

Protests needed as U.S. gov't prepares Panama invasion

Panama gov't warns of U.S. threat

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PANAMA CITY, Panama, May 11—The Electoral Tribunal here has nullified the May 7 presidential elections.

A tribunal statement released late last night said, "The normal electoral process was altered by the obstructionist action of many foreigners brought here by national or international political forces without being invited by the Electoral Tribunal. Their obvious goal was to promote the idea that there was electoral fraud, which had been proclaimed internationally by the U.S. authorities way in advance of the actual elections."

The tribunal also said that "the removal of ballots from voting places, vote-buying by political parties, and especially the lack of accurate vote tally reports made it impossible to declare which candidate had won."

Also on May 10, a small demonstration by the U.S.-supported Democratic Alliance for Civil Opposition (ADOC) candidates resulted in violence.

Panama's Defense Forces reported five soldiers or police wounded by gunshots or otherwise injured.

ADOC reported that its presidential candidate, Guillermo Endara, received an injury to the head requiring stitches and that an ADOC bodyguard was killed.

The Defense Forces said the march was designed in advance to result in deaths, as part of the international media campaign to isolate the Panamanian government.

At a May 8 news conference Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter had warned that the U.S. government is trying to "create

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U.S. forces on maneuvers in Panama Canal last year

Hands off Panama!

The May 10 announcement that the White House had made "a preliminary judgment" favoring sending up to 3,000 U.S. troops to Panama is a major escalation

EDITORIAL

of the drive toward an invasion of that country. The projected reinforcements will join the 10,000 U.S. troops who are already deployed at 13 military bases in Panama, and are now on a high state of alert.

People all over the world must raise their
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Candidate in Britain backs union fights

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — The Communist League candidate in the June 15 European Parliament election, Doreen Wepler, is urging solidarity for union battles against employers' attacks.

Tens of thousands of workers are today facing the possibility of strikes as employers challenge established work practices and drive down working conditions. Meanwhile, rising inflation eats into real wages.

The workers affected range from staff at the BBC television and radio network, university lecturers, and drivers on the London Underground (subway) — who have already taken some union action — to electricity supply workers, engineers, dockers,

rail workers, and London bus and tube workers, who are balloting for strikes or have already done so.

Rail workers' union

Wepler has been a guard (brakeman) on the railroad for eight years and is an active member of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR).

A strike of tube (subway) workers due to start May 8 was stalled by last minute court action. The 7-to-1 vote in favor of a strike was in opposition to company proposals for flexibility in organizing work and abolition of seniority in promotion.

Flexibility will mean job cuts for the tube workers and eroding safety provisions for the traveling public.

Doing away with seniority will facilitate company discrimination against active trade unionists, and Black and women workers.

The bosses claimed that the wording on the ballot did not comply with trade union legislation. The court issued a temporary injunction delaying the start of the strike.

Tube workers leader Geoff Revell will be one of the speakers at the meeting to launch the Communist League's election campaign on May 20.

Also speaking at the meeting is Martyn Ahmet, an engineering worker whose union, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, is currently balloting for action to demand a 35-hour workweek. The employers' offer of an hour and a half reduction in the working week spread over three years in return for major concessions in working conditions has been rejected by unions representing more than a million engineering workers.

Wepler's own union, the NUR, is also taking a strike vote. Alongside the drivers' union and the staff union, the NUR is part of the Federation of Railway Unions. They are seeking a substantial wage rise that would at least keep pace with inflation.

The union is currently in the midst of a national campaign opposing employers' demands for ending national pay bargaining.

"There is strong feeling among federation members," Wepler said, "that enough is enough. Over the last 10 years the employers have increased productivity by 31 percent and cut the work force by 38 percent. Inflation now means that a 7 percent wage rise — the latest offer by the British Railways Board — is effectively a pay cut. Drivers on the Southern Region are already

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Iowa prison officials ban all non-English literature



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Perspectiva Mundial editor Luis Madrid holds banned periodicals.

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Prison officials at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa have banned all non-English language literature from the prison.

Unionist and political activist Mark Curtis, who is serving a 25-year sentence on trumped-up charges of rape and burglary, wrote a letter to *Perspectiva Mundial* explaining that he was no longer allowed to receive the magazine. (See letter page 12.) *PM* is a Spanish-language socialist monthly published in New York.

"This is outrageous," said *PM* editor Luis Madrid, upon receiving the letter. "It is a violation of the most basic democratic rights as guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution." A package containing copies of *PM*, as well as the French-language monthly *Lutte ouvrière*, has been sent back to the *PM* business office from the prison.

Perspectiva Mundial sends free subscriptions to prisoners who request them. Curtis had been receiving the monthly since he entered the prison in January.

At the time of his arrest last March, Curtis was a political activist in Des Moines and a union militant at the Swift meat-packing plant there. Many of Curtis' coworkers were

Continued on Page 12

Help us to get out the truth

We are urging readers to join us in a campaign to get out the truth about Washington's rapidly escalating threats against Panama's sovereignty. Getting this issue of the *Militant* out as widely as possible also coincides with the final push to go over the top in the eight-week international circulation campaign.

Militant distributors around the world are gearing up for a special target week, May 13-20, which will wind up the drive to win 8,000 new readers for the *Militant* and other socialist publications.

In Sweden distributors have already reached their goal. In many U.S. cities, *Militant* supporters are closing in on theirs. Stepped-up sales at Eastern picket lines and other strike support events around the country will be an important part of the target

week.

Two special sales teams have already given the drive a boost — a coalfield team (see article on page 6), and a team of volunteers from the United States and Canada who sold more than 70 subscriptions and copies of *New International* in Canada's Maritime Provinces and in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

Join us in the final push to meet our goal of 8,000 new readers of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the French-language monthly *Lutte ouvrière*, and the Marxist journals *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Contact a distributor near you (see directory on page 12) or the *Militant* business office at (212) 929-3486.

Oil union hits Exxon for Alaska spill

BY HARRY RING

Alaska's top environmental official assailed the Exxon company for refusing to take effective action against the disastrous oil spill it created March 24, and then handing out "disinformation" about what it was doing.

Meanwhile, the principal union of oil refinery workers in the United States demanded a moratorium on opening up additional federal land to oil exploration. The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers declared it opposed the moves to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for drilling oil.

Robert Wages, OCAW vice-president, announced a policy statement by the union that says, "Our union has always taken the position that the safety, health and well-being of our members coincide with the well-being of society in general."

Noting that OCAW is the first union to oppose the opening of new federal lands for oil exploration, Wages indicated that the union's stand is critical of the oil industry, and Exxon in particular, for its role in the Alaskan environmental disaster.

In the Alaska spill, the statement said, Exxon "has established a legacy of failure."

The 100,000-member union includes 40,000 oil refinery workers.

In testimony before a congressional subcommittee May 7, Dennis Kelso, Alaska's commissioner of environmental conservation, said the spill from the huge oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* caused "550 miles of oil, filthy foam, and tar balls." He said it would be like oil washing onto the Atlantic coast from Boston almost all the way south to Washington, D.C.

Kelso charged that the industry's response to the spill "was reluctant and myopic, characterized by stalling techniques, disinformation, and a refusal to pay real attention to damage outside of Prince William Sound."

The House panel was slated to hold two days of hearings in Valdez, the Alaskan port on Prince William Sound from where the *Exxon Valdez* had set sail. Port Valdez is the terminal for the 800-mile pipeline that carries the oil from Alaska's North Slope fields.

Earlier, Alaska's governor, Steven Cowper, accused Exxon's chairman, Lawrence Rawl, of deceiving the public and dodging the blame for the company's failure to respond adequately to the spill. The delay permitted the oil to drift down the Alaskan coast, killing thousands of sea birds and hundreds of otters.

Meanwhile, six environmental and consumer groups called for a boycott of Exxon products, branding the corporate giant a "polluter without equal."

Consumer activist Ralph Nader charged that Exxon could end up with a profit on the spill by way of insurance coverage, tax deductions for expenses of the cleanup, and

jacked-up fuel prices.

The initiators of the boycott are the Friends of the Earth, Environmental Policy Institute, Oceanic Society, Citizen Action, Clean Water Action, and U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

They are demanding that Exxon pay the complete cost of the cleanup and for all damage caused; cancel plans to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; fund construction of safe tankers; and roll back recent gas price hikes.

Earlier, Exxon drew fire for its proposal to deal with the cleanup by burning or burying tons of oil in the spill area. The com-

pany proposed building four incinerators for this purpose.

This would require a special permit from Alaska. Officials indicated they did not intend to allow such an air-polluting process.

Exxon had originally estimated that 10.1 million gallons of oil were spilled when the *Exxon Valdez* drifted off course and crashed onto a reef. But Alaska officials say the actual amount is a million gallons higher, 11.2 million.

Joseph Hazlewood, the ship's captain, pleaded not guilty in Alaska May 3 to three misdemeanor counts. The charges include operating a vessel while drunk, reckless en-

dangerment, and illegally discharging oil. These charges carry possible terms of up to a year in jail and \$5,000 fines.

Alaska's district attorney's office indicated a grand jury may still bring felony charges against the skipper.

In its policy statement, OCAW noted: "Exxon's only swift, firm, and decisive action came in its dismissal of the ship's captain for being under the influence of alcohol some nine hours after the incident, which will only reinforce the knee-jerk reaction of those interested in defiling personal liberty by sponsoring random drug and alcohol tests."



Militant/Janet Post

Sea lions on oil-contaminated buoy in Prince William Sound, site of March 24 *Exxon Valdez* environmental disaster.

Readers cover costs of 'Militant' Valdez team

The expenses of the *Militant* team that went to Alaska to cover the Exxon oil spill have now been covered by contributions from readers and supporters.

When the spill occurred, three supporters of the *Militant* in the northwest undertook a fact-finding trip to Alaska to provide first-hand coverage and to introduce the paper to new readers there.

The three volunteers were working people who could foot only a share of the expenses involved.

They were Robbie Scherr, a rail unionist and Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle; Janet Post, a rail unionist and SWP activist from Portland, Oregon; and Fred Nelson of Vancouver, Canada, a union woodworker and supporter of the Revolutionary Workers League in Canada.

In Alaska, they toured the area, interviewed workers affected by the spill, and

volunteered to help in a rescue center for injured and dying birds and mammals. And they sold introductory subscriptions to more than 100 Alaskans.

In response to appeals for financial support to the project, supporters of the *Militant* have so far contributed more than \$1,600 in cash, plus two airline tickets to Alaska that two readers had earned from frequent flyer clubs.

These contributions have now covered the cost of the trip. (The three covered their own daily living expenses.)

Anne Chase Stapleton of Kirkland, Washington, sent a \$100 check and brief note: "Enjoying reading the Alaska coverage. Hope this helps."

A check from Carla Hoag White in Newark included a note: "Being able to do this eases the pain of the grisly overtime I'm forced to work."

From Kansas City, Missouri, Amy Husk

and Paco Sánchez wrote: "That was a good idea to send a few folks to Alaska! Enclosed are two checks for \$150. Keep it up."

Bobbi and Greg Sack from Cincinnati, Ohio, wrote: "The fact-finding trip to Alaska was a wonderful idea. The enclosed check is toward the trip. Sorry it's so small. We hope to send more from our next paycheck."

Nellie De Schaaf, a veteran Chicago fighter for social progress, wrote: "I'm so proud of the work you are doing in bringing a true picture of the greatest man-made catastrophe in Valdez, Alaska. . . ."

"I am sending \$20. I regret that my husband and I are retired on Social Security so I'm unable to send what I really wish to."

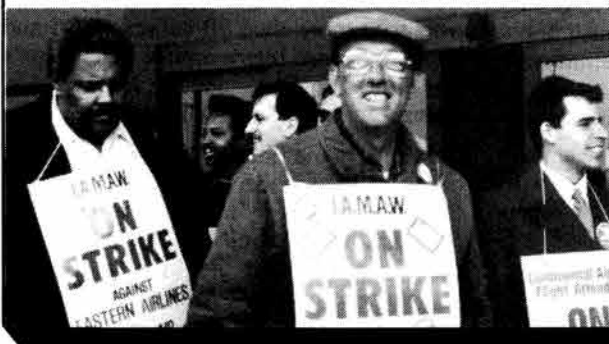
"With best wishes for your efforts, and let us not allow Exxon to feel too secure from exposure and censure!" — H.R.

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Send to THE MILITANT, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014

The Militant

Closing news date: May 10, 1989

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Published weekly except one week in August and the last week of December by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Fax 727-0150; Telex, 497-4278; Business Office, (212) 929-3486. Nicaragua Bureau, Apartado 2222, Managua. Telephone 24845.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Canada, Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$30, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$65. Britain, Ireland, Continental Europe, Africa: £22 for one year, £12 for six months, or £6 for three-month renewal. Send check or international money order made out to Pathfinder Press and send to Pathfinder, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England. Australia, Asia, Pacific: send Australian \$60 to Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 153, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia.

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

800,000 celebrate May Day in Havana

BY JON HILLSON

HAVANA, Cuba — This country's working people celebrated May Day with marches throughout the country. The biggest brought out more than 800,000 residents of Havana, nearly half the capital's population.

The traditional workers' holiday followed massive voter turnout the day before in national elections for the country's municipal councils, the first rung of People's Power, Cuba's governmental system.

The Havana procession, organized as a march of Cuba's "fighting people" by city affiliates of the nation's labor movement, was a sea of workers as it passed the reviewing stand in the Plaza of the Revolution.

Every form of human labor represented

Every conceivable form of human labor was represented in finely detailed homemade floats built by Cuban unionists to illustrate their jobs and workplaces.

They were accompanied by parade music and songs from a massive ensemble of the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC) and the National Chorus of Cuba.

The floats depicted hospitals and health-care workers; schools and teachers; brewery workers, with huge bottles of beer; packinghouse workers, whose float included stacked cages of live, squealing pigs; transit workers driving buses, trucks, and tractors; and vegetable farmers, who paraded with enormous replicas of their produce.

Thousands of white-helmeted construction workers accompanied floats portraying housing projects, daycare centers, and schools: symbols of the minibrigade movement of volunteer workers who build them with freely given, unpaid labor. Many of these men and women held banners and placards hailing voluntary labor.

Atop the reviewing platform stood leaders of the Cuban labor movement and the Communist Party of Cuba, including its first secretary, Fidel Castro.

Place of honor

A place of honor in front of the platform was accorded to the most decorated veterans of Cuba's internationalist military campaign in Angola, including the historic battle against South African troops at Cuito Cuanavale last year. Dressed in fatigues, these men and women cheered — and were cheered by — the marchers.

The principal speech of the day was given by Pedro Ross Leal, president of the newly formed organizing committee for the 16th Congress of the CTC. Ross Leal, a

Banners hailed Cuba's movement of volunteer workers.

former construction worker and teachers' union leader, has been a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee since 1980. He had been working in the construction, transportation, and communications departments of that body's secretariat until his new appointment.

Ross Leal described the themes of the upcoming CTC congress, which will be held January 25-28 next year.

The focus of attention at the congress, he said, will be Cuba's "permanent" process of "rectification." The congress will seek to "direct the huge creative potential of those who voluntarily build socialism."

Many banners at the march hailed rectification.

The delegates to the congress will debate how to improve "efficiency" in work, "discipline not only in work but also in administrative, economic, and technical" tasks, "the deepening of the consciousness of each worker as to their individual and collective responsibilities" in labor, the "wage system and work norms," and Cuba's concept of "emulation" — how workers inspire each other by example to achieve better results in their efforts.

Voluntary work

The substance of such discussions, Ross Leal explained, will strengthen "the participation of the workers in the management of economic production, as well as in the leadership and governing of the country."

The congress will also discuss "voluntary work as a driving force of the economy and as a forger of consciousness."

This includes, he said, workers in production, services, science, and technology. In such work, the CTC congress will aim to maximize quality as well as "increase production destined for export."

Ross Leal also projected the need for the rapid development of tourism, which Cuba's leaders see as critical for the accumulation of hard currency needed to pay for expensive imports.

The achievement of these goals, the CTC leader explained, will be carried out in the context of increasing housing and services along with defense of the country.

Ross Leal saluted the working people of the Soviet Union and the "socialist coun-

tries," along with workers in capitalist countries who struggle for their rights despite repression.



Militant/Jon Hillson

May 1 in Havana. In front of platform were the most decorated veterans of Cuba's internationalist mission in Angola.

tries," along with workers in capitalist countries who struggle for their rights despite repression.

His references to "our brother people of Nicaragua" and the people of Panama, Namibia, Chile, Haiti, Paraguay, El Salvador, and Guatemala brought cheers.

The biggest response from the huge crowd came when Ross Leal hailed "the suffering people of Palestine, who resist in the face of Zionist occupation."

For Cuban workers, Ross Leal said, "patriotic banners are also internationalist banners," symbolized by the "example and image of Che," the leader of the Cuban revolution who was murdered in Bolivia in

1967. Che's views on politics and economics are being widely studied in Cuba. Today, Che is, "more present than ever," Ross Leal said.

The Cuban working class, the CTC leader said, is ready to confront "and resolve all the difficulties we face, to perfect our work. And we reaffirm before the world the unbreakable principles of the revolution and Marxism-Leninism, our confidence in the party and Fidel."

The 90-minute procession concluded as units of the regular armed forces and the Territorial Troops Militia paraded past the reviewing platform in crisp, drill formation. The last company was composed of women.

Broad support for Rojas tour in Los Angeles area

BY RONI McCANN

LOS ANGELES — A broad coalition is organizing an ambitious tour in Los Angeles for Don Rojas. Participating in the effort are Jessica Crenshaw of the Los Angeles Free South Africa Movement, Don White from the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), the Los Angeles Frontline Committee, Nicaraguan Cultural Center, Socialist Workers Party, and Guatemalan organizations.

