

China upheaval rooted in economic policies

BY FRED FELDMAN

In a powerful demonstration of the way that modern communications technology can magnify the worldwide impact of big events, tens of millions of people around the world have been following day by day the political confrontation in Beijing on their televisions.

The drama was intensified as the Chinese government shut off satellite broadcasts for several days, then suddenly permitted televi-

See editorial on page 14.

sion cameras to resume transmitting images of the events, and then shut them off again.

The people of the world have watched as the student-led mobilizations of up to a million people in Tiananmen Square defied the orders of the government to disperse. The core of the protest for more than a week was a hunger strike by 3,000 students that ended May 22.

Barricades of vehicles contributed to blocking the advance of troops, who have been ordered by the government to remove the demonstrators. The television cameras have shown students, workers, and others offering the soldiers food and appealing for their support. For the most part, the troops have not used force — a policy that appears to have been authorized by many commanding officers.

The protests and the martial law order widened and forced into the open the sharp dif-



Student hunger strikers in Tiananmen Square, Beijing.

ferences in the government and ruling Communist Party over how to deal with mounting social and political problems.

On May 19 Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang had spoken to the hunger strikers. "You have good intentions," he said. "You want our country to become better. The problems you have raised will eventually be

resolved." Their actions, he told them, were being discussed by "the whole of Beijing."

Premier Li Peng also addressed the students, but adopted a different tone. He denounced "anarchy" and warned of "consequences" if the protests continued.

The next day, the martial law decree was

Continued on Page 5

W. Virginia unions plan tour, rally for striking coal miners, Machinists

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — The West Virginia labor movement is uniting to broaden support for striking Eastern Airlines workers and for miners on strike at the Pittston and New Beckley coal companies.

The West Virginia Labor Solidarity Committee was formed in early May to organize a tour of the state by Eastern, Pittston, and New Beckley strikers, along with a solidarity rally and a food caravan. Initiated by the International Association of Machinists State Council, the committee was quickly joined by officials and activists from the state AFL-CIO, local unions, and the United Mine Workers.

Some 8,500 Machinists, backed by flight attendants and pilots, have shut down virtually all of Eastern Airlines' operations since they walked out March 4.

Some 1,700 miners at Pittston Coal Group's mines in Virginia and West Virginia have been on strike since April 5. More than 1,500 strikers and supporters have been arrested since the walkout began, for participating in peaceful sit-ins at the struck mines. The 130 miners at New Beckley Mining Corp.'s operation in Glen Daniel went on strike January 23.

Both the Eastern workers and miners are fighting company attempts to break the unions.

"The key work here is solidarity," said Machinists' union member Norman Ferguson as he described the committee's plans to the *West Virginia AFL-CIO Observer*. "That's what this is all about. Workers sticking together, lending each other strength and support in the face of hard times. We are all brothers and sisters no matter what union we happen to belong to." Ferguson is co-chairman of the labor solidarity committee.

The high point of the solidarity effort will be a rally at the State Capitol here on Sunday, June 11. Speakers will include Machinists President William Winpisinger, Mine Workers' President Richard Trumka, and Communications Workers of America President Morton Bahr. Also speaking will be Rainbow Coalition leader Jesse Jackson; Joyce Miller, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women; Sheri O'Dell, vice-president of the National Organization for Women; George Paris from the Federation of Southern Cooperatives; and others.

12-day tour

The June 11 rally will be preceded by a 12-day tour by striking Eastern Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots, who will team up with miners from Pittston and New

Beckley. They will visit union meetings, participate in plant-gate collections, and meet with labor bodies in the Charleston and Huntington areas, followed by several days in the coalfields.

A two-part, four-day "March for Justice" leading up to the June 11 rally is being organized by the United Mine Workers.

On one leg of the march, Pittston strikers and supporters will go 70 miles, from Logan County to Charleston.

The march will stop at Blair Mountain, the site of the 1921 battle by 20,000 miners who tried to cross the mountain to Mingo County. The miners were trying to organize the mines. They were protesting the imposition of martial law in Mingo County following a massacre of miners in Matewan,

Continued on Page 2

New challenges in Eastern strike

The coming days and weeks are important ones for the nearly 18,000 strikers at Eastern Airlines, and for growing numbers of working people who count themselves in on the Eastern workers' battle to defend themselves and their unions.

With the bankruptcy court's approved

stages will be in their fight, and how to advance their struggle as these moves unfold. Discussions are taking place on the airport picket lines and in strike headquarters around the country.

The way forward in the strikers' fight to defend themselves against Eastern's union-busting drive lies in continuing along the same road they've been on since the strike started: maintaining strong, visible picket lines and reaching out for wider solidarity. The challenge is to keep the interests of the workers and unions uppermost, whatever decisions are made in the bankruptcy court and regardless of how Eastern gets divided up and who ends up as owners.

After 12 weeks on the picket line, the

Continued on Page 14

Protests condemn Iowa jail censorship

BY MARGARET JAYKO

DES MOINES, Iowa — Dozens of messages from across the United States and around the world have been sent to Warden John Thalacker at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa. They are protesting the denial of non-English language books, magazines, and letters to prisoner Mark Curtis.

Prison officials have told Curtis that the institution's policy is to deny to all prisoners letters, books, and magazines in any language except for English and the inmate's "primary" language. This is necessary, they claimed, to maintain "security" because the prison doesn't have sufficient personnel to screen large amounts of non-English language literature.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is also asking people to protest the rule that prisoners are not allowed to share literature with each other.

On May 19 the defense committee held a news conference at the Iowa State Capitol here to announce the launching of the international protest campaign against the censorship restrictions.

Committee leaders Hazel Zimmerman and Stu Singer, and Melvin Wilk, associate professor of English at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, spoke. They displayed the "contraband" materials that Curtis has been prevented from receiving:

- A Spanish-English dictionary and the book *501 Spanish Verbs*.

- The monthly Spanish- and French-language socialist magazines *Perspectiva Mundial* and *Lutte ouvrière*.

- Copies of articles about Curtis from *Mål och medel*, the paper of the Food Workers' Union in Sweden. The union is one of many supporters in Sweden of Curtis' fight against the frame-up on rape and burglary charges that landed him in Anamosa last December.

Also displayed was a card to Curtis signed by several workers at the Swift/Monfort meat-packing plant here who are members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. "As workers at Monfort we are qualified to say, in many languages, 'Free Mark Curtis,'" they wrote, in Spanish, Lao, and English, reflecting the diverse work force.

Curtis was a union militant at the Monfort plant and a political activist in Des Moines. He was arrested on March 4, 1988, hours after leaving a protest meeting where

Continued on Page 6

Over the top! Subscription drive surpasses goal by 1,290

There are 9,290 new readers of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Lutte ouvrière*, *Nouvelle International*, and *New International*.

On March 25 supporters of these socialist publications set out to sell 6,650 subscriptions to the *Militant*, *PM*, and *LO*, plus 1,350 single copies of the magazines of Marxist politics and theory *New International* and *Nouvelle International*.

We went well over the 8,000 goal. See the final scoreboard on page 6.

Hundreds in Philadelphia defend fired unionist

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

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

members has crippled Eastern's operations since then. It has also won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity actions to this column.

Hundreds of airline workers — including a contingent of Eastern strikers — turned out for a rally May 5 at the Philadelphia International Airport to show support for John Jerzak, a USAir ramp service worker fired a week earlier for his union and Eastern strike support activities.

Jerzak is a Teamster shop steward at USAir. The International Brotherhood of Teamsters organizes ramp service workers at USAir, while mechanics and clean-

ers are represented by the IAM.

Jerzak's firing stemmed from an incident that occurred March 9, a few days after the Eastern workers walked out. Jerzak was circulating a petition at the airport — on his day off — protesting the curtailment of the right to secondary boycotts by rail and airline unions. (Several days after the Machinists' strike began, courts ruled that the IAM could not extend secondary pickets to commuter rail lines.)

A USAir supervisor accosted Jerzak, and demanded to see his ID. Jerzak was then roughed up and escorted off the property.

In the weeks that followed the IBT tried in vain to resolve the matter with the company. Suddenly, on April 28, Jerzak was fired.

One reason for the high spirits at the rally was that the Teamsters and IAM had joined forces to defend Jerzak. Leaders of both unions spoke to the crowd.

Eastern machinists are in an amalgamated local with IAM members from USAir and other airlines in Philadelphia. In a show of solidarity with the Eastern strikers, the whole rally marched over to join their picket line.

Jerzak is trying to regain his job through union channels, and has also filed assault and harassment charges in court.

On Saturday, May 20, more than 150 women participated in "Women's Day" on the Eastern

picket line at the Kansas City International Airport. Wives, relatives, and friends of strikers; women unionists; and other strike supporters marched, sang, and chanted in front of the Continental Airlines gates from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Eastern's Kansas City operations are shut tight, so strikers picket Continental, which is also owned by Texas Air Corp., Eastern's parent company.)

Some 30 Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots are on strike against Eastern in Kansas City. The Women's Day was organized by wives of strikers, along with members and wives of members of IAM Local 1650, which organizes the Trans World Airlines overhaul base there.

Members of the IAM Women's Auxiliary and retirees' organization turned out, along with a group from the Coalition of Labor Union Women. Secretaries, flight attendants, garment workers, auto workers, high school students, and others marched together during the day.

One of the largest contingents came from the Communications Workers of America, whose contract with American Telephone and Telegraph expires at midnight May 27. Joining the Eastern picket line was an opportunity both to support the strikers and to "get some practice" for their own fight, said CWA Local 6450 President Liz Eft. The CWA announced May 22 that members had voted overwhelm-

ingly to authorize a strike.

Two men — a pilot and a Machinist who is the local strike coordinator — came to the picket line "disguised" as women. To the cheers and laughter of the women, they walked the line for half an hour, explaining to the media that they "just didn't feel right" if they don't picket at least once a day. Three television stations covered the picket line.

Some passengers stopped to chant and sing with the pickets. One woman, while checking her bags for a Continental flight, told the picketers, "I didn't know — I won't do it again."

Discussions about the strike took place all day. Many picketers asked, "When are we going to do this again?" Others suggested having "Women's Days" at all the other cities where Eastern workers are on strike.

Nearly 800 unionists attended a "Labor Appreciation Dinner" held in West Orange, New Jersey, May 8 to honor the Eastern strikers. IAM District 100 President Charlie Bryan and other union officials addressed the strike supporters, along with actor and political activist Ed Asner. Several hundred of those present were strikers from Newark, La Guardia, and Philadelphia airports.

Some 600 workers attended a

May 16 Eastern strike solidarity rally in Melville, New York, hosted by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 25. About 30 Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots from John F. Kennedy and La Guardia airports joined hundreds of carpenters, painters, electricians, auto workers, and others at the Long Island event, which was held in the IBEW's union hall. A donation of \$7,200 was presented to the strikers.

Eastern flight attendant Macy Lafferty addressed 200 delegates to the Southern Textile Regional Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, held in Atlanta April 21-22. ACTWU has contributed \$25,000 to the Eastern strike fund, and has pledged to raise \$25,000 more. More than \$1,300 was donated on the spot by workers at the meeting.

A table was set up all weekend with information on the strike. By the end of the weekend, dozens of ACTWU members sported Eastern strike T-shirts and buttons.

IAM Local 1776 member Lynn Allen, who is an aircraft cleaner at USAir in Philadelphia, contributed to this column, along with Amy Husk from Kansas City and Yvonne Hayes from Greensboro, North Carolina.

W. Virginia unions plan tour, rally for strikers

Continued from front page

West Virginia. After a week-long struggle, the workers were turned back when President Warren Harding dispatched 14 bomber planes and 2,500 federal troops to the coalfields.

Striking New Beckley miners will march 60 miles to Charleston through Cabin Creek to mark the historic 1912 Paint Creek-Cabin Creek strike. Thousands of union and nonunion miners were brutally attacked by company thugs there.

Both marches will be joined by Eastern strikers and will feature community rallies along the way.

The labor solidarity committee is also organizing a food caravan, which will leave Charleston on June 18 to deliver food to the coalfields and to the Machinists' national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The June 11 Solidarity March and Rally will begin at noon at Laidley Field in

Charleston and will march to the State Capitol for a 2:00 p.m. rally.

For further information, write or call: West Virginia Solidarity Committee, c/o West Virginia AFL-CIO, 501 Broad St., Charleston, W.Va. 25301; (304) 344-3557.

BY GREG RELAFORD

BUFFALO CREEK, W.Va. — "We've been fighting Pittston since '72," said one of the miners on strike here against Pittston Coal Group's West Virginia mines. He was referring to the 1972 flood that destroyed the communities along Buffalo Creek, a mining town in southern West Virginia. Some 125 people were killed and 4,000 left homeless. The disaster occurred because Pittston failed to properly maintain a coal-waste dam.

Today the road along Buffalo Creek is

Both marches will be joined by Eastern strikers.

covered with signs that say, "Support UMWA."

In the last few days, Pittston has been stepping up its attacks on the miners. In Virginia, a judge fined the union and its officials close to \$1 million for violating an injunction limiting picketing at Pittston sites.

In West Virginia, the company obtained a court injunction forcing the union to move one of its picket shanties off Pittston property. The miners then moved onto nearby CSX railroad property.

From their base on the CSX right-of-way, the strikers have been able to success-

fully stop Pittston coal trucks as well as vehicles carrying strikebreakers. Union railroad workers have refused to run trains past the mine union pickets, forcing management personnel to move the trains in and out of mine property.

A CSX Corp. official said recently that the company will not make the miners move.

Pittston has run full-page ads in many southern West Virginia papers violence-baiting and slandering the strikers.

Among other things, the ads accuse the strikers of arson. One features a picture of a company-owned house destroyed by fire. The fire occurred several weeks before the strike began, area residents explain.

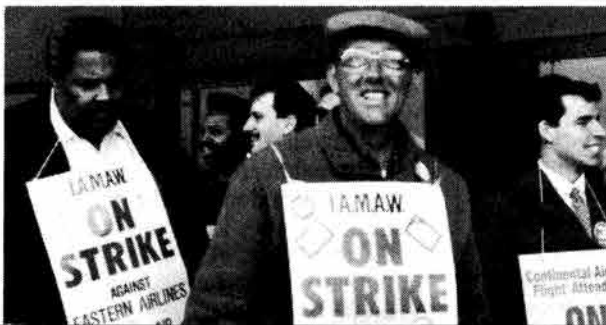
Pittston has also hired Vance Security, a professional strikebreaking outfit, to harass and intimidate strikers and supporters. Several strikers reported having had their pictures taken repeatedly on the picket line.

THE MILITANT TELLS THE TRUTH

Special subscription offer

12 weeks for \$4.00 for new readers — an \$8.00 savings

The *Militant* carries firsthand coverage of the Eastern Machinists' strike and other labor battles. It features news and analysis of the developing capitalist economic crisis, and resistance by workers and farmers to employer and government attacks — from the U.S. to the Philippines, Britain to South Africa.



- Reports on advances in Cuba
- On-the-scene coverage from our bureau in Managua, Nicaragua

Enclosed is

☐ \$4 for 12 weeks, new readers ☐ \$9 for 12 weeks, renewals

☐ \$17 for 6 months ☐ \$30 for 1 year ☐ \$55 for 2 years

☐ \$1.00 for Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis, a Pathfinder pamphlet.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Union/School/Organization _____

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

The Militant

Closing news date: May 24, 1989

Coeditors: MARGARET JAYKO and DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: NORTON SANDLER

Nicaragua Bureau Director: LARRY SEIGLE

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

Editorial Staff: Susan Apstein, Fred Feldman, Seth Galinsky (Nicaragua), Arthur Hughes, Cindy Jaquith, Susan LaMont, Sam Manuel, Selva Nebbia, Harry Ring, Judy White (Nicaragua).

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. and at additional mailing offices. 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.

Employers' strike fails in Panama

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PANAMA CITY, Panama — The "general strike" called for May 17 here by the Democratic Alliance for Civil Opposition (ADOC) was a failure.

ADOC is the coalition of businessmen and landowners who received extensive political and financial support from the U.S. government in the May 7 presidential elections. On May 17 ADOC urged employers to close their doors and workers to stay at home to protest nullification of those elections and the policies of Panama's government in general.

ADOC's central demand is that Gen. Manuel Noriega, head of this country's Defense Forces, be removed from power. Noriega has pledged to implement the 1977 canal treaty under which Washington would lose its 13 military bases here and domination of the canal.

Few shopowners or employees heeded the call for a work stoppage in Panama City's large commercial district. The center was busy as usual May 17, with virtually all stores open. Small vendors were on the streets. Banks were also open. Transportation ran normally.

In industry, there were some slowdowns. The Autonomous Federation of Independent

Workers (CATI), which organizes some industrial workers, attributed the slowdown to the employers, not the workers.

CATI General Secretary Gabriel Castillo reported that in the cement industry, some employers refused to provide the normal transportation to employees. In other factories where the bosses failed to provide sufficient raw materials, some production was paralyzed.

Castillo said some employers had tried to pressure their work force prior to May 17 to sign petitions in favor of a work stoppage, hoping to cover up the fact that the "strike" was actually being organized by the bosses themselves.

Castillo also noted that some employers opposed the strike, a change from work stoppages organized last year by ADOC to demand Noriega's resignation. The Bankers Association, for example, came out against the strike this time. So did the small businessmen's association. The taxi drivers' organization opposed the work stoppage.

The Panamanian government announced that "employers' strikes are not recognized in the Labor Code" and ruled the work stoppage illegal, warning that businesses that did not open would be hit with sanctions.



Street scene on day of bosses' strike: the central commercial district of Panama City. Militant/Cindy Jaquith

Activists in the labor movement here generally felt that the participation by workers in the ADOC-called stoppage was significantly lower than in 1988, because of the experience of workers who stayed home that year.

Eduardo Ríos, general secretary of the SUNTRACS construction union, explained that in the 1988 employers' strike, "the boss told his workers to take the day off and he'd pay them. But the workers never did get paid, and a lot of them got laid off subsequently."

No labor federations backed the May 17 strike call, and a number issued statements opposing it. One of the federations speaking out against the strike was the National Federation of Panamanian Workers (CNTP), which urged all labor, peasant, and popular organizations to unite behind defense of Panama's sovereignty.

