Akron; David Marshall, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 1157. Sun., March 19, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

## OREGON

### Portland

**Woodworkers Fight Company Attacks: Hear Strikers Speak.** Participants: Gene Lawhorn, on strike against Roseburg Forest Products, member public relations committee Western Council of Industrial Workers — Lumber and Sawmill Workers Local 2949; Matthew Johnson, on strike against Morgan-Nicolai, public relations coordinator WCIW-LSW Local 3035. Also hear John Charbonnet, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Union. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Pittsburgh

**The U.S.-Canada "Free Trade" Debate — A Trap for Workers.** Speaker: Margaret Manwaring, recent candidate of Revolutionary Workers League for Canadian Parliament, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

## TEXAS

### Houston

**The World Economic and Social Crisis: The Battles Ahead for Working People.** Speaker: Greg Rosenberg, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 4, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

**Lessons of Grenada.** Speaker: Stephen Gittens, member of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement; others. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

**Defending Women's Rights.** Speaker: Mary Pritchard, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-367; others. Sat., March 18, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

## UTAH

### Price

**What's Behind the Miami Rebellion.** Speaker: Tony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., March 5. Dinner 4 p.m.; forum 5 p.m.

253 E Main. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Maurice.** Cuban documentary on Maurice Bishop, prime minister in Grenada's revolutionary government 1979-83. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

**The Philippines Under Aquino.** An eyewitness report by Russell Johnson. Tues., March 7, 7 p.m. 181 Glebe Point Rd., Glebe. For more information call 02-660 1673.

## BRITAIN

### Cardiff

**Cuba and the Liberation Struggle in Africa.** Speaker: David Gakunzi, secretary Thomas Sankara International Association. Mon., March 15, 7:30 p.m. Methodist Church Hall, Loudon Sq., Butetun. Sponsor: New International Forum.

### London

**Cuba and the Liberation Struggle in Africa.** Speaker: David Gakunzi, secretary Thomas Sankara International Association. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-401-2293.

### Manchester

**Cuba and the Liberation Struggle in Africa.** Speaker: David Gakunzi, secretary Thomas Sankara International Association. Mon., March 13, 7:30 p.m. West Indian Sports and Social Club, Westwood St., Moss Side. Sponsor: New International Forum.

## CANADA

### Toronto

**Malcolm X Speaks. A video presentation.** Sun., March 5, 3 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

**Rebellion in the Caribbean: Eyewitness Report from Haiti.** Speaker: Al Cappe, *Militant* reporter just returned from Haiti. Sat., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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*Pathfinder carries a broad range of books on revolutionary and socialist history and theory. It publishes a wide selection of titles on the Black, women's, labor, Latin American, and international struggles. The Fall 1988 catalog is available upon request from your local Pathfinder bookstore or write: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Toronto:** 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400, M5V 1S8. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

**Vancouver:** P.O. Box 69742, Station K, V5K 4Y7. Tel: (604) 873-8898.

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**Reykjavik:** Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

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**Auckland:** 157a Symonds St. Postal address: P.O. Box 8730. Tel: (9) 793-075.

**Christchurch:** 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

**Wellington:** 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 844-205.

## SWEDEN

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



**The sane society** — In Kenosha, Wisconsin, an apparently obese woman convicted on a



Harry Ring

marijuana charge was given the option of paying a \$500 fine or losing 100 pounds. The judge felt that with an improved self-image, she would be less likely to turn to crime.

**Scrub the bosses** — Locked-

out unionists at a Unilever soap and detergent plant in Bombay, India, have developed "Lock Out," their own brand of detergent. Hawked door-to-door by the workers and their families, the product bears the slogan, "Packed with people's power. Fights dirt everywhere."

**Lesser-evil politics** — A High Court ruling barred the British Health Department from warning doctors not to give older patients the antidepressant drug Bolvidon, which has been linked to 12 deaths. The court ruled the government had failed to consider the manufacturer's argument that other antidepressants were more dangerous.

**Why recall it?** — Anchor Foods in Britain recalled a batch of butter after two packets turned up containing small pieces of "nontoxic" stainless steel.

**American Way of Death** — At a Chicago drive-in funeral parlor you can stop at the window and have the remains projected on a video screen. The owner notes added advantages. Like, where the deceased had a wife and girlfriend and both want to pay their respects. Soon the parlor will be offering home videos of remains and services.

**Job action** — "BEIRUT, Lebanon — The local staff of the U.S. embassy locked Ambassador John

McCarthy in his office for three hours to press for higher salaries, an embassy source disclosed. The source... said the Lebanese staff, including guards armed with rifles, blocked all entrances to the compound." — News item.

**A matter of priorities** — "No-body questions that kids should 'learn to think.' The question is, when does that process interfere with learning the basics — reading, writing, and arithmetic?" — The *Cape Cod Times*, reporting a local debate on school programs.

**Can't take a hint** — Humana, a Miami-based hospital, stopped giving the clergy daily "religious census lists," a guide for dropping

in on patients. The clergy complains they're stymied, with hardly any requests from patients. Responded an administrator, "What they don't understand... is that most of these people don't want to see them."

**Baby shower tip** — Birk's, Canada's quality gift house, offers a cute silver-plated rattle. \$50.

**Relax, enjoy your apple** — Reporting the government decision to delay banning Alar, the cancer-causing apple spray, we were skeptical of the assertion that tests indicated the danger isn't immediate. But we were reassured on learning that the tests were done by the folks who make Alar.