Rojas is a well-known Caribbean journalist and political activist. He was press secretary to slain Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop. Rojas was editor of the *Free West Indian*, the weekly newspaper of the revolutionary government, which came to power in 1979. For several years, he has functioned as the secretary for propaganda and information of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America.

Other sponsors of the tour include Quincy Beaver, vice-president, Southern California Democratic Council; City Councilman Robert Farrell; Prof. Jorge Garcia of the Chicano Studies Department of California State University, Northridge; Antonio Orea of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; and Leonard Potash, representative of Council 57, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Participating as well are Mark Ridley Thomas, executive director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Vusi Sangasi, South African Congress of Trade Unions; Sabina Virgo, national board of directors, Rainbow Coalition; and Philip Zwierling, First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles.

A highlight of the tour will be a meeting at the First AME Church. Rojas will address the congregation at the First Unitarian Church. He will also be speaking along with Prof. Tim Harding at two campus events organized by the South African International Student Congress and the Pan African Studies Department at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles visit is the latest stop in a successful tour that has already taken Rojas to nine cities in three months.

In Minneapolis, Rojas spoke on Grenada at the University of Minnesota. He also addressed a meeting to mark the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, along with Tomi-Riva Nuumbala of the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia, Rev. Curtis Herron, and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New Internationalist*.

In San Francisco, Rojas spoke at more than half a dozen events. He shared platforms with noted Cuban anthropologist Rafael López Valdés; Dr. Yvonne Golden, former president of the U.S.-Grenada Friendship Society; Berkeley City Councilwoman Maudelle Shirek; and attorney Arthur Kinoy.

In Milwaukee, Rojas spoke along with Victor Mashabela of the African National Congress of South Africa; former state legislator Dismas Becker; civil liberties attorney Art Heitzer; and University of Wisconsin Prof. Russell Bartley.

On May 2, Rojas addressed a meeting at Princeton University chaired by Prof. Steve Slaby.

Cubans turn out for elections to People's Power assemblies

HAVANA, Cuba — Results of Cuba's national elections were announced shortly after polls closed at 6:00 p.m., April 30, in election offices in more than 14,000 districts throughout the country.

The Cuban government estimated that 98.3 percent of an eligible 7 million voters cast ballots for delegates to municipal assemblies of People's Power.

Candidates for the assemblies and their qualifications are discussed and debated in neighborhood meetings where nominations take place. Biographies of the candidates, complete with photos, are posted in various offices and buildings.

Each electoral district includes some 1,000 voters. Candidates are well known for their political and community work. Typically, they are members of one of several Committees for the Defense of the Revolution — the neighborhood-based organizations that bring the major campaigns of the Cuban revolution to the grass-roots level. Candidates are nominated by vote at a community assembly. This is considered to be an honor. They spend no money to get elected.

The Cuban Communist Party plays no role in nominating candidates. In many

cases nonparty members and party members face each other in elections. In some cases, as in the Playa district, two nonparty members were on the ballot.

Delegates elected at the municipal level nominate and elect delegates from their ranks to the provincial People's Power assemblies. These in turn nominate delegates to the National Assembly of People's Power, which elects the council of ministers, formulates the national budget, and deals with related matters.

The polls in Havana were busy throughout the day as teams of local officials checked computerized registration forms, validated voter identification cards, and ensured the swift flow of traffic.

The elections take place every 30 months. But if members of a district are dissatisfied with the performance of their delegate, there are provisions for immediate recall. Delegates must report back regularly to their constituencies on the resolution of community concerns.

"All the work the delegates do," one young poll watcher said, "is after work. It's all voluntary. They don't get paid for it. They do it because they believe in it, because they believe in the revolution."

-J.H.

In our next issue . . .

'Malcolm X: The Last Speeches'

The *Militant* next week will feature the publisher's foreword to Pathfinder's latest collection of speeches and interviews by Malcolm X. The book, made up of material never before published, will be available at the end of May.

In the foreword, Pathfinder Director Steve Clark outlines the evolution of Malcolm X's political views on a broad range of topics, from who are the racist oppressors to women's political and social advancement.

These are questions Malcolm X deals with in the new book's selections.

Pittston antiunion moves force coal strike

BY STEVE MARSHALL

CARBO, Va. — Pittston Coal Group — the largest U.S. coal exporter — began an aggressive drive against the United Mine Workers in 1986, utilizing a legal scheme known as "double-breasting."

This is the way it works: Pittston sets up a new mining company. Then one of its existing, unionized mines sells coal reserves to the new outfit, and mining begins.

Unrestrained by union power, the new company offers low wages, miserable working conditions, and steady cutbacks in mine safety. But it has a large and hungry labor pool: official unemployment stands above 15 percent in the coal regions, where for decades the coal companies have blocked industrial development.

Miners tell of seams of coal being dug at one end by union members and at the other by unprotected, low-paid employees of a new company. Company lawyers have devised a myriad of variations on this union-busting scheme, involving subcontracting, leasing, paper corporations, and so on.

The *UMW Journal* reports that in 1986 alone, "Pittston's nonunion operations gained over 44 million tons of new coal holdings."

These legal tricks have one aim, Mine



Militant/Steve Marshall

Hundreds of miners and strike supporters sat in at entrances to Moss No. 3 coal-preparation plant May 2

Workers President Richard Trumka explained last December. "Potentially," he said, "Pittston could shut down its union mines, reopen them under a different name, and wipe out its entire union work force."

In February 1988 Pittston declined to sign the new industrywide contract between the miners' union and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. It aimed

to lead the coal companies' drive to weaken the UMW and intensify the exploitation of labor in the mines. Off-and-on negotiations occurred during 1988 until the company presented its "best and final" offer last November. The union rejected the offer, and Pittston refused to negotiate further.

The company wants elimination of premium pay for weekend work, so the mines

can be run seven days a week without paying overtime.

It wants to enshrine its "double-breasting" and subcontracting schemes in a contract. And it wants to make deep cuts in health insurance for miners.

But if there was one single outrage that tipped the scales here, it was Pittston's move to cut off benefits for 1,500 retired and disabled miners and their spouses in February 1988. Over and over people explain that this is what they are fighting for. Miners say they gave their lives and health to make the company rich, and now it just throws them away.

After a Feb. 1, 1989, strike date was set, the union agreed to a postponement in an effort to allow further talks with the company. Pittston, however, staged more provocations. It eliminated grievance arbitration, stopped union dues checkoffs, and, on March 30 ended its payments to union pension and insurance funds.

After the National Labor Relations Board ruled that the union could legally strike Pittston over unfair labor practices, the walkout began April 5.

High school youth mobilize for strike

BY MARY IMO

WISE, Va. — "The students of southwest Virginia support the UMW all the way!" With those words Carmen Mullins opened an April 30 rally of 10,000 striking United Mine Workers and their supporters.

"Our government," the Clintwood High School student continued, "should be by and for the people, not by and for Pittston. The taxes we pay should not go toward a state police force that takes our rights away."

Then, to a thunderous roar from the crowd, Mullins presented camouflage fatigues — which she was also wearing — to the rally speakers.

Young people are providing a strong base of strike solidarity in the coalfield towns. Outraged by the arrests and cop brutality against their parents, the youth are organizing themselves for a place in the battle.

Some 400 students walked out of their schools to support the miners' strike in the week before the rally. They've made signs and banners, delivered food to the picket lines, and blocked buses hauling strikers to jail.

On April 28 Castlewood High students picketed a motel where state troopers were quartered, blocking access for two hours.

Fifty miles away that same day, 200 students left Powell Valley High in Big Stone Gap and marched to the offices of West-

moreland Coal. While cops photographed them and company officials papered over their office windows, the students held a spirited strike support rally.

The students initiated the protests even though some parents, including miners, advised against them.

Now many parents are applauding them, but school officials are threatening reprisals. Powell Valley's principal branded them "low-class troublemakers."

"What's wrong with these smart-mouthed kids," he railed, "is their smart-mouthed coal miner parents."

Powell Valley parents gathered May 1 at the school to defend their children against the principal's threats of discipline.

"These people think we're stupid coal miners," said Charlene Rich. "But we provide all the wealth in this community."

Sue Jackson, whose daughter Donna Gail walked out, praised the students. "What these kids are doing takes a lot of courage, and the school administrators are treating them like criminals."

Another woman agreed: "Our kids are the future coal miners, and what will they have to do — work for \$3.50 an hour underground? They are fighting for their lives."

Nearby, meanwhile, a group of Powell Valley students picketed Westmoreland Coal Co., which had been supplying coal to cover Pittston orders. Over honks and

cheers from passing cars, they discussed the strike with a reporter.

"This town will crumble without the union," said Billy Gill, 17. "This fight is important. If the union goes down, there won't be any good jobs around here."

"School is like a prison," added 13-year-old April Craft. "They threatened to lock the doors to keep us in. The principal told me it doesn't matter what I believe."

Michael Mauk, another 13-year-old, spoke up. "We'll be out here till the strike is over," he said.

Artists at Minneapolis meeting excited about Pathfinder mural

BY SAM MANUEL

The Pathfinder Mural Project was enthusiastically received at the May 4-7 national gathering of the Alliance for Cultural Democracy in Minneapolis. The annual meeting of painters, writers, filmmakers, musicians, and others in the arts is held to discuss and coordinate efforts to use their work in support of struggles for social justice.

Among the 125 participants were writer Margaret Randall, the singing group Flor de Caña, and tap dancer Jane Goldberg, who worked with filmmaker Nick Castle on the movie *Tap*. Mural project representative Mark Severs spoke at a workshop on public art.

International effort

More than a dozen prominent artists from 10 countries have so far participated in the painting of a mural on the south wall of the six-story Pathfinder Building in lower Manhattan. The purpose of the work is to promote Pathfinder and the books and pamphlets it publishes.

Supporters of the project set up a full color photographic display of the mural at the conference, along with an assortment of Pathfinder literature.

The work features portraits of Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress of South Africa; Thomas Sankara, central leader of the revolution in the West African country of Burkina Faso; Cuban communist Ernesto Che Guevara; Nicaraguan revolutionary fighters Carlos Fonseca and Augusto César Sandino; and the German communist Rosa Luxemburg.

Also speaking in the workshop were Seitu Jones, a prominent Black artist in Minneapolis; Marilyn Lindstrom, who recently returned from painting murals in Nicaragua; and Richard Posner, an artist who also does architectural designs.

Posner recently completed a design for the entrance way to the Seattle Veterans

Administration hospital. Hospital administrators threatened to remove the work because of its antiwar theme. But patients supported the design and held a sit-in to prevent its removal.

Conference participant Daniel Walsh distributes posters. He is fighting efforts by the U.S. government to prevent him from traveling to Cuba to collect and distribute posters made by Cuban artists.

Native American artists offer help

A group of Native American artists were excited to hear that Maori and Samoan artists from the South Pacific would be coming to participate in the Pathfinder Mural Project. They offered to organize a speaking tour for them. Several artists offered to come to New York to help paint the mural.

"The response at the gathering shows the enormous potential to win new support and raise the thousands of dollars that will be needed to complete this work," Severs reported. Organizers of the project have set a goal of raising \$125,000 by the end of the summer.

Four supporters donated \$2,000 in the first week of the fund-raising effort. That amount will be doubled by contributions from two other supporters who have agreed to match donations of \$500 or more, up to a total of \$20,000. Another \$2,000 came in from donations under \$500.

A May 27 open house at Pathfinder to relaunch work on the mural has been rescheduled for June 3. Other working-class publishers, anti-apartheid and Central America solidarity organizations, and women's rights groups are invited to set up information displays at the event.

"We are just beginning to get calls from some groups and musical performers who are finding out about the open house," says Severs. "Pushing the date back to June 3 will allow time for even more groups to be involved."

Arrests mount in miners' walkout

Continued from back page
chia are organizing themselves behind the Mine Workers banner.

Thousands of students, retirees, housewives, disabled people, miners' widows, shopkeepers, elected officials, preachers, and others are exchanging the "thumbs up" sign and proudly wearing and displaying the strike's colors — the camouflage that has emerged as the single most visible symbol of support.

The green and brown fabric was first adopted to foil identification for police frame-ups. It has come to express the unity of the strikers and the solidarity of the community. Camouflage is seen everywhere: hats, T-shirts, jackets, bandanas hung on porches, ribbons trailing from car antennae, a kerchief around a dog's neck.

Anti-camouflage injunction threatened

On the daily picket lines, state troopers, company thugs, and strikebreakers find hundreds of determined men and women wearing fatigues. Pittston has threatened to seek an injunction against wearing camouflage on the picket line.

After a week of high school walkouts,

students and union leaders have formed a Student Auxiliary. More women strike supporters, organized in the Daughters of Mother Jones, are taking their places on the picket lines and in the jail cells.

The mobilization continues to spread. When students at Clintwood Elementary School insisted on following the high school students' lead, officials finally agreed to supervised roadside demonstrations. But the youngest children were left out — and so, on May 2, the kindergarten walked out in support of the strike.

Police arrested some 20 miners at Pittston's McClure No. 1 mine on May 4. As the miners held "thumbs up" through barred windows, 300 people rallied on the lawn of the Dickenson County courthouse and jail in Clintwood. Another rally was scheduled after more arrests on May 9.

At week's end the Appalachian Regional Hospital in Wise announced that it would not conduct physical examinations for strikebreakers.

Meanwhile, in Washington, UMWA Vice-president Cecil Roberts, Pittston Coal representative Joseph Farrell, and a federal mediator began new contract discussions on May 8.

N.Y. Eastern strikers walk 'Tavern' picket line

This week we are beginning a new column, "Support Eastern strikers!"

The International Association of Machinists struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

break the unions and impose massive concessions on the workers. Backed by the 5,900 flight attendants and 3,400 pilots at Eastern, the strike by 8,500 Machinists has crippled Eastern's operations for more than two months. It has also won broad support from working people around the country, especially other unionists.

The new column will feature brief reports of strike solidarity activities and other strike-related developments. We encourage readers—especially Eastern strikers—to send in items for the column.

Locked-out restaurant workers

at Manhattan's Tavern on the Green gave a warm welcome to eight Eastern workers from La Guardia Airport who came to walk the picket line with them May 4. The six Machinists and two flight attendants from Transport Workers Union Local 553 also brought a much-appreciated donation of food.

The Tavern is a posh dining spot in Central Park where patrons frequently pull up in limousines.

On April 30 Tavern workers were locked out by management after they staged a job action to protest the firing of a shop steward.

The restaurant owner refuses to recognize the union, or negotiate a contract or pension plan — despite a 94 percent vote by the 275 Tavern workers in favor of joining Local 6 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union.

The waiters, dishwashers, bartenders, table clearers, and other Tavern employees haven't had a raise for seven years. One dishwasher with 11 years at the restaurant reported that he still makes \$5 an hour.

In January management cancelled their medical insurance. Most of the Tavern workers are Latino, and many are immigrants.

The initial contact between the

Eastern workers and the locked-out Tavern employees took place by accident. One of the restaurant workers noticed an Eastern striker's button when both were riding the subway and struck up a conversation. A report was then brought into the next Eastern union meeting, and the Machinists decided to send a contingent to the picket line to show their solidarity.

Residents of Charleston, West Virginia, who read the Sunday *Gazette and Mail* April 30 might have seen a quarter-page ad for scab pilots and flight attendants placed in the paper by Eastern Airlines.

Mentioning that a "labor dispute" was in progress, the ad promised "unprecedented opportunities for growth and success" to those who applied. Pilots were told where to send résumés, and those interested in getting hired as flight attendants were invited to an "open house" at a local motel the next day.

A contingent of unionists turned up outside the open house, distributing a flyer with information about what the Eastern strikers are fighting for, with the ad for scabs reprinted on the back. The group was pulled together by Machinists from

the Rhone-Poulenc/Union Carbide plant in Institute.

United Mine Workers of America District 17 President Bob Phalen and two other mine union district officials also participated, along with members of several other unions.

Eastern's open house was a flop. During the entire afternoon, only about 18 women showed up, and almost all turned back after talking to strike supporters.

On April 28 an Eastern solidarity rally was held outside Continental Airlines gates at the Kansas City, Missouri, International Airport. Continental is owned by Eastern's parent company, Texas Air Corp. Eastern strikers are urging the public not to fly either Eastern or Continental.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland spoke at the rally, which drew 300 unionists, many of them Machinists from the Trans World Airlines maintenance base. There are 24 Eastern strikers in Kansas City.

During the last week of April, several Eastern strike support activities were organized in the Boston area, beginning with a special picket line at the airport April 24.

Close to 100 strikers and supporters walked the line, which is normally around 10 — a limit imposed by port authority officials. Rainbow Coalition leader Jesse Jackson participated in the picketing.

On Friday night, April 28, Machinists from Northwest Airlines threw a benefit party for the Eastern strikers. Some 250 attended, including postal workers and unionists from other airlines. About \$1,500 was raised for the strikers.

The next day, a strike support rally of 400 was held in Lynn, near Boston. The event was sponsored by about 30 different unions and community organizations, including International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201 from the big General Electric plant in Lynn, and the North Shore Rainbow Coalition.

Workers from GE contributed \$2,600 to the Eastern strikers at a plant-gate collection the previous day.

Striking Eastern Machinist Local 1018 member Susan Anmuth from New York contributed to this column, along with Maggie McCraw and Jim Gotesky from Charleston, Kevin Dwire from Kansas City, Kipp Hedges from Boston, and Dan Welch from Salem, Massachusetts.

'Each of us here is part of the Eastern fight'

BY KATHLEEN DENNY AND CURT JAYNE

SAN FRANCISCO — More than 250 unionists and family members turned out to show their support for the Eastern strike at a rally held at the international airport here May 6.