The CNTP also called on the Panamanian government "to immediately guarantee labor peace by repealing all the laws and decrees modifying the 1972 Labor Code." The 1972 Labor Code, adopted under the government of Gen. Omar Torrijos, removed many restrictions on labor's right to organize and bargain collectively. The Panamanian government has restored a number of those restrictions to the labor code since, as part of complying with demands of the International Monetary Fund.

New York forum hits U.S. aggression

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "We are against the lies, the slanders, and the disinformation campaign that exists in this society against Panama and that instigates public opinion toward the acceptance of an armed conflict against this sister republic."

These were the words of Pedro Bovi speaking at the Militant Labor Forum here on May 20. He spoke on behalf of Casa de las Américas, an organization in solidarity with the Cuban revolution and anti-imperialist struggles around the world.

Bovi led the crowd of nearly 200 people in chants of "U.S. hands off Panama," "Panama for the Panamanian people," and "Panamanian solutions to Panamanian problems!" This was the theme of the evening.

"We must be clear that the real issue is not General Noriega," said Esmeralda Brown a Panamanian-born activist and a leader of the New York-based Women's Workshop in the Americas. "Drugs is not the issue either. The issue is the policy of the U.S. government toward the region of the Americas."

"The U.S. government has decided at this time that Panama must be castigated for going against Washington's interventionist policy in the region," said Brown. "Unlike other Central American countries such as Honduras and El Salvador, which have facilitated use of their territories for the U.S. deployment of troops, contra camps, and land and air support for incursions into Nicaragua, Panama has not allowed use of its territory for such aggression against its sister nation," she added.

Although she has lived in the United States for the past 20 years, Brown explained, she has visited Panama often. She had just returned from Panama where she voted in the May 7 elections.

"The issue is the U.S. attempts to abrogate the Panama canal treaties," Olga Sanabria explained. She spoke on behalf of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. "Right now Washington's objective is to have a friend in Panama that will make that easier," explained Sanabria.

Sanabria stressed the need to mobilize people in this country against any attempts by the United States to abrogate the treaties.

"One must on the basis of principle oppose the meddling of the United States in the elections and internal political process of any country, anywhere, any time, and under any condition," said Ben Dupuy, editor of *Haiti Progrès*, a New York-based weekly circulated in Haiti, and a leader of the Committee Against Repression in Haiti.

"One thing is certain," he said. "If the United States is supporting a political process somewhere, you can be sure it is not working. In Haiti now they are once again trying to

The issue is not Noriega, but Panama's sovereignty.

resuscitate bogus elections and are sending all kinds of delegations and representatives."

Dupuy concluded by calling on those present to oppose U.S. interference in the affairs of Latin American countries, as well as in Haiti.

Militant correspondent Cindy Jaquith was also a featured speaker at the forum. She and Militant reporter Judy White had just returned from Panama where they covered the elections and their aftermath.

"As soon as we got to Panama, one of the things that struck us was the sharp divergence between what was being reported in the United States and what we were actually seeing in Panama," explained Jaquith.

She said that contrary to what had been reported in some U.S. newspapers, reporters were not threatened and were allowed to freely cover events and carry out interviews.

"We were struck by the discipline of the Panamanian people in the face of the situation



Militant Esmeralda Brown, leader of the New York-based Women's Workshop in the Americas.

they had, which was Washington threatening to invade their country," she told the audience.

Jaquith urged more public meetings and protest activities to get out the truth about Panama, uniting all those who agree with the slogan "U.S. hands off Panama!"

Don Rojas from the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America chaired the event. Among those he introduced in the audience were: Waldaba Stewart, a Panamanian-born former New York State assemblyman, and two flight attendants currently on strike against Eastern Airlines. There were a number of other East-ern strikers in the audience as well.

Campaign rally in Britain hears from union activists

BY PETE EVANS

LONDON — A meeting to support the election campaign of Doreen Wepler, held here on May 20, heard Tony Hunt describe his firing three days before from the Dagenham plant, Ford Motor Co.'s biggest factory in Europe.

"Ford is targeting workers who are active in the union and politics. I am one such, but there are more," explained Hunt. "This is an intolerable intrusion into its employees' personal lives."

Wepler is the Communist League candidate in the June 15 European Parliament election. She has been a guard (brakeman) on the railroad for eight years and is an active member of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR).

She came to the rally from a conference of the NUR, one of a series where the question of victimization of workers was a prominent part of the discussion.

At a couple of the rail conferences the case of Denny Fitzpatrick, a signaling technician who had been sacked by the railroad in March, was taken up.

Fitzpatrick was fired for allegedly not stating on her application form that she had worked for Ford. Three years before, Fitzpatrick was dismissed after nine days' employment at Dagenham for supposed "unsatisfactory references."

Wepler announced that a meeting entitled "Defend Democratic Rights" has been called for June 20 to be addressed by members of Parliament and leading figures in the fight to defend democratic rights.

That meeting will also take up the recent use of the courts against underground workers to prevent them from going on strike. At the May 20 election meeting, tube (subway)

worker Geoff Revell described the current struggle on the underground. "The message from the employers," he said, "is that they will crush the unions, and they will do it by taking away seniority. Seniority is a worker's right, the right not to be discriminated against by the employer."

"We are at the beginning of a new mood in the working class in this country," Wepler noted. "On Monday we saw the potential strength of our class. It is no wonder that the media are talking about a 'summer of discontent,'" she added. Wepler was referring to the strike by tube and bus workers who had paralyzed transport throughout London the week before.

Outlining the scope of the actions that are in the cards today, from the rail and underground to the docks, she stressed the importance of working people using their union power to fight on social issues.

"We are part of world developments," said Wepler. "We can't look just from the point of view of separate industries."

Describing the struggles that have broken out recently in Venezuela and Guyana, she continued, "At the root of this upsurge is the question of the Third World debt. Cuban leader Fidel Castro has given a lead on this. 'He tells the truth when he says the debt is economically unpayable, politically uncollectible, and morally indefensible,' she said.

"This debt has to be canceled," Wepler stated. "We have to put forward policies that unite the working class, such as the cancellation of the debt, positive action for women and Blacks, and for a shorter working week. If you agree with these demands, join us in our campaign," the Communist League candidate added.

Supporters at the rally contributed £350 (US\$600) toward Wepler's campaign.

Prominent activists endorse int'l defense effort

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Mark Curtis Defense Com-

sulted in her acquittal.

Another new endorser is Danny Goldstick, a professor in the Philosophy Department at the University

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

mittee is leading an international political campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. To contact the committee, write Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

Assata Shakur, former Black Panther Party member, has added her name to the 3,000 endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee from all over the world.

Shakur, a victim of Washington's illegal Counterintelligence Program (Cointelpro) to destroy the Black rights movement in the 1960s, currently lives in Havana, Cuba.

Shakur went underground in 1971 after a media campaign to frame her up on charges ranging from armed robbery and kidnapping to murder. In 1973 she was almost killed by New Jersey state troopers.

She was given political asylum in Cuba a short time after a 1977 show trial convicted her of killing a state trooper following a shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike. All the charges related to that incident were subsequently dropped for lack of evidence or dismissed, or re-

of Toronto in Ontario, Canada. Goldstick recently won legal entry into the United States for the first time in several years, a right he had previously been denied because of his membership in the Communist Party of Canada.

Pakistani-born writer and broadcaster Tariq Ali has also signed up as an endorser. Ali, who resides in Britain, has been a prominent public defender of embattled author Salman Rushdie, who has been threatened with death for his latest novel, *The Satanic Verses*.

Ali has written a new play, together with Howard Brenton, in support of Rushdie. Titled *Iranian Nights*, it has been staged in London and has appeared on television.

"We are workers from the Philippines, and we are sending you our love, solidarity, and support. Your struggle is also our struggle."

These words were written on a postcard to Curtis by members of the Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research (EILER)

in the Philippines.

Defense committee leader Kate Kaku and a Curtis supporter from New Zealand visited the Philippines to win new support for the defense effort, as well as to find out more about the situation facing workers and farmers in the Philippines.

EILER is an organization that supports and educates on the struggles of workers worldwide. The group endorsed the Curtis defense campaign.

After signing on, they asked Kaku, who is Curtis' wife, to come to their information tent at the May Day demonstration in Manila. They invited her to bring informational packets and speak on Curtis' case.

At the demonstration EILER had set up a huge photographic display of victimized workers. They also showed a picture of Curtis' beaten face, taken the day after he was arrested last March. The cops attacked Curtis when he was in custody, shattering his cheekbone.

A group of people gathered around this picture and Jacob Meimban, an EILER leader, explained the Curtis fight and introduced Kaku. Several people signed up as endorsers.

Rowena Unas, executive director of the Ecumenical Partnership for International Concerns (EPIC), signed herself up, along with her organization, as endorsers of the campaign.

EPIC arranged for Kaku to meet with political detainees. She spent

a day visiting with 11 of them at Camp Crame in Quezon City, including Rudolfo Salas, Rafael Baylosis, and others accused of being top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines and of the New People's Army.

Most of the prisoners were charged with "illegal possession of firearms and the furtherance of rebellion." They explained that this is a charge that does not require an arrest warrant. Nor does it allow bail. It is a way to indefinitely detain trade union and political activists.

The prisoners already knew about Curtis from reading the *Militant*. They expressed solidarity with his fight for justice and asked that Kaku convey to him their heartfelt greetings. They also asked that Curtis support their fight.

"We want our struggle known abroad, especially to the people of the United States, whose government is supporting the government of the Philippines," they said.

"We are writing to you about a labor activist with a reputation for fighting for workers' rights, immigrants' rights, and women's rights."

So begins a letter mailed out by three prominent New Jersey trade union leaders: Carol Gay-Fantini, New Jersey area director of the Communications Workers of America; Mark Dudzic, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-149; and Valerie

Caffee, head of the New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Committee.

The letter asserts that "an innocent person should not be rotting away in the Iowa prison system. . . . Mark was an activist against [the] antilabor offensive by the meat-packing industry. He also promoted solidarity with the beleaguered farmers who were victims of forced foreclosures. Mark was an outspoken defendant of the 'Swift 17' immigrant workers. . . ."

"He also marched against police racism and opposed U.S. intervention in Central America."

"Because of our strong concern that justice be served, we urge all unionists to support the efforts to defend Mark Curtis."

This important mailing was sent to 250 key labor and political activists on the mailing list of the New Jersey Labor Committee In Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador.

The letter concludes with an appeal to help spread the word, become a sponsor, and make a financial contribution.

Within days after the mailing went out, two responses were received, from the newsletter editor of a CWA local and from a member of the Jersey City Peace Council, which included signed endorser cards and checks for \$10 and \$20 respectively.

Cathy Sedwick and Robert Dees from Newark contributed to this column.

Mark Curtis discusses prison censorship move

BY MARGARET JAYKO

(First of two parts)

ANAMOSA, Iowa — In a May 15 interview at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory here, frame-up victim Mark Curtis discussed prison authorities' attempts to limit the right of prisoners to receive written materials in a variety of languages and to share literature among themselves.

This was the same day the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-to-3 decision, ruled that prison officials "be given broad discretion" to censor publications that prisoners may receive.

Curtis has been incarcerated in Anamosa since December 1988, serving a 25-year sentence on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

Prior to his imprisonment, Curtis was a packinghouse worker at the Swift plant in Des Moines, Iowa; an active member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431; and a political activist fighting racism, U.S. intervention abroad, and attacks on women's rights. Curtis continues to be politically active at Anamosa.

'Militant' approved

When he first arrived here Curtis subscribed to the *Militant* — a newspaper he's been reading and distributing for more than a decade.

The Publications Review Committee reviewed the paper and approved it, which meant that each issue doesn't have to be appraised by the committee. Now anyone in the prison can receive the *Militant* because it's approved for Anamosa.

Then Curtis subscribed to a Spanish-language monthly, *Perspectiva Mundial*, published in New York. He received two issues, and each time the Publications Review Committee sent Curtis a letter saying that particular issue of *PM* was approved.

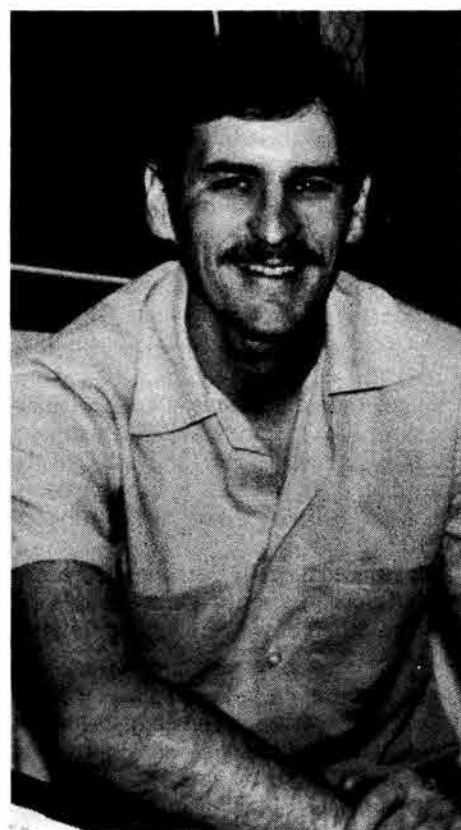
This is the same thing that happened with all the books Curtis received from Pathfinder, the New York-based publishing house that prints the works of revolutionary leaders around the world. Not all books and magazines are subject to this level of scrutiny, said Curtis, "only ones that the people here think need a little extra looking at, which means political stuff, by and large."

The banned publications list at Anamosa includes the Coalition for Prisoners' Rights newsletter and literature from the All African People's Revolutionary Party, as well as

books on the martial arts and how to escape from prison.

Contraband

When the March issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* arrived, Curtis was given a notice that he had received some "contraband." The quarter supervisor, Captain Lambert, told one of the mail-room employees—civilians who work in the prison—that the publication was banned because it was a "foreign language" magazine.



Militant/Margaret Jayko

Mark Curtis at Anamosa prison in Iowa. Prisoners are glad that supporters of Curtis defense effort have initiated campaign against attempts to limit entry of non-English language materials into prison.

Curtis asked Lambert if there was a prohibition against anything besides English coming into the prison. He said no, only if your "primary" language is English. In that case, said Lambert, everything else is a foreign language to you.

Prisoners whose first language is Spanish — of which there are dozens at overcrowded Anamosa — can receive both Spanish and English since, Lambert explained, the prison couldn't very well ban English-language materials. Curtis asked who else he could talk to about this. There was no one else, Lambert replied; this is the policy.

Curtis then spoke with prison official Jerry Metternach, who screens the Spanish-language literature that the Mexican and Salvadoran prisoners receive. He repeated the same story as Lambert. The policy was necessary for "security" reasons — the prison didn't have the personnel to read lots of material in languages other than English. The policy applies to letters, as well as books and periodicals.

Curtis pointed out that he had already received two copies of *PM*. Metternach responded that sometimes things slip through the cracks. Curtis protested that Spanish is not a "foreign" language — it's spoken by millions of people in the United States. Metternach told him not to get technical.

At this point there were also two books in the mail room that Curtis had ordered from the Upstart Crow bookstore in San Diego, California — an English-Spanish dictionary and *501 Spanish Verbs*. Curtis is being prevented from having both. He asked Metternach what could possibly be the security problem with a dictionary. The point was, the officials said, that there is this policy, it applies to everyone, and there would be no exceptions.

Curtis had checked the "General Orders," a looseleaf book with the rules that cover inmates. The regulation that prohibits "coded messages," said Curtis, explicitly states that this should not necessarily restrict foreign languages. Curtis asked Metternach where the policy limiting literature to one's primary language was written down. Metternach wouldn't say.

Curtis wrote a letter to Charles Lee, head of the Publications Review Committee, asking him to review *PM* and the two books that Curtis was being denied. He's never received a response.

Among the publications Curtis was prevented from receiving was *Lutte ouvrière*, a French-language socialist magazine published in Montréal. Every time *LO* arrived,

said Curtis, he received a note saying he had received contraband.

Curtis asked the workers in the mail room to hang on to all his "contraband" because he was contesting the authorities' decisions. After a stack of such items had accumulated in the mail room, however — including *PMs*, *LOs*, Swedish-language publications, and a Spanish-language magazine published in Sweden — officials said the literature must be either returned or destroyed. So Curtis sent back the magazines with letters explaining the undemocratic policy. The Spanish dictionary and verb book are still sitting in the mail room.

Mail-room workers tend to be friendly to the prisoners and treat them with respect, observed Curtis. One worker remarked to him that the *Militant* had a lot of coverage on his case — Curtis hadn't picked up his mail one day and so she had gotten to look through the *Militant*.

A supporter sent Curtis a button in solidarity with the strikers at Eastern Airlines. Since Curtis wasn't allowed to receive it, a mail-room worker asked what he wanted done with it — sent back, donated to Goodwill, or destroyed. Curtis suggested she wear it. She said she hadn't really thought much about the Eastern strike but she supposed that she supported it.

Prison library

The importance of being able to receive political books and periodicals in a variety of languages is underlined by the meagerness of the small prison library.

The 10,000 titles are mostly old books that have been donated. "It's heavy on school textbooks," Curtis said, grade school and high school mainly. When Curtis donated his Pathfinder books and a copy of the most recent issue of the Marxist magazine *New International*, the librarian was happy to get some new books.

There's several dozen magazines in the library, including four in Spanish: *Auto Mundo* (Auto World), *Hombre* (Man), *Temas* (Themes), and *Readers' Digest*.

Prisoners can check books out and take them back to their cells. Among the ones Curtis has in his cell are a couple of library books on learning Spanish.

The cells are often searched while prison-

Continued on Page 13

Economic policies spur China protests

Continued from front page

issued. Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun ordered troops to clear the square. Zhao Ziyang disappeared from view, reportedly relieved of his authority by Deng Xiaoping, the government's top leader since the late 1970s.

Li Peng demanded that Communist Party members "stay away from any activities harmful to stability and unity" and that "public security personnel and armed policemen should . . . resolutely crack down on criminal activities."

On May 22 seven former top commanders of the Chinese armed forces and 100 other officers and high officials issued a statement opposing the move to suppress the demonstrations. The army and air force commanders, however, endorsed the orders.

The key issue is the demand of the student-led protesters that Deng, who is 84, and Li Peng step down. The demonstrations are pressing for expanded freedom of the press, assembly, and other democratic rights.

The protesters are increasingly open in their backing of Zhao, who they believe favors concessions to their demands.