## Eastern steps up offensive against airline unions

**Continued from front page**

has hundreds of guards placed everywhere — from inside secretaries' offices to outside employee restrooms. Mechanics and cleaners working on planes are required to sign in upon entering each aircraft.

In mid-February management got direct help in their union-busting from the federal courts when Judge C. Clyde Atkins ruled that Eastern's claim that the IAM organized a slowdown was true, therefore entitling the company to contract out much of its work and force overtime. Many IAM members have pointed out that there is a slowdown but it is organized by the company through its continual firings and suspensions.

Also, on February 17 a government arbitrator endorsed Eastern's attendance-control policy that has been used to unjustly fire hundreds of IAM members.

In Miami more than 2,000 Machinists union members and other unionists marched February 23 outside Eastern's corporate offices. The IAM organized another large march in Miami after work February 25. These demonstrations highlighted the support of AFL-CIO officials who were in the area attending an executive board meeting. AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland announced the naming of fulltime strike coordinators in 13 states.

The AFL-CIO Executive Board along with William Winpisinger, the international president of the IAM, have pledged to extend an Eastern strike to other airlines.

IAM locals throughout the Eastern system are holding special membership meetings and organizing picket rosters. Some locals have put out literature appealing for support or aimed at convincing travel agencies not to book flights on Eastern.

In a February 24 news release, Mary Jane Barry, head of Transport Workers Union Local 533 that organizes Eastern flight attendants, explained the TWU Executive Board's unanimous support for an IAM strike. "We realize if Lorenzo destroys the IAM workers' livelihood we are his next target," she said.

The leadership of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) has indicated support for an IAM strike but will make its final decision just before the strike deadline after a poll of pilots. On March 1, in an attempt to head off pilot support for the IAM, Eastern management offered the ALPA a five-year contract that included 3 percent raises in 1992 and '93. The pilots said the offer was inadequate.

**Solidarity from low-paid workers**

Many IAM members at Miami's airport were impressed by a show of solidarity

from more than 50 ground service workers employed at Dispatch Services. The Dispatch Services workers, who make little more than minimum wage, are also in the IAM. Many are immigrants from the Caribbean and Latin America. In a bilingual signed statement, they said, "We know that Eastern Airlines is counting on low-paid workers like ourselves to be eager participants in its strike-breaking, union-busting schemes. But we also know that we can only win decent wages, benefits and working conditions along the road of solidarity. The value of defending your local as a part of strengthening ours is clear, and in the long run it's worth far more than the 30 pieces of silver Lorenzo is dangling before us."

Many workers at Eastern are discussing what government intervention would mean for our union. This past week the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* had virtually identical editorials on the fight at Eastern.

The editors expressed the view, held by many in ruling circles, that allowing a strike at Eastern is a more effective way to deal a defeat to the IAM today than through setting up another cooling-off period. Those supporting the National Mediation Board, however, think the road to defeating the IAM lies in direct government involvement.

Dave Bushnell from the mediation board in a phone interview pointed positively to a September 1988 settlement at Chicago &

Northwestern Railroad as an example of government intervention.

In that case President Reagan appointed an emergency board that began an extended cooling-off period. At the end of this time, and after a nine and a half hour strike by rail workers, both houses of Congress unanimously voted to impose the emergency board's "compromise" solution. This included the elimination of at least 700 jobs out of 2,400 held by members of the United Transportation Union, as well as other takebacks.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court dealt the union movement a blow February 28 when it decided that workers who cross their own picket lines during a strike have a priority claim on jobs over workers who remain on strike. The ruling upheld a Trans World Airlines decision to give preferential hiring to 1,300 flight attendants who crossed the picket lines of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants during a 10-week strike in 1986.

The Supreme Court decision overturned a lower court ruling that had supported the union's position that seniority should determine who gets available jobs once a strike is over.

*Ernest Mailhot is an aircraft service worker at Eastern Airlines at LaGuardia Airport in New York. He is a member of IAM Local Lodge 1018. Jeff Miller from Miami and Nancy Brown from Washington, D.C., contributed to this article.*

## Peru regime forced to free Blanco

**Continued from front page**

over to the Plaza de Armas [the town square]. The police shot at us while we were going there. Some of the marchers fell," continued Blanco. "When we reached the square I thought that it would be clear that we were not about to attack any police post or any public or private institution."

"But while we were singing the national anthem, the police opened fire. I saw three of my brothers fall next to me. I tried to drag people with me to the federation hall, but people were so angry they said, 'Let those assassins kill us all!'"

On February 9 eight peasants were killed by the police forces in Pucallpa. A ninth person died later as a result of his wounds. Three lost their sight. One peasant's leg had to be amputated.

"After the massacre I went to the federation hall, where we had a small meeting. Later, while I was resting, the police came and arrested me," explained Blanco.

"They grabbed me and beat me. They continued beating me while they took me out of the building. They threw me on the floor and kicked me. They stole all I had on me."

"One of the things they repeated while beating me was that the next time they found me, they would kill me," explained Blanco.

Blanco spent several days incommunicado in a Pucallpa prison. Later he was moved to Lima and held at the Division Against Terrorism.