The "Celebration of Eastern Solidarity" was endorsed by all the central labor councils and International Association of Machinists districts in the Bay Area. A successful dinner and dance were held later that evening to benefit the Eastern strike fund.

"This strike is not about money," said Art Pulaski from the San Mateo Central Labor Council. "It's about justice. We're celebrating because — with unity — we shut Eastern Airlines down."

"Each of us here is part of the Eastern

fight," Machinists Local 1781 President Jerry Nelson told the crowd. Local 1781 represents most airline workers in the Bay Area.

Mike Fitzpatrick, chief shop steward for Eastern ramp workers and mechanics in San Francisco, stressed the importance of the solidarity the strikers have received from other workers. "You are the key to this strike," he told the rally.

Pilots' union member Lou Daniels told the crowd that workers at Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), which recently acquired an interest in Continental, had made a contribution to the Eastern strike fund.

In the early days of the strike, Daniels recalled, Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo insisted the strikers were finished. "But on Day 64 of the strike, we're solid,"

Daniels said. "We stand proudly with the Machinists and flight attendants." Eastern flight attendant Jeri Pourhand also spoke.

The rally ended with a spirited picket line that extended from the rally site to the Continental check-in entrances. All the speakers had urged support for the boycott of Continental, Texas Air's other airline.

"If we win this strike, I'm not always sure how many people will notice or care," said one Eastern striker who worked in ramp service. "But if we lose, a lot of people everywhere are going to be hurt real bad."

The discussion continued at the dinner that evening. "Our contract expires in November," said one United Airlines mechanic. "I think we're already in better shape because this strike is so solid. All the companies are going to think twice now. They have to."

'Lutte ouvrière' prints special supplement

MONTREAL — *Lutte ouvrière*, a French-language socialist monthly, has just issued "Solidarity with the Eastern Strikers!", a special supplement to its May issue. *Lutte ouvrière* is published here and circulated internationally.

Written by editor Michel Prairie, the two-

page supplement explains the background to the two-month-old Machinists' strike at Eastern Airlines and points to the need for working people throughout North America to get behind this important labor struggle.

"Our April issue featured the Eastern strike on its cover," explained Prairie. "We

hope this special strike supplement will help further inform French-speaking workers here in Canada, in the United States, and in other parts of the world about the Eastern workers' fight, and that it will help broaden solidarity with them. The supplement will be an aid during the special sales target week, May 13-20, for the international circulation drive of the *Militant* and *Lutte ouvrière*."

The Machinists' strike, writes Prairie, "is the most important working-class struggle to have taken place in the United States in the last 10 years. What is at stake is the ability of this group of workers to defend their unions in the face of a brutal attack by the company."

"The outcome of this struggle will have a considerable impact on the workers' movement in North America — in Canada, as well as in the United States. A victory would deal a sharp blow to the offensive that has been carried out for a decade by the capitalist class and its governments against our unions, our wages, our working conditions, and our rights."

"Now more than ever, it is time for solidarity."

Union support for the strike "has crossed the border to Canada, where there are a small number of Eastern workers out on strike — in Montréal in particular," Prairie notes.

Copies of the special supplement — and of *Lutte ouvrière* — can be obtained from the *Militant* business office (address on page 2).



Militant/Nancy Brown
Eastern Airlines strike support rally in Washington, D.C., March 18.

Britain: candidate backs union fights

Continued from front page
taking unofficial action. And it's likely to spread."

Weppler's supporters are urging people to come to the meeting to launch the election campaign in order to participate in the discussion on the sort of policies capable of uniting workers for a fightback against the employers' attacks.

The meeting will come on the heels of two weeks of campaign activity. "In order to stand in the election," Weppler explained, "we need to raise £1,000 (US\$1,700) as a deposit and collect signatures of 30 registered electors in the constituency. The signatures and deposit have to be filed by May 18."

"We've turned these obstacles into opportunities," she said. "We have been using the legal requirements for 30 electors as a vehicle to talk to far more people about the campaign and to raise the funds that are required."

"Every Saturday we have been petitioning in London's South Inner constituency. We have set up bookstalls and distributed

campaign literature. There has been genuine interest in our campaign."

Fifteen subscriptions to the *Militant* have been sold from the campaign tables, and 70 people have signed up to support the campaign. One worker who volunteered is a shop steward in a local hospital fighting against government attacks on the health service. "He went home to get us some leaflets about a local demonstration in defense of the National Health Service, which we'll be supporting," Weppler said.

Political meetings

Weppler's backers have also been introducing the campaign to scores of activists at political meetings in the city. In addition to campaigning in London, Weppler plans to visit other cities to discuss the worsening conditions for working people in Britain and throughout Europe and what working people need to do to protect themselves.

The European Parliament is one of the institutions of the 12-country European Community, also known as the Common Market. It has been elected every four years since 1979.

NEW YORK

Airline Workers Speak-out on the Eastern Strike

Participants: Yvonne Perez-Grajales, Machinists Local 1018, La Guardia Airport; flight attendant Lezlie Brooks, Transport Workers Union Local 553; Ernie Mailhot, Machinists' Local 1018; Continental Airlines flight attendant Beryl Thurman, Union of Flight Attendants.

Saturday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

P.S. 41 (at 11th Street and Sixth Ave.) in Manhattan

Donation: \$5; \$2 for strikers, unemployed, students. Translation into Spanish and French. Sponsored by **Militant Labor Forum**. For more information, call: (718) 398-6983; (212) 675-6740; (201) 643-3341.

'Militant' team sells 101 subscriptions in Pittston mining areas

BY NED MEASEL

CASTLEWOOD, Va. — Tucked into the green hills of southwest Virginia, the shanties constructed by miners striking the Pittston Coal Group sit by the entrances to mine property and the roads traveled by strikebreaking coal haulers. This is the home of District 28 of the United Mine Workers of America. Twenty-four hours a day, pickets monitor the mines and guard their shanties.

A team of *Militant* supporters recently spent eight days in this area reporting on the strike and distributing the paper. We found picketing miners keenly interested in discussing how to unify the working class and mobilize our unions to defeat the concessions drive of Pittston and other bosses.

We visited the shanties several times, to meet different people and follow up on earlier discussions. Groups of strikers and the *Militant* team talked about a wide range of topics: the need for workers to link up with the struggles of working farmers, the campaign to defend framed-up Iowa packing-house worker Mark Curtis, and the role of the police and courts in attacking union fighters and political activists. We also talked about the need for our unions to champion unorganized and unemployed workers, the need to fight for our rights alongside fellow workers in other countries such as Japan and Australia, abortion rights, and much more.

Thirty-five *Militant* subscriptions were sold during these discussions.

Some 10,000 strikers and supporters turned out at an April 30 rally to hear Mine

Workers President Richard Trumka and to demonstrate unity against Pittston and police harassment. Miners bought 14 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 10 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* at that protest.

Up and down the mountain hollows in the mining communities, we found the same confidence that the strike would be victorious and the same interest in the *Militant*, especially its coverage of the Eastern Airlines walkout.

In the small town of Trammel, where rows of houses were owned by Pittston until recently, a subscription was sold at more than half the households we visited.

At one house someone called out to the team as we were sitting in our car, "Are you selling that paper that takes the union side? We want one."

Altogether the team sold 31 subscriptions going door to door in six mining communities. Several subscriptions were sold to people we met in restaurants, stores, and gas stations, including a few of the owners.

From April 29 to May 6, 101 subscriptions to the *Militant*, an issue of *New Internationalist*, 15 Action Programs, and six Pathfinder pamphlets on the frame-up of Mark Curtis were sold.

A typical response to the article in the May 12 *Militant* on the miners' struggle was that of the miner who said, "Some folks might have different opinions about this paper, but this is hard facts. This is my version here."



Militant/Steve Marshall

Sales team member signs up a new subscriber during May 4 rally at Dickenson County, Virginia, courthouse. Rally was show of support for miners jailed in Pittston strike.

Florida socialists win victory in campaign disclosure suit

BY PAT HUNT

MIAMI—At an April 18 news conference here, Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate Thabo Ntweng hailed the ruling by Chief U.S. District Judge James King that it is unconstitutional to apply Florida's campaign disclosure laws to the party.

"This will strengthen the right of those who fight for social change to privacy of association," Ntweng said, "and lessen fear of harassment or threats by the government or rightist groups against those who express their views."

"The court's decision," Miami American Civil Liberties Union Director Robyn Blumner said at the news conference, "ensures that members of minor political parties will be afforded some degree of protection against reprisal." The ACLU provided the SWP with legal assistance in the court action.

The April 3 ruling capped a legal battle that began in 1983 when Jackie Floyd, SWP candidate for mayor of Miami, refused to turn over the names of campaign contributors as demanded by the Florida Election Commission.

The 1985 SWP mayoral candidate, Harvey McArthur, filed suit seeking exemption from the Florida disclosure law. Charges against Floyd were placed on hold pending the outcome. State officials also agreed to withhold charges against Ernest Mailhot, who was the SWP's candidate in 1987, until a ruling was handed down.

The lawsuit was based on *Brown v. Socialist Workers '74 Campaign Committee (Ohio)*, a 1983 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The court held that requiring disclosure of SWP campaign supporters and vendors violated the party's constitutional right to privacy of association, since it opened them up to harassment by government agencies and hostile organizations.

The *Brown* decision cited extensive evidence of harassment of the SWP by the FBI and other federal agencies.

Florida authorities claimed that the *Brown* decision did not apply there because there was no proof that any agency of the state government had harassed the party's election campaign or supporters. The state also argued that the Supreme Court's exemption of SWP candidates from disclosure laws set no precedent in this case because the Miami elections were nonpartisan.

Florida Assistant Attorney General John Rimes conceded, however, that socialists in Miami had been and could reasonably expect to be the target of violence and threats. He denied that there was any evidence of violations by the state government of the SWP's right to function.

Judge King held that the U.S. Supreme Court had "clearly stated that the First Amendment prohibits compelled disclosure of contributors' or recipients' names if the revelation would subject them to harassment from either government or private parties. The court's use of 'either,'" he said, "indicates that harassment, reprisals, or threats from private persons is sufficient."

King dismissed the contention that the *Brown* ruling was irrelevant to elections that were formally nonpartisan.

"First Amendment protections do not hinge on whether an election ballot announces party affiliation," he said. "The fact that the plaintiffs would be subjected to threats, harassment, and reprisals if forced to disclose contributors and recipients' names, outweighs any distinction that the nonpartisan nature of the election has with respect to the applicability of *Brown* to this minor political party."

Subscription drive scoreboard

Area	Drive Goals			Militant		New Intl*		PM (Perspectiva Mundial)		LO (Lutte ouvrière)	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Seattle*	230	218	95	170	169	25	18	30	28	5	3
Des Moines, Iowa	200	186	93	140	140	35	31	20	14	5	1
Portland, Ore.*	195	178	91	160	149	20	17	10	7	5	5
Price, Utah*	80	70	88	50	46	15	13	13	11	2	0
Morgantown, WV	115	99	86	75	90	25	8	10	1	5	0
Houston	180	154	86	100	115	30	19	45	20	5	0
New York	635	533	84	300	289	150	105	150	128	35	11
Brooklyn	345	289	84	190	156	60	72	65	51	30	10
Phoenix	132	109	83	70	70	20	8	40	31	2	0
Cleveland	100	81	81	70	60	18	13	10	7	2	1
Los Angeles	470	378	80	240	185	90	52	130	141	10	0
San Francisco	215	166	77	135	105	35	15	35	42	10	4
Charleston, WV	92	71	77	70	69	15	1	5	1	2	0
Austin, Minn.	87	67	77	60	56	15	5	10	5	2	1
Twin Cities, Minn.	275	206	75	200	154	35	31	30	20	10	1
Greensboro, NC*	120	89	74	90	77	15	2	13	9	2	1
Pittsburgh	165	120	73	120	97	30	14	10	8	5	1
Salt Lake City	120	86	72	80	55	20	17	15	12	5	2
Chicago	320	219	68	200	128	50	49	60	41	10	1
Newark, NJ	500	341	68	250	201	100	67	100	56	50	17
Kansas City*	115	78	68	75	60	20	14	15	4	5	0
Detroit	175	118	67	125	106	30	5	15	4	5	3
Philadelphia	190	128	67	125	99	25	7	30	20	10	2
Baltimore	155	104	67	115	81	25	12	10	10	5	1
Oakland, Calif.	175	117	67	100	91	30	10	40	14	5	2
Omaha, Neb.*	130	83	64	80	56	30	18	15	9	5	0
Milwaukee	130	81	62	80	62	20	9	27	9	3	1
Birmingham, Ala.	170	105	62	130	83	25	18	10	1	5	3
Atlanta	205	125	61	150	100	30	8	20	17	5	0
Miami	250	151	60	145	89	35	12	45	22	25	28
Washington, DC	170	98	58	100	73	25	4	35	21	10	0
St. Louis	175	96	55	130	82	30	9	10	3	5	2
Boston	265	145	55	160	109	40	8	45	21	20	7
National Teams	-	83	-	-	82	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	-	72	-	-	65	-	4	-	3	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	6,881	5,244	76	4,285	3,649	1,168	696	1,118	791	310	108
AUSTRALIA											
	30	27	90	17	9	4	8	8	10	1	0
BRITAIN											
London	150	142	95	95	102	30	17	20	23	5	0
South Wales	59	46	78	40	34	10	4	7	7	2	1
Manchester	61	42	69	40	30	15	10	5	2	1	0
South Yorks	60	34	57	30	24	20	3	10	7	-	-
Other Britain	70	51	73	25	20	25	17	8	8	12	6
BRITAIN TOTAL	400	315	79	230	210	100	51	50	47	20	7
CANADA											
Vancouver*	75	76	101	65	58	2	6	6	10	2	2
Toronto	270	168	62	150	90	50	27	50	39	20	12
Montréal	250	138	55	80	26	40	30	30	27	100	55
Other Canada	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
CANADA TOTAL	595	386	65	295	178	92	63	86	76	122	69
ICELAND											
	15	6	40	15	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW ZEALAND											
Wellington*	115	110	96	90	88	20	17	3	5	2	0
Auckland*	125	100	80	100	88	15	6	6	6	4	0
Christchurch*	95	73	77	80	67	10	4	3	2	2	0
Other New Zealand	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW ZEALAND TOTAL	335	287	86	270	247	45	27	12	13	8	0
SWEDEN											
	56	56	100	30	31	5	4	20	20	1	1
PUERTO RICO											
	25	19	76	3	6	3	0	19	13	-	-
International Team	50	73	146	30	49	7	15	5	3	8	6
Other International	5	3	60	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8,392	6,416	80%	5,180	4,388	1,424	864	1,318	973	470	191
Drive Goals	8,000			4,900		1,350		1,300		450	
Should be		6,000	75%		3,675		1,013		975		338

*Single copies. Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*.

*Raised goal during drive.

By Malcolm X

By Any Means Necessary	\$7.95
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Malcolm X Talks to Young People	\$0.75
Two Speeches by Malcolm X	\$1.00
Malcolm X Speaks	\$6.95

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Curtis files suit against Des Moines cops

Frame-up victim charges beating by police violated his rights

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — Packinghouse worker and political activist Mark Curtis filed a lawsuit today in federal court charging the City of Des Moines and the Des Moines police with violating his constitutional rights when police officers beat him on the night of March 4, 1988.

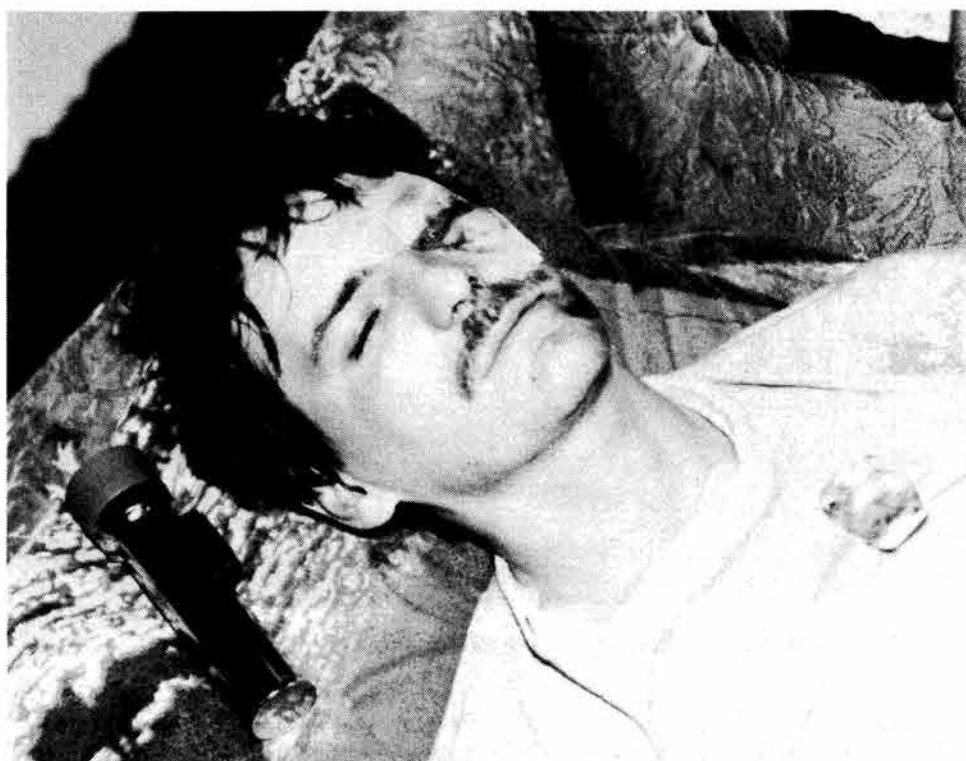
The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court here, lists the city of Des Moines and two police officers, Daniel Dusenbery and Charles Wolf, and other unnamed officers as defendants.