The hunger strike and mass rally in the square began May 13, on the eve of the state visit to China by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Banners hailed him as a "true reformer." Their hope is that with Zhao at the helm Gorbachev's *glasnost* policy of relaxing political repression and censorship would be imitated.

Background to crisis

Underlying the crisis are sweeping economic changes that have taken place in China over the past decade. The key moves have opened up much more space for petty commodity production in both agriculture and industry.

The system of collectivized agriculture that had been forced on the peasantry during the reign of Mao Tse-tung, who died in 1976, was dismantled. Peasants were now allowed to farm their own plots of land and given wider leeway in deciding what to produce and how to market it.

The regime also greatly increased opportunities for the establishment of private enterprises in city and countryside, and sought to expand foreign trade and gain loans and investment from the United States, Japan, and other capitalist powers.

The government created economic zones in several areas, where foreign investors could set up factories. There are about 7,000 such enterprises in China today, jointly owned by the government and capitalists from other countries.

These policies produced hefty growth rates — averaging about 10 percent per year and reaching 18.8 percent in 1985. Industry expanded rapidly, including in rural areas as peasants left farming in favor of industrial jobs. Today, there are 90 million factory workers in the countryside and towns, away from the main metropolitan areas.

Textiles, including wearing apparel, have surpassed petroleum as the country's number one export.

Agricultural production rose as well. In 1984 grain production hit 400 million tons — 34 percent higher than in 1978.

The improved diplomatic relations between the Beijing regime and the major capitalist powers and its capitalist neighbors in Asia meant that China had considerable access to investment, loans, and trade.

In part to assure this access, the Chinese government supported imperialist policies in many areas. With Washington's encouragement, Deng's regime carried out an unsuccessful

invasion of Vietnam in 1979 and supports antigovernment guerrillas against the Vietnamese-backed regime in Cambodia.

Growing social differentiation

The Beijing regime's economic policies resulted in growing social differentiation and antagonisms among the population. A layer of millionaires and other relatively rich traders, lenders, capitalist farmers, and factory owners appeared. Corruption expanded throughout the ruling bureaucratic caste, and it is not unusual for family members of top bureaucrats to run private businesses on the side.

The gap between these layers and the workers, peasants, and other people widened. About 100 million people — 10 percent of the population — live below the government's official poverty line. Regional disparities were heightened as the coastal areas advanced more rapidly than the interior.

Since 1985 economic problems have multiplied. The rate of inflation began to accelerate, powered by the expansion of credit. The rising prices of necessities hit working people hard.

Grain production dropped in 1985, as peasants turned to vegetables, herbs, and other crops — almost all of which were more profitable than grain, for which prices were fixed by the government. The proportion of government investment devoted to agriculture has plummeted from 10.6 percent in 1978 to 3.3 percent in 1986. Shortages and rising prices of fertilizers are also taking a toll.

As the problems mounted, the government took measures to try to contain them. This shift in tactics was one factor in the January 1987 forced resignation of Hu Yaobang as general secretary of the party. He was replaced by Zhao Ziyang.

Hu Yaobang had become widely known as an advocate of both expanding reliance on private enterprise and market forces to develop the economy, as well as allowing more leeway for critics of government policy to express their views.

The change at the top was accompanied by the suppression of student protests demanding wider democratic rights.

Price controls for pork and sugar were reimposed at the end of 1987, in part to limit price-gouging by merchants.

In October 1988, with inflation climbing to rates of 30 percent, the party Central Com-



Truckload of youth arrives at square to join protest demanding democratic rights

mittee approved a two-year postponement of a measure to lift most controls on the prices of state-subsidized goods. This move came after 49 strikes had been reported during the first half of the year.

Li Peng, who became premier in April 1988, called for a 20 percent cut in outlays for cars, banquets, video recorders, and other luxury spending by government institutions. And he demanded an end to unauthorized government "bonuses, subsidies . . . food or daily necessities" to employees.

"We must firmly do away with economic overheating," Li declared, "slow down the overly rapid industrial growth . . . firmly scale back over extended capital construction, [and] check the inordinate rise in consumption funds."

These measures neither got inflation under control nor halted the spread of discontent.

The 1988 grain harvest was lower than the previous year's. Fertilizer shortages led to peasant attacks on warehouses in some areas. Fertilizer production in 1989 was expected to be at least 20 percent short of the country's needs.

Other economic difficulties included the shutdown of many of the country's factories due to a shortage of coal.

Inflation rates were estimated at 50 percent, the highest level since the 1949 revolution. The state statistical bureau conceded that 35 percent of urban families had suffered a decline in living standards in 1988.

Instead of a cut in luxury spending by the

bureaucrats, such expenditures went up by 20 percent.

In March 1989 the government adopted a tight austerity budget. Work on some 18,000 projects that were under construction has been halted. Tighter central control was established over investments by regional and local bodies.

New taxes were imposed on farmers who produce crops other than grain for the market, and on privately owned businesses.

Bureaucracy maintained tight controls

As the government carried out the economic shift in the 1980s to encourage private farming and businesses, the Communist Party hierarchy has maintained its tight control of political decision-making and continued restrictions on the democratic rights of the Chinese people to speak, write, assemble, and organize.

The expansion of individual commodity producers, foreign trade, and social contact with the peoples of other countries — including Japan, Western Europe, and the United States — have tended to increase the sentiment for lifting totalitarian-type controls and establishing more political rights.

Frustration with the denial of such rights has grown as many sectors of the population became discontented with worsening economic conditions and the regime's policies.

The death on April 15 of former party chief Hu Yaobang set off a mounting wave of protests that has led to the current confrontation.

Rally greets Nicaragua leader in Britain

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's tour to seek aid in Western Europe at the beginning of May was the occasion for the largest-ever series of solidarity actions in Britain.

Two thousand five hundred people participated in Nicaragua solidarity movement-sponsored cycle rides in London and Sheffield. On May 6, some 600 attended a "Ten years of freedom" conference addressed by Alejandro Martínez Cuenca, head of the President's Secretariat of Planning in Nicaragua and by Héctor Oqueli, representing the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador. In Glasgow, Scotland, 3,000 attended a May Day march delayed until May 7 to coincide with Ortega's visit.

The high point was a rally in London's 2,500-capacity Central Hall, Westminster. The room was packed to overflowing. Hundreds more were turned away at the door. Banners from the African National Congress of South Africa, South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), and Nicaragua solidarity organizations were draped from the balcony.

Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign leader John Bevan said that people had lined up for four hours to get into the rally. "There are people representing trade unions, community organizations, schools," he said. "They show that wide sections of the public don't agree with the British government's policy toward Nicaragua."

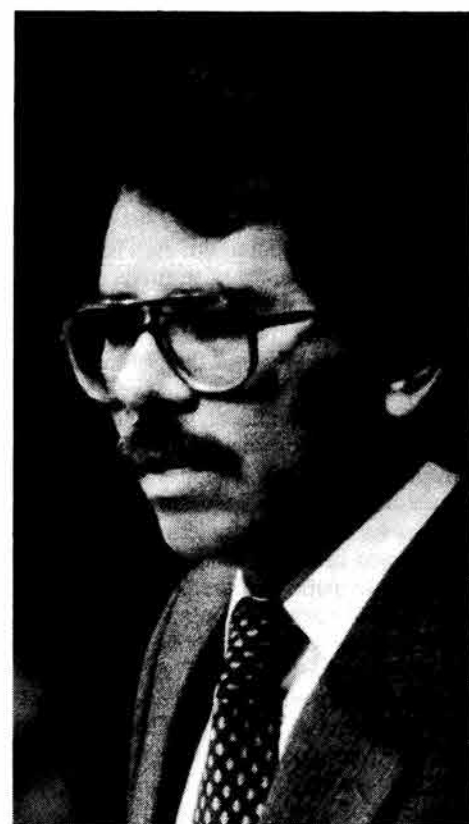
Campaign chair Andy de la Tour, in introducing the meeting, welcomed guests from the ANC, SWAPO, Polisario Front,

and Cuban embassy, as well as delegations from the National Union of Mineworkers, National Association of Local Government Officers, and other trade unions. Children from a school in the Cynon Valley in South Wales attended the rally and made a presentation to Ortega.

Greetings were brought from Rita Donaghy, representing the Trades Union Congress, and from Ian Linden, director of the Catholic Institute of International Relations, whose call on the government for massive aid to Nicaragua won huge applause.

Prominent author Graham Greene traveled from his home in the south of France to participate in the rally. The following day a number of national newspapers featured a photograph of Greene embracing Ortega. The writer appealed to people to "look at the darkness in our own country and not an imaginary darkness in the democratic republic" of Nicaragua. His speech was the subject of a press debate in the days that followed. The *Independent* made a sharp editorial attack on Greene for his support for Nicaragua. *Observer* columnist Neil Ascherson replied in Greene's defense.

Ortega's appeal for continuing solidarity met with standing ovation upon standing ovation. He described the event as a "rally for peace". In a thinly disguised reference to the British government's broadcasting ban on the Irish organization Sinn Féin, Ortega said of his country, "there is no prohibition on broadcasting as exists in certain types of countries" as he castigated governments who falsely complain about the re-



Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega

striction of democratic freedoms in Nicaragua. Ortega expressed the solidarity of the people of Nicaragua with the struggles in southern Africa and Palestine.

Following his 75-minute meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the British government announced it was not changing its "no aid" stance.

By Malcolm X

By Any Means Necessary	\$7.95
Malcolm X on Afro-American History	\$4.95
Malcolm X Talks to Young People	\$1.50
Two Speeches by Malcolm X	\$2.00
Malcolm X Speaks	\$8.95

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

Protests condemn Iowa jail censorship

Continued from front page
he had spoken up, in Spanish, in defense of 17 Latino coworkers who had been arrested in a raid on the plant by immigration cops.

'Attack on right to communicate'

"The restriction on non-English-language literature is an attack on Mark Curtis and hundreds of others inside the prison system whose main contact with the outside world is through the printed word," Zimmerman said, "For Mark, it makes it more difficult to communicate firsthand with other fighters against injustice."

At the news conference, Zimmerman gave reporters a copy of the letter sent by one of Curtis' attorneys, George Eichhorn, to the warden. Eichhorn explained that having reviewed the laws on these matters, "I see no policy permitting the uniform denial of all foreign-language publications."

The main daily in Iowa, the *Des Moines Register*, ran an article on this fight, as did the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*. An Anamosa inmate from Thailand got a hold of the *Gazette* article, showed it to Curtis, and told him that for three years he has been denied the right to send and receive letters in his native Thai. Officials also tried to take away his Thai-English dictionary, but he refused to give it up.

In a telephone interview from his office, Warden Thalacker explained that there is no blanket policy against prisoners receiving books, magazines, and periodicals in languages other than their primary one.

Publications Review Committee

If such non-English language materials are sent to a prisoner, they are reviewed by the statewide Publications Review Committee, which includes employees of the Department of Corrections, as well as others, usually a librarian, according to Thalacker. It's up to the committee to decide what prisoners can and cannot receive, said the warden. Prisoners can appeal these decisions to the director of the Department of Corrections if they disagree, he added.

Letters are a different matter, said Thalacker. Officials have the right, he said, to prevent prisoners from receiving letters in any languages other than English unless it's their only language. In those cases, he said, officials "try to find someone who can

assist us in interpretation of what those letters are." This, he said, is a "legitimate security concern."

Those who have sent protest messages to the warden so far include: Annika Aahnberg, member of parliament in Sweden; Francis Calpotura, Western Regional Coordinator, Alliance for Philippine Concerns, San Francisco, who sent a bilingual letter in English and Tagalog; City Councilman Jaime Vázquez, Jersey City, New Jersey; Paul Piesse, secretary, Southern Distribution Workers, Christchurch, New Zealand; and Gertrude Barnstone, Texas American Civil Liberties Union board member.

Also sending protests are St. Louis aldermen Kenneth Jones and Mary Rose; Hollywood producer Nick Castle; *Daily Utah Chronicle* Managing Editor Andrew Hunt; Pathfinder publishers of New York; Zoilo Torres, National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights; sculptor Armand Vaillancourt, Montréal; prisoner Marilyn Buck, Resistance Conspiracy Case; Bobbie Bagel, manager, Upstart Crow Bookstore and Coffeehouse in San Diego, which sent the two Spanish books Curtis is being denied; Marie Beemans, Prisoners' Rights Committee, Montréal; Miles Myers, president, California Federation of Teachers, as well as many other union members and officials; Frank Wilkinson, National Committee Against Repressive Legislation; and Fred Dube, African National Congress of South Africa.

Committee urges more protests

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is urging people to write to the warden asking that he reverse the undemocratic ban on Spanish and other non-English language literature sent to Mark Curtis; extend to all prisoners the right to receive non-English language material of their choice; and end restrictions on prisoners' rights to share literature with each other.

The protests should be addressed to: John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205. Copies should be sent to Attorney General Thomas J. Miller, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, and to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.



Militant/Margaret Jayko
Copies of *Lutte ouvrière*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and a Spanish-English dictionary Iowa prison officials have denied to political activist Mark Curtis.

Over the top! Final 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											
Greensboro, NC*	120	141	118	90	101	15	22	13	16	2	2
Portland, Ore. *	195	227	116	160	183	20	20	10	18	5	6
Detroit	175	202	115	125	170	30	19	15	9	5	4
Houston	180	207	115	100	135	30	30	45	42	5	0
Des Moines, Iowa	200	228	114	140	159	35	37	20	24	5	8
Price, Utah*	80	91	114	50	58	15	16	13	15	2	2
Phoenix	132	150	114	70	82	20	26	40	40	2	2
Miami	250	283	113	145	148	35	41	45	48	25	46
San Francisco	215	242	113	135	145	35	32	35	59	10	6
Seattle*	230	257	112	170	185	25	34	30	33	5	5
Charleston, WV	92	102	111	70	78	15	17	5	5	2	2
Los Angeles	470	521	111	240	250	90	98	130	169	10	4
Washington, DC	170	188	111	100	98	25	47	35	39	10	4
Cleveland	100	109	109	70	79	18	21	10	7	2	2
Chicago	320	347	108	200	216	50	60	60	63	10	8
Twin Cities, Minn.	275	296	108	200	214	35	47	30	29	10	6
Boston	265	285	108	160	172	40	40	45	52	20	21
Philadelphia	190	204	107	125	142	25	28	30	30	10	4
Brooklyn	345	369	107	190	195	60	82	65	66	30	26
Salt Lake City	120	127	106	80	86	20	19	15	19	5	3
Austin, Minn.	87	92	106	60	67	15	13	10	10	2	2
Newark, NJ	500	528	106	250	276	100	114	100	90	50	48
Morgantown, WV	115	121	105	75	103	25	17	10	1	5	0
Oakland, Calif.	175	184	105	100	139	30	17	40	25	5	3
New York	635	667	105	300	319	150	169	150	154	35	25
Omaha, Neb. *	130	136	105	80	94	30	27	15	15	5	0
Baltimore	155	161	104	115	116	25	27	10	13	5	5
St. Louis	175	178	102	130	145	30	22	10	8	5	3
Milwaukee	130	132	102	80	95	20	20	27	15	3	2
Kansas City*	115	116	101	75	77	20	21	15	16	5	2
Atlanta	205	206	100	150	155	30	17	20	30	5	4
Birmingham, Ala.	170	170	100	130	132	25	29	10	5	5	4
Pittsburgh	165	144	87	120	109	30	26	10	8	5	1
National Teams	-	109	-	-	99	-	5	-	3	-	2
Other U.S.	-	81	-	-	73	-	4	-	4	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	6,881	7,601	110	4,285	4,895	1,168	1,264	1,118	1,180	310	262
AUSTRALIA											
BRITAIN	30	37	123	17	15	4	8	8	14	1	0
London	150	180	120	95	118	30	35	20	26	5	1
South Wales	59	66	112	40	43	10	12	7	9	2	2
Manchester	61	61	100	40	41	15	15	5	4	1	1
South Yorks	60	53	88	30	31	20	14	10	8	-	-
Other Britain	70	60	86	25	23	25	22	8	9	12	6
BRITAIN TOTAL	400	420	105	230	256	100	98	50	56	20	10
CANADA											
Vancouver*	75	92	123	65	73	2	6	6	11	2	2
Toronto	270	299	111	150	166	50	48	50	68	20	17
Montréal	250	276	110	80	71	40	44	30	60	100	101
Other Canada	-	54	-	-	37	-	10	-	3	-	4
CANADA TOTAL	595	721	121	295	347	92	108	86	142	122	124
ICELAND											
NEW ZEALAND	15	8	53	15	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Auckland*	125	147	118	100	110	15	31	6	6	4	0
Christchurch*	95	105	111	80	85	10	10	3	7	2	3
Wellington*	115	121	105	90	93	20	21	3	7	2	0
Other New Zealand	-	8	-	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-
NEW ZEALAND TOTAL	335	381	114	270	294	45	64	12	20	8	3
SWEDEN											
PUERTO RICO	56	75	134	30	36	5	7	20	31	1	1
Other International	25	37	148	3	6	3	4	19	27	-	-
Other International	5	10	200	5	5	-	-	-	5	-	-
TOTAL	8,342	9,290	116%	5,150	5,862	1,417	1,553	1,313	1,475	462	400
Drive Goals	8,000			4,900		1,350		1,300		450	

*Single copies. Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*.

*Raised goal during drive.

Salvadoran artist to speak in New York, paint on mural

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — Salvadoran artist Isaiás Mata will speak here June 10 on art and revolution in El Salvador. Mata, former head of the art school at the University of El Salvador, will also show slides of his work and that of other Salvadoran artists. The artist is in the United States to raise funds and supplies for the school.

The June 10 reception and forum will also relaunch work on the Pathfinder Mural Project.

Mata paints murals and produces other graphic works for the labor and peasant movements in El Salvador. He will paint scenes of workers' and peasants' struggles in El Salvador in the Pathfinder mural.

An open house to meet Mata and other artists participating in the project will take place the same day, at the mural site at Charles and West streets. The open house is scheduled from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The reception and forum will take place at the Pathfinder book store in Manhattan at 7:00 p.m. Mata will also give presentations at the Pathfinder bookstores in Newark, New Jersey on June 3, and

in Philadelphia on June 9.