"The government tried to accuse Hugo Blanco of being a terrorist," explained Víctor Torres during a telephone interview from Lima. Torres is the general secretary of the PUM. "They not only accused him of being an agitator, but they also said that they had found explosives at the site of his

arrest. But this accusation on the part of the government fell apart the next day, because in the original arrest papers the police did not mention finding any explosives," said Torres.

"On February 23," Torres continued, "we were able to get the prosecuting judge to grant Blanco his freedom since there was no evidence to support the terrorism charge."

In spite of the judge's release order, Blanco was moved to Pucallpa where on February 24, after pressure from several senators and deputies and the peasant federation, he was finally released.

One of the events that led to Blanco's release was a big peasant strike in the Cusco region, Torres said, where "about 40,000 Andean producers were able to stop traffic and whose major demand was Hugo Blanco's freedom."

Messages protesting the arrest were sent to Peruvian embassies throughout the world, including France, Italy, Belgium, and Sweden.

In the United States and Canada, solidarity groups, human rights organizations, farmers' groups, and prominent individuals sent telegrams and made phone calls to the Peruvian embassy in Washington and to the consulate in Toronto. Among those who sent messages were U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy; prominent writer Noam Chomsky; Dan Heap, a Canadian member of Parliament; and Canadian Action for Nicaragua, a solidarity group.

Blanco, who became famous in the 1960s for his work in organizing Peruvian peasants, was arrested in 1963 because of his activity and threatened twice with execution. At that time, a broad international campaign was able to stop his execution and finally win his release after seven and a half years.

## 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 9, 1979

TEHRAN, Iran — The Iranian revolution has entered a new stage. A deep confrontation is unfolding between workers' committees in the oil fields, factories, and offices and the capitalist government headed by Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan.

On February 17, after an appeal by Ayatollah Khomeini, the great majority of workers, students, and shopkeepers ended their months-long general strike and shut-down. But the return to the workplace and schools has not demobilized the struggle. The Iranian people are now taking confident steps forward to organize themselves to fight for their demands. Democratically elected workers committees have burst onto the political scene — to the alarm of the Bazargan government and imperialism.

The entire country is now gripped by a debate, and a struggle, over how to move forward and the interrelated question of democracy: Who will decide the fate of the nation?

This debate encompasses far-reaching revolutionary questions: should workers elect their own committees to run the factories? Should rank-and-file soldiers set up their own committees and elect their own officers? Do the oppressed nationalities — the Kurds, Azerbaijanis, and Baluchis — have the right to self-determination? Should women organize to win their rights?

The nationwide ferment over these is-

sues has sent Khomeini's newly appointed government into a tailspin. Bazargan found himself suddenly in office February 12 through an insurrection he neither led nor controlled. Because this was an insurrection from below, capping one of the greatest mass mobilizations and general strikes in history — not a coup from the top — the revolutionary upsurge has been all the more difficult to tame.



MADISON, Wisc. — The growing strength of the National Farmers Organization (NFO) was demonstrated here this week when more than 2,000 farmers conducted a "holding action" against the local Oscar Mayer meat-packing plant. The action, backed up with picketing, saw pickets come from 22 counties, and as far away as 150 miles. The line has been maintained around the clock with 75-150 farmers on the scene at any one time.

The farmers' demands are simple. "It costs us 21 cents a pound to raise beef," said one farmer, "but all we can get from Oscar is anywhere from 16 to 21 cents a pound. We don't even make the cost of production." They are asking 33 cents a pound for choice beef.

The aims of the NFO are to contract for meat prices directly with Oscar Mayer. In this way, the farmers will not be subjected to price fluctuations set in Chicago.



# Censors make gains in Britain

When someone says the word *censorship*, what country immediately comes to mind? Britain. Or at least it should.

One of the most retrograde aspects of the campaign against Salman Rushdie and his novel, *The Satanic Verses*, is the aid and comfort it gives to the joint effort of the ruling Tories and Labour Party to limit what you can write, who can appear on television, what you can read, what books you can buy or sell.

The International Press Institute last year singled out Britain, along with South Africa and India, as countries where media freedoms are at special risk.

Foremost among the restrictions on speech are those that have their origins in the British rulers' efforts to hold onto the northern part of Ireland, which they militarily occupy:

- On Oct. 19, 1988, the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher banned television and radio broadcasts of interviews with officials of 11 organizations in Northern Ireland, including the Irish Republican Army and Sinn Féin. Nor can there be broadcasting of interviews with members, representatives, or supporters of these organizations.

- Right after the decision to ban the broadcasts, the government decided to use the Prevention of Terrorism Act to interfere with the sales of books in the British-occupied north of Ireland.

The act gives the police the power to stop, search, and detain someone, without charge, for a period of seven

days. Imposed by the then-Labour government in 1974, the act has been used extensively to intimidate and harass political activists.

Pathfinder representative Peter Clifford was on a book-selling trip to the north of Ireland late last year when he was detained in custody without charge for 24 hours, interrogated, and harassed.

Another area that has occupied the censors' pens are writings by former cops and intelligence officers:

- The government waged a losing battle to suppress the publication of *Spycatcher*, which contains the memoirs of former British intelligence officer Peter Wright. The government claims that Wright, as a former secret agent, owed a lifelong duty of confidentiality. The House of Lords did finally rule against the government's ban on the book, but only because it had already been too widely distributed to be suppressed.