The complaint is that the defendants "violated the Constitutional and statutory rights of the Plaintiff [Mark Curtis] to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures, infringed upon the Plaintiff's right to reasonably safe conditions while incarcerated, the right to be free from violence and threats of violence while incarcerated, infringed upon the Plaintiff's liberty interest in personal security, subjected the Plaintiff to cruel and unusual punishment, and infringed upon the Plaintiff's right of association."

Last March, Curtis was arrested on phony rape charges by Des Moines police officers. He was taken to police headquarters.

While being interrogated there, Curtis' complaint says, Dusenbery and Wolf took Curtis into a small room to remove his clothes. Dusenbery and Wolf "interrogated and attempted to verbally intimidate, harass, and embarrass Plaintiff, including but not limited to suggesting Plaintiff had AIDS [Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome]."

After collecting all of Curtis' clothes, the complaint continues, "Dusenbery and Wolf and other John Doe officers attacked Plaintiff while he was naked in the interrogating room, hitting him in the face and about the body until Plaintiff was unconscious" and that "at or about the time of the attack one of the officers stated, 'You're one of those



Mark Curtis last March after beating by cops. His cheekbone was shattered, requiring 15 stitches.

Mexican-lovers, just like you love those coloreds."

During Curtis' trial last September on rape and burglary charges, he was prohibited from presenting any testimony about the beating by the cops. He was convicted and is serving a 25-year sentence. Curtis is appealing his conviction.

Curtis' suit charges that the attack and violation of his rights was not an isolated incident but rather "was consistent with an institutionalized practice of the City of Des Moines Police Department, which was known to and/or ratified by the Defendants and the City of Des Moines, Iowa; the Defendants having at no time taken effective action to prevent such attacks upon the

Plaintiff and other similarly incarcerated persons."

Curtis' attorneys are William Kutmus and George Eichhorn. The suit describes the actions of the police officers as violations of Curtis' constitutional rights, including the right of freedom of speech, press, and assembly, and the right to due process of the law.

In addition, it says the "unjustified attack

on Curtis was intentional and without just cause and subjected him to an assault and battery, thereby violating his Constitutional rights, violating his statutory rights, subjected him to personal injury, great pain and emotional distress, loss of wages, humiliation, and embarrassment."

Curtis' suit demands damages against the individual officers and the costs of the suit. It further argues that since the actions of the police were carried out in the course of their employment, the City of Des Moines should be held responsible for the actions of the officers.

Stu Singer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, explained that "the victories of the civil rights movement expanded the rights of everyone. An important victory was the right to try to use the federal courts to uphold constitutional protection of individuals, such as Mark Curtis, who are victimized by local government and police officials. It's those victories we are building on today with the filing of this federal civil rights suit."

Singer said that the Curtis defense committee will use this lawsuit as "another weapon in the fight to expose the frame-up of Mark Curtis, to clear his name, and to bring to justice the police officers who beat him."

"This civil rights lawsuit comes in the midst of a continuing scandal exposing the widespread racist and sexist practices of the Des Moines cops and bias and favoritism by the county prosecutor's office," Singer added. "Many people will see this as an important way of continuing to get out the truth about these discriminatory and unjust actions and to help advance the fight against them."

Canada budget: an assault on workers and farmers

BY GARY KETTNER

MONTREAL — "In the name of the war against the deficit, the Canadian government has launched an assault on the workers and farmers, the poor and the unemployed." That was Michel Dugré's reaction to the 1989 federal budget. He is the Revolutionary Workers League candidate in the constituency of Laurier in the upcoming Québec provincial elections.

- The budget cancels the \$4.2 billion child-care program that the Conservative government had promised.

- Transfer payments to the provinces, which help pay for education and health care costs, will be cut \$265 million.

- Support programs for farmers will be slashed \$200 million.

- The subsidy for the VIA rail passenger service will be cut by \$500 million over the next four years.

- The government will also immediately reduce foreign aid by \$360 million and continue with the privatization of Air Canada.

Taxing working people

The biggest attack on working people in the budget is the wide-ranging series of tax hikes.

- Increased taxes on cigarettes, alcohol, and gasoline will net the government an extra \$2 billion this year.

- The federal sales tax on manufactured goods will be raised immediately. In 1991 this tax will be replaced by a new 9 percent tax on almost all goods and services.

- Workers will also pay higher unemployment insurance premiums. This hike comes on the heels of the April 11 announcement of cuts of more than a billion dollars from the unemployment program. These will result from increasing the minimum qualifications for benefits, reducing the maximum number of weeks of benefits, and increasing penalties for workers who are forced out of a job, or who quit or are fired.

- In an attack on the universality of social programs, family allowance payments and old age pensions will be denied people earning more than \$50,000 per year.

- Personal income taxes will also go up two percentage points. The National Council of Welfare has calculated that from 1984 to 1988, taxes increased 44.1 percent for a family earning \$24,000 a year. For a family earning \$122,000, they decreased 5.9 percent.

"All of these taxes are regressive, hitting working people harder than the wealthy," Dugré pointed out.

The budget includes a new tax on big corporations. But the tax is expected to raise \$410 million this year, less than what

Government cancels \$4.2 billion child-care program.

had been previously projected under the old rules. The government also dropped plans for a new tax on bank profits.

In 1988 corporate income taxes amounted to 16 percent of all taxes collected by the federal government. In 1950 the corresponding figure was 46 percent.

Business received about \$9 billion in subsidies from the federal government in 1988. And according to a government study, corporations received an additional \$34 billion in tax breaks. In 1986 many of Canada's largest and most profitable corporations, including Alcan Aluminum, Brascan, Power Financial, Xerox Canada, Cadillac Fairview, and Hudson's Bay, paid no corporate income tax.

The budget includes cancellation of plans to spend \$8 billion for a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines. "Faced with growing opposition to the subs, the Tories judged that it was politically impossible to massively increase military spending while cutting social programs," Dugré said.

More poverty and misery

"The Conservative budget will do nothing to alleviate the growing social inequality and suffering produced by the workings of the capitalist system," added the socialist

Continued on Page 13

Kanak leaders mourned

Continued from back page

FLNKS, Palika and the Kanak United Liberation Front, opposed voting yes on the referendum. Wea was an opponent of the pact.

SWP condemns murders

Printed below is a message to the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) from the Socialist Workers Party of the United States.

The Socialist Workers Party of the United States stands in full solidarity with the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front at this time when assassins have struck down your president, Jean-Marie Tjibaou, and another of your leaders, Yeiwene Yeiwene.

We join with you and millions of other supporters of Kanak national independence worldwide in condemning these murders. And we join in protesting the unrelenting violence that your movement has been subjected to throughout your struggle against French colonial rule.

We were honored to have met and worked with Jean-Marie Tjibaou, both when he visited here last year to testify before the United Nations Decolonization Committee and when we have attended your gatherings in the Pacific.

We are confident that others in the FLNKS will step forward to replace these slain leaders in advancing your fight for a free and independent Kanaky.

The FLNKS decision to accede to continued colonial rule reflected the French rulers' success in holding all but a handful of non-Kanak in opposition to independence. This included thousands of Polynesian immigrants from other French colonies in the Pacific — Tahiti, Wallis, and Futuna.

Kanak make up 43 percent of New Caledonia's population of about 145,000, French settlers or their descendants 37 percent, and people from Vietnam, other Pacific islands, and other countries make up the rest.

In the wake of the signing of the accord, resentment mounted in Ouvéa because the French government refused to carry out a thorough investigation of the May 1988 massacre. Some islanders are now demanding that the French rulers withdraw riot police from the island; provide pensions to widows of the victims; and take other steps.

The French government has been pressing for the dismantling of barricades that were set up on Ouvéa the day after last year's massacre. The French regime is also calling for the surrendering of weapons seized by proindependence forces on Ouvéa during the clashes.

Citing these issues, the French government has withheld from Ouvéa the development funds promised to the Kanak people in the August accord.

"Reconciliation will prevail in New Caledonia," declared French Prime Minister Michel Rocard after the killings. "I know this was Jean-Marie Tjibaou's will."

Lafleur, leader of the settlers' party, voiced "sadness and disgust" at the assassinations. Lafleur said he had urged Tjibaou to be wary of assassination attempts.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the FLNKS . . . as it struggles to contain this setback to its work to liberate the Kanak people from French colonialism," said Timoci Bavadra, the former prime minister of Fiji who was deposed in a right-wing 1987 coup.

Israeli activist backs Palestinian revolt

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — Michel Warschawski took time during his recent brief, hectic speaking tour to talk to the *Militant*.

An Israeli partisan of the Palestinian liberation struggle, he is now on trial in Israel, where he faces up to 23 years in prison on trumped-up charges of aiding an allegedly terrorist organization.

Conducted in periodic sessions, his trial has been going on since last October. His U.S. visit was limited to six days because he

INTERVIEW

must report to the Jerusalem police weekly. He headed back to Israel April 28.

Warschawski emigrated to Israel from France in 1965. Then 16, he was studying Jewish theology.

In a few short years, he became a fighter against the victimization of the Palestinian people and an opponent of Israeli capitalist rule. He helped organize opposition to Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Prosecution case

He was a founder of the Alternative Information Centre, which promotes Palestinian-Israeli solidarity and spotlights abuses of democratic rights by the Israeli regime. Its activities include publishing the newsletter *News From Within*.

To make ends meet financially, the center did typesetting work, mainly for groups involved in struggles, including some in Gaza and the West Bank.

The center was indicted along with Warschawski on charges of providing services to "prohibited" organizations.

As Warschawski returned to Jerusalem from his visit here, the prosecution was preparing to present its key witness — a member of Israel's secret police force, Shin Bet. Deemed a "specialist" in such matters, the political cop is expected to testify that the several Palestinian women's and student groups the center did typesetting work for are "linked" to the Palestine Liberation Organization. The PLO is illegal in Israel.

'Linked by ideas'

These organizations function publicly and have never been declared illegal. The Shin Bet will assert that they are PLO "fronts" because they allegedly espouse the same ideas.

This claim, Warschawski said, is the basis for the charges against him and the center.

However, "a new atmosphere" in Israel is making it more difficult to frame up political dissidents, he said.

This is the result of the Palestinian uprising in Gaza and the West Bank, which Warschawski said has had "a profound impact" on Israeli society.

He commented that the initial police attempt to smear him as a "terrorist" and a threat to Israeli "security" had not worked.

For one thing, various Israelis are now meeting and discussing political issues with Palestinians, and the idea of favoring solidarity with Palestinians is winning growing acceptance.

Moreover, he added, since the uprising and consequent political ferment in Israel, there is growing support in the country for democratic rights and a readiness to defend even those with the most radical views.

Warschawski recalled the massive opposition that developed in Israel against the invasion of Lebanon. Giant street protests were held.

The Lebanon events, Warschawski said, "created a very big breach in what is known in Israel as the 'national consensus.' For the first time, Israeli society was not united behind the government in a war."

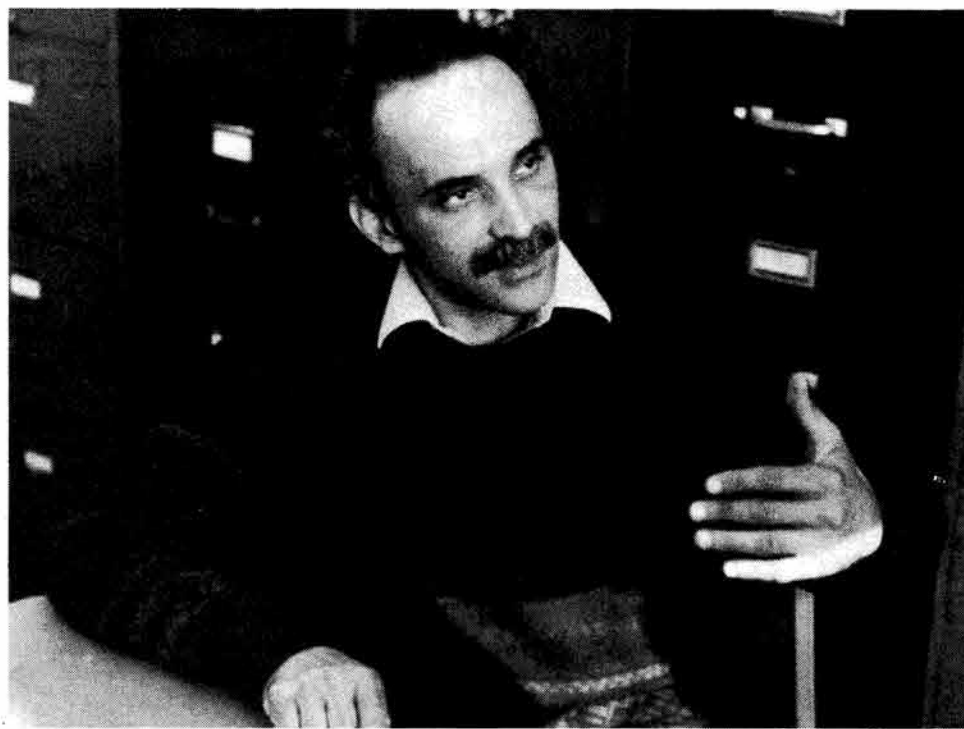
Deepening polarization

The Palestinian *intifada*, or uprising, increased the political polarization, he said. But now it also goes much deeper.

With the Lebanon war, he added, "there was a single issue — 'Out of Lebanon!'" But the *intifada* goes beyond that, posing the issue of the whole future of Israeli society and Israeli-Palestinian relations.

"Now," he continued, "it's not simply a matter of foreign policy. It's a question of how we will live in the future. That's why the development of the peace movement is slower, but much, much deeper."

Warschawski offered an assessment of



Michel Warschawski could face 23 years in jail for opposing oppression of Palestinians

Israeli political life today.

On the one hand, he said, there is "a substantial" minority of right-wingers who favor an even more aggressive policy against the Palestinians.

At the other pole, there is a "growing" minority who recognize the need to end the military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, "which means negotiating with the PLO, because there is no other representative of the Palestinian people."

And, he continued, they realize that such negotiations will mean "withdrawal from the occupied territories, and, ultimately, a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza."

A majority of people in Israel, he estimates, stand on middle ground, between these two positions. "They agree — and this is a new situation — that ultimately Israel will have to talk with the PLO."

He said that among these the mood is, "We don't like it, and we don't want it. But it will happen anyway. It's unavoidable."

Impact on troops

The uprising has a discernible and profound impact, he continued, on the large number of Israelis — many of them workers — who have done or are doing occupation duty in the West Bank and Gaza. A growing number of reservists are refusing to accept occupation duty.

Under Israel's conscription law, Jewish males, at 18, do a three-year hitch in the armed services. For Jewish females, it's two years. Military service is not required of Palestinians who have Israeli citizenship, and few enlist.

After their required term of service, Jewish men remain in the military reserve until they're 55.

Before the *intifada*, reservists spent five days a year in training. When the uprising began, at the end of 1988, this was raised to 60 days a year. For many this includes active duty in Gaza and the West Bank.

This has now been reduced from 60 days to 40. But, Warschawski explained, this is not because of any letup in the uprising.

What's happened, he said, is that the army stopped trying to be everywhere at the same time.

Initially, every time the smoke of burning tires was spotted in a village, or there were reports of stone-throwing, troops would be rushed in to clamp down. But they weren't able to keep this up.

"In dozens and dozens of places," Warschawski said, "villages will be for a month 'liberated villages,'" as the people call them.

People take over

"Liberated villages, closed by barricades. Palestinian flags everywhere. The people organized by local popular councils."

"Then the army will come, with a lot of soldiers. They'll arrest 40 or 50 youngsters. Sometimes they will kill one or two people and wound more. They'll compel the population to erase the slogans on the walls, remove the flags."

"Then, after a few days, they'll leave, and everything will be the same."

Sometimes in the bigger cities, he added,

the army will now stay on the main streets and not interfere with what happens in the neighborhoods.

He recalled one time when this happened in Gaza.

"Gaza was like a festival," he said. "Everywhere big flags. The population took control of their own lives."

Often, he added, the authorities "can declare a curfew, but they can't enforce it. I saw it in Gaza. In the middle of the curfew, someone gives a sign — who and how, I don't know. I was on the outside of town."

"The whole population came out. Tens of thousands of people! And the army was not able to do anything."

The Israeli regime's grip has been loosened. But, he emphasized, for that reason "they are much more violent than before."

In most of the instances of violence, he observed, "if you study them carefully, you will see there's an officer on the spot who feels he doesn't control the situation and, out of frustration, gives the orders to use force."

Among the dissensions stemming from the uprising, Warschawski continued, are the concerns being voiced by senior military officers.

For one thing, they're worried that neither the regulars nor the reservists are getting the military training they'll need if Israel again goes to war. Instead, they're doing police work.

Growing debate

The top officers, he added, see this as damaging not only in terms of military efficiency, "but there's also the problem of the big fights that go on, discussion, a lot of debate among the soldiers. It's no wonder the commanders are saying, 'This is bad for the army.'"

Warschawski said polls show that a

higher percentage of those serving in the West Bank and Gaza favor getting rid of the territories, getting out of this situation of occupation, than is the case among Israeli society as a whole.

"During their duty, they're directly confronted by the *intifada*. And their negative opinion grows as they return for duty there."

Among young people, he observed, "the first time there's a sense of excitement, a sense of wanting to see for themselves what the situation is."

"The second time, they'll do it without much pleasure. But after that, there's the realization that this dirty job will be for a whole period of time."