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

Major portraits that have been painted on the mural so far include: Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress of South Africa; Thomas Sankara, central leader of the 1983 revolution in the west African country of Burkina Faso; Ernesto Che Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution; Nicaraguan revolutionary fighters Carlos Fonseca and Augusto César Sandino; and the German communist Rosa Luxemburg.

Clip and mail to: Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

☐ Please add my name as a sponsor of the Pathfinder Mural Project.

☐ Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of \$_____. Make checks payable to the Anchor Foundation.

☐ I would like to host a fund-raising event.

☐ I would like _____ copies of the mural project brochure.

☐ I would like to work on, paint, or document the project.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Signature _____

This publication is available in microform from University Microfilms International.

Call toll-free 800-521-3044. In Michigan, Alaska and Hawaii call collect 313-761-4700. Or mail inquiry to: University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

Economic crisis spurs win by opposition in Argentina vote

BY DON ROJAS

Yet another government in Latin America has fallen victim to the acute social and economic crises that engulf the entire continent.

Following a pattern of recent political changes influenced by economic problems in Venezuela, Jamaica, Bolivia, and Paraguay, on May 14 the voters of Argentina ousted the Radical Civic Union of President Raúl Alfonsín.

They handed the Peronist party, led by Carlos Saúl Menem, its first national election triumph since the 1976 military coup that ousted Isabel Perón from the presidency.

Menem captured almost 48 percent of the vote against 37 percent for Eduardo Angeloz, presidential candidate of the Radical Civic Union, thus winning an absolute majority in the U.S.-style electoral college. The Peronists



President Raúl Alfonsín. Falling living standards defeated his candidate.

also won half of the seats in the Congress and half in the 46-member Senate and so will control both chambers. The remaining congressional and senate seats are divided among three other parties.

Alfonsín's economic policies

Menem's victory reflected more than a nostalgic desire on the part of Argentina's poor and working people for a return to the halcyon days of Peronism. Fundamentally, it was a rejection of Alfonsín's economic policies, which had served to exacerbate the crisis that has brought the country to the brink of total economic collapse.

The Peronists will have to wait for seven months, however, before they can take over

the reins of government since, under the present Argentine constitution, Alfonsín is not scheduled to end his six-year term until December 10.

In the interim, the economic crisis is sure to worsen, and Menem will encounter a host of daunting challenges when he assumes the presidency.

Once considered one of the richest countries in the world, Argentina, with a population of 32 million, occupying a land area one-third the size of the United States, and endowed with an array of natural resources, today has the third-largest foreign debt of any Third World country.

\$60 billion foreign debt

It is burdened by a record 1,000 percent annual inflation rate, by huge fiscal deficits, by a \$60 billion foreign debt and an internal debt of \$7 billion, by rising unemployment, and by a currency whose value has been steadily declining. In February the austral stood at 17 to the dollar, and by mid-May it had plunged to 170 to the dollar.

A quarter of the population lives in poverty as the minimum monthly wage has fallen to about \$40.

In the 1930s and '40s Argentina's treasury was bulging with gold and hard currency earned from feeding war-torn Europe with its beef and grains. But today there are no reserves to pay the \$3 billion in arrears on its debt interest payments.

The *Washington Post* reports that because of these arrears and Argentina's "failure to launch austerity measures," the country could forfeit its chance of being assisted by Washington under the debt relief plan for the Third World announced in early March by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

The severe economic crisis and ideas on how to resolve it dominated the election campaign. Alfonsín lamented the defeat of his party, saying, "Never have so many criticized a government," but he hailed the election as a triumph for democracy.

Glitzy campaign

Long on populist rhetoric and short on programmatic detail, Menem ran a glitzy campaign, cleverly using what the *New York Times* called "an almost mystical personal manner" to woo poor and working-class Argentine voters.

He also received support from some capitalist sectors, from elements in the military, and from the labor bureaucracy, which controls Argentina's powerful General Confederation of Labor. Menem's flamboyance and his oratorical prowess evoked memories of the charismatic Gen. Juan Perón, who governed Argentina from 1946 to 1955 and then again from 1973 for one year before dying in 1974.

Menem was vague on his economic pre-

scriptions, relying more on generalities and grandiose phrases. He called for a "productive revolution" managed from the top, and he equated himself with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who is currently championing a program of economic reforms under the rubric of "perestroika."

Menem's main rival, Angeloz, on the other hand, was more concrete and openly pro-capitalist in his advocacy of a free-market approach to the economy, placing emphasis on an export-oriented model of development. He expressed a readiness to fire workers from state enterprises in order to improve economic efficiency.

Commenting on the campaign in a recent editorial, Britain's *Guardian* newspaper noted that Menem's "neo-Peronism" does not have "an explicit anti-imperialist thrust."

"He has backed away from debt repudiation and is not opposed to encouraging foreign investment in the reorganization of state enterprise," it stated.

Yet at one Peronist campaign rally, a *Guardian* correspondent reported hearing impassioned talk of a "united front" of Latin America and the Third World against imperialism. This, the reporter implied, was indicative of a layer of support for the Menem presidency from left elements both within and outside the Peronist movement.

Malvinas Islands

Menem appealed to deep-seated sentiments against British imperialism among Argentines by vowing to return the Malvinas Islands to Argentine sovereignty.

During the campaign, Menem warned that Argentina faced a social explosion if a general salary increase is not worked out soon. He has argued that this would stimulate consumption and employment. But the International Monetary Fund, along with Argentina's bankers and capitalists, vehemently oppose wage increases on the grounds that it would fuel further rises in inflation.

Central to Menem's "productive revolution" is the idea of a "social pact" or consensus among capitalists, workers, and the state on such key economic questions as wages, prices, and production targets.

In the wake of the elections, pressures are being applied to Menem to "modify" his rhetoric and to become more "pragmatic" when he takes office seven months from now.

Austerity measures

On May 16 an article in the *Wall Street Journal* stated unequivocally that Menem "will have to initiate tough austerity measures if he is to arrest the country's impoverishment." The only way to do this, it stated, was to "open the economy, restructure the state, privatize and create new business opportunities."

The IMF and the big creditor banks, smarting from Argentina's nonpayment of interest on its foreign debt over the last year, are indicating that the Peronists would have to accept a package of harsh austerity measures laid down by the IMF as a condition for obtaining fresh credit.

What is background to 'Peronism'?

What is Peronism and its historical significance to the working people of Argentina?

Essentially, it is a broad social movement that traces its origins to 1946 when Col. Juan Perón became president and began a reform program aimed at reducing the political power and economic privileges of the oligarchy that ruled Argentina since 1816.

By 1945 the industrial working class had become the backbone of Argentina's powerful labor movement, and the country was one of the most economically developed in Latin America.

When Perón came to power in 1946 there were pent-up grievances within the factories waiting to burst into the open. The oligarchy had been unable to institute a stable system of capitalist rule.

Perón's populist rhetoric appealed to Argentina's working people, who saw him as the best guarantee of the benefits they had won in a series of tough class battles with capital over several decades.



President-elect Carlos Saúl Menem. Peronist candidate promised "productive revolution."

An op-ed article headlined "Peronism Tamed?" in the May 16 edition of the *New York Times* states that some Peronists, "departing from tradition," are proposing "realistic exchange rates, a broader tax base, lower tariffs, and fewer state companies."

"This austere policy is intended to shift the economy toward new technologies and industries and away from unprofitable endeavors that could only survive in Argentina's 'capitalism without markets, socialism without planning,'" the article continues.

If Menem accepts the tough IMF prescriptions for economic "recovery," then he will not be able to satisfy the heightened public expectations that swept him to victory. And the euphoria that was manifested in the street parties all over the country celebrating the election results could rapidly evaporate.

Capital flight

Dire predictions of deteriorating social and economic conditions over the next several months have been voiced more frequently in past days. It is expected that capital flight will increase as the austral continues to lose value vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar.

Some observers claim there will be massive strikes, inflation will soar, and general political instability will deepen. They say Alfonsín and the Radical Civic Union will lose whatever little credibility they have left and that, in the words of one businessman, "People will be begging Menem to take power the way they begged the military to take power before the 1976 coup."

But Menem does not appear overly eager to assume office before the constitutional date. Neither does he want to be tainted by the inevitable further socioeconomic decline between now and year's end.

"Whatever happens between now and December 10 is the absolute responsibility of the national government, not ours," said the president-elect recently.

The success or failure of Menem and the Peronists to shape an economic order out of the current chaos and put Argentina on a course of steady development could profoundly influence events in neighboring countries such as Brazil and Chile, both of which hold presidential elections within the next year.

New ANC envoy to Canada

BY HEIDI ROSE

TORONTO — Hundreds of people, including politicians, artists, anti-apartheid activists, unionists, and church and community leaders, jammed a midday welcoming ceremony May 14 for Peter Mahlangu, the new African National Congress chief representative to Canada.

Since the Canadian government refuses to recognize the ANC, instead maintaining diplomatic ties to the South African government, the ANC representative presented his credentials to the people of Canada.

Archbishop Ted Scott, former primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, chaired the event, at which five representatives spoke in acceptance of Mahlangu's credentials.

Gord Peters, head of the Union of Ontario Chiefs, told Mahlangu, "We bid you welcome to our land and our territory, because we are the first people of this territory."

Ontario Federation of Labor President Gordon Wilson read a statement by Canadian Labor Congress President Shirley Carr. "We fully support the goals of the ANC," the statement declared. The union leaders expressed "cautious optimism"

about independence for Namibia and called on the Canadian government to recognize the ANC.

Wendy Braithwaite, a Black student activist at the University of Toronto, said, "It angers us to know that children and youth are arrested, jailed, and tortured for opposing apartheid. Youth are in the front lines, and justice will be attained by any means necessary." She also condemned racist oppression in Canada and said, "Youth of South Africa, you are not alone."

Stephen Lewis, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, called on the Canadian government to apply "comprehensive, mandatory sanctions" against Pretoria and to recognize the ANC "as the voice and representative of the majority in South Africa."

Mahlangu addressed the ceremony briefly, expressing thanks for Canadian support in the struggle against apartheid. "No force, no arms, will stop the people of South Africa from attaining a nonracial, democratic South Africa," he said.

Two days later, Mahlangu was the featured speaker at a "Freedom Ride Against Apartheid" demonstration of several hundred in Ottawa, Canada's capital.

'In Defense of Socialism': 4 speeches by Fidel

Introduction to new book marking Cuban revolution's 30th ann

The following is the introduction to a collection of speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro, *In Defense of Socialism: Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution*. This volume has just been published by Pathfinder.

The introduction is reprinted by permission of Pathfinder and is copyright © 1989. Subheadings are by the *Militant*.

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

"Socialism is and will continue to be the hope, the only hope, the only road for the peoples, the oppressed, the exploited, the plundered. Socialism is the only alternative! And today, when our enemies want to question it, we must defend it more than ever."

This is the unambiguous and uncompromising conclusion presented by Cuban President Fidel Castro in the four speeches contained in this book. All four were given in the weeks surrounding the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, celebrated on Jan. 1, 1989. In them he addresses many issues at the center of world politics today.

"We're now going through a particular moment in the international revolutionary process," Castro told the half million Cuban men and women assembled in Havana on Dec. 5, 1988, in the speech that opens this volume. "As some socialist countries criticize what they have done for many years, as they even deny things that have been affirmed for decades on end," Castro said, it has at the same time become "almost fashionable" in the imperialist countries to proclaim the historical bankruptcy of socialism.

"Imperialism is trying to present socialism as a failure in practice, as a system with no future. And it is extolling to the utmost the alleged advantages of its selfish and repugnant capitalist system."

Defending and improving socialism, Castro argues in these pages, is the task facing Cuba's young generation especially. And, he adds, the challenge is, if anything, greater than what his own generation faced 30 years ago.

Indispensable to meeting this challenge, Castro says, is continuing to train and arm virtually every able-bodied Cuban to defend the revolution so it can develop in peace. As long as the North American imperialist colossus exists, revolutionary Cuba will never be able to lower its guard, Castro emphasized in his Dec. 5, 1988, speech marking that country's Armed Forces Day.

'First socialist country in Americas'

"We are the first socialist country in the Western Hemisphere, the first socialist country in Latin America. . . . We have been the first country to raise aloft the banner of the workers, the peasants, the poor, and to implement their demands and rights. We have been the first country to set the example corresponding to this stage of historical development of the peoples of Latin Amer-

ica. We have upheld those banners for nearly 30 years, and the empire will never forgive us for that. . . .

"We are a symbol. We are the road to rebellion, freedom, and independence," Castro affirmed. And as the history of Washington's aggressions amply confirms, "the empire will never stop trying to crush that symbol, that example, that road, one way or another."

Defending the revolution is not just a question of military strength, however. Today more than ever the defense of socialism is a political battle, both internationally and inside Cuba itself. In these speeches, Castro addresses himself first and foremost

Defense of socialism is a political battle, internationally and inside Cuba.

to that political battle. He speaks of what has been accomplished in the 30 years since the revolution triumphed, of the unique achievements that have made the socialist revolution in Cuba different from all others. He takes up the mistakes that have been made over the years and discusses the problems being confronted today through what is known in Cuba as the rectification process. He addresses the youth of Cuba, the generation that has grown up within the revolution, and notes the complex and demanding tasks that the future leaders of Cuba inherit.

'We face historic challenge'

The "heroic" days of the revolution are not over, Castro told a mass rally of Cuban young people in the speech that concludes this volume. As long as the revolution is alive and is advancing, those days will never be over. The same kind of collective effort, discipline, energy, and consciousness will always be required in order to be victorious, whether the battle is to defeat South African invasion forces in Angola, or to advance Cuba's economic development by increasing the productive capacities of its working people.

"We face a tremendous historic challenge," Castro told the youth. "Who will win? Who will prevail? The selfish, chaotic, and inhumane capitalist system? Or the more rational and humane socialist system?"

Our battle is the battle to improve, develop, and defend socialism, he told them, "and perhaps the greatest challenge is that this is a battle to improve socialism without resorting to the mechanisms and style of capitalism, without playing at capitalism." That, he insisted, is "what we are trying to

do in the process of rectification."

The rectification process, begun in 1986, is the context for much of what is discussed in these pages. As Castro has explained in numerous other speeches and interviews over the last three years, the rectification process is a fundamental political reorientation. It was initiated by the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba in response to evidence of a growing political demobilization and demoralization among Cuba's working people. These dangerous trends were registered by increasing instances of bureaucratic mismanagement, indifference, abuse, declining productivity and work morale, the growth of corruption and fraud, and frustration over attempts to deal with such problems piecemeal. More and more, Cubans began to see money as the solution to all problems — whether providing incentives to work, or juggling the books of a state enterprise to make it appear efficient and productive.

Reactionary policies

Castro argued that reactionary policies were being implemented by bureaucrats and technocrats, including by many who thought they were acting as revolutionaries. Despite the rapidly growing number of women either in the work force or who wanted to get a job, for example, construction of day-care centers had virtually ground to a halt. The shortage of adequate housing had reached crisis proportions, especially in Havana. Price-gouging and profiteering in the distribution of food were undermining the alliance between farmers and the working class in the cities, the very foundation of the revolution. The blanket exemption of university students from regular military service was breeding inequality and resentment.

Favoritism in hiring and job assignments by plant administrators, as well as the abuse of the bonus system, was widespread, and trade union officials were often complicit. It was common knowledge that materials from state enterprises were diverted to private use with growing frequency. Even in the health-care system, a key source of pride for the revolution, there were interminable delays in building new, more adequate facilities, and morale was declining.

As Castro illustrated the problem at a meeting of Communist Party leaders from the city of Havana in November 1987, "Those who advocated reactionary ideas within the revolution argued that building a day-care center was a social expense. Social expenses were no good, investing in production was good; as if those who work in the factories were bulls and cows, horses and mares, male and female mules and not human beings, not men and women with their problems, especially women with their problems. . . . Whenever they say no day-care center, you can be sure there is a technocratic, bureaucratic, reactionary concept at work. . . . It didn't enter the technocrat's head that day-care centers were essential to production and the services, and that housing and day boarding schools were also essential to socioeconomic development."¹

'A system worse than capitalism'

The knowledge that a social layer of relatively privileged bureaucrats, technocrats, and administrators with such attitudes was living in comparative comfort under existing conditions was starting to breed a dangerous alienation and cynicism, especially among sections of Cuba's young people. If not corrected, Castro told the December 1986 session of the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, the erroneous course the revolutionary leadership was on could eventually lead Cuba not toward so-

cialism and communism, but "to a system worse than capitalism."²

In the mid-1970s, Castro recalled at the same congress, Cuba introduced a revamped system of economic management and planning largely copied from those in use in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. This helped solve certain problems stemming from previous mistaken policies, he said, but at the same time new and more damaging political errors were introduced. A growing section of the Cuban leadership began to act as if the construction of socialism were basically an administrative task of establishing political and economic mechanisms, such as the new Economic Management and Planning System, or the elective legislative system of People's Power launched during those same years. Somehow, it was believed, socialism would build itself once such institutions and structures were put in place.

'A political task'

But the "construction of socialism and communism," Castro insisted, "is essentially a political task and a revolutionary task. It must be fundamentally the fruit of the development of consciousness and educating people for socialism and communism." Building a new society, based on new property forms, new social relations, and new values cannot be accomplished by administrative measures overseen by a growing (and relatively privileged) bureaucracy. It is the work of creative and productive human beings, women and men who are conscious of what they are doing, communists who are organizing themselves and leading their fellow workers to discover what they are capable of achieving, transforming themselves in the process.

Two political measures have been central to the steps taken during the first three years of the rectification process, and references to both run through these speeches.

First, the Communist Party of Cuba has led a conscious effort to incorporate a new and younger leadership on all levels and in all organizations and institutions. Under the

A conscious promotion of more youth, workers, Afro-Cubans, women to leadership.

watchword of "renewal or death," the first session of the third party congress in February 1986 made sweeping changes in the composition of its leadership bodies. Forty percent of those elected to the Central Committee and 50 percent of those elected to the Political Bureau were new members.

Just as important were the guidelines under which the renewal took place, with the conscious promotion of more workers, more Afro-Cubans, more women, more internationalist fighters, and more young communists. The result was a more working-class leadership, one closer in composition and experience to that of Cuba's working people today, and one more capable of leading the profoundly revolutionary changes posed by the rectification process.