- The government successfully blocked the distribution of the December issue of *Harper's* magazine — some 200 copies that are normally sold on newsstands around the country — because it had excerpts from the memoirs of a retired British intelligence agent. The government says the author, Anthony Cavendish, as well as current employees of the secret service, is bound by a confidentiality agreement, even though no such agreement was required of agents during his tour of duty.

This puts a premium on efforts to unite the broadest number of people possible in defense of the right to free speech in Britain.

# Protection from inflation needed

The announcement that the government's consumer price index showed a 0.6 percent increase in January — equivalent to an annual inflation rate of 7 percent — registered another blow to the living standards of millions of workers.

The cost of medical care rose 0.8 percent, food by 0.6 percent (with eggs up by a whopping 14 percent), and transportation by 0.7 percent.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan lost no time in citing workers as the culprit responsible for the price increases. "The recent acceleration in wage rates is probably the reason we're beginning to see a stronger inflationary tone," Greenspan told the Banking Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Most *Militant* readers were probably unaware of the "acceleration of wage rates" that Greenspan complains about — and for good reason. The fact is that the real wages of workers, far from accelerating, have continued to decline. Relative to the cost of living, workers are losing more ground each month.

Even workers who belong to unions, who are in a relatively better position to defend their living standards, are being hit hard. The Department of Labor reported January 26 that the major collective-bargaining contracts signed last year will provide annual average pay increases of only 2.4 percent — well under current inflation rates.

The previous contracts provided 2.6 percent annual increases, less than the 4.4 percent inflation rate in 1987 and 1988.

Under the 1988 contracts, only 38 percent of workers

involved are to be partially protected against inflation by cost-of-living increases. Back in 1977, 60 percent of unionized workers had cost-of-living adjustments in their contracts.

The decline of the wages of unionized workers is only part of the story.

Millions of workers receive the minimum wage of \$3.35 an hour — and many undocumented immigrants and people who work at home get even less. The minimum wage has not been increased for eight years as prices have crept steadily upward, and now has less earning power than the minimum wage of three decades ago.

The impact of rising prices can be particularly devastating on the unemployed, retired workers living on pensions and Social Security, and others dependent on fixed incomes.

Working people are not responsible for inflation, any more than we are responsible for unemployment. These result from the employers' drive for profits, which is built into the capitalist system.

For working people, countering the consequences of inflation requires struggling for full and automatic cost-of-living protection in all union contracts and for workers in every plant and workplace.

Working people should demand that the government substantially increase the minimum wage and establish automatic cost-of-living adjustments so that the buying power of this wage won't be eroded. Cost-of-living adjustments should also be established for wages of all public employees, pensions, and for welfare, unemployment, and social security benefits.

# Defend children from abuse

The recent conviction of Joel Steinberg on manslaughter charges in the death of six-year-old Lisa Steinberg highlighted the growing pressure on government agencies to take action in cases of child abuse.

The U.S. Supreme Court ran counter to this positive trend February 22 when it ruled that the state is under no constitutional obligation to protect children against battering or other mistreatment.

The 6-3 ruling came in the case of Joshua DeShaney, who was beaten unconscious by his father at the age of four — after a Wisconsin social service agency had refused over two years to act on evidence that the boy was being brutalized. Joshua is now severely retarded.

A suit was brought on the child's behalf, charging that the county agency had violated the 14th Amendment that guarantees a person's right not to be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law.

The majority opinion by Chief Justice William Rehnquist held that the purpose of the amendment "was to protect the people from the State, not to insure that the State protected them from each other."

The state, Rehnquist asserted, "does not become the permanent guarantor of an individual's safety."

Rehnquist's argument identified children with citizens in general. It ignored the qualitative differences between children and adult citizens. Children are not yet able to exercise the rights and responsibilities of adults, and small children are utterly defenseless. Their life and well

being must be protected by others.

The court ruling tended to reinforce the attitude, which has become increasingly discredited, that the abuse of children is a private "family matter" and that its prevention is not an important responsibility of government.

Prior to the 1960s, child abuse was rarely recognized as a social problem. Courts, police, and government agencies usually looked the other way when evidence came to light.

This began to change as the civil rights movement won momentous victories, followed by the struggle for women's equality. These movements helped expand working people's views of their rights and responsibilities as human beings.

In the late 1960s, the courts began treating child abuse as a crime. In 1974 the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was passed — the first such federal legislation. Today state laws usually require doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, and police to report evidence of child abuse — although these laws are often ignored.

Workers, farmers, and other democratic-minded people are increasingly convinced that the protection of children from savage beatings and sexual abuse is a social and governmental, as well as individual, responsibility. The Supreme Court's reactionary ruling attempts to restrict what can be done to enforce this responsibility, although it will not reverse this progressive trend.

# Blasphemy laws as a weapon of the state

BY DOUG JENNESS

On an October day in 1553 Michael Servetus, a Spanish physician who had discovered the heart's role in the circulation of blood and had written several books on theological matters, was burned alive on the outskirts of Geneva, Switzerland. The execution followed a two-month trial where Servetus was found guilty of heresy, mainly for opposing the concept of God as a Trinity. Protestant leader John Calvin was a prominent leader in Geneva at the time.

Earlier Servetus had been tried by the Catholic Inquisition in Lyon, France, for his heretical writings, but had escaped during the trial.