"A lot of soldiers who didn't have any kind of progressive opinions before, simply do not want to do this job," he noted.

No longer a handful

Ten years ago, Warschawski said, to be anti-Zionist or even against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was to be completely isolated. "The rationale behind our activity," he added, "was that even though Israeli society appeared united in a single bloc, the class interests were not the same and a division could eventually occur. This was a political assumption. Now it's a fact."

What really concerns the Israeli rulers most, he said, "is that it's no longer a problem of a few dozen anti-Zionists in the society. Now there are tens of thousands in opposition to the government's policy. And there are more and more who support the right of the Palestinians to choose their own representatives, to determine their own destiny."

There are many acts of solidarity by Israelis with the Palestinian struggle, Warschawski said. He cited support for Palestinian women prisoners among Israeli women and the collaboration in some cases of Israeli and Palestinian doctors in tending wounded Palestinians.

The opening of the uprising, he added, gave tremendous inspiration to Palestinians inside the green line, the demarcation separating Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There have been several major mobilizations of solidarity.

There have also been threats to Palestinians in Israel. The president of Israel warned them to remember 1948 — when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced to flee their land. If they dared to think of an *intifada* inside Israel, he suggested, a tragedy would befall them.

Returning to his own situation, Warschawski commented, "The political isolation is over. And sending people to prison will only add fuel." In the trial, he said, he may be convicted. "But we may also win." Win or lose, he said, "the political fight has already been settled. They have already lost the political fight."

Considering the prospect of prison, Warschawski added, "I know that all of my Palestinian friends have been, are now, or will be in prison during the *intifada*. So, also Jews will have to pay some small amount."

Warschawski tours 6 U.S. cities

Michel Warschawski, victimized Israeli political activist, wound up a successful six-day U.S. tour with visits to New Jersey, Miami, and Washington, D.C.

A partisan of the Palestinian uprising, Warschawski is on trial in Israel on trumped-up charges of links with Palestinian organizations declared illegal by the Israeli government.

At Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, he spoke to a meeting of 65, including a number of Palestinian students. The meeting was chaired by Mazen Salim of the Palestine Solidarity Committee.

Other speakers at the meeting included the coordinator of the New Jersey Anti-apartheid Coalition.

At Essex County College in Newark, half of his audience of 40 were Arab students. Also speaking was a South African student active in the Nelson Mandela Club.

Warschawski's Miami meeting was held at Miami-Dade Community College. Forty people attended and were welcomed by Ray Morer, president of the campus Black Student Union. The meeting was chaired by

Jack Lieberman of the New Jewish Agenda.

In Washington, Warschawski's visit was hosted by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The ADC, along with the General Union of Palestinian Students and the Washington Peace Center, sponsored a meeting of nearly 50 at George Washington University.

Accompanied by an ADC representative, Warschawski visited Capitol Hill, soliciting protests against his frame-up.

He discussed his case with aides to several members of Congress, and with Michael Van Dusen, staff director of the Europe and Middle East Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Israeli authorities concerning Warschawski's case.

Earlier, Warschawski spoke at meetings in New York and the Detroit area, and at Yale University.

In Miami and New York, Warschawski made airport visits to talk with striking Eastern Airlines workers. — H.R.

Washington threatens to take military action against Panama

Continued from front page
a climate favorable to military intervention" against Panama.

Ritter's warning came shortly after a group of U.S. congresspeople sent here by President George Bush denounced Panama's May 7 presidential elections as "fraudulent."

Sen. Robert Graham (D.-Fla.) told reporters, "The United States should consider the use of force" to remove Panama's legitimate government. Sen. Connie Mack (R.-Fla.) said he would introduce legislation "calling for the abrogation of the Panama Canal treaty," which requires Washington to move its 13 military bases off Panamanian soil by the year 2000 and turn over the canal to Panamanian control. (See story below.)

Former U.S. president James Carter, also observing the elections, called for "a worldwide outcry against the dictator who has stolen this election."

The charges of vote fraud by Washington began weeks before the elections to choose a president, two vice-presidents, and legislators. These accusations have intensified to demands for military intervention now that the voting is over and a Gallup exit poll showed the Coalition for National Liberation (COLINA) ticket winning 51 percent to 44 percent for ADOC.

'Uprooting remnant of colonial enclave'

The COLINA platform calls for "uprooting the remnant of the colonial enclave" in Panama, the U.S.-controlled canal zone, by carrying out the canal treaty that "guarantees the civilian and military departure of the United States from the Republic of Panama."

The ADOC campaign, which received \$10 million in U.S. government funds, vows to "remove General [Manuel] Noriega from power." General Noriega, head of this country's Defense Forces, has vowed to make sure the canal treaty is carried out and Panama wins sovereignty over its territory in the canal zone.

Washington launched a drive to force him out of power in 1986 after he rejected a proposal from John Poindexter of the U.S. National Security Council to allow the training of contras attacking Nicaragua to take place in Panama.

Both COLINA presidential candidate Carlos Duque and ADOC candidate Guillermo Endara claim they have won the election. As of this writing, only partial vote tallies have been reported by Panama's electoral tribunal. They show Duque leading in towns outside Panama City.

Seeking to maximize pressure on the Panamanian government and Defense Forces, the U.S. military nerve center here in the canal zone, known as the Southern Command, has placed all GIs on alert. U.S. Air Force jets have been violating Panamanian air space over the city of Chorrera.

Bush's congressional delegation to observe the elections entered the country illegally through Howard Air Force Base in the canal zone, without Panamanian visas.

Southern Command Network

Through the Southern Command Network, which broadcasts on radio and TV throughout the country, reports are aired 24 hours a day charging vote fraud in the elections and predicting "trouble in the streets."

On May 9 Southern Command Network announced that a "big protest" by Panamanian opposition forces was taking place in the downtown area here. A visit to the intersection where the demonstration was supposed to be happening revealed no protesters at all.

Southern Command Network is also broadcasting "Community News Updates" to GIs and their families aimed at heightening tensions between U.S. citizens and the Panamanian people. A typical broadcast says, "Reduce visibility. Civil disturbance is possible. Stay near your home." The station is also airing ads explaining how GIs should behave if captured as prisoners of war.

On the eve of the elections, both the officer corps of the Defense Forces and Panamanian President Manuel Solís Palma addressed the nation over television.

Solís urged Panamanians to "use good sense and don't incite violence or confront-

ation." The Defense Forces' statement said, "We must avoid internal fights between brothers and not fall for provocations." It pledged to continue the struggle for "the recovery of full sovereignty over all our territory."

The Panamanian government has mobilized the Dignity Battalions, the popular militias set up in 1988 as U.S. threats of military action escalated.

Solidarity with Panama

In neighboring Nicaragua, the government has issued a statement of solidarity with Panama and placed the Sandinista People's Army on maximum alert in the event of U.S. military intervention here.

The Foreign Ministry of Cuba released a statement condemning Washington's open interference in the electoral process of another nation and urging international denunciation of the U.S. role.

Opposition by Panamanians to the U.S. presence on their territory and intervention in their political affairs dates back decades. In 1968 a group of soldiers here led by Gen. Omar Torrijos overthrew the pro-U.S. government of Arnulfo Arias.

Workers and peasants won a series of social and economic reforms and successfully forced signing of the canal treaty. From 1968 to 1986, the number of public schools in Panama increased from 1,851 to 3,187. The infant mortality rate dropped from 40 to 19.4 percent. The number of people receiving Social Security rose from 221,000 to 1.37 million, in a country of 2.2 million.

The Torrijos government established friendly relations with Cuba and aided the Sandinista National Liberation Front in its battle to overthrow the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua. Torrijos died in a mysterious airplane crash in 1981, as the U.S.-financed contra war against Nicaragua was beginning. The Panamanian government since then has favored a negotiated political settlement to the contra war and opposed U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua.

As the contras began losing the war and Noriega refused to involve Panama in their

training, Washington sought to overthrow the Panamanian government, first by branding Noriega an international drug dealer, then by imposing stiff economic sanctions.

Washington froze \$56 million in Panamanian funds in U.S. banks. It eliminated Panama's quota for sugar imports to the United States and U.S. aid to the Panamanian government. U.S. companies in Panama were ordered not to pay taxes, and Washington stopped paying fees to Panama for use of the canal.

According to a study by Panama's Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, the sanctions have had a severe effect on the livelihood of working people here:

- U.S. companies have stopped paying Social Security for their Panamanian employees.
- The country's Gross National Product was 19.3 percent lower in 1988 than in 1987.
- Food imports, on which the country is dependent, dropped 30 percent in 1988.
- Official unemployment rates went from 11.8 percent to 16 percent nationally and 20 percent in Panama City.
- The percent of the population living at or below the official poverty level went from 33 percent to 40 percent in 1988, with one-third of the impoverished living in Panama City.

It was in this context of a deteriorating economic situation and Washington's military threats that Panamanians went to the polls May 7.

Eight political parties here backed the COLINA ticket of Carlos Duque: the Revolutionary Democratic Party, Panamanian Nationalist Revolutionary Party, Labor Party, Liberal Party, Republican Party, Peoples' Party, Democratic Workers Party, and the National Action Party.

Three parties that trace their roots to the Arias regime overthrown in 1968 backed the ADOC ticket: the Liberal Authentic Party, Christian Democratic Party, and Liberal Republican Nationalist Movement. A third presidential ticket, also pro-Arias, was fielded by the Authentic Panamanian Nationalist Party.

At five polling places visited in Panama



City, the majority of those interviewed favored Panamanian control of the canal even though a substantial number said they were voting for the ADOC ticket.

An industrial mechanic backing ADOC said, "We have a foreign debt that's too big, and the people aren't making any gains." He predicted that "the canal is going to be Panamanian" and said he opposed U.S. government funding of the opposition.

A woman who sells shellfish for a living complained, "I can't sell a third of what I used to" and said she was voting for ADOC because "we need a change." An unemployed man backing ADOC said he thought "There are Panamanians capable of administering the canal."

"I'm Panamanian and I want my canal!" said a cashier who was voting for COLINA. A pro-COLINA waitress criticized the U.S. government for stopping payment of canal fees to Panama. A business manager planning to vote for COLINA said, "I don't agree with U.S. interference in our affairs."

Regardless of their party, most voters interviewed held the view of a pro-ADOC housewife: "We don't want any blood to be shed here." Unusual was the opinion of a taxi driver supporting ADOC who said, "What the U.S. government is doing is just and necessary."

While some ADOC supporters expressed fears of vote fraud or resentment of the Panamanian military, only a tiny minority turned out May 8 for a demonstration called by ADOC to claim election fraud and demand the ouster of General Noriega.

Publicized for several days, including extensively by Southern Command Network, the march had 5,000 people at its peak. Most appeared to be middle-class or wealthy Panamanians, with very few workers visible.

"Now you'll see the repression we suffer," a march organizer told reporters as the

Continued on Page 10

U.S. gov't takes aim at canal treaties

BY JUDY WHITE

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Breaking the 1977 canal treaties between the United States and Panama is one of Washington's goals in accusing the government here of electoral fraud.

The Carter-Torrijos treaties call for the complete withdrawal of the U.S. presence from this country by Dec. 31, 1999. This would mean Washington turning over the canal to Panama and dismantling the 13 military bases it has on the 650 square miles that make up the canal zone.

U.S. bases stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts of Panama. Among them is the headquarters of the Southern Command, Washington's intelligence and operations center for all of Latin America. U.S. military intervention in Central America and the invasions of the Dominican Republic in 1965 and of Grenada in 1983 were directed from this center.

Also located in the canal zone is the biggest U.S. air base south of the Mexican border. Howard Air Force Base controls all of Washington's aerial operations in Latin America. It is the departure point for spy missions against Nicaragua.

Control over multimillion-dollar annual canal revenues and the commerce associated with the waterway also figure in Washington's reluctance to comply with the 1977 treaties.

Struggle for sovereignty

The current stage in the Panamanian people's struggle for sovereignty over these resources dates from the mass mobilizations that led to the signing of the treaties between then U.S. President James Carter and Panamanian Gen. Omar Torrijos. Throughout the 1970s, repeated demonstrations took place in Panama protesting the U.S. presence.

The pacts that resulted registered significant advances in the Panamanian people's struggle for self-determination.

- Most importantly, they established a timetable for the termination of U.S. control over the canal. All prior treaties had granted Washington rights "in perpetuity."
- For the first time, the laws of Panama became applicable within the canal zone.
- Panama regained control over some territory within the canal enclave.
- The treaties reaffirmed the principle of no U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of Panama.

Provisions were agreed to for the joint participation by Panama and the United States in the defense and administration of the canal during the period leading up to the year 2000.

Direct payment to the Panamanian government of revenues from the canal was instituted.

Panamanians got the right to conduct commercial activities in the area served by the canal.

- Special privileges granted to U.S. citizens and canal workers were ended.
- Washington agreed to turn over to Panama educational and sporting facilities, housing, the railroad, and other real estate in the canal zone.

Constant treaty violations

However, violations of the 1977 accords by Washington have been constant and have increased in the last two years as the date for U.S. withdrawal approaches. They include:

- Placing decision-making power over canal affairs in the hands of the U.S. president, State Department, and ambassador to Panama.
- Discriminating against Panamanians in job opportunities, wages, training, and

working conditions on the canal.

Excluding the Panamanian government from the audit of canal income that determines the surplus to which Panama has a right.

- Transfers of canal assets to other U.S. agencies, thus decapitalizing the waterway.
- Maintenance by the United States of a special police force in the enclave, whose existence is designed to provoke violence.

Denying Panamanian workers in the zone the right to celebrate their national holidays.

Periodically increasing the U.S. troop level within the zone without the agreement of Panamanian authorities. More than 10,000 troops are here at any given time.

Nonpayment to Panama of millions of dollars in revenues owed from the use of the canal.

NEW YORK CITY Eyewitness Report on Political Situation in Panama and Threat of U.S. Intervention

Hear
Cindy Jaquith, Militant correspondent just returned from Panama.

Sat., May 20, 7:30 p.m.
191 7th Ave. (at 21st St.), Manhattan
Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

Apartheid regime forced to release unionists

Five acquitted of subversion and sedition

BY SAM MANUEL

The South African government suffered a major setback April 24 when Rand Supreme Court Justice P. van der Walt acquitted five Blacks on charges of subversion and sedition. The five are Moses Mayekiso, general secretary of the National Union of Metalworkers; Mayekiso's brother Mzwanele; Paul Tshabalala; Richard Mdakane; and Ibed Bapela.

As leaders of the Alexandra Action Committee, the five organized rent and consumer boycotts and other protests in 1985 and 1986 against deplorable conditions in the township. In one attempt to halt the protests, police killed at least 17 people. During the revolt the township's council members resigned, and most Black policemen moved out of Alexandra. Residents of the township set up alternative bodies of authority, including neighborhood committees and people's courts, to punish collaborators of the apartheid regime.

The government originally filed charges of treason against the five, saying their activities constituted an attempt to overthrow the government. Pretoria argued that the defendants had colluded with the outlawed African National Congress to make the township ungovernable. That charge was dropped near the end of the 18-month trial.

But before dropping the treason charge, the judge set a threatening precedent in South African law by finding that violence is not a necessary element to obtain a conviction of treason.

In acquitting the defendants on charges of subversion and sedition, the judge said that the protests had resulted from the failure of council members to improve conditions in the township. The aspirations to change those conditions are often legitimate for Blacks as well as for whites, the judge added.

The metal workers union, an affiliate of

the 1-million member Congress of South African Trade Unions, organizes many of the same industries in South Africa that the United Auto Workers does in the United States. UAW President Owen Bieber convened a Jurist Committee, which monitored the trial. Those present when the judge gave his decision included foreign diplomats and an observer from the British Trades Union Congress.

Mayekiso said he and his codefendants plan to return to Alexandra and start organizing residents again.

The government has not said whether it will use the provisions of the state of emergency that has been imposed since June 1986 to restrict activities of the five. Under the emergency measures many anti-apartheid leaders are prevented from attending meetings, giving interviews, traveling, or working for anti-apartheid organizations.



Moses Mayekiso, general secretary of National Union of Metalworkers, arriving at Supreme Court in Johannesburg.

U.S. gov't steps up attacks on Panama

Continued from Page 9

demonstration assembled. But there were no members of the Defense Forces, or violent incidents, along the march route, even though some demonstrators brought sticks, iron bars, or baseball bats.

The marchers proceeded to the Atlapa Convention Center, headquarters of the country's Electoral Tribunal.

Outside the center, they were told by the Defense Forces they could not enter the area. Some ADOC demonstrators tried to provoke Defense Forces troops by chanting insults against Noriega or burning the flag of the Revolutionary Democratic Party. The marchers, most of whom were light-skinned, also screamed "Illiterates!" at the soldiers, the majority of whom were Black

'I'm Panamanian and I want my canal!'

or dark-skinned.

The troops remained disciplined, however, and did not respond to the taunting. One incident did occur when unidentified persons fired about a dozen shots, wounding a cameraman for a local Panamanian TV station.

After about two hours most of the marchers dispersed.

Reporters from other countries covering the march encountered no harassment from the Defense Forces and freely interviewed ADOC supporters. Journalists were encouraged by the government to go to the march and see for themselves how the demonstrators behaved.

In similar fashion, the international media has had free access to offices of the opposition and voting places.

The government has closed down several newspapers or radio and TV stations owned by the opposition for failure to comply with press laws concerning the airing of government announcements or use of the media to threaten public order. During the windup of the election campaign, however, newspapers and television gave equal time to statements and advertisements by all three presidential tickets.