Leadership renewal deepened

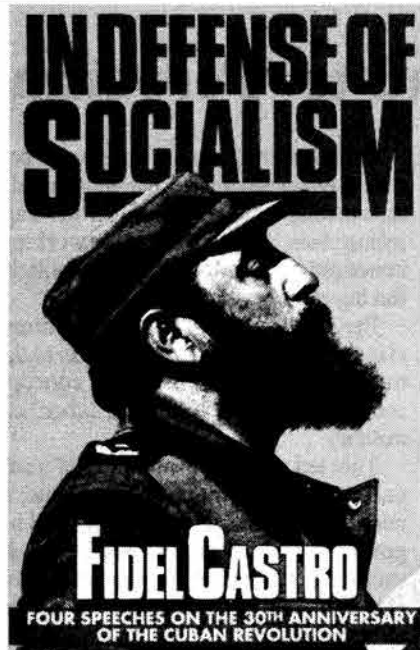
The leadership renewal begun by the party congress has been pressed forward since that time. It was deepened by the discussions around, and response to, the congress of the Union of Young Communists in 1987. It has been advanced by the demonstrated capacities of the Cuban troops and other internationalist

New from Pathfinder

Fidel Castro In Defense of Socialism

Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution

Castro explains his views on the lessons of 30 years of building socialism in Cuba; the prospects for socialism in today's world; internationalism, and many other



topics. 142 pp., \$7.95. Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 for postage and handling.

1. Fidel Castro, speech to Communist Party leaders from the city of Havana, Nov. 29, 1987. Published in *Granma Weekly Review*, Dec. 13, 1987; the speech was reprinted in the *Militant*, Jan. 29, 1988.

2. Fidel Castro, speech to the deferred session of the Third Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, Dec. 2, 1986. Published under the title "Important Problems for the Whole of International Revolutionary Thought," *New International* no. 6, p. 217.

Castro Anniversary

Cuban volunteers in Africa, who in their big majority represent Cuba's young generation. It has taken form in the volunteer youth construction contingents and work brigades that have been part of the rectification process. And it is registered in Castro's Jan. 8, 1989, speech to the youth contained in this volume.

This renewal of leadership is not advancing without political resistance and social friction, however. The relative privileges and conservatism of a social layer are being challenged in Cuba today. The class antagonisms that constitute what Castro has called the "twisted" legacy of centuries of colonialism, imperialism, and capitalist social relations are being confronted more consciously and on a new level.

A communist leadership is striving to chart a course that will deepen the revolution by expanding the political involvement of working people, thus bringing changes not only in the consciousness of millions but in social relations themselves. This is the heart of the rectification process.

Political and social conflict is inevitable under these conditions. Rectification is being pursued, however, not by willfully or recklessly tearing the social fabric of Cuba, but by striving to win the broadest possible political unity and support for the domestic and international course set by the leadership of the revolution. The evolution and outcome of this complex process will be influenced by advances and setbacks in revolutionary struggles outside Cuba, as well as by political developments inside the country.

Construction brigades

The second measure central to rectification has been relaunching what in Cuba is called the minibrigade movement. The minibrigades are construction brigades composed primarily of men and women who are not professional construction workers but are industrial workers, office workers, and professionals who have volunteered to be released from their regular occupations in order to build badly needed housing, child-care centers, schools, clinics, hospitals, stores, sports facilities, and other needed social projects. These workers are joined by students, housewives, retirees, and tens of thousands of other ordinary Cubans who volunteer to work evenings and weekends after completing their regular jobs. Since 1986 these Cuban working people have already put in millions of hours of volunteer labor. This genuine mass response to the minibrigade movement has made it possible to begin making inroads on problems such as the housing crisis and child-care shortage, which had been worsening at an accelerating pace for more than a decade.

In two years' time, for example, more than 100 child-care centers were built in the city of Havana alone — more than would have been built in a century had the previous policies not been changed.

Similarly with regard to housing, progress is not being made by appealing to people to work longer and harder to make more money to meet their own personal needs while others go without decent shelter. Instead, the shortage is being addressed through mass, revolutionary, working-class action. An organized, collective, voluntary, and disciplined effort is being made to build enough housing to meet everyone's needs. As Castro told a rally on July 26, 1987, the minibrigade movement has the capacity to build a new Havana. It could even build a new London or Paris, he said.

Such a movement is possible, however, only because the Cuban people made a revolution 30 years ago, expropriated capitalist property, and charted a course toward socialism that made them masters of their own resources and of the wealth they produce. Without a nationalized and planned economy and a workers' and farmers' govern-

ment that implements revolutionary communist policies, such a course would not be realizable.

Alongside the minibrigade movement, the rectification process has spurred the organization of special contingents of skilled construction workers that are taking on major civil engineering projects such as roads and dams. The accomplishments of the minibrigades and special contingents have already brought political changes in attitudes and work norms that are having an impact throughout the society. The spirit and morale of these construction brigades is a product of rising political consciousness, as hundreds of thousands of Cubans discover what they are capable of achieving.

Genuine voluntary work — not a disguised form of obligatory overtime, nor administrative methods devoid of mass revolutionary mobilization — was one of the most notable features of the early years of the Cuban revolution. Volunteer work brigades were an integral part of the revolution. Especially following the introduction of the Economic Management and Planning System in the mid-1970s, however, voluntary work and the minibrigades went into a marked decline.

Che Guevara

"The bureaucrat's view, the technocrat's view that voluntary work was neither basic nor essential gained more and more ground," Castro told a mass rally in October 1987 commemorating the 20th anniversary of the death of Ernesto Che Guevara, the outstanding Argentine-Cuban revolutionary. The attitude developed "that voluntary work was kind of silly, a waste of time, that problems had to be solved with overtime, with more and more overtime, and this while the regular workday was not even being used efficiently."³

Guevara, one of the great Marxists of the 20th century, was among the foremost organizers and proponents of volunteer labor during the early years of the Cuban revolution. He understood its irreplaceable role as a school for developing communist consciousness and revolutionary attitudes toward work.

As part of the rectification effort, Guevara's writings on voluntary work, on

the economic foundations of the transition to socialism, and on other political and economic questions are being read more seriously and debated in Cuba.

Guevara has always been honored in Cuba as a leader of great revolutionary initiative and exemplary moral courage. At the same time, however, his political and economic views have often been discounted in academic circles and by economists and ad-

Guevara had confidence in social capacity of ordinary men and women.

ministrators educated in the spirit of the Economic Management and Planning System. Many of them regard Che as somewhat naive, an idealist who expected too much of ordinary working people and didn't understand that they must be motivated primarily by appealing to their material self-interest.

Defending Guevara's ideas

With the communist political reorientation gaining ground in Cuba today, there are more voices defending Guevara in terms similar to those of Fidel Castro, who stated in his October 1987 speech that without the study and the implementation of Che's ideas, "communism cannot be built." Castro pointed to the scope of the challenge before Cubans in the coming years by reminding them that "no serious attempt" was ever made to put Che's ideas into practice and that, in fact, "there came a time when ideas diametrically opposed to Che's economic thought began to take over."⁴

The political and economic course that Che argued for, like the rectification process today, was based on both a thoroughgoing materialism and a deep confidence in the social capacity — as well as the necessity — of ordinary men and women to transform themselves as they fight to build a new society.

In his speech commemorating the 20th anniversary of Che's death, Castro introduced a theme that he takes up again in this volume in his speech to the young people. Contrary to what some believe, Castro noted in October 1987, Che was not naive, not an idealist, not out of touch with reality.

4. Ibid., p. 31.

5. Ibid., p. 27.

6. Ibid., p. 25.



Cubans at Plaza of the Revolution in Havana hear Fidel Castro speak at Dec. 5, 1988, anniversary of founding of Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Impact Visuals/Mel Rosenthal

"But Che believed in man. And if we don't believe in man, if we think that man is an incorrigible little animal, capable of advancing only if you feed him grass or tempt him with a carrot or whip him with a stick — anybody who believes this, anybody convinced of this will never be a revolutionary."⁶

Internationalist missions in Angola

The political perspective expressed in those words is the foundation on which the rectification process rests. It is the basis on which the minibrigades and construction contingents are organized. It underlies the victories won by Cuban internationalist fighters in Africa. It constitutes the challenge before Cuba's young people. It means organizing and leading millions of working people to discover in practice that neither they nor others are incorrigible little animals, but are instead human beings who can collectively transform themselves in the process of accomplishing the seemingly impossible tasks necessary to create a new, more humane world.

"What carrot or what stick motivated the fighters of the Rebel Army who for two years confronted and defeated the army of the [Batista] tyranny?" Castro asked the Cuban youth on Jan. 8, 1989. "What carrot or what stick motivated the 300,000 Cubans who honorably fulfilled their internationalist missions in Angola over the last 13 years?"

"So are we or are we not correct in trusting in people, in their consciousness and spirit of solidarity? Are we or are we not right in feeling people can really do what they set out to do; that people can live in a society that is more humane, more just, more generous, and more based on solidarity than is capitalism, where the law of the jungle prevails? Could a society educated in the selfish ideas of capitalism carry out a single one of these things we've mentioned? That's why our confidence in the future of the revolution is so unshakable."

Southwest Africa peace accords

In the four speeches collected here, Castro frequently refers to Cuba's role in the historic struggle against the South African apartheid regime. In fact, in his speech to the main anniversary rally on Jan. 4, 1989, Castro noted that it would be difficult *not* to link a celebration of 30 years of the Cuban revolution with the peace accords for southwest Africa signed in December 1988.

In March 1988 the combined forces of the

Continued on Page 13



Brigade members helped on a volunteer construction team building houses in Havana Province. Militant/Jon Hillson

Venceremos Brigade's 20th anniversary visit to Cuba

BY JON HILLSON
AND CATHY SEDWICK

HAVANA, Cuba — Tired from long days packed with activity, but inspired by what they learned, participants in the 20th anniversary contingent of the Venceremos Brigade began returning from Cuba to the United States May 7 after spending nearly two weeks on the island.

Altogether, 250 *brigadistas*, many of them veterans of previous contingents dating back to 1969, made up the 1989 delegation. They came from 20 states and 55 cities across the United States.

Among the brigadistas were scores of Afro-American activists; U.S. residents from Haiti, Puerto Rico, Panama, Cuba, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts, Chile, and other countries, along with Chicanos and Mexicans from the Southwest and California and activists in the American Indian Movement.

Thirty-six brigade members functioned as a labor subcommittee of the contingent, the largest number of union activists ever to participate on a Venceremos Brigade. The committee was made up of union officers, working members, and retirees. Representing a variety of industrial, service, and public-employee unions, they agreed on a common resolution that each would take back and present to union membership bodies urging the U.S. government to lift its restrictions on travel to Cuba. They also agreed to maintain contact with each other upon returning to the United States.

It was the first trip to Cuba for the majority of brigadistas. The youngest was 16, the oldest were in their 80s. They were activists in more than 200 organizations, from trade unions and Central America and southern

Africa solidarity organizations to church-based social justice committees and various left political currents, including the Communist Party, Socialist Workers Party, Workers World Party, and the Line of March organization.

Hosted in the country by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), the brigadistas were warmly received by the Cuban government and top leadership of the Communist Party and Union of Young Communists, as well as by Cubans on the street, who followed the experiences of the Venceremos Brigade through extensive coverage in the Cuban media.

This relationship has been built up over the two decades that the brigade has organized annual contingents to visit Cuba, despite the immense difficulties of travel to that country imposed by the U.S. government.

Reynaldo González, ICAP's first vice-president, told a welcoming ceremony at the Julio Antonio Mella international camp — the contingent's home base, which is just outside Havana — that the Venceremos Brigade "is a permanent part of Cuban reality."

He saluted the brigade's principal accomplishment of having brought more than 5,000 people from the United States in the past 20 years.

Simply existing for such a length of time, Venceremos Brigade National Executive Committee member Ken Jones said in his welcome, is an achievement. "How many groups have come and gone in those 20 years?" he asked.

By bringing so many people to Cuba who return to tell the truth about the revolution's

gains and advances, Jones said, the Venceremos Brigade has helped break Washington's "information blockade" against the first free territory in the Americas.

We have, Jones said, "fought to get to Cuba, to make people-to-people connections," and played a special role of building "unity among political forces, left forces," which must be strengthened in the United States.

Jones challenged the brigadistas to bring as much back to the United States of their Cuban experiences as they could. The contingent participants agreed that the program of activities was overwhelmingly successful.

Highlights of trip

Among the highlights of the two weeks were:

- Marching in the foreign-guests contingent, along with 800,000 workers from Havana, in Cuba's principal May Day celebration.

- Participating with Cuban students and young workers in symbolic voluntary labor, planting and pruning citrus trees and laying foundations for new houses.

- Touring the facilities and meeting with elementary school students from across Cuba in the massive work-study-culture-recreation Che Guevara Pioneer Palace in Havana, one of five such centers in the country.

- Exchanging ideas with hundreds of teenagers at the Che Guevara preuniversity high school in Havana Province.

- Visiting residents of the Pueblo Nuevo housing project in Consolación del Sur, at which the whole apartment complex turned out to welcome brigadistas into their homes. There, and in patios and yards, hundreds of Cubans explained the work of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution.

- Spending an afternoon with members of the Eliseo Caamaño cooperative in El Piloto, Pinar del Río Province, where the brigadistas learned about Cuba's deepgoing land reform, were welcomed into the farmers' homes, attended an outdoor music and cultural presentation, and shared a feast of barbecued pig.

- Participating in forums with ranking members of the Cuban government, Communist Party, Union of Young Communists, the country's judiciary, and women's, cultural, and union organizations. These sessions covered Cuban foreign policy, Cuban history, women's rights, Cuba's fight against AIDS, sex education, Cuba's battle against racism, the impact of the country's rectification campaign, human rights in Cuba, Cuba's role in Africa, the place of unions in building socialism, the views of Cubans on *perestroika*, and a myriad of other subjects.

- Engaging in virtually nonstop informal talk with 30 young Cubans working with the brigadistas as guides, work leaders, and translators. The chats covered a huge variety of topics that helped forge new levels of understanding, comradeship, and friendship.

- Strolling through the spectacular grottoes of La Cueva de Portales where Che Guevara commanded Cuba's Army of the West during the tense days of the missile crisis in October 1962.

Relaxation and recreation

At night the rustic, but comfortable, base camp became a setting for relaxation. Late-night snacks, dancing to Cuba bands —

usually comprised of students and workers from the area — and rum, fruit juice, and Cuban Coca-Cola enticed many brigadistas and Cubans to socialize well into the morning.

In an afternoon of unscheduled time, brigadistas went to the spectacular Varadero beach, watched a game of Cuba's national pastime — baseball, or walked through Havana's winding streets talking with local residents.

In small groups, contingent members shared ideas on how to spread knowledge of the Cuban revolution in the United States.

They met with representatives of the Angolan, Nicaraguan, and Palestinian embassies, with spokespeople from the revolutionary movements in southern Africa, El Salvador, and Guatemala, and from the Chilean democratic struggle.

The final presentation was given just hours before the brigade began its departure. The speaker was Jorge Risquet, a member of the Cuban Communist Party's Political Bureau who played a central role in Cuba's negotiations over South Africa's pending withdrawal from Namibia.

Because of the mounting debt crisis crushing Latin America, Risquet explained to the brigadistas, more social explosions "like Venezuela" — the February upsurge against price hikes and austerity in Caracas — are inevitable.

And despite massive U.S. aid, the Salvadoran regime has "been unable to smash the revolution."

The Dominican Republic, devastated by debt, he said, is like a powder keg, where at "any minute there could be an upsurge."

But for victory in the difficult struggle against the debt, for economic development, and for peace, Risquet urged the audience not to "count only on the people of Latin America."

"For that victory," he said, to a burst of applause, "we count on the North American people."

Challenge of fighting travel ban

In reviewing their work, brigadistas discussed the challenges of mounting a fight against U.S. restraints on travel to Cuba.

They also saluted the Julio Antonio Mella camp work crew for the top-notch effort of maintaining food and facilities for the more than 300 brigadistas and Cubans who utilized it.

Several days earlier, at the conclusion of the brigade's symbolic voluntary work, contingent leader Ken Jones summed up the feelings of the brigadistas in brief remarks in the spacious backyard of a rural hacienda that was once the property of a long-departed capitalist.

With its efforts, he said, the brigade is helping "to repay an internationalist debt to Cuba," which is "redefining internationalism in the world."

"We are saying, 'Thank you Cuba,' he said. "Thank you for your consistent internationalism, for defeating the South African racists at Cuito Cuanavale. Thank you, Cuba, for your consistent support to the Nicaraguan revolution, for consistently supporting independence for Puerto Rico, for fighting, working, and dying all over the world."

The brigadistas and their Cuban *compañeros* cheered. "We are committed," Jones said, "to continually building solidarity with Cuba, to working to end the blockade, to fighting the travel ban. No matter what the U.S. government says, we will be back."

Subscribe to 'Perspectiva Mundial'

Challenge posed by Eastern strike

As a reader of the *Militant* you are familiar with our weekly coverage of the struggles of working people around the world.

If you can read or are studying Spanish, there is a complementary monthly magazine for you: *Perspectiva Mundial*. PM is a Spanish-language socialist magazine that carries many of the same articles you read in the *Militant*.

In June PM carries an article on the roots, strength, and challenges of the strike by the International Association of Machinists against Eastern.

From when it began on March 4, the strikers have presented the ruling families of the United States with a significant fight. With the support of flight attendants and pilots, the Machinists have brought the company's operations to a halt, something no other national strike has been able to accomplish in recent years. And the strikers are winning broad support from other unionists.



Subscriptions:
Introductory offer: \$3 for six months; \$9 for one year.

☐ Begin my sub with current issue.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Clip and mail to PM, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

How crisis affects Nicaragua steel plant

Many workers laid off, as country's industrial output falls

BY JUDY WHITE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Industrial production in Nicaragua fell by 32 percent in 1988. And, according to Minister of the Economy Luis Carrión, the drop has been even greater in the first quarter of this year.

Eduardo Mora, general manager of the state-owned textile plant Fanatex and president of the Association of Businessmen of Nicaragua, gave an idea of the depth of this crisis in an interview published April 24 in the Sandinista daily *Barricada*. "The truth is that 70 percent of our industry is collapsing," he said. "If it has survived up to now, it is thanks to the existence of inventories of products and heavy indebtedness. Both of these alternatives have been exhausted with the resulting risk to the jobs of some 30,000 workers."