Servetus was the victim of repressive governments, one dominated by Catholics and the other by Protestants,

# LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

where charges of heresy and blasphemy of religion were utilized to suppress dissidence and opposition.

This practice was part of the legacy of the feudal era when the church and state were essentially one and the same.

Servetus' case wasn't unique. Many were victimized by blasphemy and heresy laws at the time. Even more than a century later, during the short-lived republic in England headed by Oliver Cromwell, it was a capital offense to deny the Trinity or certain other Christian doctrines. Cromwell used the blasphemy laws to repress opposition to the government, including from the left.

In 1677 capital punishment for these offenses was abolished, but until the 19th century the British courts continued to consider offenses against religion as a threat to civil society requiring stiff sentences. And even as recently as 1978 the editor of *Gay News* was fined for printing a poem considered to be critical of Christianity in an offensive way.

In Britain's North American colonies, blasphemy laws were also common. And at the end of the 17th century, when the rule of the Puritan oligarchy in Massachusetts began to be seriously challenged, the rulers countered with a witch-hunt to intimidate oppositionists, vilifying and executing those alleged to have abandoned the true faith. In the area around Salem, for example, 20 men and women were executed as witches in 1692 alone.

Blasphemy laws and official state churches were pretty well wiped out after the colonies won independence and set up a republic. But even in 1833, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the imprisonment for blasphemy of a Massachusetts man who denied the existence of God.

The increasing separation of church and state over the years has flowed from the revolutionary struggles of the oppressed and toiling classes to better their economic and social status and achieve greater freedom. It has been the result of entire social strata winning, for the first time, the right to be considered human beings and part of civil society with rights and responsibilities guaranteed by the state.

And through hard-fought battles humanity has extended the range of activities that are to be regarded as private matters secure from intrusion by state authorities. This has included the right to unfettered expression of religious views and the secularization of the state.

Today in Iran, the capitalist government, which over time has consolidated its rule following the overthrow of the monarchy in 1979, has made blasphemy of the Islamic religion part of its arsenal for repressing political opposition inside the country. To further the government's goals internationally (a topic that deserves a separate article) Ayatollah Khomeini, the country's most dominant leader, has condemned to death Salman Rushdie, an Indian-born British citizen from a Muslim background.

There are voices outside of the Muslim tradition that find merit in the Iranian government's charge of blasphemy. Cardinal John O'Connor, the most prominent Catholic clergyman in New York City, issued a statement, for example, agreeing that Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses* is "insulting and insensitive to the Muslim faith." He expressed "sympathy for the aggrieved position that the Muslim community has taken on this publication."

(I leave aside for the moment the erroneous assertion that there is such a thing as an undifferentiated "Muslim community" with a homogeneous view of Rushdie's book. Like Christians, Jews, and peoples of other religions, Muslims are divided along class lines, which are ultimately more significant in determining their outlook and actions.)

O'Connor, sensitive to the views of those he might be able to influence, does not condone Khomeini's directive to kill Rushdie. Rather, he warns Catholics of the book's blasphemous character and trusts them not to buy or read it.

But the campaign against novelist Salman Rushdie is a challenge to conquests humanity has won over centuries and is rejected by working people throughout the world, including by a good many in Iran.



# How meat-packing bosses try to divide workers

BY PHIL NORRIS  
AND GALE SHANGOLD

ALBERT LEA, Minn. — Packing house workers here and in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, recently ratified a 40-month contract with Farmstead Foods. Provisions in the contract include a few modest improvements in contract language, a 40-cents-per-hour wage increase over the next 40 months, and a small lump-sum bonus in December 1990. Nearly half of the 40-cent raises will come just four months before the new contract expires. The base rate would be \$9.10 an hour by 1992.

There are no givebacks of previously won gains in the contract. But the new pact doesn't recover concessions

bers voted at each plant.

On one hand many workers feel we can and should take back lost ground. On the other hand, the company, top union officials, and the media tried to scare us into voting yes by trying to get us to feel we'd better accept what is being offered or else face even worse consequences.

The expansion of Iowa Beef Processors (IBP), for example, is held over our heads. IBP is a largely non-union beef slaughtering outfit that has recently been increasing its portion of hog slaughtering operations, Farmstead's main business.

At IBP wages and working conditions are notoriously bad. The threat of being bought by IBP or closing because of competition with that company is used to pressure meat-packers, including at Farmstead, to agree to unsatisfactory contracts.

In contract discussions in Albert Lea, union officials pointed out that Oscar Mayer's Perry, Iowa, plant was just bought by IBP, inferring that this could happen to us if we don't go along. What they didn't explain is that in 1982, '83, and '86, workers accepted concessions at Oscar Mayer in order to stave off the company's threat to shut down. Accepting concessions, however, didn't keep the Oscar Mayer plant open.

Another development held over our heads is the possible opening of Quality Pork Processors. The Hormel Co. in Austin, Minnesota, (20 miles from Albert Lea) is attempting to reach an agreement with the UFCW to reopen its hog cut-and-kill operation. If reopened, it would be leased to subcontractor Quality Pork Processors.

QPP would pay between \$6.50 and \$7.50 per hour. The processing side of Hormel pays \$10.70 per hour as did the cut and kill before Hormel closed it in January 1988. The union membership at the plant will have to vote to amend its contract to allow QPP to open.