"The image the international press is presenting of Panama does not coincide with the reality," noted Panamanian President Solís. "The disinformation campaign organized by the U.S. State Department appears daily on television screens and in the newspapers in the United States. It is designed to prepare world public opinion to accept a possible direct intervention against the Republic of Panama."

Fired British rail worker gains broad labor support

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — Denny Fitzpatrick, a telecommunications worker for British Rail, is receiving wide support in the labor movement here in her fight to win her job back. Fitzpatrick was fired March 3. She appealed, but the firing was upheld by the company.

The charge by British Rail — Fitzpatrick's failure to inform them of a previous dismissal from Ford Motor Co. — has infuriated many workers. A press witch-hunt against communist conspirators, "moles," and subversives accompanied that firing from Ford Dagenham three years ago.

Fitzpatrick has received the full backing of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR). Jimmy Knapp, the union's general secretary, has declared its support against her victimization. Union lawyers have been placed at her disposal to pursue her case against British Rail through Britain's system of Industrial Tribunals and to investigate other appropriate legal moves.

The union's divisional officer assigned to her case, Phil McGarry, is arranging a meeting with Fitzpatrick and several NUR-sponsored Labour Party members of Parliament who have expressed an interest in her case.

Fitzpatrick's local union branch, Paddington No. 1, has distributed a leaflet on the victimization. The branch chair is submitting an article on the matter to the NUR's journal, *Transport Review*.

When it is published, the union's District Council will circulate this article throughout the country as a leaflet. The upcoming

grades conferences — which group hundreds of unionists to discuss issues pertaining to their specific job categories — will be targeted for the leafleting drive.

As a direct result of the broad concern over this case, the union's national conference in July will consider an emergency resolution against political victimizations by employers.

To help ensure that the campaign has an impact on policy and that delegates are mandated on this issue, the London Transport District Council has called for a widely sponsored union meeting in June in defense of democratic rights. The aim is to have union members from all over the country in attendance.

The depth of feeling on the issue inside the NUR is raising hopes among Fitzpatrick's defenders that this case can win further support in the labor movement. Fitzpatrick's local branch is to make representation to a formally constituted parliamentary campaign group, the Anti-Blacklisting Committee.

The case of Clare Smith, a line worker at Ford, will also be presented to this campaign. Smith's dismissal was upheld at an April 7 appeal. She has the backing of her union, the Transport and General Workers.

Smith was fired after denouncing job-cutting plans proposed by Ford at one of its self-promotion meetings at the factory. A top Ford manager signaled her dismissal when he told a student audience that the company was planning to rid its Dagenham plant of "militant wreckers," who he described as those opposed to the company's productivity-boosting job flexibility plan, Employee Involvement.

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The May issue of *PM* has eyewitness coverage of the class struggle in El Salvador. Interviews with unionists, peasants, human-rights activists, and others reveal the depth of the social, economic, and political crisis rocking El Salvador, and the mass support for negotiating an end to the nine-year-long civil war there.

The May issue also includes a speech by the late Thomas Sankara on women's oppression and emancipation. Sankara was a leader of the 1983 revolution in Burkina Faso.



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Sandinista Front leaders call on members to 'close ranks' to meet challenges

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Following a two-day meeting, leaders of the Sandinista National Liberation Front appealed to the membership of the organization to "close ranks" and be more disciplined to meet the challenges facing the revolution.

The leadership also stressed that the contra war "is not over" despite gains made in the fight to defeat the U.S.-backed mercenaries. It denounced the bipartisan decision in Washington to approve more funds for the contras as yet another violation of international law.

The statement was released following an April 12-13 meeting of the nine-member National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) with the Sandinista Assembly and other invited party leaders. The Sandinista Assembly is an appointed consultative body.

A brief statement released at the end of the meeting reports the decisions reached. Listed first is the appeal to "the Sandinista membership to close ranks in order to undertake, with mystique and discipline, the great tasks the revolution demands."

Public controversies

The call to "close ranks" comes in the context of several public controversies that have seen members of the FSLN involved on different sides.

One example is that members of the farm workers union and the pro-FSLN farmers association have been at odds with government decisions on land reform policy.

In one case, 50 workers at a state farm near Matagalpa are protesting a decision by the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Reform (MIDINRA) to turn over their farm to a private owner.

The new owner, Sergio Torres, is a deputy of the Democratic Conservative Party in the National Assembly. The government is giving Torres the farm in exchange for several large properties that were taken from him in 1984, following what he calls land "invasions."

However, members of the Association of Rural Workers (ATC) are campaigning to reverse the MIDINRA decision. "This state farm, workers and all, is being turned over behind closed doors to the bourgeois Sergio Torres," the workers at the farm say in a statement.

"In other words, we are being handed over like tools, as if there had been no revolution on the 19th of July." July 19, 1979, is the date on which the working people of Nicaragua overthrew the Somoza dictatorship.

One of the ATC members told *Barricada*, the FSLN daily, that Torres was notorious for "using force to resolve problems," including calling in Somocista troops to evict peasants from his land before the revolution. But, the farm worker added, "that won't happen here because we are militia members."

The ATC members are organizing to get support from other farm workers for their battle to block the return of the farm to capitalist ownership.

In yet another controversy, leaders of the

National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) are demanding reversal of a MIDINRA decision to evict members of a farm cooperative and turn the land over to Mario Hannón, a capitalist farmer.

Members of the cooperative have been working the land since 1986, when MIDINRA gave them authorization to use the acreage for a period of five years. However, they never received clear title to the land.

According to MIDINRA, the cooperative members aren't using the land efficiently. Leaders of UNAG point out, however, that the cooperative hasn't had the resources to invest in expanding production.

The UNAG members are particularly concerned, they say, because there are at least half a dozen similar cases pending. Such evictions, they add, are creating uncertainty and a lack of confidence among many cooperative members, who fear that land titles and authorizations for land use may be revoked.

In another controversy, some artists and intellectuals who are members of the FSLN criticized a recent government decision to close down the Association of Sandinista Cultural Workers (ASTC). Prominent among them are Ernesto Cardenal, a poet who was the minister of culture until that ministry was dissolved, and Gioconda Belli, a well-known writer. Some see the "close ranks" call as aimed particularly at them and have largely stopped their public polemics.

'War is not over'

Paralleling the call in the FSLN leadership declaration to "close ranks" is the statement that the contra war is continuing. It is essential, the declaration stresses, "to take into account the fact that the war is not yet over, despite the advances achieved in deepening the strategic defeat of the mercenary forces as the first instrument of aggression of Yankee imperialism."

Bayardo Arce, a member of the National Directorate, expanded on this theme and its political implications in a speech to a national conference of the FSLN youth group, the JS-19, which convened in Managua April 13.

Reporting on the decisions of the leadership meeting, Arce told the youth that the steps toward peace have given rise to "expectations" that "would be logical in a situation of absolute peace, but which become contradictory when the phenomenon of the war continues to exist."

The JS-19 youth, Arce said, have to explain that the objective conditions imposed by the continuing war make many of these expectations unrealistic.

"To the extent that there is a relative peace," the Sandinista leader said, "the youth and all of our people, who have found themselves prevented from enjoying fully the benefits of their revolution in previous years, want to have the benefit of this relative peace."

"They want to live, dance, sing, study, produce, and compete in beauty contests. The youth also have to take into account these expectations of young Nicaraguans."

"But you see the contradictory nature of the situation we face, without complete war and without complete peace. And this makes the challenge to us even greater."

The damage to Nicaragua's productive resources from eight years of the contra war, said Arce, has forced the government to adopt "drastic" economic measures. These measures have the support of the Nicaraguan people, he added, but "this doesn't mean that there aren't tensions."

This is natural, he continued, because the economic measures have generated unemployment and scarcity of goods, and have kept wages from keeping up with price hikes.

In addition, "for the sake of conquering peace, we have again turned to offer our hand to the bourgeois sectors, to the business sectors, so that they can be co-participants in this national effort, recognizing that they are going to make money and live very well."

This has made "the situation tense because there is also a contradiction there,"



Left to right, Sandinista leaders Luis Carrión, Tomás Borge, and Daniel Ortega. Militant/Roberto Kopeck

Arce continued. "The worker says: 'I lose my job, my wage doesn't cover basic food costs, and I see the owners of the coffee farms, the cotton farms, the factory owner, the businessman, receiving incentives in dollars and earning a lot.'"

The JS-19 youth need to be more aggressive in explaining the reasons for these con-

tradictions, Arce said. He urged those at the youth meeting to be more "dynamic," to "listen more to young people, to their concerns, to explain to them our proposals, our goals, our political line, and to try to reconcile their immediate interests with their strategic interests, which are represented by the revolution and the Sandinista Front."

—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Washington attempts to avert NATO crisis

The U.S. government has proposed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) that it announce unilateral reductions in its short-range nuclear arsenal in Western Europe — once a decision has been made to replace existing U.S.-supplied missiles based in West Germany with newer models. NATO would then challenge the Soviet government to make cuts to the new levels.

The proposal represents a shift in stance by the George Bush administration following criticism of its opposition to a West German government proposal that NATO initiate discussions with Moscow aimed at reducing the number of short-range nuclear weapons.

Short-range weapons are defined as those with a range of less than 300 miles.

Washington and London had argued that the negotiations would increase public pressure for elimination of the weapons and could lead to the "denuclearization" of Europe. The new proposal agrees to negotiations but maintains Washington and London's insistence on upgrading NATO's short-range nuclear arsenal, which is mostly based in West Germany.

The Bonn government remains opposed to installing the new weapons in West Germany. Following a 20-minute phone talk between Bush and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on May 5, White House officials said an agreement on the short-range missiles was not imminent.

The administration's previous stance came under fire from Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; Les Aspin, Nunn's counterpart in the House of Representatives; and Paul Nitze, a top arms adviser under former president Ronald Reagan. Nitze argued that to press for upgrading the short-range missiles without offering to negotiate on them would create a crisis for the West German government.

In an April 27 speech before the West German parliament, Kohl said that his government's position was in response to growing opposition among people in Germany to the presence of the U.S. nuclear weapons, as well as the weakening of the governing coalition in recent local elections.

Anti-apartheid leader assassinated

Anti-apartheid activist David Webster was shot to death outside his home in Johannesburg, South Africa, on May 1. Police said he was struck in the back by a heavy-caliber bullet fired from a passing car. Webster, who is white, was a lecturer in social anthropology at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

A leading opponent of Pretoria's policy of detention without trial, 44-year-old Webster often held tea parties for the families of detained Blacks. He was a prominent member of several anti-apartheid organizations, including the United Democratic Front, and Detainees Parents Support Committee, prior to the restriction of their activities under the three-year-old state of emergency.

Several thousand Blacks and whites turned out for Webster's funeral in Johannesburg on May 6, in what was apparently the largest public gathering of apartheid's opponents since such events were banned nearly three years ago.

S. Korean cops killed in attack on students

Six riot cops were killed in Pusan, South Korea, on May 3 when they assaulted the Dongui University library where students held five other cops hostage. The students seized the five in an effort to force the release of a student being held by the police.

Some 700 cops were ordered to storm the library after all-night negotiations with government officials failed. According to a May 3 *New York Times* report, students set fire to a barricade soaked with paint thinner as cops attempted to scale it. The Korean Broadcasting System, the state television network, said that 88 students were arrested in the fighting that followed.

All of the hostages were later freed when professors intervened and persuaded the students to release them.

South Korean President Roh Tae Woo warned that he would consider invoking "emergency measures" if violence recurred. Massive strikes and other protests by workers and students have continued since 1987, when they forced the military regime of Chun Doo Hwan to concede several reforms, including elections.

LONDON

For Workers' Unity: Euro-Election Launch Meeting

Hear Doreen Weppler
Communist League candidate for
the European Parliament, member
National Union of Railwaymen.

Geoff Revell, tube worker and
member London District Council
NUR. **Martyn Ahmet**, mem-
ber Amalgamated Engineering
Union.

**Sat., May 20, 7 p.m., Jubilee
Pub, York Rd., Waterloo SE 1**
Donation: £2. Sponsor: Communist
League. Tel: (01) 401-2293.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Cuba Today: 30 Years of the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Andrés Gómez, editor of *Areito* magazine; Gwen Patton, community activist, visited Cuba in 1971 and 1988; Colonel Stone Johnson, chairperson Birmingham Chapter of National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Lasan Vuani, Venceremos Brigade participant, 1989; Betsey Farley, Socialist Workers Party; representative of African National Congress of South Africa. Sat., May 13, 5 p.m. University Inn, Campus Room, 951 18th St. S. Sponsors: Scott Douglas, First World Imports, Pathfinder Books, Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

Exxon Oil Spill: The Fight to Protect Our Environment. Speaker: Cheri Tremble, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Why They Can't Bury Malcolm X. Speaker: Wayne Schiller, Young Socialist Alliance, member International Association of Machinists Local 1781. Translation to Spanish. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: YSA. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Malcolm X: His Ideas and Their Meaning for Today. A class series sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party, held Saturday May 13 and 20, 3 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

Iowa prison bans non-English literature

Continued from front page

immigrants from Latin America, and Curtis was able to speak to them in Spanish.

Since his imprisonment last September, Curtis has been trying to improve his Spanish so that he can more effectively communicate with fellow workers, political activists, and others whose first language is Spanish.

His request for a Spanish-language dictionary and book of verbs was denied by the prison administration on the grounds that they were in a "foreign language," and therefore "a security problem."

Curtis protested the decision, pointing out that there was Spanish-language literature in the prison library and that prison rules do not prohibit literature in languages other than English.

Subsequently, the prison administration decided to, in effect, make English the only written language allowed. Many prisoners at the overcrowded facility are from Latin America and Asia, and their first language is not English.

In an earlier letter to the *Militant*, Curtis had explained that he "hoped to introduce others here to the *Militant* although the only sharing of literature can be done in the library."

"Last night an inmate was given a major report for looking at another inmate's magazine while sitting with him on a bench in

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Capitalism in Crisis: The Fight Ahead for Working People. A socialist campaign rally. Speakers: Betsy Soares, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Boston School Committee; Nels J'Anthony, SWP candidate for Boston City Council. Sat., May 13, 7:30 p.m. Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St. (Arlington T). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign '89. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Free Trade Debate in Canada and U.S.: A Trap for Workers. Speaker: George Rose, Revolutionary Workers League, member United Steelworkers of America in Toronto. Sat., May 13, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Big Oil and the Environment: From Alaska to Minnesota. Slideshow on Alaska oil spill presented by Michael Maggi, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Sun., May 21, 6:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Exxon Oil Spill: Corporate Interests vs. the Environment. Sun., May 14, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

Decent Housing Is a Right. Sun., May 21, 7

p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

U.S. Nuclear Weapons Plants and Arsenals: Threat to Humanity. Speakers: Nina McClellan, Sierra Club; Ned Measel, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 13, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

TEXAS

Houston

Eyewitness Report from Grenada. Speaker: Stephen Gittens, member of Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement. Sat., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Solidarity with the Palestinian Liberation Struggle. A panel discussion. Sat., May 13, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

Capitalism in Crisis: The Battles Ahead for Working People. Speaker: Bill Arth, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Salt Lake City Council, 3rd District. Sat., May 20. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Eyewitness Report on Pittston Coal Miners'

the cell house," Curtis wrote. "He is appealing the report. If he doesn't win, he'll go to 'the hole' (solitary confinement)."

PM editor Madrid said, "Like the banning of books in Grenada, like the English-

only laws that have been passed in several states, the banning of so-called foreign-language literature from Anamosa is an attack on us all. All those who defend democratic rights should protest this restriction."

Mark Curtis' letter to 'PM'

Dear Friends,

First, let me thank you for your coverage of the fight against the frame-up. Your work has won many people around the world to learn about the case and join with my supporters.

Unfortunately I have to cancel my subscription to *PM* for now. In a very undemocratic move aimed at everyone inside these walls, the prison administration has implemented a policy against so-called foreign-language literature. Although I was able to receive two issues of *PM* at first, I am not allowed to get it now. This also applies to *Lutte ouvrière*, *Liberación*, and some materials I received from Sweden. Even a Spanish-English dictionary and verb book I sent for have been rejected.

The excuse given for this restriction is that the institution doesn't have the per-

sonnel to read the foreign languages, and that not doing so would be a security problem.

But receiving literature is not a threat to security, it's a democratic right. The prohibition seals inmates off from many sources of information and contact with people in other countries as well as the United States.

I am going to continue to fight this and believe it can be changed. Until that time though, any copies of *Perspectiva Mundial* will be returned to you.

Again, many thanks for the outstanding coverage of the struggles of working people around the globe, including the fight to overturn this frame-up.

¡Hasta la victoria! (Onward until victory!)

Mark

BOSTON

Meeting to Celebrate the Life and Political Contributions of Dave Cahalane.

Cahalane, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, died May 3.

Speakers: Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party national organization secretary; Helen Meyers, representative of Pathfinder publishers; others.

Fri., May 19, 7:30 p.m.

Pathfinder Bookstore
605 Massachusetts Ave.

For more information call (617) 247-6772.

Strike. Speakers: Chris Rayburn, recently returned from eight-day tour of Pittston coalfields; Jeanne Fitzmaurice, Socialist Workers Party, member United Mine Workers of America Local 1570. Sat., May 13, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Open Up the West Virginia Ballot. Report on fight to end restrictive ballot laws. Speakers: Bob Bastress, American Civil Liberties Union attorney in Socialist Workers Party challenge to West Virginia ballot laws; Dick McBride, recent SWP candidate for city council. Sat., May 21, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Why Working People Should Defend Indian Treaty Rights. Firsthand report from northern Wisconsin. Speakers: Pat Grogan, chairperson Wisconsin Socialist Workers Party; representative Witness for Nonviolence for Treaty and Rural Rights in Northern Wisconsin. Sat., May 20, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Communism and Oppressed Nationalities. A communist perspective on struggles by national minorities in the Soviet Union, China, and Yugoslavia. Speaker: Peter Bradley, Socialist Action League. 157 Symonds St. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. For more information call (9) 793-075.