This fall in production has had a big impact on the workers at Imep, a state-owned factory that manufactures structural steel products for use in agricultural and livestock production.

"We have gone through a radical change with regard to production and marketing," Julio Valladares, general manager of Imep, said in an interview.

"Last year our production plans were based on using the plant's capacity to the fullest." However, the austerity program instituted by the Nicaraguan government early in 1989 "reduced demand for Imep's products to almost nothing," he continued.

"We used to have no problem selling everything we produced. Now, we don't make a single windmill or feed grinder without having a client who has ordered the item," Valladares continued.

Despite the reorganization of production, however, Imep has quite a stockpile of water tanks and other steel structures rusting away in front of the plant. "The few customers who are interested don't have the cash to buy now," the manager commented.

More than 25 percent laid off

A work force that had been stable for several years at 350 is now down by 100 workers. The layoffs affected office and factory personnel in equal proportions, according to the plant manager. "Most of those laid off in the factory were helpers," he said. "Among administrative personnel, all job classifications were hit."

"The union's policy is to protect the worker with most seniority," explained Vidal Cruz, a leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) at Imep. "We try to protect those who have been here since the victory of the revolution in 1979, those who worked to build up the company after the triumph."

"And, of course, pregnant women can't be laid off or youth who have done their military service," Cruz said.

"We also exempt heads of families with only one breadwinner and mothers of soldiers on active duty," added Valladares.

Throughout the country there have been many complaints about how the workers to be laid off are picked. Many enterprises and government offices have let it be known that "less efficient workers" would be the first to go.

As one woman textile worker commented, "I'd rather be fired than laid off. If you're laid off, everyone thinks it is because you're not a good worker. How are you going to get another job?"

However, at Imep, Cruz said, decisions on who would be laid off were reached through discussion between the union leadership and management. A few veterans were included, but they were laid off because of "discipline problems." Some young people have quit, too, he said. "With the situation the company is in, their future as workers didn't look promising to them."

In contrast to general practice on past layoffs, those who left Imep in 1989 received no severance pay. However, they did get a food basket — *canasta*, as it is called here — of six basic food products to tide them over for two months.

Project for laid-off workers

Valladares reported that Imep is participating in the CST campaign to relocate laid-off workers on collective farms. He described this as a joint effort between the union, FSLN members at Imep, and management.

"We project sending a group to the Fifth Region in central Nicaragua," Cruz said, "but we haven't done it yet. We have asked for a farm accessible enough for us to bring the company's products out there and set up a sales outlet for them."

"Our goal is to prevent Imep from losing these workers," Valladares explained. The company hopes to be able to reincorporate them into the plant "when things pick up." They also view the project as a chance to "establish a collective farm that would be a testing center for our products."

While waiting for an "accessible farm," however, neither the union nor management has kept tabs on the 100 laid-off workers.

Interviews with two production workers showed another side of what has happened with the fall in production.

Alfredo José Sandino has worked at Imep for 14 years. Bernardo García has two and a half years there. Both feel the decline in real wages is "critical." Before, with what they earned extra for overtime, things were not bad. Now, both of them reported, their wives earn more than they do, selling soda and vegetables from their homes.

"My wife tells me to quit and work with

her at home so we can live better," said García. "But I won't do it. I have the working class in my blood."

Referring to government policies linking wage increases to profitability of enterprises, Cruz said, "We've accepted the fact that our wages have stagnated, because of the drop in sales. A year ago you could buy quite a bit with your wages. Now, you earn three times as much, and it isn't enough to buy the basic necessities for the house."

However, the union does discuss with management on a month-to-month basis possible incentive pay to help out the work force, he reported.

"For example, the last 12 people to be laid off were top administrators," Cruz explained. "The 5 million córdobas the company saved with that layoff went to the factory workers who remain in the plant."

Benefits cut

"We've had to make some sacrifices on benefits too," Cruz reported. "Transportation subsidies have been cut for some workers. The number of products in the *canasta* is down to six, from 12 to 15. The meals aren't as good as they were four months ago, but they are still free. So is the *canasta*."

Jobless workers aim to open collective farms



Militant/Judy White

Unemployed workers from Managua, organized by Sandinista Workers Federation, board truck to head for countryside where they were to establish collective farm.

BY JUDY WHITE

ASTURIAS, Nicaragua — "We have a problem, which means we won't be able to reach Los Alpes today," reported Denis Lara to a group of 30 workers, mainly from the construction trades. They had spent several hours on the back of a truck en route to a state farm in north-central Nicaragua where they expected to begin a new life cultivating the land.

This brigade was the latest of 15 groups of 20 to 45 unemployed workers who have been sent in recent weeks to become, according to Lara, "the future landowners of the countryside."

Lara is in charge of the construction trades for the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) and accompanied the contingent from Managua to Asturias.

According to Lara, the delay the contingent faced was the result of coordination difficulties with the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Reform (MIDINRA).

José Benito González, the CST leader heading up the relocated workers in this contingent and in a group that reached the area two months earlier, described the problem in more detail.

"When we first raised the relocation project with MIDINRA in Jinotega, they listed off a whole series of farms that were available, that weren't being fully worked," he said. "But when it came right down to it, MIDINRA was working off a theoretical map. They hadn't been out in the field to see exactly what was available."

Getting unemployed workers relocated

"Here on the Monterrey collective farm," González reported, "we have 32 members. Agrarian Reform has given us 69 acres of coffee and 17 for corn. It's not enough. I told them I can't have my people standing around idle. So we grabbed some more land. MIDINRA didn't like that. They say it belongs to some lawyer, but we can see it is not being worked."

It is González's opinion that "bureaucratic requirements have seriously affected bringing these abandoned farms into production in line with the government's goal of reactivating the economy."

Other government institutions have shown a similar "lack of seriousness," González said.

"We haven't received one iota of help from the bank. We haven't felt its presence here at

Imep also has a commissary for the workers, but "sometimes the prices are higher than in the market," Sandino said. "And sometimes it isn't that well stocked."

As a result of the pressure on companies such as Imep to become more competitive, "there have been more frictions between management and the workers," Cruz said. "The workers aren't used to taking orders from on high," he stated, without having a chance to discuss them out in an assembly of the work force.

Valladares agreed. "The problem is that the measures are handed down without explanation. This leads the workers to demand information. The situation is difficult, and the explanations alone aren't enough. "However, he concluded, things have worked out, because "the workers have confidence in the Sandinista Front."

"There is a certain resentment among some workers," noted Cruz. "And you can't be mechanical in giving explanations and confronting problems. The situation has its positive and negative sides. You have to give a concrete answer. Sometimes you can't just give a political line with the long-range solutions."

all," he noted, pointing out that the spring planting season is about to open and that coffee bushes should have been pruned and weeded by now to ensure a good yield of Nicaragua's number one export crop. The delay in granting loans for the spring planting is an annual complaint in Nicaragua, one voiced by all farmers. But, because their collective farms are just starting up, the CST feels they should get special treatment.

The CST met with MIDINRA and other government agencies three days later to resolve the problem of where the 30 construction workers would be located.

In an interview following the meeting, Lara said that the contingent had been taken to La Danta, another state farm that, like Los Alpes, is being deeded over to individual workers and peasants to work collectively.

Abandoned farm occupied

"The problem with Los Alpes," Lara said, "was that it got out of MIDINRA's hands. With the war ending and these state farms becoming available to individual farmers, the peasant in the mountains wants to move to that state farm, to that coffee or cattle hacienda, which had been abandoned."

"We couldn't go to Los Alpes, because the peasants from Wiwilí, Pantasma, and Asturias had occupied the land there. So we took the contingent to La Danta."

The project to relocate unemployed urban workers to the countryside was launched by the CST in 1988, after several thousand industrial workers and government employees were laid off. The call of the Nicaraguan government to strengthen the agroexport sector of the country's economy, along with new layoffs since January, has led the union to place the campaign at the center of its work.

Up to now, however, the project has gotten mostly verbal support from the government. For example, food for the relocated workers until they harvest their first crop is being supplied by the CST.

Carlos Alberto Villareina, a former machine operator for the Nicaraguan Institute of Waterways and Sewers, described the impact the lack of other material resources has had on his contingent. The group has been at Monterrey since mid-February.

"We've had three people seriously cut with machetes," he said, "not because of their lack of experience as much as because the machetes we got are bad. They won't hold an edge. And we don't have enough files to keep them sharp."

These injuries are a serious problem because the collective farm does not have a health center nor a vehicle to transport people to the town of Asturias for treatment.

Constructing housing and a school also are on the list of projects for the contingent. "Right now almost all of us are living in a barracks," Villareina said. "And we need a

Continued on Page 13

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Demonstration at South African Consulate. Speakers from African National Congress of South Africa and South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia. Sat., May 27, 12 noon to 3 p.m. 50 N La Cienega Blvd., Beverly Hills. Sponsor: Friends of the ANC.

Ten Years After the Grenada Revolution: The Caribbean and Central America Today. Speaker: Don Rojas: secretary for propaganda and information, Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America; former press secretary to Grenada's assassinated prime minister Maurice Bishop. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 2. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. First African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2270 S Harvard. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Nicaragua, Cuba, and Revolutionary Perspectives Today. A discussion series for workers and activists held every Monday 6-8 p.m. and Tuesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in May and June. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

San Francisco

Stop U.S. Support for Death-Squad Government in El Salvador. Demonstrate Thurs., June 1. Gather 7 p.m. at 24th and Mission, march to Union Square. Sponsor: Bay Area Call to Action to Stop U.S. War in El Salvador. For more information call (415) 648-8222.

FLORIDA

Miami

Postal Workers Brigade to Nicaragua. Join U.S. and Canadian letter carriers, clerks, and mailhandlers. Tour and meet with postal-telecommunications union of Nicaragua, and with other labor, women's, neighborhood, farmer, and youth groups; work alongside Nicaraguan postal workers to help reconstruct war- and hurricane-damaged facilities; join celebration of 10th anniversary of July 19, 1979, overthrow of Somoza dictatorship. July 11-20. Cost: \$900

from Miami (includes airfare, hotel, two meals per day, guide translator). Scholarship donations welcome. For more information contact Postal Workers for Peace, P.O. Box 37-0135, Miami, Fla. 33137; (305) 435-0392.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Drug Trade: A Highly Profitable Capitalist Business. Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Celebration of Successful Militant Subscription Drive. Memorial Day picnic. Sun., May 28, 3 p.m. 854 N Harding (near Chicago and Pulaski, NW side of Chicago). Donation: \$5, children \$2.50. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

IOWA

Des Moines

U.S. Hands Off Panama! Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Socialist Campaign Picnic. Meet Cathy Sedwick, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor. Sun., May 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Branch Brook Park (south of Heller Parkway and Lake St.) Sponsor: New Jersey Socialist Workers 1989 Campaign. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

OREGON

Portland

Cuba Now: A Report from Recent Visitors. Speakers: Steve Craine, participant in April trip to Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade; others.

Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

The Politics of the AIDS Crisis. Speaker: Peter Thierjung, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., June 18, 4 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

Timber Monopolies vs. Working People. A panel discussion on the log-export referendum, fight to protect old forests, and how to defend jobs of workers in wood industry. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

TEXAS

Houston

The Housing Crisis. Speakers: Gladys House, Freedman's Town Association; Joan Dinckler, Houston Housing Concern; Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 3, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

China: Behind the Demonstrations. Speaker: Terry Hardy, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 10, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

BRITAIN

London

Socialist Educational and Activist Confer-

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Socialist Educational Weekend. In Defense of Communism — Perestroika and Capitalism, the Growing Imperialist Crisis, the Cuban Revolution and Marxist Leadership Today. Speaker: Doug Jenness, editor of the *Militant*. Sat., May 27, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. **The Political Tasks for Revolutionary Workers Today.** A presentation by Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party national organization secretary. Sun., May 28, 9 a.m. **Cuba's Place in the World Struggle for Socialism.** A class by Doug Jenness. Sun., May 28, 1:30 p.m. All events held at Holiday Inn downtown, Lobby Ballroom, 600 Kanawha Blvd. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

ence. Sun., May 28-Mon., May 29. "The Fight for a World Communist Leadership." Sun., May 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. followed by classes 4 p.m.-6 p.m. "Cuba and the Transition to Socialism." Mon., May 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. Sponsor: Communist League. For more information call 01-401-2293.

CANADA

Toronto

The Federal Budget Deepens the Attack Against Working People. Speaker: Gary Kettner, Revolutionary Workers League, garment worker. Sat., May 27, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W. Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Wide coverage for Socialist Workers Morgantown, W. Virginia, campaign

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council, and his supporters have concluded two months of strenuous campaigning. In a race against Mayor Kenneth Randolph for the Sixth Ward seat, McBride got 370 votes — about 20 percent citywide and 25 percent in the Sixth Ward, which is mostly Black and working class.

Voters here vote citywide for each of the seats on the council, even though each seat officially represents a single ward.

On April 12 police arrested about 80 people in Morgantown in a "drug test," and City Manager Dennis Poluga urged random drug testing of city employees. A few days later, the mayor and city council held a joint news conference to call for measures that included testing of some workers.

McBride denounced Poluga's plan as an attack on the right to privacy that "paves the way for victimization of city workers who fight for better job conditions." The statement was picked up widely in the media here.

Mayor Randolph refused to debate the issue with McBride, although several professors at West Virginia University wanted to have them present their views to classes. The

mayor said, however, that he would be campaigning "extra hard" because of "philosophical differences" with McBride.

Students at "U-92," the university radio station, organized a debate between McBride, a conservative, and a liberal. "The program was great," the socialist candidate said. "I was able to discuss my support for the Cuban revolution and its communist leadership."

McBride called for "affirmative action in hiring, housing, and student enrollment" at the university, where only 3 percent of the more than 18,000 students are Black.

McBride frequently pointed out that a major economic crisis is in the making. "Among other things," he said, "I advocated '30 for 40' — 30 hours' work for what is today 40 hours' pay. Reducing the workweek with no cut in pay would reduce unemployment. I advocated measures that would point toward working people fighting to defend themselves against the efforts of the employers to make us pay for the coming economic catastrophes."

Subscribe to the Militant

VANCOUVER, Canada

Socialist Educational Conference

May 27 & 28

V.C.C. Langara Campus, Student Union Building
100 West 49th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.

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

Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Militant correspondent just returned from Panama. Sat., May 27, 2:30 p.m.

The Eastern Airlines Strike: The Stakes for Working People

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

The Coming Recession and the Myth of the Free Trade Threat and the Road Forward for Labor

Speaker: John Steele, leader of the Revolutionary Workers League. Sun., May 28, 10:00 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.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Lutte ouvrière*.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 1306 1st Ave. N. Mailing address: P.O. Box 11963. Zip: 35202. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: 1809 W. Indian School Rd. Zip: 85015. Tel: (602) 279-5850. **Tucson:** c/o Ursula Kolb, P.O. Box 853. Zip: 85702-0852. Tel: (602) 795-2146.

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

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 NE 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 877-9338.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd Floor. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 6826 S. Stony Island Ave. Zip: 60649. Tel: (312) 363-7322.

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

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip:

50311. Tel: (515) 246-1695.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: P.O. Box 4103. Zip: 40204-4103.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: P.O. Box 53224. Zip: 70153. Tel: (504) 484-6418.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 605 Massachusetts Ave. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Austin: 407 1/2 N. Main. Zip: 55912. Tel: (507) 433-3461. **Twin Cities:** 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: 5534 Troost Ave. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 444-7880. **St. Louis:** 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

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

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

NEW YORK: Brooklyn: 464 Bergen St. Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 398-6983. **Mid-Hudson:** Box 1042, Annandale. Zip: 12504. Tel: (914) 758-0408. **New York:** 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2219 E

Market. Zip 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

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

OREGON: Portland: 2730 NE Union. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 9 E. Cheltenham Ave. Zip: 19144. Tel: (215) 848-5044. **Pittsburgh:** 4905 Penn Ave. Zip 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 4806 Alameda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

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.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

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: Klappartíg 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.

Better watch his step — "HAYWARD, Calif. (AP) — Two police officers beat a blind man with their batons after mistaking



Harry Ring

his collapsible cane for an illegal martial arts weapon, the authorities said."

Item: — "The sound . . . contains an estimated 262 trillion gallons of water into which more than 10 million gallons of crude oil

were plunked. That's the equivalent, they say in Valdez, of a teaspoon of liquid in an Olympic-size swimming pool. The toxicity level rose only momentarily — and microscopically." — *A New York Times* op-ed column by Jack Hilton, who was hired by Exxon to make a video film of the Alaskan oil spill.

Item: — "Tar and sludge from the nation's largest oil spill is fouling the beaches of Katmai National Park in Alaska, threatening hundreds of sea otters and birds as well as the refuge's huge brown bears. The damage stretches along 260 miles of rugged coast southwest from Cape Douglas. . . . At its southernmost tip, the oil has spread

more than 500 miles." — Associated Press.

Item: — "More than 20 tons of animals killed by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill wait in deep freeze while Exxon and government officials try to agree on a way to dispose of the carcasses. The dead include more than 9,400 birds and 600 sea otters." — *Washington Post*.

Stop fretting — U.S. officials told Japan not to lose sleep over that hydrogen bomb lost overboard near Okinawa from a U.S. ship 24 years ago. The bomb probably did burst open, they conceded, but the nuclear material is so dense it probably settled quickly on the ocean floor, mixing with other sediment. Thus, there is "no environmental impact."

Maybe it will tour Japan — In preparation for public display, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington is restoring to mint condition the B-29 that dropped the A-bomb on Hiroshima, killing up to 130,000 people. "We're restoring the plane back to the day it dropped the bomb, right down to the potty can," enthused the shop foreman.

Spoke too fast? — A British consortium has been working on a secret deal to build a plant in Morocco that would burn 4 million pounds of toxic waste a day. The wheeler-dealers neglected to mention to Morocco's King Hassan that the waste would be toxic. A spokesman said the words had

probably been "lost in translation."

It might be — Reacting to the disclosure that a government scientist was forced to water down his warning on the greenhouse effect, a disturbed White House staffer said the action stemmed from the kind of philosophy that says "belief in the environment is threatening to capitalism."

Health food nut — Britain's environment secretary, Nicholas Ridley, advised farmers to tap the growing consumer demand for organic produce. He added, "I personally view it as a way for you to rip off the customer by charging more for identical produce. But you need a break sometimes!"