Farmstead argues, as do some in the union, that our wage demands must be moderate because the low wages

paid by QPP means they can pay more for hogs, thereby making Farmstead "less competitive."

Local UFCW officials at Farmstead have met with the International union to voice their opposition to the International and UFCW Local 9's recent negotiations with Hormel and QPP, which included their agreement to the low wages offered by QPP.

Of course, when workers in any plant have their wages slashed it puts workers in other plants in a weaker position to demand higher ones. And many Hormel workers oppose subcontracting out the cut and kill to QPP because they know it will then be easier to attack them next.

Under attack by the companies, meat-packers are pitted against each other — Hormel worker against Farmstead worker against IBP worker. We are told by the company and union tops that we have to safeguard "our job" and "our wages."

But all meat-packers have a great deal in common with each other and nothing in common with the greedy companies we work for.

If we could begin to communicate and unite with each other, as well as with other workers and farmers and the unemployed, we could begin to fight for our rights as workers.

We will only get what we are strong enough to take. The 1985-86 strike against Hormel in Austin is an important example of an important battle in this bigger war between the workers and the companies.

We have to go back to the basics of unionism. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Even though we were under pressure to vote yes and even though there were no major concessions in the proposed contract, almost 50 percent of the workers in our plant voted no. This shows we are tired of accepting less than we need and deserve. As conditions worsen, we will find the road to fight back.

Phil Norris and Gale Shangold are members of UFCW P-6 at the Farmstead plant in Albert Lea.

## UNION TALK

made in 1983. At that time, Farmstead workers lost more than \$4 in wages and suffered big losses in vacation time and other rights and benefits.

Some of the wages were restored due to a slowdown and then a strike but remained well below the 1983 base rate of more than \$10 dollars an hour. The owners said these concessions were necessary for the company to stay competitive and not go out of business.

But now, six years later, many workers want to regain what they lost. One pointed out that at the present rate of wage increases we will catch up to where we were by the year 2008. And that's not taking into account any rise in the rate of inflation.

Many workers seemed hesitant about our ability to strike due to recent defeats by striking unionists and the lack of a capable leadership willing to lead a strike.

At the Cedar Rapids plant, organized by United Food and Commercial Workers P-3, the vote was 703 for and 308 against the new contract. Here in Albert Lea, where we are organized by UFCW P-6, the vote was closer — 482 for and 442 against. About two-thirds of the mem-

## LETTERS

### Turkish prisoners

I am a soldier in the Greek army. Where I am stationed there are many Turkish people who are serving, as all Greek citizens are required to do. There are 130,000 Turkish people in Greece, mostly peasants.

The Turks are one-third of the army detachment I am part of. I am writing to tell you that among some of them the case of Mark Curtis is becoming well known. I would like to express on their behalf our solidarity with the struggle to win his freedom.

We would also like to tell the readers of the *Militant* about the political prisoners in Turkey, whose cases are not very well known to the world.

From the military coup in 1980 to this day, 600,000 people have been arrested in Turkey. Some 200,000 were tortured.

In the jails there are constant hunger strikes, and those who build support for the prisoners are themselves arrested and put in prison. Recently about 600 fighters against the dictatorship were on trial in the military courts.

We appeal to fighters for democratic and human rights around the world to give their active solidarity to the struggle to win the free-

dom of all political prisoners in Turkey.  
A.P.  
Greece

### Crisis of capitalism

I've just finished reading the February 10 *Militant* article "Prospects for Communism Today," by Doug Jenness. This is a very informative article that not only explains the crisis of capitalism but the failings of the Stalinist-bureaucratic parties that have dominated the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China.

It's time that workers internationally are made aware that this bureaucratic caste system and communism are two entirely different things.

Camilo Rivera  
Murray, Utah

### Cuban revolution

Recently Mary-Alice Waters, socialist leader, spoke of the gains of Fidel Castro's revolution, 30 years after.

She certainly had her work cut out for her. Since 1985 Cuban production has been all but stagnant, with per capita income consistently declining at a rate of 1 percent each year. Perhaps Waters is unaware of the only reason Castro



Jeff Macnelly

is even able to keep his misguided nation afloat: Soviet aid in the form of \$5 billion per year.

D.F.  
Cherry Valley, California

### Canada-U.S. trade pact

The article "Canada: chauvinist drive harms workers" in the Dec. 16, 1988, *Militant* is correct in its critique of the nationalist campaign of the New Democratic Party (NDP) and union leaders. But this is not a case for abstinence from opposition to the so-called free trade deal.

The deal was a realignment of North American capital in preparation for a world trade war. Part of the preparation was an attack on the past gains won from a hostile state by progressive fighters. It attacks farm marketing boards, price supports and supplements, the Wheat Board, and places regional and federal "welfare state" programs in jeopardy.

In the second level of negotiations, over the next five years, it even threatens the medical care program. American employers are pointing to medicare as a form of supplement to Canadian employ-

ers. The agreement calls for a level playing field. I don't think that means the United States will implement a program similar to Canada's.

These programs were real gains for working-class people and farmers. They are gains capital will have a hard time maintaining in the coming crisis. And in order to sell their nationalist campaign, the NDP and union leaders had to raise these issues as part of the fight. They presented Canada as a more caring country. Most of them honestly believe this.