Wellington

Justice for Mark Curtis, Framed-Up Unionist and Political Activist from Des Moines, Iowa. Speaker: Kate Kaku, leader of Mark Curtis Defense Committee and wife of Mark Curtis. Sun., May 21, 2 p.m. Hotel Workers Union, Marion St. and Tue., May 23, 1 p.m. Lounge, Students Association, Victoria University. For more information call (4) 829-732.

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

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UTAH: Price: 253 E. Main St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** 147 E 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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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.

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

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 181 Glebe Point Rd., 2nd floor, Glebe. Postal address: P.O. Box 153 Glebe, Syd-

ney NSW 2037. Tel: 02-660 1673.

BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut, SE1 8LL. Tel: 01-401 2293.

CANADA

Montréal: 4274 Papineau, Suite 302, H2H 1S9. Tel: (514) 524-7992.

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.

ICELAND

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

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 157a Symonds St. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. 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.

Law 'n order, Israeli style — In the West Bank, Nabilah Abu Gush, 18, was given two months in prison because she knitted a



Harry Ring

sweater in the colors of the Palestinian flag. And in Gaza, Fuad al-Khadri was fined 500 shekels (US\$275) because his son, six, al-

legedly threw stones at troops.

Put Exxon prez in same cell — Hugo Rice was jailed in Seattle for shooting at the windows of an Exxon station, assertedly to protest the company's failure to clean up the Alaska oil spill. According to the prosecutor, Rice said he intends to keep shooting until Exxon acts on the cleanup. "At the rate Exxon is progressing," the prosecutor said, "it's best that Mr. Rice remain in jail."

Asylum? Hey, no problem — If you're having trouble getting papers, just do like Justo Somarriba.

He's the Nicaraguan émigré whose request for political asylum was denied and then granted, four days after he won a \$5.3 million lottery jackpot.

Sexist dog of the week — "I think she should get married . . . have some children, cook for him, let him support her and help him to contribute to society." — Miami Immigration Director Perry Rivkind, commenting on Cheryl Little, an attorney who defends Haitian victims of the immigration service.

A fighting opposition — According to a *New York Times* dis-

patch, upper-class protesters in Panama have begun sending their maids on antigovernment demonstrations in their place. And, to safeguard their pots and pans, instead of banging on them as a means of protest, they recorded the sound and played cassette tapes instead.

You save on maintenance — Some folks lease apartments. But at one Toronto shop you can lease a watch. Thirty months, with an option to buy. A Rolex, \$547.95 a month.

Sensible — Canadian stock

market tip: "Enjoy the party, but dance near the door."

It's not included? — Summer weight cashmere is in. One New York shop offers a cashmere sun bathing outfit — cardigan, undershirt, and shorts — \$1,080. "The only accessory you need," says the manager, "is a tan."

Happy White Father — "You all look like happy campers to me. Happy campers you are, happy campers you have been, and, as far as I'm concerned, happy campers you will always be" — Vice-president Danforth Quayle on his arrival in Samoa.

Canada budget: an assault on workers and farmers

Continued from page 7

candidate. "Through the 'boom' years of the 1980s, while the big capitalist families and the better-off layers of the middle classes have grown wealthier, millions of workers and farmers have been driven deeper into poverty."

Since 1975 real wages have fallen 8 percent. The real value of the minimum wage has declined almost 40 percent over this period.

Whole sections of the country have never recovered from the 1981-82 recession. The official unemployment rate is higher than the annual rate in all but two years from 1946 to 1981.

Twenty percent of the population depends on unemployment insurance or welfare to survive. Nearly 4 million people are living below the official poverty line.

As the cost of housing has skyrocketed, the number of homeless people has multiplied. Food banks have sprung up across the country.

Deficit scam

"For months," explained Dugré, "the government and big business have been on an all-out campaign to convince working people of the dangers that the budget deficit represents for Canada. This campaign is a scam."

"The fight against the deficit is the code phrase of the employing class for cutting social programs and squeezing more taxes out of workers," he continued. "They hope to convince working people to accept these measures as necessary sacrifices."

The Tories are predicting a federal government deficit of \$30 billion for 1989, about the same as last year. The national debt, accumulated since Confederation in 1867, has now reached \$320 billion.

This year the interest on the debt will be \$39.4 billion, the biggest single item in the budget. This amount alone is larger than the annual government deficit.

"This money is paid by working people through their taxes. The bulk of it goes into the pockets of wealthy bondholders," the RWL candidate stressed. "Working people have no interest in enlisting in the ruling class' war on the deficit."

"The government deficit is not the cause of growing economic problems in Canada. It is a product of the growing international crisis of the capitalist system," said Dugré.

Capitalist governments use deficit spending to artificially expand the money

supply and stimulate the expansion of the economy. The effect of this is to moderate recessions and prolong periods of recovery. But continual deficits and an increasing public debt contribute to inflation and growing instability of the credit system.

The Canadian government has run a deficit every year since the 1974-75 recession. The "boom" of the 1980s has been fueled by a combination of mushrooming public, corporate, and individual debt together with rampant speculation.

"The fundamental source of the economic crisis is the decline in the rate of profit and the resulting drop in expansion of production," explained Dugré.

The capitalist class responds to this by seeking to increase the rate of profit by extracting more value from the workers and farmers, he said. "The rulers attack the working class to impose wage cuts and speedup. The drive to cut back social programs that working people have won through past struggles — part of the social wage — is part of this attack."

The coming recession

New Democratic Party and Liberal Party critics of federal government economic policies argue that cutting government spending and hiking taxes and interest rates will tend to push the economy into a recession.

Conservative Finance Minister Michael Wilson points out that large government deficits will increase inflation and lead to an economic crisis.

"Both are right," said Dugré. "Periodic crises are a built-in feature of the capitalist system." In Canada, the deep 1981-82 recession was followed by a mild slowdown in 1986. Many signs point to the onset of another recession in the next year.

"It is impossible to predict the exact timing or scope of the next recession. But it will certainly occur in a context of growing instability. There is a real danger that it could trigger a devastating depression," he stressed.

The clearest indication of the explosive pressures building up in the capitalist economy, said Dugré, was the international stock market crash in October 1987. Powerful international economic forces — including the spiraling debt of the semicolonial countries, corporations, and governments — threaten to set off a collapse of the banking system and a deep worldwide economic crisis.

"The policies of the federal government are not the source of the problem. Nor are they the solution. Any policy that aims to stop the growing crisis by making the capitalist economy work — a bigger or smaller deficit, higher or lower interest rates — is doomed to failure. Such a perspective is a trap for working people," insisted Dugré.

Canadian Auto Workers President Robert White says that the budget is an attempt "to harmonize Canadian society to that of the United States" in accordance with the Canada-U.S. free trade pact. "This is wrong," the RWL leader said. The Canadian capitalist class is carrying out this attack in response to the deepening worldwide capitalist crisis. To suggest that the threat to working people in Canada comes from the United States disarms the labor movement in the fight against the Canadian bosses, their government and their budget."

Fighting perspective needed

Dugré stressed the importance of mobilizing against the budget. "Workers and farmers need to mobilize around a fighting perspective to defend ourselves against the ravages of the growing economic and social crisis."

"We can fight for jobs for all by demanding a cut in the legal workweek to 30 hours with no loss in pay. Instead of cutting back

hospitals, schools, child-care centers, and passenger trains, the government could put hundreds of thousands of people to work building these desperately needed public facilities.

"Rather than cut foreign aid," Dugré continued, "Canada should help build factories and social projects in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to provide hundreds of thousands more jobs. This should be accompanied by a call on Ottawa and all the imperialist governments to cancel the debts of the semicolonial countries."

"Instead of slashing the already miserly unemployment insurance, benefits at the average union wage should be provided for all the unemployed for as long as they are out of work. The minimum wage must be raised."

"The Revolutionary Workers League opposes all taxes that shift the burden onto working people. Tax corporate profits and the rich instead."

"To overcome the divisions among working people we should fight for affirmative action in hiring and education for those of us who are women, French-speaking, Black, or Native."

"This is the perspective we need to fight against the Tory budget in defense of our most immediate interests today. It will help prepare us for the much bigger worldwide battles that the coming economic catastrophe will bring," Dugré concluded.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
May 18, 1979

WASHINGTON — They came from Harrisburg, 33 buses full. From Vermont and Alabama. From Illinois and Florida. From Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. From New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and Connecticut. From Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In all, they came from more than 30 states, and they filled Pennsylvania Avenue May 6 to demand an end to nuclear power.

They came from anti-nuclear power groups, from high schools and colleges, from unions, and from women's rights organizations. Many of the demonstrators were in their teens.

May 6 Coalition organizers estimated the crowd at 125,000.

The unexpectedly large turnout, making it by far the biggest antinuclear protest ever in this country, sharply indicated the spread of opposition to nuclear power since the Three Mile Island disaster.

The huge contingent from Harrisburg led the one-and-a-half mile march to the Capitol.

A multitude of homemade signs and banners created a colorful display that showed the breadth and depth of popular opposition to nuclear power.

Demonstrators from the Rocky Flats Action Group in Colorado spoke for many of the marchers in demanding an end to both nuclear power and nuclear weapons.

Antiwar sentiment ran deep in the crowd at the Capitol. There was widespread recognition of the dangers of nuclear war and its connection to nuclear power. "If you liked Hiroshima, you'll love Three Mile Island," said one sign. "Stop the draft," read another.

THE MILITANT
Published in the interests of the Working People
May 18, 1964

A Whitesburg, Kentucky, circuit court acquitted Berman Gibson and six other members of the coal miners' roving-picket movement of charges of armed robbery and assault with intent to kill. The jury decided May 1 that Gibson and his followers had not attacked several men who drove through their picket lines in October 1962. Under Kentucky law, the charges carried possible death sentences.

The roving-picket movement unsuccessfully fought the coal operators' campaign to drive down wages and working conditions in the mines of eastern Kentucky. "This is just another of a long series of attempts by the coal operators and their political friends to use the local, state, and federal police and courts to deny the coal miner his right to organize," was Gibson's comment on the trial.

The key prosecution witness did not even correctly identify the scene of the alleged incident. Moreover, his testimony contradicted that of the other prosecution witnesses in many particulars such as the weather and road conditions at the time of the alleged crime.

Gibson and seven other miners go on trial July 14 on another frame-up. They will appear in federal court on charges of attempting to blow up a railroad bridge leading to the mines. The defendants face two counts, each of which carries a possible 20-year sentence. The destruction of the railroad trestle, which they are accused of plotting, never took place.

—VANCOUVER, Canada—

Pacific Northwest Socialist Educational Conference

May 27 & 28. V.C.C. Langara Campus, Student Union Bldg.
100 West 49th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

Coming Recession and the Myth of Free Trade Threat

Speaker: John Steele, leader of the Revolutionary Workers League. Sat., May 27, 2:30 p.m.

Eastern Airlines Strike: The Stakes for Working People

Speaker: Ernest Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 1018 at New York's La Guardia Airport, on strike against Eastern. Sat., May 27, 7:30 p.m. Social to follow.

Rise, Decline, and Transformation of Industrial Unions

Speaker: John Steele. Sun., May 28, 10 a.m.

Sponsored by supporters of the Militant newspaper. For more information call Vancouver (604) 873-8898; Seattle (206) 723-5330; Portland (503) 287-7416.

End censorship in Iowa prison

The decision of prison authorities at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa to bar literature of every language except the one they are capable of censoring — English — is an outrageous violation of human and constitutional rights and should be vigorously protested by all supporters of free speech and human dignity.

As we report on the front page of the *Militant* this week, unionist and political activist Mark Curtis, who is serving a 25-year jail sentence in Anamosa on phony charges of rape and burglary, sent a letter on April 20 to the New York business office of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*. Curtis informed them that he would no longer be able to receive his subscription to *PM* because prison authorities had arbitrarily decided to ban for "security" reasons all literature that is not in English.

This is a serious counterpunch by prison authorities in response to the highly effective international political campaign to win justice for Curtis. Since Curtis' conviction last September, more than 3,000 organizations and individuals around the world have become sponsors of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

The censorship order aims to restrict the ability of Curtis — and his fellow prisoners — to have a serious political relationship with the outside world. It is part of the authorities' efforts to dehumanize working people behind bars and isolate them from society.

A public fight against this restriction is part of the fight to affirm that incarceration doesn't mean prisoners give up their right to protection under the Constitution or their claim to basic human rights.

The denial of Curtis' right to receive Spanish- and other non-English language literature goes right to the heart of the issues involved in the frame-up of Curtis. He was considered a dangerous man by the employers, government, and cops because he was a participant in the real struggles going on against company abuse of workers, cop racism, U.S. intervention abroad, and deportations of undocumented workers.

Curtis was one of the few Anglo workers at the Swift meat-packing plant who knew enough Spanish to be able to communicate with workers from Latin America who weren't proficient in English. This helped in convincing workers to join together in a struggle against Swift and immigration cops.

In fact the night he was arrested, March 4, 1988, Curtis had attended a meeting in defense of 17 workers at Swift

who had been arrested in an immigration raid on the plant three days earlier. At that meeting, Curtis spoke — in Spanish — about the importance of involving the union in the fight to defend the victimized workers.

When he was arrested a few hours later, the cops called Curtis a "Mexican-lover just like you love those coloreds" as they beat him, fracturing his cheekbone. Curtis' "crime" was that he made an effort to speak, work, and be politically involved with fellow workers who speak a language different than the one spoken by the U.S. rulers.

This ban on non-English language literature is an attempt to prevent Curtis — and every other prisoner — from receiving letters in Gaelic from fellow political prisoners in Long Kesh in British-occupied Northern Ireland; messages of support from Swedish trade unionists; and notes from Mexican, Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, Haitian, Filipino, Icelandic, and other supporters of Curtis' fight for justice around the world.

The authorities want to prevent Curtis and all other prisoners from being — or becoming — self-confident political activists who fight for their rights.

It's an attempt to force Anamosa prisoners whose first language is not English to accept the prison walls as their entire world.

This new ruling is of a piece with the other restrictions on prisoners' rights that Curtis has described in letters printed in the *Militant*. Prisoners in Anamosa, for example, are penalized for circulating literature among themselves — or even looking at a fellow prisoner's newspaper or book.

The question of censorship, book-banning, and freedom of speech is a big one in the world today — from the attacks on Salman Rushdie's right to publish his novel *The Satanic Verses*, to the decision by the U.S.-backed government of Grenada to ban a list of 86 books whose ideas that nation's rulers fear and loathe, to the Israeli regime's censorship of Arabic and Hebrew publications that express support for the rights of the Palestinians, along with the persecution of journalists who speak out in solidarity.

The authorities at Anamosa would like the prison to become a place where English is not only the "official" language — but the *only* language.

Every supporter of free speech, democratic rights, and human dignity should raise their voices to protest this violation of the rights, not only of Mark Curtis, but of all of us.

Fighting racism and separating church and state

BY DOUG JENNESS

LONDON — Some 2.5 million people of Asian, Caribbean, and African descent live in Britain, most of them part of the working class. They, or their parents, have largely come from countries that were once under British colonial rule.

In many different ways they are subjected to discriminatory policies and racist abuse on the basis of their skin color, the language they speak, and the religious beliefs and practices they hold and observe.

Unemployment is proportionately twice as high for Black and immigrant workers, and their opportunities for adequate housing, medical care, and education are more

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

limited on average than for whites. On the whole, the standard of living for Asian, African, and Caribbean working people here is less than for white workers.

Moreover, many Black workers live under the threat of deportation. And they face cop harassment, beatings, and killings. They are twice as likely to go to prison as whites.

One discriminatory policy that is being debated here centers on government financing of religious schools.

According to a law adopted in 1944, the government can finance private religious schools that submit applications and fulfill certain specifications. The government pays the schools' running costs and 85 percent of their capital expenses, while supervisors and church officials control the curriculum. Today there are more than 4,500 such schools — 2,430 Catholic, 2,140 Anglican, and 20 Jewish. There are no Muslim schools getting aid, even though a very large part of the residents who have come from Africa and Asia are practicing Muslims; nor are there any government-funded schools for Hindus and Rastafarians.

There is mounting pressure by the Islamic Schools Trust, which runs the private Muslim schools, to get government funding, especially for women's schools. Two Muslim schools have applied, one of them several years ago. But obstructions keep being put in the way and the applications delayed.

The discriminatory double standard of British officials should be exposed for what it is and rejected by working people. But there's another issue posed here — one that also keeps being raised in the United States and other countries — the separation of church and state.

Insofar as governments have been forced to establish public schools free of charge, it is a major social conquest. These public schools should be strengthened and improved with more financing, and all discriminatory policies eliminated so that the best possible public education can be guaranteed for all.

Government aid to private schools, however, cuts across this objective. It grants favored status to certain religious groups. This reinforces inequalities within the working class that can sharpen divisions and undermine the development of class solidarity.

The demand to expand the religious groupings entitled to government funding for schools doesn't lead to greater equality because in practice the very nature of state assistance to religious organizations is to create a discriminatory setup. But the question doesn't end with halting government funds to religious schools.

Young people — whether Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, or adhering to no religion — should attend the same public schools and get the same education. If they speak a language other than English, they should be guaranteed the right to learn in their own language as well as study English. Customs concerning food and similar matters should be respected in the public schools, as well.

Also, no policy or law should be established denying groups the right to provide religious instruction, so long as they raise their own funds and do it outside the public schools.