'In Defense of Socialism': speeches by Fidel Castro

Continued from Page 9

Angolan army, Cuban volunteers, and fighters from the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) dealt a decisive military defeat to South Africa's invading troops at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola. Castro discusses this battle and its political significance at some length in the first speech in this collection.

Following its defeat in that battle, the apartheid regime was compelled to negotiate the withdrawal of its troops from Angola. In addition, Pretoria agreed for the first

time to begin compliance with United Nations Resolution 435, which outlines the steps toward Namibia's independence from South African colonial rule.

As Castro explains in these speeches, however, further steps in the process will not be taken without ongoing struggle, nor is the outcome assured. But the victory registered at Cuito Cuanavale was a historic turning point for all Africa. It was the fruit of 13 years of collaboration in the battle against South African aggression, a collaboration that has won Cuba the respect and admira-

tion of anti-apartheid forces the world over.

The political stance of Cuba's communist leadership could not be expressed more clearly than in Castro's Dec. 5, 1988, speech. He asserts the simple revolutionary truth that Cuba stands shoulder to shoulder with those confronting the apartheid regime, because "whoever is incapable of fighting for others will never be capable of fighting for himself."

Two types of peace

Cuba's solidarity with others around the world fighting for national liberation, for socialism, and for peace is rooted in the convictions expressed so eloquently in these pages. "The question of humanity's survival is a problem that concerns us all; peace is a problem that concerns us all," Castro told the half million Cubans gathered for the Armed Forces Day rally on Dec. 5, 1988. "But even survival and peace have different meanings for different countries. There are two types of survival and two types of peace: survival for the rich and survival for the poor, peace for the rich and peace for the poor." As long as there is injustice and inequality in the world, he stated, that will remain unchanged.

Cuba rejects the imperialist conception of peace, Castro affirmed on Jan. 4, 1989, "whereby peace is understood as being be-

tween the big powers, while at the same time they reserve the right to oppress, exploit, threaten, and attack the countries of the Third World. . . .

"We want peace and must strive for it. But we want a peace for all peoples, a peace with rights for all the peoples of the world! Peace with respect, peace with rights, peace with independence, peace with security for all peoples of the world, that's what we must fight for!"

The speeches in this book are eloquent testimony to the vanguard political role of the Cuban revolution and to the communist leadership it is giving to the defense of socialism on a world scale. They deserve to be read and studied by all those who are searching for answers to the great questions facing humanity today.

Originally published in English in *Granma Weekly Review*, the translations of these speeches have been revised by Pathfinder for this volume. Other speeches by Fidel Castro that are quoted in this introduction are available in English from Pathfinder.

May 1, 1989

Curtis on prison censorship

Continued from Page 4

ers are out allegedly to look for "unauthorized possessions. Someone witnessed a guard removing the Spanish dictionary Curtis had checked out of the library from his cell. The guard took it downstairs and then returned it.

Can't share literature

It's against prison rules to pass anything to another inmate, said Curtis. This includes books, newspapers, cassette tapes, arts and crafts, cigarettes, candy bars, gum, or whatever. The only exception to this is if you are at work and need to pass on something as part of your job. Curtis knew of one case where a prisoner took a magazine offered by another inmate and was written up for it. Severe penalties can be imposed for violating this policy.

Prisoners are also not allowed to send or receive letters from other prisoners or from minors who don't have permission from their parents.

Curtis said he's determined to fight the denial of Spanish and other language literature. "I've been talking to a lot of people about it," he said. They get angry and want to do something, said Curtis. "People here like a fight. They say, 'I don't see how they can deny you this stuff.'"

Prisoners Curtis spoke to supported the idea of a public protest campaign against this policy and they know the authorities try

to isolate them from the world, and prisoners try to resist this, Curtis said.

Inmates elect a Resident Council that meets periodically with representatives of the prison to raise complaints—from the need for more athletic equipment to shorter waiting lines for food to the need for a better TV antenna system to improve the reception.

A member of the council told Curtis he would bring up the restrictions on non-English language literature at the next meeting. "We had a discussion about why we shouldn't just fight to make an exception for me, but why it's an important right for everybody here. Another person suggested filing a grievance against the policy."

On May 12 Curtis was called up to the chapel — the Church of the Good Thief — to speak with a Black minister from Des Moines. The minister had met with members of the Curtis defense committee and told Curtis he would do whatever he can to help him get literature. "He knew my case was very unjust and compared it" to those of victims of racist frame-ups in the area.

A couple of Mexican prisoners took Curtis up to the music room over the weekend and played him songs from Mexico saying, "If they won't give you any Spanish magazines, we'll give you some music."

(To be continued)

Jobless workers go to countryside

Continued from Page 11

school for the children and for adult education. But what we need most is a vehicle."

Lara also addressed the question of supplies for the collective farms.

"The CST is making big efforts to guarantee the workers rice, beans, cooking oil, sugar, soap, rubber boots — everything basic to subsistence. Even medicine."

But to carry out the project on the scale the union is projecting, Lara continued, "we are going to need strong international help. What we're asking for fundamentally are machetes, blankets, rubber boots, hoes, picks, shovels, and axes," Lara said. "Somehow or other we will get the basic foodstuffs for the workers, but these other things have to be imported. That's why we are asking for help with them from the solidarity movement."

Participate in a Cuba tour

Trade unionists, solidarity activists, students, and others will be touring Cuba August 13–27. Departure is from Toronto, Canada. Program will include visits to factories, medical center, and a family doctor office. Meetings with workers and leaders of the Cuban Workers Federation, as well as participation in voluntary labor, are scheduled.

Group will stay at the Julio Antonio Mella International Center, and the program is organized by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples.

Cost is Cdn.\$850, including Toronto-Havana airfares, lodging, ground transportation in Cuba, and three meals a day. For more information call tour coordinator Linda Grabovsky at (416) 467-8809.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢

June 1, 1979

To avoid further contact with high levels of lead, women employed at American Cyanamid at Willow Island, West Virginia, had to "choose" between getting sterilized or transferring to lower-paying jobs.

In Kellogg, Idaho, the Bunker Hill Co. a lead smelter, demanded that 31 female employees receive pregnancy tests. Those who refused were fired. All women of child-bearing age, pregnant or not, were denied jobs on the basis that lead can damage the fetus.

The Danville, Illinois, plant of Allied Chemical laid off five women because the fluorocarbons used in manufacturing refrigerants could harm their offspring. Two women got sterilized in order to keep their jobs.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

June 1, 1964

NEW YORK, May 22 — Malcolm X returned from Africa yesterday and held a press conference a few hours later at Harlem's Hotel Theresa. He explained that on his trip to the Mideast and Africa he had lined up support in the countries he visited for bringing charges in the United Nations that the human rights of the Negro people in the United States were being denied.

Many of the reporters' questions were directed to finding out whether his trip had

changed Malcolm X's views about this country — whether he now thought that integration with whites was a possible solution. In reply he said, as he had before his trip, that "integration" and "separation" were not valid terms but that he was for the use of any tactic or strategy that would bring the Negroes freedom, justice, and equality. At one point he said, "I, personally, don't believe that integration will solve the problem in this country."

In describing the warm welcome received all over Africa, he told how Africans stressed to him the need for a united front of the Negro people. He said that he would work for such a united front and had written to Bayard Rustin, Rev. Milton Galamison, and other civil rights leaders while on his trip. He said he would try to get all the civil rights leaders together to discuss joint action privately.

Commenting on the civil rights bill before Congress, Malcolm X said that he did not think any of the politicians were really for civil rights and that they were being very hypocritical. He singled out President Lyndon Johnson on this question and pointed out that his good friend, Richard Russell, was leading the Senate fight against the bill.

When asked whether he thought Negroes should return to Africa, Malcolm X replied that after speaking to African leaders he was convinced, "If black men become involved in a philosophical, cultural, and psychological migration back to Africa, they will benefit greatly in this country."

He went on to say that many African countries would welcome American Negroes, but that he thought Negroes should stay and fight in the United States for what was rightfully theirs.

Chinese students demand rights

Working people, students, and all supporters of democratic rights around the world have been inspired by the massive popular protests against the current regime that have rocked China in recent weeks.

Television cameras in Beijing's Tiananmen Square have multiplied the impact of and interest in the upheaval. That's why the government moved to ban satellite transmissions as it declared martial law.

The students are revolting against restrictions on the right to speak, to demonstrate, to write, and to travel. They are also spurred by China's profound economic crisis and widespread government corruption. Their fight to expand the political space in which the people of the world's most populous country can organize has won the support of millions of workers and peasants in China.

The students have shown resolve, courage, and discipline in their struggle. Their initiative to help win over the troops sent in to suppress their demonstrations has helped prevent the regime from using the army to disperse the youth. The huge movement for democracy has deepened the divisions within the bureaucratic ruling caste, with a wing of the military and government officials coming out openly against martial law and in support of the students.

The workers and peasants of China fought in their tens of millions to overthrow landlordism and an imperialist-backed regime and wrest their country from the exploit-

ative grip of Washington. Ever since the 1949 triumph of their revolution, however, the country has been governed by a bureaucratic caste, dominated by the authoritarian, dictatorial policies of the Communist Party.

The level of democratic rights and political space in China has been narrowed to far less than what working people have been able to win and maintain in capitalist countries that have parliamentary democracies.

Still very much alive in China today is the terrifying memory of Mao Tse-tung's so-called Cultural Revolution launched in 1966 — with its forced removal of millions from the cities into the countryside, massive purges, and widespread jailings, beatings, and armed clashes resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths.

The students have focused their demands on trying to open things up a bit, to have some freedom of the press, freedom to speak, to demonstrate, to discuss, to dissent.

"They demand press freedom, which is something we need, too," said a Beijing iron worker who participated in the demonstrations, referring to the students. "Now we have no freedom at all."

The Chinese students' demands for democratic rights are in the interests of all working people — not only in China, but throughout the world. They are progressive, and they deserve support.

Challenges for Eastern strike

Continued from front page

Eastern workers have already gained significant strength and experience.

From the beginning, the Machinists' and flight attendants' success in winning over the pilots devastated Eastern's plans to keep flying through a strike. This put the strikers in a strong position from the outset.

The strikers' achievement in bringing Eastern's operations to a halt has inspired working people from Kansas City to Montréal with confidence that resistance to the employers is possible. The broad popular support won by the strikers has given the lie to the bosses' claim that strike struggles and even unions themselves are rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

A visit to Miami's International Airport provides strong evidence that the opposite is true. There on the tarmac sit banks of Eastern's planes, grounded by the strike. They haven't moved since March 4.

The success of the Eastern walkout has also given new confidence to other workers seeking to advance their interests by taking strike action — from coal miners in Virginia and West Virginia to teachers in California, and restaurant workers in New York City. Members of the Communications Workers of America, whose contract with AT&T expires May 27 and who have voted to authorize a strike, have been coming to Eastern picket lines around the country in greater numbers, "getting in practice" for their own fight, as one CWA member put it.

Activists around the country campaigning to defend legal abortion, New York students striking against tuition hikes, and other fighters have also been inspired by the Eastern workers.

The Eastern unionists have already had to confront several important challenges since the strike started.

One has been the bankruptcy proceedings that began March 9. With the protection of the federal bankruptcy court, Texas Air Chairman Frank Lorenzo is now seeking to restart operations and break the unions by finding a way around the strike. Far from standing in the way of this, the bankruptcy court will facilitate it. The job of the bankruptcy courts is to protect social capital, that is, the assets of Lorenzo and the capitalist ruling families as a whole. The interests of the workers aren't part of the picture.

It has become rare indeed to see a newspaper story or TV spot on the strike that isn't centered on the bankruptcy court. But there is little the unions can do to affect what happens in these proceedings, and efforts in that direction divert attention from what the workers can accomplish: deeper mobilization and organization of the ranks of the strikers, and widening the solidarity from other working people and unions, especially the rest of the International Association of Machinists.

What Eastern's owners confront in their scramble for higher profits is determined by the competition they face from other airlines and by conditions in the economy in general. By the time the strike started, Eastern was already highly leveraged, with \$2.5 billion in long-term debt. It is more than likely that the carrier would have ended up in bankruptcy court even if the strike hadn't occurred.

The idea that the unions' objective is to help make the company profitable — whether under Lorenzo, Trump, or whatever new owners the airline, or parts of it, might end up with — is one that disorients the unions and undercuts the workers' ability to put their own interests first.

The proposed sale of Eastern to Peter Ueberroth was another challenge the strikers had to face, and work through. Many strikers had a favorable reaction to the sale, in part because it posed the possibility of a resolution of the strike and in part because of hopes that Ueberroth — promoted by the media and union officials as a smart capitalist — could turn Eastern into a going concern.

But many workers were also opposed to the \$210 million in concessions that Ueberroth was demanding from them for the deal to go through, and felt that the unions were strong enough to win a better settlement.

After that buyout collapsed, more strikers realized that they had to look to themselves to move the strike forward, and that other workers were their strongest ally in the fight against Eastern.

As the strike has gone on, more and more Eastern workers have become less and less willing to accept pay cuts, degrading work conditions, and weakened unions as a precondition for settling the strike.

Millions of workers see in the Eastern battle a possibility for working people to hold the line against the capitalists' antiunion offensive, and perhaps to even gain a little ground. Each passing week has brought more support for the strikers and what they are fighting for.

New opportunities are opening up to bring the weight of even more unions and workers into the battle, as the coming solidarity tour and rally with the United Mine Workers in West Virginia shows. The support of the AFL-CIO for the walkout means the possibilities for extending this are opened wide.

Walking the Eastern picket lines, organizing meetings and rallies, and making donations of food and money are some of the efforts that can aid the strikers. In some cities, other airline workers have thrown themselves into the strike as if it were their own.

Now is the time for unionists and other activists who support the Eastern strike to step up efforts to deepen and extend solidarity with their fight. This is what will give the strikers the firmest ground to stand on as they work through the challenges that are still ahead.

Next recession: What shape will workers be in?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Are we headed toward a recession? And, if so, when and how severe will it be?

These are questions that have been posed in many articles in the big-business press in the past several months. *Business Week*, for example, has carried articles with the following headlines: "A kinder, gentler business cycle?" (March 6); "How bad will the next downturn be? Flip a coin" (April 10); and "Are we headed for the fabled soft landing?" (April 24).

A few commentators go so far as to say that the traditional upswings and downturns of the capitalist business

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

cycle may be a thing of the past. Some are predicting that a downturn is coming soon, but it will be soft; others say it will come later, but hit hard.

Whatever one's estimate about the timing and severity of the next recession, one thing is certain: it is definitely coming. This is just about as sure as the sun coming up in the morning in the east and setting in the west. For more than 150 years the cyclical regularity of upturns and recessions has been one of the most predictable phenomena of capitalist society.

Another thing is guaranteed too about the coming recession. When it hits, in the next year or two, working people will be in worse shape going into it than they were prior to the last two big recessions in 1974-75 and 1981-82. And that makes us more vulnerable to the ill effects of the downturn.

One indication of this is that the poorest sectors of the working class are even poorer than they were before. Last year, the Congressional Budget Office found that while earnings of a typical family in the highest-paid 20 percent of all families rose more than 11 percent from 1979 to 1987, they fell 6.1 percent for the poorest 20 percent.

The report noted that families headed by workers under 30 have been hit disproportionately harder than older workers. Young workers earn 58 percent less than older workers today. Fifteen years ago, young workers earned 38 percent less.

One result is that, according to the federal standard for poverty (in 1987, incomes lower than \$11,611 for a family of four), the proportion of workers under 30 living in poverty has nearly doubled since 1973, rising to 22 percent. And the proportion of children living in poverty has risen from 14 percent in 1973 to 20 percent in 1987.

The gap between the income of Blacks and whites has also widened in the past decade. Black per capita income in 1978 was 59.4 percent of that for whites, and in 1987 it was 57.5 percent.

At the same time, however, social differentiation among Blacks has deepened. Since 1979 the spread between the most well-off 20 percent of Black families and the 20 percent with the lowest income has shot up by 29 percent.

In some big cities like New York there has been an especially big increase in poverty in spite of what has been touted as a decade of prosperity. According to U.S. Census Bureau figures, nearly one of every four New York City residents was below the poverty level in 1987. This was a sharp rise from 19 percent in 1978, and it came in spite of a big gain in new jobs in the city.

A *New York Times* headline announced April 15 that the "Ranks of the Homeless Grow Despite the Millions Spent." Even though the New York City government is spending more than \$300 million for the homeless this year, the article reported, a record number of homeless are seeking refuge in city shelters. The Coalition for the Homeless places the number of homeless in the city at 30,000.

As a section of the working population has become increasingly impoverished, there has also been an erosion of the benefits that could provide some cushion to a period of massive layoffs. This includes unemployment insurance and government benefits based on need, such as Medicaid and Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

Along this line, there is a dangerous trend developing of state governments cutting contributions to pension funds in order to solve short-term budget problems. Pension funds are heavily invested in stocks and bonds, and state officials calculate that they can cut taxpayers' contributions and use those funds for something else, if they are able to make investments that give a better return. Today, they are able to do this and meet their obligations to retirees, but come a recession stock portfolios will suffer and pensions will be endangered.

Some journalists refer to the development of an "underclass" when referring to the growth of poverty during the past decade. This, however, hides the reality that the homeless, unemployed, and minimum-wage workers are part of a class — the working class. They, in fact, are the advanced detachments of millions more workers who are going to be joining them when the next recession hits.

What Hillsborough soccer disaster has revealed

BY JOHN SMITH

SHEFFIELD, England — In the week following the April 15 disaster at Hillsborough soccer stadium in South Yorkshire, where 95 Liverpool fans were crushed to death, 1 million people visited Liverpool's home football ground to leave floral tributes and messages of sympathy and solidarity. Liverpool's working-class community has been united in intense grief — and — fury at the police,

AS I SEE IT

media, and football authorities, who have sought to shift blame for the tragedy onto the fans.

The disaster was the culmination of a series of decisions by police and football authorities, each one of which revealed an attitude of contempt for the lives of working people. A number of specific decisions and actions of the police have attracted scorching public criticism, but the controversy has extended to several more general issues:

- The decision to construct metal cages at football grounds up and down the country, often topped with spikes or barbed wire. It was against such a cage fence that the 95 were crushed to death.