The abstention by the organized left, including the supporters of the *Militant*, from the fight against the trade deal left the reformists an open field to promote their nationalist drive as a defense against a very real attack on working-class interests.

What would be more appropriate to fight for than programs the mass of organized workers is rallied to defend? There are without doubt other demands to be put forward, such as the shorter workday, but this should be done as participants in struggle, not from the sidelines.

Nor can we ignore these as un-

important issues in the coming period. This is hardly a pre-revolutionary situation when defense of reformist gains are not the order of the day. And if the leadership of the organized left abstains from the defense of reformist gains to the advantage of the reformist leaders, it is not likely to become one.

Alex Reavie  
Rocanville, Canada

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

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

## Corrections

The article "Cincinnati meeting hails life, work of Morris Starsky" appearing in the February 10 *Militant* contained two errors.

In order to lift the censure imposed by the American Association of University Professors on Arizona State University because of Starsky's dismissal, the regents paid Starsky \$15,000 in damages in 1983. The article incorrectly stated that Starsky was paid "\$25,000 in back pay" in 1981.

Contrary to the article, Starsky continued to receive Social Security disability benefits until his death. In 1982, when Starsky

defeated a government move to cut off his benefits, officials said they would review his case again in a few years. The threatened review never took place.

In the February 24 issue, in the article "Cuban film viewed by Iranians in New York," the location of the meeting of the Andishe Political-Cultural Center is reported as Brooklyn.

The meeting took place at Washington Square United Methodist Church in Manhattan.



## U.S. arms fuel war in Afghanistan

BY FRED FELDMAN

A gathering of Afghan rightist groups in Pakistan concluded February 24 by proclaiming Afghanistan to be a "free Muslim state" and choosing an interim government-in-exile.

The council, held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, chose Sibgatullah Mojadedi as president and Abdul Rasul Sayaf as prime minister.

Mojadedi, current head of the Pakistan-based coalition, favors a role in a future government for the former monarch Zahir Shah, who was ousted in 1973. Like many other Afghan rightist leaders, Sayaf is described as a Muslim fundamentalist who opposes education for women and other reforms that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) regime proclaimed soon after coming to power in 1978. He heads a group funded by the ruling circles in Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. government, which has provided billions of dollars in military and economic aid to the rightists, said it would hold off on recognizing the proclaimed government.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman stated February 24 that the newly announced government would have to meet "a certain number of criteria" including "control over territory, a functioning civil administration, broad popular support, and ability to honor international obligations."

The last of more than 100,000 Soviet troops left Afghanistan on February 15, leaving a few Soviet military advisers in the country. As the withdrawal was being completed, Soviet news coverage provided a glimpse of the Soviet forces' role in a counterinsurgency war that increasingly alienated large sections of the Afghan population.

In the journal *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, Gennadi Bocharov, who has reported extensively in the Soviet press from Afghanistan, described one incident in which Soviet troops killed a carload of six Afghans, including two children, who allegedly declined to stop at a military checkpoint. Bocharov said that an officer was sentenced to six years in prison for his role, but immediately pardoned.

### U.S. keeps up arms shipment

Shortly before the Soviet withdrawal was completed, the administration of President George Bush let it be known that U.S. arms shipments to the rightists would continue despite the pullout. Following the announcement of the government-in-exile, U.S. officials explained that Washington's aid to the rightists would continue to be funnelled through the Pakistani government.

The decision to continue aid followed a review of U.S. policy concerning Afghanistan by the National Security Council, which is made up of President Bush and other top government figures.

"The pursuit of U.S. policy," one official stressed, "certainly implies the disappearance of the current regime" as well as Soviet withdrawal.

U.S. officials admit that Pakistani military advisers and technicians are in Afghanistan operating equipment for the guerrillas.

The promise of continued arms shipments and other aid from Washington by way of Pakistan may have given the U.S. and Pakistani governments added clout in the Rawalpindi meeting of the rightists. The outcome of the meeting, which was scheduled for three days but lasted more than two weeks, papered over the differences within the coalition of seven groups based in Pakistan.

### Fissures wide as ever

Other fissures — based on tribal, regional, as well as on political differences — appeared at least as wide as ever. The forces fighting the Kabul government are led by

the traditional rulers of the Afghan countryside — landlords, clan and tribal chiefs, figures from the Muslim hierarchy — and by rightist political parties.

Four groups based in Iran boycotted the session because they were denied what they considered adequate representation in the government. Some other rightist military commanders also boycotted the meeting or sent minimal representation.

According to the February 27 *Wall Street Journal*, "tribal leaders from southwestern Afghanistan not only stayed away but held their own council of government."

Jalalabad, a city of 60,000 near the border with Pakistan, is under siege by a force estimated at 15,000 guerrillas. The rightists are counting on growing food shortages in the city to wear down Kabul government forces and force civilians to leave the area.

A guerrilla spokesperson told the *New York Times* that the rightists captured the countryside around Jalalabad only after bitter fighting in which progovernment forces "fought hard, almost to the last man." Government soldiers who surrendered to the rightists at the post of Torkham were slaughtered.

The *Times* correspondent commented in a February 23 dispatch from the area, "The rebels still feel animosity toward the civilians, whom they brand communist sympathizers."