Free, compulsory, and secular public education maximizes the opportunities young people have of learning to respect each others customs, languages, and religious beliefs. This can help working people with divergent backgrounds to see these differences are far less significant than the common oppression and exploitation they face daily as a class. And that their common enemy is the capitalist ruling class.

This is a perspective that workers with Muslim and Anglican, Hindu and Catholic beliefs can and will be won to as their conditions of life worsen under capitalism and spur them to seek unity in protecting themselves and mobilizing against the rulers.

U.S. hands off Panama!

Continued from front page

voices in outrage against this attack on Panama's sovereignty and independence. Governments, unions, and other organizations should speak out loud and clear against the crimes that Washington is committing against Panama and the even greater crime that is being prepared.

The administration of President George Bush portrays its latest war move as an attempt to protect U.S. citizens who are supposedly threatened by the government of Panama. This fraudulent claim is an often-used pretext for U.S. military interventions, including the invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965 and Grenada in 1983.

U.S. troops are in Panama to uphold the interests of a handful of U.S. billionaire families. They want to dictate to the Panamanian people what government they will have, and force them to accept occupation of their soil by U.S. troops and continued U.S. control of the Panama Canal. They want to root out every trace of the advances Panamanians have made in asserting their right to control their country.

Bush and congressional leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties claim to be upholding the will of the Panamanian people in the face of reported election fraud. But every honest observer has conceded that the overwhelming majority of Panamanians, whatever they think of the elections, oppose U.S. intervention and want Washington to turn over the canal.

The proposed troop movements into Panama are the high point thus far in a brazen effort to remove the current Panamanian government.

In February 1988 a U.S. grand jury indicted Gen. Manuel Noriega, the head of the country's armed forces, on drug charges. When he refused to submit to this attack, Washington imposed economic and diplomatic sanctions on Panama, and has continued to flagrantly violate the 1977 canal treaty.

In the current election campaign, the U.S. rulers openly backed and helped finance an opposition presidential candidate. Teams of U.S. "observers" — one appointed by Bush, headed by Democratic Rep. John Murtha, and another including former presidents James Carter and Gerald Ford — moved into Panama to stand in judgment over the elections. Their statements attacking the government have added more grist to Washington's propaganda mill.

When it appeared that Washington's candidate would not be declared elected, Bush called on Noriega to step down and make way for Bush's choice — or else.

In Congress, the Bush administration has been able to count on virtually seamless bipartisan backing for aggression against Panama.

Sen. Robert Graham, a Florida Democrat, urged Washington to consider using force if the Panamanian government refuses to knuckle under. Support is being voiced in Congress for abrogating the canal treaties, which provide for Panamanian control of the canal in the year 2000.

Proposals are also being considered for an expanded economic embargo against Panama, aimed at starving out the workers and farmers of that country.

The current military and political intervention builds on nearly a century of U.S. aggression in Panama, beginning with the seizure of the land on which the canal was built and the creation of the Canal Zone as a colonial enclave.

Immense pressure is being exerted on governments in Latin America to back the imperialist attack on Panama.

Peruvian President Alan García has buckled to this pressure. He denounced reported election fraud in Panama, rather than the mounting U.S. military and political intervention — the central danger that confronts the people of Panama and all of Latin America. The government of President Carlos Andrés Pérez in Venezuela has also gone along with Washington's portrayal of the elections — not the U.S. attack on Panama — as the issue.

The Cuban and Nicaraguan governments are the only ones in Latin America, so far, to publicly denounce Washington's threats against Panama.

Bayardo Arce, a leader of the Nicaraguan government, condemned Washington's pose as "the only great judge of democracy in Latin America."

"If the United States intervenes militarily in Panama, we Nicaraguans will know how to act in accordance with our Latin Americanist spirit," Arce said.

Working people in the United States and around the world should stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Panama in this crisis, together with all opponents of U.S. aggression. We should demand that the U.S. government halt all troop movements into Panama and withdraw all troops from that country, lift economic and diplomatic sanctions, and turn over the canal to Panama.

Chevron refinery workers injured by company greed

BY MIKE BAER
AND JUAN MARTÍNEZ

SAN FRANCISCO — Three workers were hospitalized with second-degree burns after emergency equipment failed to operate during a fire at Chevron Corp.'s refinery in Richmond near here.

Six other workers were also hurt in the incident, which took place in the North Isomax section of the plant.

The fire, the largest in the refinery's 80-year history, broke out April 10 around 12:30 p.m. following the fail-

suffer "industry-wide reliability problems." However, Anderson said, the refinery didn't bother to test the valves regularly. Chevron management has declared its intention to cut maintenance costs 25 percent.

This was the third major fire at North Isomax in the last four and a half years, and the second involving these reactors.

The burned operators might have been spared their injuries if Chevron had issued fire-retardant Nomex coveralls as standard gear, as the union has sought for many years. But they cost \$100 a pair. Refinery fire fighters wearing Nomex suffered either minor or no injuries. Chevron claimed after the fire that they already had been planning to issue Nomex and other fire-retardant coveralls on a test basis.

Fire no surprise to workers

Refinery workers here were not surprised at the disaster. We are all aware of Chevron's preference for operating equipment until it fails rather than shutting it down and repairing it.

The company has the same attitude toward its employees, as seen by the brutal shift schedules that often force workers to stay on the job for 16 hours at a time and come back to work with only eight hours off. "We have people running the refinery on four or five hours sleep," Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5 second vice-president Tracy Scott, also an Isomax operator, told the *Times*, "which I don't think is fulfilling our responsibility to the community to operate the refinery safely."

Many area residents reported respiratory problems requiring medical attention as a result of the fire. Fumes affected young and old most sharply.

Richmond residents already had long-standing grievances against Chevron, especially concerning release of toxics into the air and San Francisco Bay.

At two meetings called by the Contra Costa County Health Services Department, many residents agreed with demands from the West County Toxics Coalition for a refinery early warning system to alert the community

during a disaster like the April 10 fire. The 600 people taking part in these meetings represented a broad cross-section of the Richmond community, and no one had confidence in Chevron's ability to prevent another such disaster.

Company's response: boost profits

Chevron, meanwhile, has sought to profit from the fire. Using the fire and the Exxon oil spill in Alaska as excuses, Chevron has raised wholesale gas prices for unleaded regular from 66¢ a gallon in February to 95¢ by the middle of April.

The company has also moved against refinery operators, forcing 12- and 10-hour shifts on some and arbitrarily reassigning work. This is a violation of the contract, which requires the union's agreement to such changes, and is the subject of a mass grievance.

There is a valuable right that we have won over the years — the right to shut down an unsafe operating unit. This is a right we must keep and use, as the April 10 fire makes clear.

We should be out talking with the community. Like us, they have no confidence in Chevron protecting their well-being. Predictably, Chevron management has tried to divide us from the community by making disparaging references about local residents—most of whom are Black—and their claims for damages. The claims have been fostered by "ambulance-chasing lawyers," the company says. But the community is made up of workers just like us. They want what we want—safety, health, and a decent environment.

Coming on the heels of the death of a worker at the nearby Tosco refinery, some serious injuries at the nearby Exxon refinery, and the Exxon oil spill, working people have begun to think more deeply about our willingness to trust our lives or our planet to the oil companies.

Mike Baer and Juan Martínez are operators at the Chevron Richmond, California, refinery and members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union Local 1-5.

UNION TALK

ure of a weld on a high-pressure hydrogen line. At this point a worker should have been able to open a remote-operated emergency valve, shutting the unit down. It failed to function, forcing operators out into the fire to open it manually.

A few minutes later, the 100-foot-tall reactor collapsed due to metal failure from the intense heat, burning the workers. A column of dense black smoke could be seen 30 miles away. Authorities later revealed they had considered evacuation of the local community before the fire was brought under control.

Emergency valves inoperative

Referring to the emergency valves, operator Eric Jones told the *Contra Costa Times*, a local daily, that "They don't work, they haven't worked, and there hasn't been any recent work on them."

Greg Anderson, one of the hospitalized workers, confirmed Jones' charge, telling the *Times* that the switches in the control room had been "tagged 'out of order' for at least a year." Anderson noted that there are two sets of remote switches to operate the valves and that neither set worked.

While not admitting their emergency equipment had failed, Chevron management did confess that such valves

LETTERS

Great work

As a high school student activist and socialist, to me your magazine is a shining light in a sea of greed and apathy. Keep up the great work. L.B.

Los Angeles, California

But I remember reading an appeal in one of the old copies for donations to the prisoners' fund so those stuck unjustly behind bars can read this great paper, too.

Here's my donation for \$50.

A.L.

Yardley, Pennsylvania

Student protest

I took part in a May 1 protest at New York's Baruch College that grew, in one hour, from 20 students in front of the main building to a few thousand. We sat down in the middle of 23rd Street and Lexington Avenue, the main road in front of the school, blocking traffic for half an hour.

Baruch College is part of the City University of New York (CUNY) system. We were joining other schools around the city to protest a proposed tuition raise.

We leafleted throughout the area of the blocked traffic, getting support from commuters, workers, and local residents of the welfare hotel across the street. While the school did not officially shut down, functioning was virtually stopped.

Students from other campuses came to lend their support. One student from Hostos, a bilingual college, led students in some of the Spanish chants that protesters were using at Hostos.

Students from nearby Mabel Dean Bacon High School began hanging out the windows and chanting along with us. Some joined us. At one point, however, teachers appeared at all the windows, whereupon the students disappeared and the windows were shut.

Dee Scalera

New York, New York

Pictures

Let's have more pictures. Speaks louder than words.

S.S.

New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Prisoners' fund

I've been so busy and gotten so far behind on reading my own copies of the *Militant* that I almost can't believe it.

Cuba

More than 100 people came to Chicago's City Hall May 2 to show support for the invitation to the Cuban band Orquesta Aragón to appear in this city. The group has been asked to participate in the first annual Viva Chicago Latin music festival.

For months the invitation to the famous band, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, has been the source of hot debate in the city and neighborhood press.

There have been some threats of violence. The most vocal right-wing section of the Cuban community launched a campaign to have the city tear up its contract with the group. Their campaign has had some impact.

A representative of the city's Special Events Committee indicated that because of all the letters and phone calls he was unsure how much support there was in the Latin community for the festival and the invitation. Some of the event's sponsors expressed doubts about their participation.

In response to all this the meeting was called and held at City Hall to show the sponsors just how broad sentiment and support was for honoring the contract with the Cuban group.

In addition to a number of Cubans who attended and stated their support for the festival and for the invitation, there were Latinos present of Colombian, Peruvian, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Dominican descent. There were a number of artists' groups.

Representatives from two sponsors also attended, White Castle Hamburgers and United Airlines. While not stating clearly their final decision, their remarks indicated they would continue to sponsor the event. Thus far no sponsors have



"Regular or unleaded?"

withdrawn from the festival.

One indication of the support that exists for the invitation to the band came from a coworker of mine who is Cuban. His father, according to the story he tells, "fought with Fidel in the mountains and left when Fidel betrayed the revolution." He tells me that even his father wants Orquesta Aragón to play in Chicago.

John Votava

Chicago, Illinois

Nicaragua aid

An art auction was held here recently in Christchurch, New Zealand, to raise money for medical aid to Nicaragua. More than 50 local artists provided work for the event, and the news media gave it extensive coverage.

A total of \$5,700 clear was raised, an amount that attracts a one-for-one subsidy from the New Zealand government under its Voluntary Agencies Support Scheme.

A message of support was read to the meeting before the auction from Madeline Artenberg, president of Ventana, a U.S. organiza-

tion in solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution.

Another greeting was presented in person by Ruth de Jesus Amaya from the Salvadoran organization Co-madres. She was in New Zealand as part of a Pacific tour.

Terry Lynch

Christchurch, New Zealand

Defending Mark Curtis

An information table set up by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee received a good response at the state convention of the Kentucky Rainbow Coalition. The April 22 gathering was held at Lampton Baptist Church in Louisville.

A member of the Marion County Community Farm Alliance had worked with farm activist leader Merle Hansen and was extremely interested in Hansen's statement in support of Curtis.

Also expressing their solidarity were a leader of a homeless coalition, members of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and members of the American Federation of State,

County and Municipal Employees.

Civil rights leader Anne Braden came by to confirm her support.

We received several donations. Many took literature to bring back to their organizations and endorser cards to send in later.

Bronson Rozier

Louisville, Kentucky

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.

Arrests mount in Pittston coal strike

Backed by communities, UMW walkout is '100 percent solid' after 5 weeks

BY STEVE MARSHALL

CARBO, Va. — "The strike is 100 percent solid, and the people are behind us more than ever before. But things are going to get rougher."

This is a common view among the hundreds of coal miners along Route 615, in front of the Moss No. 3 coal-preparation plant. They are among the 1,700 members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in the fifth week of a strike against Pittston Coal.

On May 6 Pittston's thugs pounced on strikers at nearby Caney Creek, in their second roadside attack this week. Protected by armed company guards, coal hauler Ronald Crabtree clubbed a Lambert Forks striker with a tire tool and walked free on a misdemeanor charge.

More than a dozen witnesses saw coal boss Jesse Meadows run down seven miners May 2, but cops have yet to charge him.

State troopers arrest 1,500 to date

Virginia state troopers have, however, violently arrested some 1,500 peaceful pickets. Upwards of 200 miners have been charged with felonies. One alleged rock-

throwing resulted in 22 felony counts. Meanwhile, cops and company thugs have been spotted spreading nails on public roads in attempts to frame up striking miners.

Pittston has steadily escalated its attacks as it struggles to produce coal without coal miners. The UMWA estimates that production at Pittston's coal-preparation plant is now averaging 25 percent. Some of this is based on coal stockpiled before the strike.

Pittston Coal chief Mike Odom estimated in March that 40 percent of the miners would return to work within a week. He based his forecast on a study by Hayes, Inc., an outfit brought in by Pittston to "study" its employees.

But the company gravely underestimated the Virginia and West Virginia miners who walked out April 5. No miners are crossing picket lines. Almost all are taking part in picket duty at two dozen strike shanties in the southwest Virginia hills.

The Pittston miners are leading a movement here that reaches far beyond their own numbers and immediate strike demands. Working people across this part of Appala-

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Militant/Steve Marshall

Striker Norman Cumbo was hit by a truck driven by the boss of a scab coal outfit on road to Moss No. 3 coal-preparation plant May 2. Cumbo suffered three broken vertebrae. Coal boss has not been charged.

Murder of Kanak leaders condemned in New Caledonia

BY GEORGE FYSON

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Tens of thousands of Kanak people and others in the Pacific island nation of New Caledonia are mourning the assassination of Jean-Marie Tjibaou, president of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

Tjibaou was assassinated May 5 on Ouvéa, one of the islands of New Caledonia, which is ruled as a colony by France. Yeiwene Yeiwene, another central leader of the FLNKS, was also killed.

The front is a coalition of groups that has led the independence movement in New Caledonia. The FLNKS is based primarily among the Kanaks, the indigenous people of the island group which was seized by the French rulers in 1853.

Tjibaou, a former Roman Catholic priest, became president of the FLNKS in 1984. In January 1985 French occupation forces killed FLNKS founder Eloi Machoro and another leader, Marcel Nonaro.

Tjibaou and Yeiwene were shot by

Djubelli Wea, who had been a leader of Palika (Kanak Liberation Front), one of the component groups of the FLNKS, on the island of Ouvéa. Wea, who no longer belonged to Palika, was shot and killed by French police who were acting as bodyguards for Tjibaou.

Three other individuals were reported in police custody in connection with the killing of the FLNKS leaders.

The organizations that comprise the FLNKS, including Palika, denounced the

"cowardly assassinations."

Tjibaou and Yeiwene were attending a memorial ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the May 5, 1988, massacre by French commandos of 19 FLNKS activists on Ouvéa.

1988 massacre

The 1988 massacre took place after Kanak protesters took 23 French police and others as hostages during protests against elections for a new colonial government. The elections last April were intended to entrench control of the island's administration by French settlers, who provide the main base of support for colonial rule. The FLNKS had called for a boycott of the voting, and virtually all Kanaks had heeded its call.

The Kanak protests and the international outrage provoked by the massacre last year led the French government to sponsor negotiations to reach a settlement.

August 1988 pact

Within the anticolonial movement there were differences over the pact reached last August by Tjibaou and Jacques Lafleur, leader of what has been the main settler party that favors French rule.

The accords included amnesty for all political offences excepting murder.

Three provincial assemblies are to be elected to act as local governing bodies. In two, the FLNKS is expected to win easy majorities. In the third, which includes the capital of Nouméa, French settlers predominate.

The pact promised major investment in economic development, education, and job-training to improve the conditions of the Kanak people.

The agreement authorized French rule for 10 years, with a referendum on the country's status to be held in 1998. The pact stated that only current inhabitants of New Caledonia would have the right to vote in 1998.

A referendum on the pact was held in France and New Caledonia in November. In France, the pact won four-to-one approval among those voting. In New Caledonia, the great majority of European settlers voted no. The overwhelming majority of those Kanaks who voted endorsed the pact at the urging of the FLNKS.

Two of the component groups of the

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New York rally backs Eastern strike



NEW YORK — More than 400 New York City unionists turned out May 10 for a rally to support workers on strike at Eastern Airlines. Speakers from the New York City Central Labor Council, the Machinists' union, and others saluted the walkout, which began March 4. Members of garment, government workers, and building trades unions were there, along with Machinists, flight attendants, and

pilots from Eastern. The action, held at Continental Airlines' ticket offices in downtown Manhattan, was part of a national effort to step up support for the union-backed boycott of Continental. The airline is owned by Texas Air Corp., as is Eastern. Unions were broken there in 1983. See new column 'Support Eastern Strike!' on page 5 for more news of solidarity actions.

Militant/Margrethe Siem