- The fact that a meager £70 million (US\$120 million) has been spent on safety improvements in the whole of Britain since the Safety at Sports Grounds Act of 1975. The government meanwhile takes £280 million a year in taxes just from the pools (money gambled on the results of soccer matches) each year.

Within two days of the disaster, South Yorkshire police chiefs started feeding the media with lurid stories of drunken fans attacking police and robbing the bodies of the dead.

Liverpool fans were outraged at these allegations. When Britain's largest circulation daily, the *Sun*, gave headline coverage to the police claims, it immediately became the subject of a mass boycott and public burnings in Liverpool.

In radio phone-in programs and newspaper letter col-

umns, soccer fans vented pent-up anger at routine police tactics at soccer matches. This includes baton-wielding cops on horseback herding fans like animals, and police-dog handlers, often backed up by cops in full riot gear, frog-marching them from train stations and bus parks to soccer grounds.

One Liverpool fan, quoted in the national press, summed up popular feelings: "We've been treated like animals for years. We only mean money to those Football League bastards. They caged us like animals, and some of us died like animals."

In its April 22 issue, the *Daily Express* carried an article detailing how South Yorkshire cops fabricated stories about the fans' behavior in order to draw fire away from themselves.

South Yorkshire's police chiefs then beat a hasty retreat, ordering officers to refrain from speaking to the press and pledging cooperation with the government-appointed public inquiry that has opened into the disaster.

Football plays an important role in the lives of hundreds of thousands of Liverpool's working people. One of the first cities in Britain to feel the effects of the capitalist economic and social crisis, Liverpool is among the poorest cities of Europe. Especially among the youth, unemployment and low pay are endemic. Around one-half of Liverpoolians are of Irish descent, and there is a large Black community.

Liverpool has been an important center of resistance to the rulers' offensive. The youth rebellion there in 1981 helped to detonate violent confrontations between the police and working-class youth in cities throughout Britain, while the trade unions, particularly on the docks and in car-assembly plants, had displayed militancy. In election after election Liverpool's workers have voted in members of Parliament and city councillors labeled as "extreme left," ignoring red-scare hysteria whipped up by the press.

It is these people who have been called "animals" and "thugs" by Britain's rulers. In particular, Liverpool fans were blamed for the 39 deaths at the Heysel stadium in Belgium in 1985.

After the Heysel stadium tragedy, the government proposed the Football Spectators Act to make all fans carry identity cards. The act, which is going through Parliament now, would also empower the state, acting through a single judge and with no right of appeal, to confiscate the passports of football fans.

To make this possible they had to criminalize soccer fans. The police infiltrated groups of fans with provocateurs. Whole groups of fans were brought to court charged with offenses perpetrated by police infiltrators. A number of cases collapsed, however, when the police failed to bring evidence for fear of incriminating themselves. In other cases juries acquitted defendants who testified that undercover cops had instigated the violence, in particular attacks on Black people.

This campaign has made some headway, however, confusing many working people. It has been aided by calls from within the labor movement that echo the ruling-class offensive. In the wake of Hillsborough, Labour Party spokesperson Denis Howell has called for perimeter moats instead of fences. Others have called for greater policing outside and inside grounds.

The aggressive policing that is now the norm at soccer matches has played a big part in the evolution of the police into a more overtly paramilitary force. In and of itself this should be an important issue for defenders of democratic rights.

Hillsborough has helped to turn football into a political issue. The contempt and slander displayed by the police toward the fans is deeply resented, and confrontations are inevitable.

Fans have rightly demanded that the safety of grounds be immediately improved, beginning by the tearing down of fences and cages. Liverpool Labour MP Eddie Loyden, himself a fan who was trapped in the crush at Hillsborough, called on the government to drop the proposed identity-card system. Instead of spending millions on a computerized identity-card system, the money should be spent on proper medical facilities at the grounds.

LETTERS

'Don't believe hype'

The editorial in the May 12 *Militant* on defending the right to bail was right on the money. Since the brutal beating and rape of a Central Park jogger by six young Blacks last month, New Yorkers have been inundated with "news" articles about the attack.

Numerous politicians, commentators, and media editorials have sought to turn the disgust and anger people feel into fuel for their reactionary campaigns. These include not only the refusal to grant bail, but the decision to try the juveniles as adults (something more often than not used against nonwhites), and renewed calls for the death penalty. Donald Trump took out full-page ads in all four city dailies demanding that New York State bring back capital punishment "to stop crime in the streets."

There have also been a number of media pieces that attempt to explain the attack by portraying Harlem as lawless and crack-infested. All of the teenagers indicted are from Harlem. The worst example of this racist drivel appeared in the so-called Science Times section of the *New York Times*.

This article quotes "experts" who maintain that young Blacks represent "an element of lawlessness that is increasingly out of control." One of them even contends

that "rap music glorifies violence, control, power, and success."

It's important that socialists and other fighters against racism explain and expose the anti-Black and antiyouth nature of these campaigns. They really are part of the broader campaign by the ruling rich to chop away at the political and legal rights of our entire class. To quote the rap band Public Enemy, "Don't believe the hype."

Bill Kalman
Jersey City, New Jersey

International solidarity

I was walking the Eastern strike picket line May 1 at Newark International Airport on the first day Scandinavian Airlines System landed in Continental Airlines' terminals. The Continental signs over the doors had been scraped off and replaced by Continental/SAS signs following a business agreement between the two companies.

I learned that SAS made that agreement in violation of Swedish law. Apparently the law stipulates that companies that change their methods of doing business must get approval from unions involved in the transactions.

No union workers at SAS agreed to the change, and an out-of-court settlement was awarded to all unions involved. The pilots' union voted to turn their entire settlement over to the Eastern pilots' strike fund.

Eastern pilots were ready with three bottles of champagne on hand for the first SAS crew to touch down in Newark.

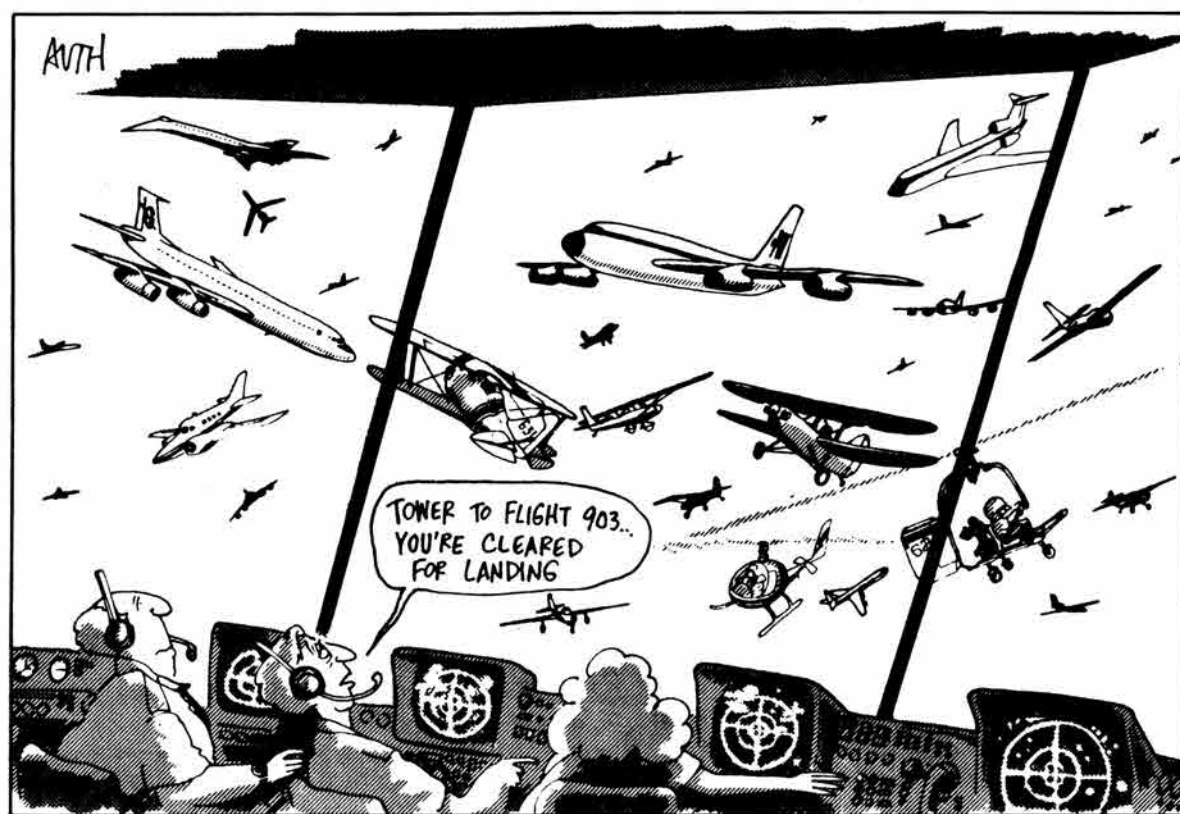
I thought *Militant* readers would be interested in this act of international solidarity.

Jane Harris
Jersey City, New Jersey

Uniting people

The *Militant* is one of the few papers in touch with the political reality of today. The ideas that it holds are truly concerned with uniting people around the world for the sake of the people and not someone's personal ideology.

A.R.
Oakley, California



Workers' compensation

On April 15 some 5,000 workers rallied at Queen's Park, site of the Ontario provincial government, to protest proposed attacks on compensation for injured workers. Bill 162 proposes changes to the Workers Compensation system, including an attack on long-term benefits in favor of lump-sum payments; less right to appeal when benefits are refused; and no guarantee of rehabilitation or help in finding new work.

I marched from our union hall with the United Steelworkers of America contingent. Ahead of us were brothers and sisters from the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Hundreds of workers joined our contingent from buses that came from Hamilton, Cambridge, Windsor, Hawkesbury, Sudbury, and other parts of the province.

In 1987 more than 600,000 workers in Canada were injured at work seriously enough to need compensation.

I think this demonstration was an important show of opposition. It is

obvious we will need more of them in the very near future.

Monica Jones
Toronto, Canada

Packinghouse walkout

More than 400 workers at the John Morrell slaughterhouse at Sioux City, Iowa, walked off the job for about four hours April 11. The action was precipitated by the rehiring of a replacement worker who had been fired for assaulting a union steward one week earlier.

At an earlier walkout the workers had left the beef hanging, which resulted in extensive fines against the union. This time they cleared the beef off the line and even hosed down their work areas before leaving.

Brian Fitzpatrick
Omaha, Nebraska

Oil spill

More than a hundred people rallied at the Port of Portland ship repair yard here May 2 as part of a national day of protest against the Exxon oil spill. The *Exxon Valdez* is expected to be repaired at the shipyard.

Urging support for a nationwide boycott of Exxon products, Marc Osten of the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group declared that a boycott must be waged until "the Gulf of Alaska is clean, until innocent victims are compensated, and until we are assured this will never happen again."

John Linder
Portland, Oregon

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.

Correction

In the May 27 *Militant* article "Eastern strike challenges antiunion drive," a line was dropped from the first column on page 7. The article should have read (with dropped words in *italics*):

A two-tier wage setup was agreed to in 1983 by the Machinists at United Airlines, and by unions at American Airlines. Between 1980 and 1984, workers at Pan Am took \$300 in cuts.

In most cases, workers felt they had no choice but to accept these concessions.

Wisconsin Chippewas fight to keep Indian spearfishing rights

BY JESSE SMITH

LAC DU FLAMBEAU, Wis. — Northern Wisconsin has been the scene of a growing mobilization against Chippewa Indians harvesting fish off-reservation.

On May 6, for the first time the Chippewa's Indian allies and non-Indian supporters outmobilized the forces trying to drive the Indians off the lakes.

The Chippewa (also called Ojibwa) spear walleye pike each spring. Since 1983 a series of federal judges have upheld this right under the treaties that ceded the northern third of Wisconsin and areas of Minnesota and Michigan to the United States a century and a half ago.

For many years state governments ignored the treaties and imposed their sporting regulations on a people who hunt and fish for a living in keeping with their own traditions. Anti-Indian forces are trying to roll the clock back to those days and also possibly take away on-reservation rights, such as bingo fund-raising.

They see the Indians as an obstacle to maximizing the profits of the fishing resorts and the bingo take of the white churches.

Groups with high-sounding names such as Protect Americans' Rights and Resources, and Stop Treaty Abuse, led by resort owners and other business interests, have been trying to incite fear and hysteria among North Woods residents and fishermen statewide.

During their attacks they scream "Timber Nigger" or "Spear an Indian, save a walleye."

"They are now using steel ball bearings fired with slingshots, and throwing bricks,"

Ben Chosa of the Lac du Flambeau Chippewa said. "There's no other way they can prevail except through racist violence."

A rally of more than 2,000 people on the Lac du Flambeau reservation May 6 warmly applauded the "walleye warriors." Speaker after speaker from the various Chippewa bands and other Wisconsin nations affirmed both their determination and their nonviolent stance.

But Apesanahkwat, tribal chair of the Menominee, warned, "There may come a time when it is better to die on our feet than live on our knees." The crowd stood and cheered when he demanded that Gov. Tommy Thompson send in the National Guard to "remove these radical racists" from the boat landings.

The crowd also welcomed hundreds of American Indian Movement members from Minnesota led by Bill Means and Vernon Bellecourt. The tribal leaders' invitation to AIM represented a new stage in the struggle. These AIM activists were a big part both of the car caravan that escorted the spearfishing party that night and the massive presence at Butternut Lake on May 6, which deterred a physical attack.

This action was the climax of the spring spearing. The Chippewa successfully reasserted their rights for the fifth straight year but fell far short of harvest goals to feed their people. The anti-Indian forces have links with other right-wing movements and influence in government. They are maneuvering in Congress to take away what the Indians have defended in court and on the lakes. The battles will erupt again next spring if not sooner.



Militant/Sylvia Giesbrecht

Drummer at May 6 rally to counter racist mobilizations against Indian fishermen

Philippines unions press nat'l wage raise

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — Major trade union federations here have called for a nationwide protest strike June 1, in order to press the demand for a raise of \$1.50 per day for all workers.

The last general wage increase was in November 1987, when Congress raised the minimum by \$.50 to \$3.20 per day. Subsequent price increases have more than overtaken that gain, and a new round of increases for basic necessities is imminent.

President Corazon Aquino has committed the government to removing subsidies and increasing fees charged by the government as part of efforts to secure new loans from the International Monetary Fund.

The Philippine Senate has approved a proposal for a \$1 raise in the minimum wage this year and a \$.50 rise (at least in Manila) in 1990. Similar moves are being discussed in the House of Representatives.

Aquino has threatened to veto any bill going much above her proposed \$.75 increase in Manila, \$.50 in other major cities, and \$.30 in the countryside. This will be the last legislated increase, she says, and workers will have to bargain workplace by workplace and region by region.

Up to 2 million workers are organized in unions, mostly affiliates of the conservative Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) or the militant May 1 Movement (KMU). The KMU and smaller labor federations — but not the TUCP — make up the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council. Both the council and the TUCP are backing June 1.

A spokesman for the TUCP, which initiated the action, explained: "We have scheduled June 1 as the day of nationwide work stoppage, and we are giving the House of

Representatives until that day to enact a law" setting the higher minimum wage.

The strike call culminated a union campaign to lobby Congress to enact the wage increase.

KMU leader Nick Elman welcomed the TUCP proposal. The call for a general strike to press the demand for \$1.50 was the focus of the May Day rally in Manila, which drew tens of thousands of workers and was sponsored by the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council.

New protests against book ban in Grenada

BY DON ROJAS

Opposition to the Grenada government's policy of banning political books and certain political activists took an interesting twist in mid-May when the leader of the ruling New National Party disassociated himself from the policy engineered by Prime Minister Herbert Blaize.

The Caribbean News Agency reported that Keith Mitchell, himself a minister in the Blaize cabinet, "did not support his government's banning of books regarded as subversive nor its refusal to permit Don Rojas, former press secretary to the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop," to enter the country.

Mitchell said the banned books could be bought anywhere in the Caribbean and that the government's action created a perception that it was "afraid of something."

In the strongest indication to date of mounting concern in the U.S. Congress over the bans, two senators and two representatives, writing in the name of the Congressional Committee to Support Writers and

The Alliance of Drivers Association — a 450,000-strong coalition of transport workers organizations — announced its support for the June 1 action. Drivers were at the center of the August 1987 "people's strike" by several million working people against oil price rises, the first massive display of popular opposition to Aquino's policies.

Student leaders have announced their support for the protest strike. Students are locked in a struggle with the government against "education reforms," which mean

big increases in tuition fees for many students in government-funded colleges. A student boycott has been scheduled for the opening of classes in June.

Timoteo Aranjuez, president of the LACC-affiliated Workers' Power Labor Center, said it was necessary to combat Aquino's move to regionalize the setting of wages, which would mean "institutionalizing divisions." A nationwide strike is needed not only to win higher wages, he said, "but to show that labor is united."

Journalists, sent a letter on May 26 to Albert Xavier, Grenadian ambassador to the United States.

"We respectfully urge your government to repeal this ban on publications entering Grenada, to release all confiscated materials immediately, and to cease the confiscation of books entering Grenada in the future," they wrote. The four include senators Robert Graham and Mark Hatfield and representatives William Green and John Lewis.

This congressional committee is a bipartisan organization of 15 senators and 74 members of the House of Representatives formed to support "the freedom to write, report, and publish around the world."

More protests have continued to pour into the prime minister's office in St. George's. On April 27 Puerto Rican Sen. Fernando Martín García wrote to Blaize expressing his "most energetic protest and indignation."

President of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America,

Cheddi Jagan, said in Guyana on May 19 that the bans are not in keeping with the spirit of the Caribbean community.

The National Lawyers Guild, representing 10,000 lawyers, law students, and legal workers in the United States, added its voice to the growing protests in a letter to Blaize on April 16.

It is expected that a resolution condemning the bans will be adopted at the annual meeting of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) now under way in Barbados. A delegation from Pathfinder of New York, publisher of several of the banned books, is attending a book exhibition connected with the CSA meeting.

In a May 5 editorial, the *EC News*, a regional weekly newspaper published in Barbados, raised serious concerns about recent attacks on press freedoms in the Caribbean. It listed the book-banning along with other regional developments as evidence of a "justifiable fear" for the future of freedom of expression within the Caribbean community.