On February 18 President Najibullah, who heads the Kabul regime, decreed a state of emergency throughout Afghanistan. He replaced seven members of his cabinet who were not members of the PDPA with members of the party's central committee. Ten cabinet members who are not members of the party remained.

On February 20 Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq, a nonmember of the



PDPA, resigned. Political power has been turned over to a 20-member military council headed by Najibullah.

On February 12 the United Nations suspended its announced effort to airlift food and other supplies to Kabul after only one flight had taken place. Sadruddin Aga Khan, who heads the UN program, announced the suspension after Ethiopian and Egyptian airlines refused to fly there.

According to the February 13 *New York Times*, UN officials who have visited Af-

ghanistan report that "the war's devastation is being compounded in some areas by the effects of droughts and insect plagues."

"Famine is likely in some provinces, the report says. . . ."

"In many towns, health services have ceased to exist, the United Nations teams found."

Estimates of the number of Afghans who have died in the war range up to 1 million. Another 5 million have gone into exile, most in Pakistan and Iran.

## Anti-apartheid forces criticize Winnie Mandela

BY SAM MANUEL

A February 18 statement by the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress said that the congress and other anti-apartheid groups had attempted to use their authority to bring about the dissolution of the Mandela United Football Club. "Unfortunately our counsel was not heeded by comrade Winnie Mandela," the statement read.

Members of the soccer club also act as bodyguards for Winnie Mandela, wife of imprisoned ANC leader Nelson Mandela. But a large amount of evidence has also revealed that the group has been responsible for numerous acts of brutality against people in Johannesburg's South West Township (SOWETO), where Winnie Mandela lives. Graffiti reading, "Free Nelson! Hang Winnie!" has appeared on walls in the township.

Jerry Richardson, a former township policeman and coach of the Mandela soccer club, and club member Jabu Sithole have been arrested and charged by South African police with the murder of 14-year-old Stompie Moeketsi Seipei.

Stompie, sometimes referred to as "the little general," headed a group of 1,500 children called the "Under 14s" who fought against armed right-wing vigilantes and the township police in Tumahole in South Africa's Orange Free State. Arrested and imprisoned at the age of 11, he became the country's youngest detainee.

According to press reports, sometime in December a youth came to Winnie Mandela and charged that he had been sexually molested at a refuge run by Paul Verryn, a white Methodist minister.

Verryn is respected by Blacks in Soweto and was a member of the Mandela Crisis Committee. The committee, which included prominent anti-apartheid leaders, was set up last August at Nelson Mandela's request in an effort to get Winnie Mandela

to disband the soccer club. The ANC leader took the action after youth who charged that club members had molested a young girl burned down Winnie Mandela's home in retaliation.

On December 29 members of the soccer club went to Verryn's church and abducted four youths, Moeketsi among them. According to the *Johannesburg Sunday Star*, the four were taken to Mandela's home where they were severely beaten. The *Star* reported that Winnie Mandela participated in the assault on the youths.

Moeketsi, whom members of the club accused of being a police informer, was beaten into unconsciousness. The ANC statement called Moeketsi "a committed young lion who had made an immense contribution in the mobilization of our youth and people in the struggle."

Mandela summoned Dr. Abubaker Asvat, who told her Moeketsi would not live. His decomposed body was found on January 6. Dr. Asvat, who reported Moeketsi's condition to the Mandela Crisis Committee, was shot to death in late January.

On January 7 one of the youths escaped and returned to the church, where he reported the abduction. On January 11 National Union of Mineworkers President Cyril Ramaphosa and South African Council of Churches General-secretary Frank Chikane went to Winnie Mandela's home to demand the release of the youths. They were permitted to see the boys, who had whip marks on their arms and legs. The youths were set free only after Ismael Ayob, Nelson Mandela's attorney, met with Winnie Mandela to convey instructions from the ANC leader that the youths be released.

After repeated appeals by leaders of the anti-apartheid movement, ANC President Oliver Tambo, and Nelson Mandela failed to achieve the dissolution of the soccer

club, the Mandela Crisis Committee announced February 10 that it would make no further attempts. The committee also cited the initiation of the police investigation into the abduction and murder as a further barrier to resolution of the crisis.

On February 16 United Democratic Front leaders Murphy Morobe and Archie Gumede and Congress of South African Trade Unions leader Elijah Barayi issued a statement in the name of the "Mass Democratic Movement" calling on organizations and individuals fighting for a free South Africa to take their distance from Winnie Mandela. The statement also reaffirmed "unqualified support for our leader, Nelson Mandela."

The ANC statement noted that resolution of the crisis surrounding the actions of the soccer club had been further complicated by the fact that Winnie Mandela "did not belong to any structures and, therefore, did not benefit from the discipline, counseling, and collectivity of the mass democratic movement."

"We fully understand the anger of the people and their organisations toward this club. We have every reason to believe that the club was infiltrated by the enemy and that most of its activities were guided by the hand of the enemy . . .," read the statement.

The ANC appealed to the movement to help Winnie Mandela find her way into the structures and discipline of the mass democratic movement and called upon her to cooperate with all those involved in the resolution of the problem. The ANC statement expressed heartfelt condolences to the parents, relatives, and community of Moeketsi.

Following an 80-minute meeting with Nelson Mandela, Winnie Mandela agreed to sever relations with the soccer club and to remove its members from her home according to a February 19 *New York Times* report.